

DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
AT ITS FIRST EXTRAORDINARY SESSION

Madrid, Spain, 24-25 January 2000

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2. LIST OF DECISIONS

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3. DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE COUNCIL

CE/DEC/1(1/EXT)

Adoption of the agenda

Agenda item 1
(documents CE/1/EXT/1 prov.2 and CE/1/EXT/1 prov.annot.)

The Executive Council

Adopts the agenda of its first extraordinary session.

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CE/DEC/2(1/EXT)

Future of the Organization

Desirability of adapting WTO to changes taking place in tourism

Agenda item 2
(documents CE/1/EXT/2(a)(i), CE/1/EXT/2(a)(ii), CE/1/EXT/2(b),
CE/1/EXT/2(c), CE/1/EXT/2(d) and CE/1/EXT/2(d) Add.1)

The Executive Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 390(XIII) and its own decision 5(LXII), both adopted at their respective last sessions held at Santiago, Chile and aimed at holding at WTO's Madrid Headquarters an extraordinary session of the Council devoted to the Organization's future,

Drawing upon Assembly resolutions 364(XII) and 389(XIII), adopted in 1997 and 1999, aimed at promoting a public-private partnership within WTO while maintaining its status as an intergovernmental institution linked to the United Nations family,

Bearing in mind the submissions of France and Portugal, the communication of the Council Chairman, the observations of the Secretary-General and the Organization's Legal Adviser, as well as the conclusions reached by the Officers of the Affiliate Members (Business Council) during their deliberations held simultaneously with those

Having held a wide-ranging debate on ways to modernize the functioning of WTO at a time when, after twenty-five years' of existence, it enters a new millennium,

1. Thanks all the countries that contributed to the success of the present session;
2. Decides to set up a working party comprising nine States Members of the Executive Council reflecting a regional balance: Argentina, France, Morocco, Mexico, Namibia, Portugal, Spain, Sri Lanka (Chairman) and a Council Member to be nominated by the Commission for East Asia and the Pacific;
3. Entrusts this working group with considering, in consultation with the Secretary-General, the operation and activities of WTO and with formulating precise proposals, including any desirable institutional changes, as part of a comprehensive strategy;
4. Requests the working group to submit a progress report and, where appropriate, to propose corresponding texts to it at its sixty-fourth session and to submit its final report at its sixty-fifth session;
5. Is of the opinion that the present Statutes enable the Organization to function normally and efficiently and should favour its openness to new partnerships while respecting its intergovernmental nature;
6. Calls for efforts to be pursued with a view to increasing WTO's membership, especially among non-member Arabic-speaking countries;
7. Confirms the vocation of the WTO Business Council to serve as one of the vehicles of the partnership strategy and to gather together within its membership three interdependent groups: businesses and associations representing the private sector, educational establishments and local institutions active in the field of tourism;
8. Considers that the activities of the Business Council, whether financed by the Organization's budget and the specific contributions of the Affiliate Members, or by outside voluntary contributions, should be prepared and implemented as an integral part of the general programme of work under the responsibility of the Organization's competent statutory bodies;
9. Warmly welcomes, in this regard, the plan and calendar of activities prepared by the Business Council, which will be implemented with the support of all the services of the Secretariat;

10. Shares the conviction, expressed by both France and Portugal in their joint contribution and by the Council Chairman, the Secretary-General and many Members in their speeches, of the need to foster a closer association between WTO and local authorities when these have recognized responsibility for tourism policy;
11. Asserts that this opening up of WTO to regions and territories with such competence must take place while scrupulously respecting WTO's intergovernmental character, which underpins, on the one hand, the approval that States must give, pursuant to Articles 6 and 7 of the Statutes, to the admission of any non-governmental Member and, on the other, the principle embodied in Articles 9(1) and 14(1) that only Full Members may belong to both the Assembly and the Council and enjoy the right to vote;
12. Considers that the development of suitable technical activities of interest to local and regional authorities should be encouraged as part of the general programme of work so as to facilitate their accession as Associate or Affiliate Members;
13. Considers that, within the strict limits set by the Statutes concerning respect for the intergovernmental status of the Organization and in accordance with the guidelines set forth in the Franco-Portuguese proposal, the question should be raised of making a prudent approach of an essentially technical nature to local and regional authorities with responsibility for tourism;
14. Notes that various institutional adjustments, duly ratified by the member States, which would help clarify the current statutory texts and contribute to the modernization of WTO, could derive from specific resolutions to be adopted by the General Assembly or from possible changes to the internal regulations of WTO organs;
15. Entrusts the Business Council, in cooperation with the working group, with preparing and submitting to it new draft Rules of Procedure of the Affiliate Members so as to introduce the necessary clarifications and take account of recent developments;
16. Expresses its satisfaction at the trend under way, pursuant to Article 19 of the Statutes, whereby an enhanced role is entrusted to the Executive Council and its subsidiary organ the Programme Committee in monitoring programme implementation and evaluating the results achieved;
17. Desires that, to complete this development, "Programme Rules" be drawn up by the Secretary-General and, after consideration by the Programme Committee, submitted to the Council not later than its sixty-fifth session for adoption by the General Assembly;

