

GATT Office Circular No. 317

DOCUMENTS DATA BASE

The first element of the GATT Documents Data Base, the so-called Documents Filing System, has now been completed. This Filing System, established within the Translation and Documentation Division with the technical advice and assistance of the Statistics and Information Systems Division and the cooperation of some staff members representing users, contains all Uruguay Round documents in machine-readable-form, in English, French and Spanish. For some Negotiating Groups, a negligible number of documents has been excluded after discussion with the Division directly concerned - these are generally working papers of a very ephemeral interest or drafts subsequently embodied in other documents.

On-line access to the Filing System will be possible only when the projected GATT network (LAN) becomes operational. The Translation and Documentation Division is however in a position to offer, as from the present date, the two following services\*:

1. Searches:

Divisions and individual staff members lacking the means to perform full-text searches may request this service from the Translation and Documentation Division. The software available in the Filing System already allows some useful searching functions, such as: identifying terms or sentences used in previous documents; comparing the wording of similar provisions in different documents or in different parts of the same document; tracing the use of, and translation for, a word or expression throughout the negotiating process; determining the number and content of proposals made by a country or category of countries in connection with one or more Negotiating Groups or negotiating subjects; tracing sources of hidden quotations, etc.

2. Diskette sets:

- (i) Any Division wishing to obtain machine-readable documentation for one or several UR Negotiating Groups may request the appropriate sets of diskettes in the language(s) required from the Translation and Documentation Division. Divisions who request the initial set of diskettes (Sept. 1986 - Sept. 1990) will be considered as subscribers and will as such receive weekly up-dates until the end of the Round. (See Annex for full details of diskettes available.) All subscribers will receive a detailed note on the technical characteristics of the diskettes. These diskettes have the same status as printed documents - they contain restricted information - and as such are subject to the same confidentiality requirements. Under no circumstances should copies be made.

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\* Requests for these services or any additional information should be addressed to Mrs. M. Sheldon, Translation and Documentation Division, Ext. 5001.

- (ii) Divisions equipped with appropriate computers and wishing to perform a searching function by themselves may like to know that the software recommended for full-text searches in the Filing System is a very simple but efficient and user friendly tool called "Gofer", that may be requested from the Statistics and Information Systems Division who will assist with the necessary training.

Work on the Documents Data Base project is proceeding now with a view to entering in the system all other GATT documents as from January 1988. At a later stage, depending on availability of an in-house scanning facility, some document series - such as panel reports, Council minutes, etc. - will be entered in the Data Base in their entirety.

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Documents Index

It will be recalled that for the last few years the Translation and Documentation Division has been operating another data base, the Documents Index, which is also available to interested staff members from other Divisions. The Documents Index consists essentially of a comprehensive list of all GATT documents (since 1982) and UR documents, with their symbol, title, date, number of pages, etc., as well as a short synopsis of the document content. It allows information retrieval by: subject, product, country, document symbol or series No., date, month, year, type of document, body (committee, Negotiating Group) or legal instrument to which it relates. Searches may be requested from TDD\*. Staff members linked to ICC may apply for direct, on-line access to the Documents Index. It should be pointed out that some training for self-operation will be required.

**Fermin Alcoba**  
Director  
Translation and Documentation Division

MTN documents on diskettes - English

	<u>Number of diskettes</u>	<u>Size in Bytes</u>	
MTNGNG	: 3	1.022.345	
NG1	: 2	669.643	
NG2	: 5	2.318.322	)
NG2OL	: 1	106.220	) 2.892.472
NG2RS	: 1	467.930	)
NG3	: 6	2.466.311	
NG4	: 4	1.642.509	) 1.717.594
NG4TSG	: 1	75.085	)
NG5	: 7	3.647.879	)
NG5TG	: 1	225.847	)
NG5TGPSE	: 2	650.925	) 5.174.949
NG5WGSP	: 2	650.298	)
NG6	: 8	3.980.376	)
NG6LT	: 3	1.165.071	) 5.436.722
NG6TI	: 1	291.275	)
NG7	: 5	2.162.259	
NG8	: 6	2.706.897	
NG9	: 2	998.737	
NG10	: 4	1.608.759	
NG11	: 11	4.933.722	
NG12	: 3	1.479.069	
NG13	: 5	2.126.550	
NG14	: 3	1.290.641	
MTNGNS	: 17	7.600.066	)
GNSCON	: 1	45.595	)
GNSFIN	: 1	285.798	)
GNSLAB	: 1	48.336	) 8.519.399
GNSPROF	: 1	39.886	)
GNSTEL	: 1	265.898	)
GNSTOUR	: 1	24.495	)
GNSTRANS	: 1	209.325	)
MIN-88	: 2	617.846	
MINDEC	: 1	28.120	
MTNSB	: 2	761.669	)
MTNSBRBN	: 1	20.470	) 1.312.664
MTNSBSN	: 2	530.525	)
MTNTNC	: 2	911.923	
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TOTAL	: 120	48.098.338	
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