
Seminar 3: “Key Sectoral Rules and Negotiating Issues”

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Tourism Sector has Greatest Number of GATS Commitments

Chart showing the number of GATS commitments in various sectors, with Tourism having the highest number. The chart compares developed and developing countries.
Overview of LDC Specific commitments

Source: WTO LDC sector distribution
New GATS Offers for Tourism

# of Offers

- Business
- Telecommunication
- Construction
- Distribution
- Education
- Environmental
- Financial
- Health
- Tourism
- Recreational
- Maritime
- Other Transport
- Air (as per Annex)
- Other Offers

Legend:
- Developed
- Developing
GATS Tourism Definition Limited to Three Main Sectors

Hotels and restaurants
Travel agencies and tour operators
Tourist guides
Is Tourism Being Neglected in the Services Negotiations?

Most recent formal GATS tourism document dates back to 2004 (TN/S/W/23). New Offers in tourism are primarily modest improvements on existing commitments. Plurilateral negotiations for tourism, and a “Tourism Friends Group,” were late to be organized.
Potential LDC Tourism Issues in the Services Negotiations?

- Linkages between GATS tourism commitments and poverty alleviation;
- Role of GATS commitments in promoting sustainable tourism development;
- Tourism checklist / model schedule approaches for Requests and Offers;
- Examination of Offers on the basis of an expanded tourism classification;
Potential LDC Tourism Issues in the Services Negotiations? (cont.)

- Mode 4 aspects, including the recognition of tourism professional qualifications;
- Linkages with air transport;
- Technical standards in tourism;
- Travel warnings / Possibility of scheduling Additional Commitments.
Thank you!

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Recreation Sector has Average Number of GATS Commitments
Overview of LDC Specific commitments

Source: WTO LDC sector distribution
New GATS Offers for Recreational Services

# of Offers

- Developed
- Developing

Business
Telecommunication
Construction
Distribution
Education
Environmental
Financial
Health
Tourism
Recreational
Maritime
Air (as per Annex)
Other Transport
Horizontal
GATS Recreational Services
Definition Includes Four Main Sectors

Entertainment services (including theatre, live bands and circus services)
News agency services
Libraries, archives, museums and other cultural services
Sporting and other recreational services
Selected Categories from CPC Version 2

Services of performing artists

This subclass includes:

- services of actors, readers, singers, musicians, dancers, stunt people, television personality hosts/presenters and other performing artists
- services of independent models
Selected Categories from CPC Version 2

Services of athletes

This subclass includes:
- services provided by individual own-account sportsmen and athletes
Thank you!

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