18. Shares the desire expressed in the Franco-Portuguese contribution to seek greater coherence and better synergy between the technical cooperation activities carried out by WTO, especially as an executing agency of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and those, both bilateral and multilateral, financed and managed by other than WTO;
 19. Welcomes, in this respect, the cooperation put under way with the World Bank as a result of the strategic accord signed with WTO in 1999 and approved by the last session of the Assembly;
 20. Requests the Secretary-General to maintain frequent contacts with institutions and governments providing multilateral or bilateral technical assistance in the field of tourism so as to introduce the greatest possible degree of complementarity into the projects contemplated;
 21. Calls, at the same time, upon the member States and other financing sources to establish closer links with WTO and, as appropriate, to employ WTO's technical skills so as to achieve a greater consistency of activities for the benefit of developing countries;
 22. Charges the Programme Committee to study with the Secretary-General the conditions governing the design and contents of technical cooperation activities, procurement, selection after tender of consultancies and experts, as well as the evaluation of activities carried out, and to report to its sixty-fourth session on this subject;
 23. Recalls the request it made at its fifty-ninth session on the proposal of the Secretary-General that WTO, an institution whose Headquarters are situated in a country of the euro zone, should explore the possibility of adopting the euro from 2002 onwards as its accounting and payment currency and consider the management implications of such a change;
 24. Requests the Secretary-General and the Committee on Budget and Finance to submit a report on this subject to the its sixty-fourth session at the latest;
 25. Recalls that the General Assembly, at its third session held in 1979, decided to introduce Arabic as an official language of the Organization and that the corresponding amendment is currently submitted to Members for ratification pursuant to Article 33 of the Statutes;
 26. Notes that, pending such ratification, the Secretary-General has begun to introduce Arabic in a limited and practical way into the Organization's daily activities and its relations with the Members concerned; and
 27. Renews the appeal made by the General Assembly in 1997 to countries that have not already done so to ratify the amendment to Article 38 of the Statutes as soon as possible.
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CE/DEC/3(1/EXT)

Membership of the organs of WTO

Agenda item 3
(document CE/1/EXT/3)

The Executive Council,

Recalling its decisions 2(LXII) and 3(LXIII),

Having considered the document submitted under this item,

1. Decides to appoint the following Members to seats still vacant on its subsidiary organs for the period 1999-2003:

(a) Programme Committee

- Representative of the Associate Members:
 - Mr. Urbain Claeys (Flemish Community of Belgium)
- Representatives of the Affiliate Members:
 - nominated by the WTO Business Council:
 - . Mr. Martin Brackenbury (Christel DeHaan Tourism & Travel Research Institute, and International Federation of Tour Operators - IFTO)
 - . Mr. Michael Nowlis (International Hotel & Restaurant Association)
 - . Mr. Clive Jones (Economics Research Associates)
 - nominated by the WTO Network of Education Centres:
 - . Mr. Chuck Gee (University of Hawaii)

2. Entrusts the Commission for East Asia and the Pacific with appointing its alternate Member during its next meeting in June 2000;

Having been informed of the announced return of Canada to WTO membership on a date that did not enable that country to participate in the filling of vacancies on WTO bodies during the Santiago Assembly,

3. Also decides to include Canada and to appoint, on an exceptional basis, an additional Member for the Americas region and to designate Mr. Blair Stevens for this post;

(b) Committee on Budget and Finance

- Representative nominated by the WTOBC:
 - Resort Condominiums International, Inc. (RCI)

(c) Sustainable Development of Tourism Committee

- Representative nominated by the WTOBC:
 - Danish Tourism Development Centre

(d) Quality Support Committee

- Representative nominated by the WTOBC:
 - International Federation of Tour Operators (IFTO)

(e) Committee on Statistics and Macroeconomic Analysis of Tourism

4. Notes that for the reasons indicated above Canada will appear as an ex officio Member among the States Members of WTO.

