

**DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

**AT ITS SIXTY-EIGHTH SESSION**

**Petra, Jordan, 18-19 June 2002**

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### 3. DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE COUNCIL

CE/DEC/1(LXVIII)

#### Adoption of the agenda

Agenda item I  
(documents CE/68/1 prov., CE/68/1 prov. Add.1, CE/68/1 prov. compl.  
and CE/68/1 prov. annot.)

The Executive Council

Decides to adopt the agenda of its sixty-eighth session with the addition of one new item:

- “8. Spanish proposal aimed at strengthening Euro-Mediterranean solidarity in the face of the crisis of the tourism sector”.

CE/DEC/2(LXVIII)

#### Communication of the Chairman

Agenda item 2  
(document CE/68/2)

The Executive Council,

Having heard the communication of its Chairman, H.E. Dr. Taleb Rifai, Minister of Tourism and Antiquities of Jordan,

1. Thanks him for it;
2. Shares the feeling of its Chairman on the importance for WTO of meeting in Jordan in difficult circumstances for the Middle East tourism industry; and
3. Endorses the view of its Chairman concerning the contribution that, at regional and global level, tourism can make to sustainable development, poverty alleviation and the quest for peace.

CE/DEC/3(LXVIII)

**Report of the Secretary-General**

Agenda item 3  
(document CE/68/3)

The Executive Council,

Having heard the report presented by the Secretary-General and having discussed it,

1. Thanks the Secretary-General for his presentation;
  2. Takes note with interest of the information the report contains on the Organization's response to the crisis arising after the events of 11 September, the strategy adopted by the General Assembly to advocate the progressive liberalization of the tourism sector, the definition of a special programme in favour of destinations, and regarding the actions carried out as part of the International Year of Ecotourism, in particular, the World Ecotourism Summit in Quebec City and the preparation of the Johannesburg Summit on Sustainable Development (August-September 2002); and
  3. Notes with satisfaction the state of advancement of the steps taken for the transformation of the Organization into a specialized agency of the United Nations, which is the subject of a separate decision.
- .....

CE/DEC/4(LXVIII)

**Report of the Secretary-General****Implementation of the general programme of work for 2002-2003**

Agenda item 3  
(documents CE/68/3 Add.1 and CE/68/3 Add.2)

The Executive Council,

Having considered the report on the implementation of the Organization's general programme of work for the period 2002-2003 submitted by the Secretary-General,

1. Takes cognizance of the results recorded so far and the prospects for the second half of 2002 concerning the execution of field missions and technical cooperation projects;

2. Notes with satisfaction that a significant number of short-term technical support missions are either being carried out or have been programmed for 2002 in the various regions, in response to the specific needs expressed by governments, and that several new technical cooperation projects are likely to be launched in the course of this year;
3. Takes note with satisfaction of the good results achieved by the various Regional Commission meetings held successively at the Organization's Headquarters in Madrid (East Asia and the Pacific and South Asia), Abuja, Nigeria (Africa), Dubrovnik, Croatia (Europe), Quito, Ecuador (Americas) as well as by their associated seminars; and notes that the twenty-third meeting of the WTO Commission for the Middle East has been rescheduled for 16 and 17 September 2002 at Cairo, Egypt, in conjunction with a seminar on the recovery of the region's travel and tourism industry, and that the Commission meeting for Africa in 2003 will take place in Angola at the invitation of that country;
4. Welcomes the development of new education and on-the-job training courses, as well as a new series of short-term seminars on topical issues of interest, as part of the Human Resource Development programme;
5. Applauds the outcome of the Quebec World Ecotourism Summit and entrusts the Secretary-General with taking appropriate measures to promote the implementation of the Quebec Declaration by national, regional and local governments, the private sector, non-governmental organizations, community-based associations, economic and research institutions, inter-governmental organizations, international/financial institutions and development assistance agencies and local communities and to report thereon to the Council;
6. Appraises positively the measures taken by the Secretary-General so as to ensure that tourism receives the attention it deserves by the World Summit on Sustainable Development at Johannesburg, encourages Ministers and tourism officials of Member countries to take part, and requests the Secretary-General to report to the Council on the outcome of WTO's contribution to the Summit;
7. Accepts the invitation of Tunisia to hold in Djerba during 2003 the Conference planned on the impacts of climate change on the tourism industry;
8. Approves WTO's position on the balanced liberalization of trade in tourism services as defined in the report of the Secretary-General;
9. Welcomes the renewal of the cooperation agreement with the European Commission for the continuation of the international campaign against sexual exploitation of children in tourism and appraises positively the projects included in the new phase of the campaign;

