

October 26, 2006

Mr. Martin Pospisil
Chairperson of the Information Technology Agreement Committee
World Trade Organization
Rue de Lausanne 154
CH-1211 Geneva 21
Switzerland

Re: Meeting Request with Global ICT Industry Associations

Dear Mr. Pospisil,

Through various position papers and joint industry messages in the past year, the global information technology industry has expressed its strong support for the Doha Development Agenda as the best way to expand global trade in goods, services and investment. In particular, we believe that further liberalization of trade in ICT products will contribute significantly to the world economy as a whole.

While we continue to support a restart to the Doha round, we recognize that the lack of progress in the overall negotiations poses a threat to continued trade liberalization in the ICT sector. Moreover, we have seen a recent trend toward national interpretation of coverage of ITA products that runs counter to the commitment to duty free treatment for information and communications technology products. Therefore, we respectfully request that the Committee explore, through the consultation process, ways in which to ensure that participating countries in the WTO Information Technology Agreement (ITA) maintain the commitment to duty free treatment for Information Technology products under the existing agreement. The ITA has mechanisms in place to allow member countries to address product evolution and enhancement of market access.

Paragraph 1 of the ITA states that: *"Each party's trade regime should evolve in a manner that enhances market access opportunities for information technology products"*.

In order to keep pace with technological progress, the Agreement provides for continual review of product coverage, with a view towards expanding coverage, rather than restricting trade in ICT products. Under Paragraph 3 of the Annex on Modalities and Product Coverage, *"Participants shall meet periodically under the auspices of the Council on Trade in Goods to review the product coverage specified in the Attachments, with a view to agreeing, by*

consensus, whether in the light of technological developments, experience in applying the tariff concessions, or changes to the HS nomenclature, the Attachments should be modified to incorporate additional products. Paragraph 5 provides for Participants to consider joint suggestions to the World Customs Organization (WCO), and Paragraph 7 directs Participants to "afford sympathetic consideration to any request for consultation from any other participant..."

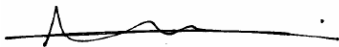
In view of the above statements the global information technology industry therefore requests a meeting with the Information Technology Agreement Committee's members with the goal to:

- a) Reiterate the benefits and objectives of the ITA
- b) Address participants' concerns to ensure that the integrity of existing ITA commitments is maintained
- c) Review existing mechanisms under the ITA designed to ensure constant review and updating of the ITA.

The ITA is one of the WTO's most successful agreements – eliminating duties on over 90% of the world's ICT products – and has been a driving force in the globalization of ICT, enhancing economic welfare and productivity among its participants. We look forward to working with you to ensure that the promise of the agreement is maintained.

Should you require assistance from any of the associations signing this request then please do not hesitate to let us know. We will make every effort to assist you in the best way we can.

Yours sincerely,



Mark MacGann
Director General
EICTA



Gary Shapiro
President and CEO
Consumer Electronics Association



Rhett Dawson
President and CEO
Information Technology Industry Council



Kazuo Kaneko
President
JEITA