

WTO GATS the negotiations

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- BIAC – industry goals
- telecommunications
- enforcement

INTUG what is INTUG?

- members
 - national associations
 - corporations
 - individuals
- activities
 - ITU and WTO
 - OECD
 - APEC TEL, CITELE and EU

INTUG our aims

- real and effective competition
- genuine choice for users
- lower prices
- higher quality
- more innovative services
- constructive co-operation with
 - international bodies
 - governments
 - regulators

INTUG BIAC to the OECD

four core principles for trade negotiations:

- promote the development of the domestic and global infrastructure that is necessary to conduct e-commerce while avoiding barriers that would hinder such development;
- promote full implementation of existing commitments and seek increased liberalisation for all basic telecommunications, value-added and computer and related services;
- promote the development of trade in goods and services via e-commerce; and
- promote effective protection for intellectual property made available over digital networks.

INTUG infrastructure for e-commerce

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- elimination of duties on all ICT products, broadly defined, including commitments at the broadest possible level for categories 84, 85 and 90.
- these commitments will be important to ensure that all countries have access to the hardware and software necessary to deploy and access the e-commerce infrastructure;
- full market access and national treatment commitments for the sectors that are associated with the infrastructure needed for business-to-business and business-to-consumer e-commerce; and
- an open, competitive market for electronic commerce, including commitments not to impose new barriers to the development of the e-commerce infrastructure.

INTUG promote full implementation

- market access and national treatment commitments in all modes of supply for all service sectors
- earlier implementation dates;
- monitoring and enforcement of commitments;
- reductions or elimination of measures such as foreign ownership restrictions and discriminatory licensing procedures that serve to restrict access by foreign competitors;
- adoption of and adherence to the "Reference Paper" for basic telecommunications; and
- full implementation of measures consistent with obligations contained in the GATS Annex on Telecommunications for access to and use of public telecommunications networks for the provision of services, including computer and related services and value added services, for which countries have made commitments.

INTUG development of trade

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- recognition that commitments under the GATT, the GATS and TRIPS apply to e-commerce. (It is not a new form of trade but rather a new medium for conducting trade in goods and services)
- trade treatment and classification of an electronic deliverable that is no less favourable than the treatment applied to the underlying good, service, or intellectual property;
- scheduling of commitments at the highest level possible, including, the adoption of an approach in which parties make full market access and national treatment commitments such that all sub-sectors are covered for appropriate service sectors;
- an agreement that the interpretation of classifications under existing international classification schemes such as the GATS, is sufficiently flexible to capture technological progress and evolution in the delivery of services
- agreement that the value of digitisable products delivered on a physical medium, including software, for customs purposes, be based on the value of the carrier medium only
- continue the practice of not applying customs duties and/or border measures on electronic transmissions.

INTUG effective IPR protection

- effective and timely implementation and enforcement of the WTO Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs). With the rapid development of digital technologies and electronic services, the need for effective protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights is imperative. The TRIPs Agreement plays a very important role insofar as it provides minimum standards for such protection and enforcement; and
- timely ratification and implementation of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Copyright Treaty and the WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty in a manner which balances the rights and obligations of network operators, service providers, content providers, and users.

INTUG Indian comment

We did not make any commitments,
nothing we did not already do.

INTUG Arab comment

The liberalisation of telecoms is taking as long as the liberation of Palestine.

INTUG Internet time

- Doha Round
 - to be completed by end of 2004
 - will last for several years
- very hard to predict developments

INTUG meaningful commitments

- global dialogue
 - WTO
 - APECTEL
- domestic dialogue
 - vested telecoms interests
 - other sectors (knock-on effects)

INTUG thank you

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