10. Notes with satisfaction WTO's participation in the United Nations Second World Assembly on Ageing through the organization of an international seminar on aging and tourism, as well as the preparation of an extended and updated manual of safety and security in tourism and plans for the development of a worldwide tourism safety and security network;
  11. Welcomes the publication of new reference documents and the organization of capacity-building workshops on the development of tourism satellite accounts;
  12. Commends the Secretary-General on the proactive role played by the Organization in responding to the crisis in which the world tourism industry has been mired, in the aftermath of the 11 September terrorist attacks and expresses its appreciation to the Secretariat for providing the necessary real time market information and to the Tourism Recovery Committee for its leadership and guidance in restoring confidence in the industry and in facilitating and speeding up the restoration of tourism flows;
  13. Appraises positively the publication of a study on strategies and alliances between large tourism companies and their effects on tourism and notes with satisfaction progress made in the preparation of the series of analytical reports on generating markets and tourism products, included in the programme of work;
  14. Notes with interest progress made in translating the results of research programmes on new information technology applications to tourism into educational seminars and short-term training courses with a view to developing and expanding the existing knowledge base;
  15. Expresses its appreciation of the broad media coverage engendered by the Organization's information output, the large number of publications issued since the beginning of the year and progress made in developing the Documentation Centre's comprehensive information system on tourism legislation;
  16. Underlines nevertheless, in conformity with the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism, the need for the media and governments, especially in situations of tension or crisis, to disseminate appropriate information so as not to penalize destinations concerned by this kind of event; and
  17. Welcomes the establishment of a task force for destination management, approves the priority projects selected under the special programme for destinations and requests the Secretary-General to keep it informed of the methodology employed by the task force and the results achieved.
- .....



CE/DEC/5(LXVIII)

**Administrative, financial and statutory matters**

**(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the financial situation  
and plan of expenditure for 2002**

Agenda item 4(b)  
(documents CE/68/4(b), CE/68/4(b) Add.1 and CE/68/4(a))

The Executive Council,

Having before it the report of the Secretary-General on the financial situation of the Organization,

Having examined the report of the Committee on Budget and Finance,

1. Takes note of the report submitted on the 2002 plan of expenditure for execution of the programme of work and its balance with expected income;
2. Observes that, in the forecast of expenditure made for the current financial year, the limit of the appropriations approved by the General Assembly for this purpose has been respected;
3. Urges Members that have not yet discharged their financial obligations to take the necessary steps to pay their contributions for 2002 as soon as possible, in order to facilitate the execution of the programme and avert delays;
4. Approves the application of the salary scale for officials of the Professional category or higher, revised by the International Civil Service Commission in accordance with the no-loss, no-gain principle, and approved by the United Nations with retroactive effect to 1 March 2002;
5. Requests the Auditors, when they carry out the audit on the accounts for the 2002 financial year, to verify that the system used for the transition from the dollar to the euro as the WTO's currency of account is in accordance with the system that was approved, and to make the appropriate recommendations in the event that there are aspects that could be improved;
6. Thanks the Chairman of the Committee on Budget and Finance (Argentina) and the Auditors (India and Spain) for the important work carried out; and
7. Pays special tribute to the Director of Administration, Mr. Eduardo Ramos, the officer responsible for the budget and finances of the Organization, for the eminent contribution he has made throughout his professional career with WTO (1976-2002), an institution that he is preparing to leave.

