FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

O.882.0-3   AITIC 1 / 04

Notification
to the Signatory States to the Agreement Establishing the Agency for International Trade Information and Cooperation (AITIC) as an Intergovernmental Organisation concluded in Geneva on 9 December 2002

According to its article 16, paragraph 2, the Agreement "shall enter into force on the 30th day following the date on which both of the following conditions are met:

(a) Three Participating Members and three Sponsoring Members have expressed consent to be bound by signature or have deposited instruments of ratification, acceptance or approval;

(b) The total of the contributions to AITIC's regular budget that the States or customs territories which have expressed their consent to be bound by this Agreement are obliged to make in accordance with paragraph 1 of Article 11 of this Agreement and Annex I to this Agreement exceeds twice the amount of the budget for the initial year following the establishment of AITIC."

At the moment there are five Sponsoring Members:

Denmark	9 December 2002	signature
Sweden	20 December 2002	ratification
The Netherlands	22 January 2004	acceptance
Ireland	13 February 2004	ratification
Switzerland	12 March 2004	ratification.

The number of Participating Members is sufficient too, so that the first of the two conditions mentioned is fulfilled. The list of the States parties is available on the address http://www.ddip.admin.ch/eda/f/home/foreign/intagr/train/vdivers.html

As for the second condition regarding contributions to the budget, the Department asked for information and learned from the Direction of AITIC that the preparatory Commission was currently examining the budget required by article 16, paragraph 2, letter b, of the Agreement. This condition is therefore not fulfilled at present and the Agreement has not entered into force yet.

The Swiss Federal Council makes the present notification in its capacity as depositary according to article 20 of the Agreement.

Berne, 15 March 2004