

Fourth Protocol to the General Agreement on Trade in Services

Done at Geneva on 15 April 1997

Entry into force: 5 February 1998²⁴²

Text: WTO Treaty Series No. 14, [WTO BISD 1997 Vol. 3/4-5](#), [WT/Let/140](#), [S/L/20](#)

UN Registration: 27 April 1999, [31874](#), [No. 45741](#)

UNTS: [2061 UNTS 209](#)

Relevant clauses

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1. Upon the entry into force of this Protocol, a Schedule of Specific Commitments and a List of Exemptions from Article II concerning basic telecommunications annexed to this Protocol relating to a Member shall, in accordance with the terms specified therein, supplement or modify the Schedule of Specific Commitments and the List of Article II Exemptions of that Member.

2. This Protocol shall be open for acceptance, by signature or otherwise, by the Members concerned until 30 November 1997.²⁴³

3. This Protocol shall enter into force on 1 January 1998 provided it has been accepted by all Members concerned. If by 1 December 1997 the Protocol has not been accepted by all Members concerned, those Members which have accepted it by that date may decide, prior to 1 January 1998, on its entry into force.²⁴⁴

4. This Protocol shall be deposited with the Director-General of the WTO. The Director-General of the WTO shall promptly furnish to each Member of the WTO a certified copy of this Protocol and notifications of acceptances thereof.

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Acceptances

	<i>Acceptance</i>	<i>Entry into force</i>	<i>Notification</i>
Antigua and Barbuda.....	15 Dec 1997	5 Feb 1998	WT/Let/203 WT/Let/213
Argentina.....	31 Jul 1998	31 Jul 1998	WT/Let/236
Australia.....	25 Nov 1997	5 Feb 1998	WT/Let/202 WT/Let/213
Austria.....	28 Nov 1997	5 Feb 1998	WT/Let/202 WT/Let/213
Bangladesh.....	30 Nov 1997	5 Feb 1998	WT/Let/202 WT/Let/213
Belgium.....	26 May 1998	26 May 1998	WT/Let/222
Belize.....	17 Dec 1997	5 Feb 1998	WT/Let/203 WT/Let/213

²⁴² See [WT/Let/213](#).

²⁴³ On 19 December 1997, the Council for Trade in Services extended the deadline for acceptance to 31 July 1998 ([S/L/51](#)).

²⁴⁴ Pursuant to the Decision of the Council for Trade in Services to extend the time limit for acceptance of the Protocol and pursuant to the Decision of the Members having accepted the Protocol by 1 December 1997 to decide on the date of entry into force of the Protocol, in accordance with paragraph 3 of the Protocol and the Decision of the Council for Trade in Services to re-establish the mandate of such Members, the Protocol entered into force for the Members concerned on 5 February 1998 ([S/C/M/25](#) and [S/C/6](#)).

	<i>Acceptance</i>	<i>Entry into force</i>	<i>Notification</i>
Bolivia, Plurinational State of (Signature subject to ratification)	19 Jan 1998		WT/Let/212
Ratification	30 Jul 1998	30 Jul 1998	WT/Let/236
Brazil (Signature subject to ratification)	24 Jun 1997		WT/Let/144
Brunei Darussalam.....	9 Jan 1998	5 Feb 1998	WT/Let/203 WT/Let/213
Bulgaria.....	24 Dec 1997	5 Feb 1998	WT/Let/203 WT/Let/213
Canada.....	10 Nov 1997	5 Feb 1998	WT/Let/198 WT/Let/213
Chile.....	16 Jun 1998	16 Jun 1998	WT/Let/227
Colombia.....	23 Jul 1997	5 Feb 1998	WT/Let/150 WT/Let/213
Côte d'Ivoire	6 Nov 1997	5 Feb 1998	WT/Let/202 WT/Let/213
Czech Republic.....	20 Oct 1997	5 Feb 1998	WT/Let/191 WT/Let/213
Denmark	17 Oct 1997	5 Feb 1998	WT/Let/190 WT/Let/213
Dominica ²⁴⁵	26 May 2000	27 Jun 2000	WT/Let/346
Dominican Republic (Signature <i>ad referendum</i>)	14 Oct 1997		WT/Let/188
Ratification	11 Jun 1998	11 Jun 1998	WT/Let/227
Ecuador.....	30 Nov 1997	5 Feb 1998	WT/Let/202 WT/Let/213
El Salvador	15 Apr 1997	5 Feb 1998	WT/Let/143
European Union ²⁴⁶	30 Nov 1997	5 Feb 1998	WT/Let/202 WT/Let/213
Finland	6 Nov 1997	5 Feb 1998	WT/Let/202 WT/Let/213
France	28 Nov 1997	5 Feb 1998	WT/Let/202 WT/Let/213
Germany	28 Nov 1997	5 Feb 1998	WT/Let/202 WT/Let/213
Ghana ²⁴⁷ (Signature subject to ratification)	26 Nov 1997		
Ratification	15 Dec 1998	15 Dec 1998	WT/Let/277
Grenada	4 Dec 1997	5 Feb 1998	WT/Let/203 WT/Let/213
Hong Kong, China	2 Jun 1997	5 Feb 1998	WT/Let/143 WT/Let/213

²⁴⁵ On 26 May 2000, the Council for Trade in Services decided to reopen the Protocol for acceptance by Dominica until 30 June 2000 ([S/L/86](#)).

²⁴⁶ On 1 December 2009, the European Union succeeded the European Community ([WT/Let/679](#)).