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CE/DEC/6(LXVIII)

**Administrative, financial and statutory matters****(c) Auditors' report and administrative accounts of the Organization  
for the financial year 2001**

Agenda item 4(c)  
(documents CE/68/4(c) and CE/68/4(a))

The Executive Council,

Having before it the Auditors' report and the administrative accounts of the Organization for the financial year 2001,

Having considered the report of the Committee on Budget and Finance presented by its Chairman (Argentina),

1. Notes that in the financial year 2001 an overall balance was maintained between budgetary expenditure and income;
2. Approves the transfers of appropriations between different sections of the same part and between different parts of the budget, made with the prior authorization of the Chairman of the Budget and Finance Committee and the Chairman of the Council and in accordance with Financial Regulations 5(3)(a) and 5(3)(b) and Council decision 6(LIII);
3. Calls on the Secretary-General to report in the future on the different budgetary line items before and after transfers between parts and within each part of the budget and to justify the reasons for the principal changes;
4. Urges Members in arrears with their contributions to discharge their financial obligations as soon as possible, if necessary making agreements with the Secretary-General to pay their outstanding contributions in instalments;
5. Entrusts the Secretary-General with approaching the former Members of the Organization that owe contributions with a view to collecting them; and
6. Requests the Secretary-General to transmit to the General Assembly, with the favourable opinion of the Executive Council, the administrative accounts for 2001.

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CE/DEC/7(LXVIII)

**Administrative, financial and statutory matters**

**(d) Application of Article 34 of the Statutes and paragraph 13 of the Financing Rules attached to the Statutes**

Agenda item 4(d)  
(documents CE/68/4(d), CE/68/4(d) Add.1 and CE/68/4(a))

The Executive Council,

Observing that the provisions of Article 34 of the Statutes and paragraph 13 of the Financing Rules attached to the Statutes are applied to **20** Full Members and **53** Affiliate Members,

1. Notes with satisfaction that, as of the date of its meeting the provisions of paragraph 13 are no longer applied to the Islamic Republic of Iran since it has paid a sufficient amount to reduce its arrears to under the amount of the contributions due from it for the preceding two financial years;
2. Urges the other Members that are subject to these provisions to fulfil their commitments, if necessary proposing that they settle their arrear contributions in instalments;

Having been informed of the Members benefiting from temporary exemption from the provisions of paragraph 13 of the Financing Rules attached to the Statutes, granted by the Fourteenth General Assembly,

3. Notes that the Full Members Bolivia, El Salvador, Guinea, Kazakhstan and Peru have complied this year with their agreed plans;
4. Further notes that a second group comprising the Full Members Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ghana, Mali, Sierra Leone and Yemen, have partly fulfilled their commitments, whereas a third group - Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Sudan and Togo have not yet paid the amounts they were to have paid in 2001;
5. Requests the Secretary-General to remind Members that have not yet complied with agreements made that temporary exemption from the aforementioned provisions is subject to their compliance with the agreed payment plans;
6. Decides to reapply the provisions of paragraph 13 effective next July to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Sudan and Togo if they still have not paid the amounts they were to have paid in 2001; and

7. Requests the Secretary-General to inform it at its next session of Members' compliance with the agreements made with a view to, as appropriate, maintaining temporary exemption from the provisions of paragraph 13 of the Financing Rules granted by the General Assembly or, alternatively, reapplying them effective January 2003 to Members that have not fulfilled their commitments.
- .....

