

**Council for Trade in Services
Special Session**

**COMMUNICATION FROM AUSTRALIA, CANADA, CHILE,
EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES, HONG KONG CHINA, ICELAND, INDIA, JAPAN, KOREA,
MEXICO, NEW ZEALAND, NORWAY, SINGAPORE, SWITZERLAND, THE SEPARATE
CUSTOMS TERRITORY OF TAIWAN, PENGHU, KINMEN AND MATSU,
AND THE UNITED STATES**

Joint Statement on Market Access in Services

The following communication, dated 23 November 2004, from Australia, Canada, Chile, European Communities, Hong Kong China, Iceland, India, Japan, Korea, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Singapore, Switzerland, the Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu, and the United States is being circulated to the Members of the Council for Trade in Services.

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1. We, Australia, Canada, Chile, European Communities, Hong Kong China, Iceland, India, Japan, Korea, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Singapore, Switzerland, the Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu, United States strongly believe that it is in every Member's interest to participate in the services negotiations, both to secure a positive outcome on services itself and in support of wider DDA objectives.
 2. It is now crucial for Members to engage substantively in the request-offer process. The immediate challenge is for revised market access offers to be tabled, in accordance with the July 2004 General Council Decision, specifically by the May 2005 benchmark. The submission of further initial offers in particular is critical to securing high-quality, meaningful revised offers. We urge all Members which have not already done so to submit their initial offers and requests expeditiously.
 3. To organise ourselves better towards this end, we further urge Members to focus on making the best use of time before the submission of revised offers to engage in the negotiation of improved commitments in sectors and modes of supply of interest to them. Members are encouraged to proceed through the bilateral request and offer process, informal groups, CTS Special Session and any other fora, as appropriate, to communicate their priorities for offers to other Members by the conclusion of the first cluster of 2005.