

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

G/MA/W/40
20 September 2002

(02-5028)

Committee on Market Access

Original: French

CHINA'S TRANSITIONAL REVIEW MECHANISM

Question from France

The following communication, dated 19 September 2002, has been received from the Permanent Delegation of France.

In the context of the transitional review under paragraph 18 of the Protocol of Accession of the People's Republic of China, the French Republic would like, following its accession to the WTO, to obtain clarification from the People's Republic of China as to the customs status accorded by it to the overseas territories of the French Republic.

As France is a founding member of the WTO, these territories are subject to the rights and obligations contemplated in the WTO agreements. China's accession to the WTO on 11 December 2001 should therefore have meant the automatic granting of most-favoured-nation (MFN) treatment to the overseas territories of the French Republic.

Yet this has not been the case so far, in particular for exports to China from New Caledonia.

It emerges from bilateral contacts with the Government of the People's Republic of China that the latter would be prepared to accord the benefit of the MFN clause to the above-mentioned territories as from 1 January 2003.

Could China therefore confirm that it will indeed be according most-favoured-nation treatment to products from the overseas territories of the French Republic, and from New Caledonia in particular, as of 1 January 2003?