CE/DEC/8(LXVIII)

**Administrative, financial and statutory matters**

**(e) Programme evaluation procedure**

Agenda item 4(e)  
(document CE/68/4(e))

The Executive Council,

Having considered the report of the Programme Committee on the implementation of the Organization's general programme of work for 2002-2003 and the evaluation of its outputs, as well as on the procedure and guiding principles for the preparation of the general programme of work for 2004-2005,

1. Adopts the draft mission statement of the Organization, as revised by the Committee, in implementation of decision 9(LXVI);
2. Approves the Committee's recommendation regarding the implementation of the Organization's general programme of work for 2002-2003;
3. Notes with satisfaction the progress made in developing the conceptual framework for an integrated impact evaluation of the programme;
4. Approves the evaluation plan proposed by the Committee;
5. Authorizes the Secretary-General to make the necessary adjustments within approved budgetary parameters so as to secure the financial resources required for the implementation of the said evaluation plan;
6. Notes with interest the preliminary results of the survey carried out by the Secretariat as well as the Committee's preliminary suggestions with regard to the procedure and guiding principles for the preparation of the Organization's general programme of work for 2004-2005;
7. Agrees that further transversal analysis of the replies to the survey should be carried out by the Secretariat and that the results of this analysis would be submitted to the Committee at its twenty-fourth meeting together with the outcome of the discussions carried out by the Regional Commissions and the Business Council on the Programme; and

8. Expresses its appreciation to the Committee for the work accomplished and for the valuable contribution it is making to the development of the Organization's new result-oriented managerial culture.
- .....

CE/DEC/9(LXVIII)

**Administrative, financial and statutory matters**

**(f) Applications for membership  
and requests for temporary suspension of membership**

Agenda item 4(f)  
(documents CE/68/4(f) and CE/68/4(f) Add.1)

The Executive Council,

Having taken cognizance of the modifications in the composition of the Organization since its last session, as well as of the applications for Full and Associate Membership received by the Secretary-General, mentioned in the document CE168/4(f),

1. Welcomes the return of Qatar as a Full Member effective 1 January 2002, and of Puerto Rico as an Associate Member with the support of the United States of America effective 20 May 2002, in application of Article 5(2) of the Statutes as interpreted by Resolution 416(XIV) of the last General Assembly in the case of Qatar, and of Article 6(2) of the Statutes in the case of Puerto Rico;
  2. Approves with great satisfaction, in accordance with the mandate given to it by the General Assembly at its last session, the membership application presented by Saudi Arabia;
  3. Takes note of the interest shown in the Organization by Belgium, which has presented the candidatures of the Walloon Region, the German-speaking Community and the Commission communautaire française of the Brussels-Capital Region (COCOF) as Associate Members, and calls upon the countries concerned to proceed with the necessary consultations so as to consider this issue by the next session of the General Assembly; and
  4. Requests the Secretary-General, on the basis of the increase in the number of Arabic-speaking countries, to accelerate the process of introducing this language in the activities and functioning of the WTO and to submit to it at its next session detailed proposals for achieving this aim.
- .....

CE/DEC/10(LXVIII)

**Transformation of the Organization  
into a specialized agency of the United Nations**

- I -

Agenda item 5  
(documents CE/68/5 and CE/68/5 Add.1)

The Executive Council,

Having been informed of the progress made in the transformation of the World Tourism Organization into a specialized agency of the United Nations, pursuant to resolution 420(XIV) adopted at the last WTO General Assembly,

Considering that such a transformation would lead to better recognition of the tourism sector by the world community, more commensurate with this industry's growing role in the economy and international relations,

Convinced that such an approach is bound to strengthen and enhance cooperation between WTO, on the one hand, and the United Nations and its specialized agencies on the other, under the auspices of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in conformity with Article 64 of the Charter of the United Nations,

Recognizing that, as defined in its Statutes, the WTO, established by intergovernmental agreement, meets the criteria laid out in Article 57 of the Charter of the United Nations, as it has "wide international responsibilities in economic, social, cultural, educational, health and related fields" and has a calling to be brought into relationship with the United Nations in accordance with the provisions of Article 63 of the Charter of the United Nations,

1. Strongly endorses the steps taken by the Secretary-General in pursuance of the above resolution;
2. Believes that the transformation of WTO would enable the Organization to play more effectively the decisive and central role attributed to it by United Nations General Assembly resolution 2529(XXIV);
3. Welcomes the inclusion of an item on this subject at the next (July 2002) substantive session of ECOSOC; and

Recalling that the WTO Regional Commissions which have met prior to this session have strenuously supported this initiative,

4. Urges WTO Member States represented on ECOSOC to give their full support to WTO's transformation into a specialized agency when ECOSOC takes up this item.
- .....