²⁴⁷ On 15 December 1998, the Council for Trade in Services decided to reopen the Protocol for acceptance by Ghana until 21 December 1998 ([S/L/62](#)).

	<i>Acceptance</i>	<i>Entry into force</i>	<i>Notification</i>
Hungary	1 Oct 1997	5 Feb 1998	WT/Let/186 WT/Let/213
Iceland	25 Nov 1997	5 Feb 1998	WT/Let/202 WT/Let/213
India.....	10 Nov 1997	5 Feb 1998	WT/Let/198 WT/Let/213
Indonesia	3 Jul 1997	5 Feb 1998	WT/Let/148 WT/Let/213
Ireland	28 Nov 1997	5 Feb 1998	WT/Let/202 WT/Let/213
Israel (Signature subject to ratification)	29 Jul 1997		WT/Let/155
Ratification	27 Nov 1997	5 Feb 1998	WT/Let/202 WT/Let/213
Italy	21 Nov 1997	5 Feb 1998	WT/Let/201 WT/Let/213
Jamaica	28 Nov 1997	5 Feb 1998	WT/Let/202 WT/Let/213
Japan	4 Jul 1997	5 Feb 1998	WT/Let/148
Korea, Republic of	27 Nov 1997	5 Feb 1998	WT/Let/202 WT/Let/213
Luxembourg.....	30 Nov 1997	5 Feb 1998	WT/Let/202 WT/Let/213
Malaysia.....	20 Nov 1997	5 Feb 1998	WT/Let/202 WT/Let/213
Mauritius	27 Nov 1997	5 Feb 1998	WT/Let/202 WT/Let/213
Mexico	26 Nov 1997	5 Feb 1998	WT/Let/202 WT/Let/213
Morocco	10 Oct 1997	5 Feb 1998	WT/Let/187 WT/Let/213
Netherlands (for the Kingdom in Europe)	24 Nov 1997	5 Feb 1998	WT/Let/201 WT/Let/213
New Zealand.....	24 Jul 1997	5 Feb 1998	WT/Let/151 WT/Let/213
Norway	26 Sep 1997	5 Feb 1998	WT/Let/180 WT/Let/213
Pakistan	4 Sep 1997	5 Feb 1998	WT/Let/169 WT/Let/213
Papua New Guinea ²⁴⁸	11 Apr 2002	5 Jun 2002	WT/Let/422
Peru	4 Jun 1997	5 Feb 1998	WT/Let/202 WT/Let/213

²⁴⁸ On 5 June 2002, the Council for Trade in Services decided to reopen the Protocol for acceptance by Papua New Guinea on 5 June 2002 ([S/L/104](#)).

	<i>Acceptance</i>	<i>Entry into force</i>	<i>Notification</i>
Philippines ²⁴⁹ (Signature subject to ratification)	26 Nov 1997		WT/Let/202
Ratification	25 Apr 2006	25 Apr 2006	WT/Let/538
Poland.....	29 Jul 1998	29 Jul 1998	WT/Let/236
Portugal (Signature subject to approval at the internal level)	16 Oct 1997		WT/Let/189
Approval.....	16 Jan 1998	5 Feb 1998	WT/Let/212
Romania (Signature subject to ratification).....	27 Nov 1997		WT/Let/202
Ratification	28 Jan 1998	5 Feb 1998	WT/Let/213
Senegal	24 Oct 1997	5 Feb 1998	WT/Let/195 WT/Let/213
Singapore.....	31 Oct 1997	5 Feb 1998	WT/Let/197 WT/Let/213
Slovak Republic.....	27 Nov 1997	5 Feb 1998	WT/Let/202 WT/Let/213
South Africa	28 Nov 1997	5 Feb 1998	WT/Let/202 WT/Let/213
Spain	19 Dec 1997	5 Feb 1998	WT/Let/203 WT/Let/213
Sri Lanka	27 Nov 1997	5 Feb 1998	WT/Let/202 WT/Let/213
Sweden	20 Oct 1997	5 Feb 1998	WT/Let/191 WT/Let/213
Switzerland ²⁵⁰	27 Nov 1997	5 Feb 1998	WT/Let/202 WT/Let/213
Thailand	30 Nov 1997	5 Feb 1998	WT/Let/202 WT/Let/213
Trinidad and Tobago.....	27 Nov 1997	5 Feb 1998	WT/Let/202 WT/Let/213
Tunisia	18 Aug 1997	5 Feb 1998	WT/Let/165 WT/Let/202 WT/Let/213
Türkiye ²⁵¹	17 Nov 1997	5 Feb 1998	WT/Let/199 WT/Let/213
United Kingdom.....	11 Nov 1997	5 Feb 1998	WT/Let/198 WT/Let/213
United States of America.....	25 Nov 1997	5 Feb 1998	WT/Let/202 WT/Let/213
Venezuela, Bolivarian Republic of	30 Nov 1997	5 Feb 1998	WT/Let/202 WT/Let/213

²⁴⁹ On 11 April 2006, the Council for Trade in Services decided to reopen the Protocol for acceptance by the Philippines until 10 May 2006 ([S/L/251](#)).

²⁵⁰ Following the undertaking by the Swiss Government to improve its commitments on basic telecommunications (see page 398 of the Protocol), a revised Schedule of Specific Commitments concerning Basic Telecommunications of Switzerland was certified in document [WT/Let/193](#).

²⁵¹ Formerly "Turkey".