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## **Information Sharing and Transparency: The WTO Transparency Mechanism for RTAs**

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# Information Sharing and Transparency: The WTO Transparency Mechanism for RTAs

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## Transparency Mechanism for Regional Trade Agreements

GATT Art. XXIV	GATS Art. V	Enabling Clause – Para. 2(c)
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**Transparency Mechanism for RTAs**  
General Council's Decision of 14 December 2006 (WT/L/671)  
(Provisional application pending conclusion of the Doha Round)

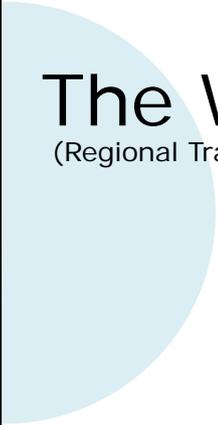
- improves existing RTA transparency provisions
- ensures coherence of transparency provisions for all RTAs
- outlines specific guidelines for the provision of RTA data
- charges the Secretariat with the preparation of a factual presentation of all RTAs notified to the WTO
- Mandates a public database on RTAs ([www.rtais.wto.org](http://www.rtais.wto.org))





# The WTO RTA-IS

(Regional Trade Agreements Information System)



# WTO RTA-IS

**MANDATE FOR A DATABASE ON RTAs**  
The Transparency Decision provides a mandate to the WTO Secretariat to “establish and maintain an updated electronic database on individual RTAs”. It also includes relevant tariff and trade-related information, and all written material related to announced or notified RTAs available at the WTO. The database is accessible to the public.



# WTO RTA-IS

**RTA-IS PORTAL**  
your door to enter the database

A **SIMPLE, DIRECT WAY** to access the RTA-IS portal is to go to <http://rtais.wto.org>.

You may also access the RTA-IS portal through the **WTO website** at <http://www.wto.org> (then chose "Trade Topics", then, under "Other topics", click on "Regional Trade Agreements", then click on the hyperlink indicating "RTA Database").



# WTO RTA-IS

**RTA-IS PORTAL: your door to the Database**  
Four major ways to navigate the Database:

- 1 Search by country/territory
- 2 Search by criteria
- 3 Search the lists of RTAs
- 4 Examine pre-defined reports and summary tables



**Welcome to the Regional Trade Agreements Information System (RTA-IS)**

This database contains information on only those agreements that have either been notified, or for which an early announcement has been made, to the WTO. For further information please consult the [user guide](#) and/or [contact RTA section](#).

**It allows you to retrieve information on RTAs notified to the GATT/WTO:**

- **By country/territory**
- **By criteria**

**You may also consult the:**

- **List of all RTAs in force**
- **List of early announcements**
- **Pre-defined reports and Summary Tables containing WTO Figures on RTAs**

• The user guide contains background and practical information and may be consulted at any time when using the database.

Users seeking more detailed information on tariff and trade data relating to RTAs may wish to consult the WTO's Tariff Analysis Online (TAO) at [http://tao.wto.org](#)

# WTO RTA-IS

**1 Search by country/territory**  
 You can select the member you are interested in by clicking on the map or on the drop-down list. You will then have access to details of all RTAs that have been notified or early announcements by the selected member.

- You must first define if you want to search all RTAs (covering goods and services), or only goods or only services.
- Click directly on the map.
- Select the member in the drop-down list.

# WTO RTA-IS

**1 Search by country/territory**  
 You can select the member you are interested in by clicking on the map or on the drop-down list. You will then have access to details of all RTAs that have been notified or early announcements by the selected member.

- The search also makes available a number of background WTO documents on WTO Members' trade laws, policies, or trade environment, such as the Trade Profile, the Tariff Profile or the most recent Trade Policy Review.
- Click on an RTA to access the ID-Card of the selected Agreement.

Access to Turkey's "ID-Card" (as an example)

# WTO RTA-IS

## ID-Card

For each RTA, the information is presented in the form of an "ID-Card", which displays all the factual information available on a given agreement.

• Type of agreement, provision it has been notified under, date of notification, end of the implementation period...

• Basic information on the selected RTA is available here

• Information on signatories, date of signature, date of entry into force, etc...

• Access to the text of the agreement

Field	Value
Agreement name	Turkey - Chile
Coverage	Goods
Status	In Force
Date of signature	14-Jul-2009
Date of entry into force	01-Mar-2011
Current signatories	Chile; Turkey
Original signatories	Chile; Turkey
RTA Composition	Bilateral
Regions	South America; Europe
All Parties WTO members?	Yes
Type	Free Trade Agreement
Notification under	GATT Art. XXIV
Date of notification	25-Feb-2011
End of implementation period	2017

# WTO RTA-IS

## ID-Card

For each RTA, the information is presented in the form of an "ID-Card", which displays all the factual information available on a given agreement.