CE/DEC/11(LXVIII)

**Transformation of the Organization  
into a specialized agency of the United Nations**

- II -

Agenda item 5  
(documents CE/68/5 and CE/68/5 Add.1)

The Executive Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 420(XIV) which, inter alia, dealt with the possibility of transforming the WTO into a specialized agency of the United Nations,

Strongly endorsing the request, presented in this framework, for conversion to specialized agency addressed by letter of 21 December 2001 from the WTO Secretary-General to the Secretary-General of the United Nations,

Noting that, further to that request, the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) decided by its decision 2002/214 adopted at its resumed organizational session of 2002 (29-30 April) to include a relevant item in the agenda of its substantive session of 2002 to take place between 1 and 26 July 2002,

Taking into consideration the fact that, in the event ECOSOC is satisfied that the granting of the status of specialized agency to the World Tourism Organization is desirable, it would reconstitute its Committee on Negotiations with Intergovernmental Agencies to negotiate a relationship agreement with WTO in accordance with Article 63 of the Charter of the United Nations,

1. Decides, without pre-empting the outcome of the consideration of the request for conversion by ECOSOC, to establish, on its side and on a contingency basis, a Committee on the negotiation with the United Nations, consisting of the Chairman and the three Vice-Chairmen of the Executive Council, at the time of the present decision, of the current Chairmen of the Regional Commissions and the host State; and
  2. Decides, under the same conditions, to recommend to the General Assembly the formal acceptance of the Statute of the International Civil Service Commission, an acceptance made necessary by the envisaged transformation.
- .....

CE/DEC/12(LXVIII)

**Appointment of the members of the World Committee on Tourism Ethics**

Agenda item 9  
(documents CE/68/6 and CE/68/6 Add.I)

The Executive Council,

Recalling resolution 438(XIV) in which the WTO General Assembly applauded ECOSOC resolution E/2001/37, recommending to the United Nations General Assembly the adoption of its own resolution on the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism,

Also recalling that, in the same resolution, the Assembly invited Members to complete the process of electing members of the World Committee on Tourism Ethics, so that its composition could be endorsed by the Executive Council in 2002,

Having considered documents CE/68/6 and CE/68/6 Add.1 prepared by the Secretary-General,

1. Welcomes resolution A/RES/56/212 adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 21 December 2001 at its fifty-sixth session in which it “invites Governments and other stakeholders in the tourism sector to consider introducing, as appropriate, the contents of the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism in relevant laws, regulations and professional practices” and “encourages the World Tourism Organization to promote effective follow-up of the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism, with the involvement of relevant stakeholders in the tourism sector”;
2. Notes with satisfaction that several WTO Regional Commissions have proposed candidates for the World Committee on Tourism Ethics;
3. Invites all the WTO Regional Commissions, the Associate Members and the Committee of Affiliate Members to conclude as soon as possible the process of nominating Members of the Committee, in accordance with the “Guidelines for appointing the members of the World Committee on Tourism Ethics” prepared by the Secretary-General, and with strict respect for Assembly resolution 438(XIV) so as to ensure the participation of representative and independent persons and a balanced composition of the Committee;
4. Takes note of the concerns expressed by the Chairman of the Committee of Affiliate Members regarding the risk of inequalities among the Affiliate Members according to their nationality, linked to the way in which the members of the World Committee on Tourism Ethics are chosen by the Executive Council after consultation with the Committee of Affiliate Members, and decides to take a position in this regard during its next session; and



5. Decides to consider at its sixty-ninth and seventieth sessions all the candidates nominated in representation of Full, Associate and Affiliate Members so as to proceed to constitute the Committee in conformity with the principle of varied and equitable representation.
- .....

