

**MARKET ACCESS FOR NON-AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS**

Non-Agricultural Market Access (NAMA) Negotiations

*Communication from Albania*

The following communication, dated 18 December 2007, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Albania.

A. INTRODUCTION

1. In the paragraph 35 of the Doha Declaration Members agree to examine issues related to the trade of small economies and the paragraph 41 of the Hong Kong Declaration urges Members to adopt specific measures that would facilitate the fuller integration of small, vulnerable economies into the multilateral trading system.

2. Until now Albania has played an active and constructive role on this Round of negotiations within the framework of Recently Acceding Countries Members – RAMs.

3. Referring the document JOB(07)/126 dated 17 July 2007, the Chairman's Introduction to the Draft NAMA Modalities, section "Small and Vulnerable Economies", Albania considers itself as small and vulnerable economy, fulfilling the single eligibility criterion based on the value of NAMA trade, that is less than 0.1 percent of world trade in non-agricultural products.

B. THE LEVEL OF DEVELOPMENT OF THE ECONOMY AND ACCESSION COMMITMENTS

4. Albania's economy is still undergoing a reform process and considered as a transition economy.

5. Albania's trade on NAMA products is much more liberal compared with other SVE and RAM countries. 33.5 percent of the total non-agriculture products is bound at 0, i.e. free market. Furthermore 36.8 percent of bound rates are at the level of 6.5 and 5, and the maximum bound rate is 20.

6. Within the architecture proposed for SVE countries, is the country with the very low average tariff binding (6.3 percent), that is more than two times lower than the three tariff bands you have proposed for the SVE-s contribution.

C. ALBANIA'S PROPOSAL AND POSITION ON NAMA NEGOTIATIONS

7. Taking into account the fact given above and what Albania has already offered to other members, Albania's position on NAMA negotiations is that it should be excluded from the reduction commitments. For those reasons we think, that contribution of Albania will be too much higher,

comparing with that of the other SVE members, and to that extent, the exclusion of Albania from any tariff reduction would bring the way to balance the level of commitments among SVE members.

8. Albania is looking forwards to a balanced and successful outcome of this round of negotiations, beneficial for all Members.

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