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CE/DEC/4(1/EXT)

**Report of the Sub-Committee for the Review
of applications for affiliate membership**

Agenda item 4
(document CE/1/EXT/4)

The Executive Council,

Having considered the report of its Sub-Committee for the Review of applications for affiliate membership, which met on 24 January 2000 under the chairmanship of Brazil,

1. Endorses the Sub-Committee's recommendation to seek clarification of the conditions in which candidates should receive the support of their governments; and
2. Decides to submit to the fourteenth session of the General Assembly the following applications for affiliate membership:

2.a. Complete applications:

1. Al-Tabyar Travel Group Co. Ltd.
2. Caribbean Futures Ltd. (Trinidad and Tobago)
3. China International Travel Service Head Office (China)
4. Rent Safe International (Dominican Republic)
5. RPM International (United Kingdom)
6. State Enterprise Hotel Complex Dnipro (Ukraine)

In the case of *Al-Tabyar Travel Group Co. Ltd.* and *Caribbean Futures Ltd.*, the Sub-Committee requested confirmation of government endorsement.

2.b. Applications to be submitted to the Sub-Committee on receipt of the necessary documents:

1. Confederação do Turismo Portugues (Portugal)
2. DFS Group (United States of America)
3. Jordan Society of Tourist and Travel Agents (Jordan)
4. Hong Kong Tourist Association
5. L'Aquarium de Barcelona (Spain)
6. Patronato de Turismo de Gran Canaria (Spain)
7. Proper Communication Limited (Nigeria)

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CE/DEC/5(1/EXT)

**Report of the Secretary-General on the preliminary results
of world tourism in 1999 and initial forecasts for 2000,
as well as on the activities of the Organization**

Agenda item 5
(document CE/1/EXT/5)

The Executive Council,

Having heard the Secretary-General's communication covering the following points:

- preliminary results of world tourism in 1999,
- estimated financial situation of the Organization at the end of the financial year 1999,
- activities carried out and main events since the General Assembly,
- WTO participation in the Seattle Conference of the World Trade Organization,
- calendar of events for the year 2000,
- cooperation with the World Bank,
- return of Canada to WTO,

1. Thanks the Secretary-General for the information provided;
 2. Requests the Secretary-General to keep it abreast of likely developments in the future negotiations concerning international trade in services;
 3. Invites member countries to participate actively in events planned for the year 2000, in particular the Forum intended for parliamentarians and local authorities to be held at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil on 15 and 16 May 2000;
 4. Expresses its keen satisfaction at the return of Canada, which betokens the Organization's growing prestige and renown;
 5. Notes that Canada's membership resumed with effect from 24 January 2000 pursuant to Article 5(2) of the Statutes; and
 6. Requests the Secretary-General to take steps to ensure that this country occupies in the life and activities of the Organization a place commensurate with its importance in world tourism.
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CE/DEC/6(1/EXT)

Vote of thanks to the host country

The Executive Council,

Having considered the various items on the agenda of its first extraordinary session in favourable conditions owing the generous cooperation provided by the host State to the WTO Secretariat,

1. Conveys its most sincere gratitude to the Government of Spain;
2. Expresses its satisfaction at the record numbers and unprecedented quality of the delegates and observers who attended the Council session held immediately before the International Tourism Fair of Madrid (FITUR), which helps to make this city one of the world capitals of tourism;
3. Thanks in particular the Spanish Secretary of State for Trade, Tourism and Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises, Mrs Elena Pisonero, for the kind hospitality she extended to the delegations present at the Council session;
4. Desires to express to the Spanish people the sincere condolences of all Members attending the session for the death of Lieutenant Colonel Pedro Antonio Blanco García, the victim of a terrorist bomb in Madrid on Friday, 21 January 2000; and

5. Expresses its firm conviction that terrorism is not only an affront to democratic institutions in its member States and to the values that the World Tourism Organization seeks to promote but is also seriously prejudicial to the interests of the populations that fall victim to it, since it prevents them from benefiting from the advantageous effects of international tourism.

4. LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

The first extraordinary session of the Executive Council was attended by:

- (1) delegates of the following Members of the Council: Angola, Argentina, Brazil, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Czech Republic, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Egypt, France, India, Italy, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sri Lanka, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Ukraine; United Republic of Tanzania and Uzbekistan,
- (2) the representative of the Associate Members (Macau);
- (3) the Holy See as Permanent Observer;
- (4) the Chairmen of the following Regional Commissions: Americas (Chile), East Asia and the Pacific (Philippines), Europe (Switzerland) and South Asia (Pakistan);
- (5) the representatives of the following member States: Albania, Algeria, Bangladesh, Cameroon, Chad, Croatia, Cyprus, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Indonesia, Israel, Japan, Kazakstan, Romania, Russian Federation, Senegal, Slovenia and Yemen, as observers;
- (6) the representative of the Affiliate Members (Christel Dehaan Tourism and Travel Research Institute);
- (7) the Chairman of the Committee on Budget and Finance (Argentina); and
- (6) the Chairman of the Programme Committee (Austria).