CE/DEC/13(LXVIII)

### **Affiliate Members - WTO Business Council**

#### **(a) Report of the Chairman**

Agenda item 7(a)  
(document CE/68/7(a))

The Executive Council,

Having heard the report of the Chairman of the Business Council - WTO Affiliate Members on the activities of this Council in implementation of its programme of work for 2002-2003,

1. Thanks the Chairman for his report;
  2. Expresses its satisfaction for the activities carried out and their increase in volume and diversity;
  3. Recognizes the contribution of the Business Council to the invaluable effort by WTO in tackling the crisis after 11 September - not the least in facilitating public-private sector cooperation which constituted a response adapted to the circumstances;
  4. Approves the preparation in 2002 of the study "Factors Affecting Tourism" as an interesting communication to governments to help them shape their future tourism strategies;
  5. Decides to hold, as soon as possible, the WTOBC's "Leadership Forum of Advisers"; and
  6. Recognizes WTOBC's contribution to the Task Force on Destination Management, in particular the seminars on new technologies and the Handbook on Destination Management.
- .....

CE/DEC/14(LXVIII)

**Affiliate Members - WTO Business Council****(b) Report of the Sub-Committee for the Review of applications for affiliate membership**

Agenda item 7(b)  
(document CE/68/7(b))

The Executive Council,

Having considered the report of its Sub-Committee for the review of applications for affiliate membership, which met on 18 June 2002,

1. Notes that the Sub-Committee elected Brazil as its Chairman; and
  2. Endorses the recommendations of the Sub-Committee that the following applications for affiliate membership may be submitted to the General Assembly:
    1. ACCENTURE (Spain)
    2. ARALDI, SL (Spain)
    3. COMITÉ RÉGIONAL DU TOURISME PROVENCE-ALPES-CÔTE D'AZUR (France)
    4. COOPERATIVE RESEARCH CENTRE FOR SUSTAINABLE TOURISM PIY LTD (Australia)
    5. DELOITTE & TOUCHE (Spain)
    6. ÉCOLE HÔTELIÈRE ET RESTAURATION - PROMHOT (Algeria)
    7. FEDERAZIONE ALBERGATORI ISOLE MINORI D'EUROPA (FAIME) (Italy)
    8. MASYARAKAT PARIWISATA INDONESIA (Indonesia Tourism Council)
    9. NATIONAL TOURISM BOARD OF SIERRA LEONE
    10. PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS (Spain)
    11. SOUTH PACIFIC TOURISM ORGANISATION (Fiji)
    12. UNION INTERNATIONALE DES TRAVAILLEURS DE L'ALIMENTATION, DE L'AGRICULTURE, DE L'HÔTELLERIE ET DES BRANCHES CONNEXES
    13. ASOCIACIÓN MEXICANA DE AGENCIAS DE VIAJES, AC (AMAV) (Mexico)
    14. VHS INTERNATIONAL (Argentina)
- .....

CE/DEC/15(LXVIII)

**Spanish proposal aimed at strengthening Euro-Mediterranean solidarity  
in the face of the crisis of the tourism sector**

Agenda item 8  
(document CE/68/1 prov. Add.1)

The Executive Council,

Having taken cognizance of the efforts made by the WTO Secretariat to analyze the effects on the tourism sector of the slowdown of the world economy and, above all, the attacks of 11 September,

1. Congratulates the WTO Secretariat for having created the Tourism Recovery Committee to monitor trends in the tourism market in order to allow the Members of the Organization to respond swiftly and appropriately to this type of events;
2. Observes that the impact of the general economic situation and of the attacks on the United States of America on destinations was not the same in all countries, and was especially negative in certain destinations in the Middle East and North Africa;
3. Recognizes the aptness of analyzing the phenomenon at the regional level, through the constitution within the framework of the Tourism Recovery Committee of a specific group addressing the situation in the Mediterranean Region;
4. Adopts as its own the following extract of the Tunis Declaration approved in that city on 1 March 2002:

“[The Ministers of Tourism, along with the public and private tourism officials of the Mediterranean countries] ...*Perceive the serious damage already sustained by Mediterranean destinations, especially those in the south, which depend to a great extent on the economic contribution of tourism, as well as its repercussions on the financial situation of establishments in the Mediterranean area.*”;