• Information can also be traced on the WTO consideration process that has taken place regarding any agreement.

• All official WTO documents issued in relation to the selected RTA can be consulted here

Document type	Symbol	Language
Notification	WT/REG293/1/1	E E S
Factual Presentation	WT/REG293/1	E E S
Questions and Replies	WT/REG293/2	E E S
Note on the Meeting of the CRTA	WT/REG293/1/1	E E S

# WTO RTA-IS

## ID-Card

For each RTA, the information is presented in the form of an "ID-Card", which displays all the factual information available on a given agreement.

- If the agreement has been the subject of a factual presentation or a factual abstract, a list of the **main topics** covered by the agreement and presented in the document is also provided.
- Most information can also be retrieved in Excel format.

Here you can view the list of the main topics covered by the selected RTA.

*Note: The list of all main topics considered can be consulted in the "user guide"*

# WTO RTA-IS

## ID-Card

**ACCESSING TRADE-RELATED DATA**  
In this section, users can find **tariff and trade data** received from the parties for the preparation of the factual presentation.

- Information is presented in Excel format so that it can be utilized directly by the user.

# WTO RTA-IS

## 2 • Search by criteria

You may select a combination of search parameters to obtain a list of RTAs meeting those parameters. You can then click on the RTA name to obtain its ID-Card.

You must first define the coverage of the agreement (goods or services).\*

**\*Note**

You can then select the following criterion:

- Type of Agreement = Economic Integration Agreement

The list will show all notified agreements that have a services component.

It is also possible to search by multiple criteria, e.g. all RTAs, signed by a given member, with a specific year of entry into force.

etc...



# WTO RTA-IS

## 3 • Search through lists of RTAs

This option allows the selection of an RTA from either the list of RTAs based on the list of RTA Announcements.

You can then select the specific RTA you wish to examine and access its ID-Card.

You can search within the list using a selected string of characters to generate a specific list of RTAs.

The information can be sorted in ascending or descending order for any column.

RTA Name	Coverage	Type	Date of notification	Notification	Date of entry into force	Status
Andean Community (CAN)	Goods	CU	01-Oct-1990	Enabling Clause	20-May-1990	In Force
Armenia - Kazakhstan	Goods	FTA	17-Jun-2004	GATT Art. XXIV	25-Dec-2001	In Force
Armenia - Moldova	Goods	FTA	17-Jun-2004	GATT Art. XXIV	21-Dec-1995	In Force
Armenia - Russian Federation	Goods	FTA	17-Jun-2004	GATT Art. XXIV	25-Mar-1993	In Force
Armenia - Turkmenistan	Goods	FTA	17-Jun-2004	GATT Art. XXIV	07-Jul-1996	In Force
Armenia - Ukraine	Goods	FTA	17-Jun-2004	GATT Art. XXIV	18-Dec-1996	In Force
ASEAN - Australia - New Zealand	Goods & Services	FTA & EA	08-Apr-2010	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	01-Jan-2010	In Force
ASEAN - China	Goods & Services	PSA & EA	21-Sep-2005(C) (30-Jun-2005(C))	Enabling Clause & GATS Art. V	01-Jan-2005(C) (01-Jul-2005(S))	In Force
ASEAN - India	Goods	FTA	19-Aug-2010	Enabling Clause	01-Jan-2010	In Force
ASEAN - Japan	Goods	FTA	23-Nov-2009	GATT Art. XXIV	01-Dec-2008	In Force
ASEAN - Korea, Republic of	Goods & Services	FTA & EA			01-Jan-2010(C) (01-May-2005(C))	In Force
ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA)	Goods	FTA	30-Oct-1992	Enabling Clause	20-Jan-1993	In Force
Asia Pacific Trade Agreement (AFTA)	Goods	PSA	02-Nov-1976	Enabling Clause	17-Jun-1976	In Force
Asia Pacific Trade Agreement (AFTA) - Accession of China	Goods	PSA	30-Apr-2004	Enabling Clause	01-Jan-2002	In Force
Australia - Chile	Goods & Services	FTA & EA	03-Mar-2009	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	06-Mar-2009	In Force
Australia - New Zealand (ANZCERTA)	Goods & Services	FTA & EA	14-Apr-1983(C) (22-Nov-1993(S))	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	01-Jan-1983(C) (01-Jan-1993(S))	In Force
Australia - Papua New Guinea (DATCA)	Goods	FTA	20-Dec-1976	GATT Art. XXIV	01-Feb-1977	In Force
Brunei Darussalam - Japan	Goods & Services	FTA & EA	31-Jul-2008	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	31-Jul-2008	In Force

# WTO RTA-IS

- 4 • Examine pre-defined reports and summary tables

Pre-defined reports are formatted as lists of all RTAs in force sorted by: alphabetical order\*; date of entry into force; type of Agreement; notification; ...

RTA Name	Coverage	Type	Date of notification	Notification	Date of entry into force
Andean Community (CAN)	Goods	CU	01-Oct-1990	Enabling Clause	25-May-1988
Armenia - Kazakhstan	Goods	FTA	17-Jun-2004	GATT Art. XXIV	25-Dec-2001
Armenia - Moldova	Goods	FTA	17-Jun-2004	GATT Art. XXIV	21-Dec-1995
Armenia - Russian Federation	Goods	FTA	17-Jun-2004	GATT Art. XXIV	25-Mar-1993
ASEAN	Goods	FTA	17-Jun-2004	GATT Art. XXIV	07-Jul-1996
ASEAN - China	Goods	FTA	17-Jun-2004	GATT Art. XXIV	18-Dec-1996
ASEAN - Poland	Goods & Services	FTA & EA	08-Apr-2010	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	01-Jan-2010
ASEAN - Singapore	Goods & Services	PSA & EA	21-Sep-2005(S)	Enabling Clause & GATS Art. V	01-Jul-2005(S)
ASEAN - Thailand	Goods	FTA	19-Aug-2010	Enabling Clause	01-Jan-2010
ASEAN - Vietnam	Goods	FTA	29-Nov-2009	GATT Art. XXIV	01-Dec-2008
ASEAN - Cambodia	Goods & Services	FTA & EA			01-Jan-2010(S)
ASEAN - Laos	Goods & Services	FTA & EA			01-May-2005(S)
ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA)	Goods	FTA	30-Oct-1992	Enabling Clause	28-Jan-1992
Asia Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA)	Goods	PSA	02-Nov-1976	Enabling Clause	17-Jun-1976
Asia Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA) - Accession of China	Goods	PSA	30-Apr-2004	Enabling Clause	01-Jan-2002
Australia - Chile	Goods & Services	FTA & EA	03-Mar-2009	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	01-Jan-2009
Australia - New Zealand (ANZCERTA)	Goods & Services	FTA & EA	14-Apr-1983(S)	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	0
Australia - New Zealand (ANZCERTA)	Goods & Services	FTA & EA	22-Nov-1995(S)	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V	0
Australia - Papua New Guinea (PATCRA)	Goods	FTA	20-Dec-1976	GATT Art. XXIV	01-Jan-1976

\*Note  
This is an example of the list of all RTAs notified and in force, by alphabetical order

# WTO RTA-IS

- 4 • Examine pre-defined reports and summary tables

Summary tables provide detailed figures on the number of RTAs notified to the GATT/WTO and still in force, sorted by notification\*, by type of agreement, and by status in the WTO consideration process.

Some figures on Regional Trade Agreements notified to the GATT/WTO and in force

WTO statistics on RTAs are based on notification requirements rather than on physical number of RTAs. Thus, for an RTA that includes both goods and services, we count two notifications (one for goods and the other for services), even though it is physically one RTA. Nevertheless, figures on the physical number of RTAs (counting goods and services together), are provided in the last table below.

	Accessions	New RTAs	Grand total
Enabling clause	1	207	208
GATS Art. V	7	10	17
GATT Art. XXIV	2	34	36
Enabling Clause & GATS Art. V	4	114	118
Grand total	14	365	379

All RTAs in force, sorted by Type of Agreement:	Enabling clause	GATS Art. V	GATT Art. XXIV	Grand total
Enabling clause	8	10	18	18
GATS Art. V	1	7	6	6
GATT Art. XXIV	1	114	114	114
Enabling Clause & Accession	12	4	4	20
Enabling Clause & GATS Art. V	0	1	1	1
Enabling Clause & GATS Art. V	14	1	14	14
Enabling Clause & GATS Art. V	1	1	1	1
Grand total	36	118	225	379

\*Note  
WTO statistics on RTAs, as contained in the summary tables, are based on notification requirements rather than on physical numbers of RTAs. Thus, for an RTA that includes both goods and services, we count two notifications (one for goods and the other for services), even though it is physically one RTA. Nevertheless, figures on the physical number of RTAs (counting goods and services together), are provided in the last table.