Having taken cognizance of the resolution of the Council of Internal Market, Consumers and Tourism Ministers of the European Union of 21 May, which states that:

“*It is important to cooperate within the existing frameworks with private stakeholders and with the public authorities of the candidate countries, of other neighbouring countries and of the Mediterranean region.*”;

5. Decides:
  - (a) to request the public authorities of the countries affected by the crisis to undertake efforts of all types to facilitate tourism investment in such destinations, and to promote favourable operating conditions for the tourism sector, at a time when tourism activity is in decline;

- (b) to call on the international tourism industry of the principal generating markets, operators and airlines, to show understanding, commercial dynamism and long-term vision with regard to these Mediterranean countries, especially those that have been most affected by the crisis, such as those countries where the Islamic religion is most predominant, and to continue promoting travel to these destination;
  - (c) to urge professionals in the sector to create tourism products highlighting the complementarity of Mediterranean destinations and the wealth of their common natural and cultural heritage;
  - (d) to insist that those responsible for the media and international information channels should disseminate a serene, objective image of tourism destinations and avoid inappropriate associations;
  - (e) to appeal to the European Union and its Member States to undertake all possible efforts to counteract the distorted and unfair image of destinations in North Africa and the Middle East with regard to terrorism; and
6. Takes note with satisfaction of the cooperation efforts they have been making to forge closer tourism relations with these destinations.
- .....

CE/DEC/16(LXVIII)

**Place and dates of the sixty-ninth session of the Executive Council**

Agenda item 9  
(document CE/68/8)

The Executive Council,

Having noted the invitation presented by the Russian Federation to host its next session,

1. Decides to accept the generous offer of this country and to hold its sixty-ninth session in St. Petersburg on 3 and 4 October 2002, together with a Seminar on "Future challenges for cultural tourism", on 5 October 2002; and
  2. Takes note of the invitation formulated by Sri Lanka to host its seventieth session on its territory.
- .....

CE/DEC/17(LXVIII)

**Vote of thanks to the host country**

The Executive Council,

Having completed the proceedings of its sixty-eighth session in conditions of outstanding efficiency and comfort, thanks to the facilities generously provided at Petra by the Jordanian Government,

Particularly moved by the personal interest demonstrated by His Majesty King Abdullah II for this meeting, for the actions carried out by WTO and for tourism as a factor for development and solidarity, for his country and for the rest of the world,

1. Conveys its deepest gratitude to the Government of Jordan for its support to WTO and its members;
2. Expresses its warmest congratulations to H.E. Mr. Taleb Rifai, Minister of Tourism and Antiquities, as well as the gratitude of the Council Members that have witnessed at first hand the traditional hospitality of the Jordanian people who have welcomed them at Petra;
3. Thanks him for having taken the initiative of organizing a Seminar on Enhancing the economic benefits of tourism for local communities and the visits to the site of Petra and Wadi Rum Desert Park; and
4. Also thanks Mr. Sultan Abu-Jaber, Secretary-General, and Mr. Habeeb Habash, Assistant Secretary-General, and their team for their outstanding collaboration with the WTO Secretariat to ensure the success of the meetings.

#### **4. LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

The sixty-eighth session of the Executive Council was attended by:

- (1) delegates of the following Members of the Council: Andorra, Angola, Brazil, Cameroon, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Eritrea, France, India, Iran, Jordan, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, Poland, Portugal, Russian Federation, Spain, Thailand, Togo, Ukraine and United Republic of Tanzania;
- (2) the Chairmen of the Regional Commissions for Africa (Angola), for the Americas (Argentina) and for South Asia (Bangladesh);
- (3) the representative of the Associate Members (Macao, China);
- (4) the representative of the Affiliate Members (International Federation of Tour Operators (IFTO));
- (5) the representatives of the following member States: Greece, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia and Yemen, as observers; and
- (6) the Chairman of the Committee on Budget and Finance (Argentina).