

Roberto AZEVEDO
Director-General

26 June 2020

Dear Permanent Representative,

As of 1 July, the WTO Secretariat will establish a Division responsible for Knowledge and Information Management, Academic Outreach and the WTO Chair's Programme. This move will see the WTO joining other institutions in making knowledge management an important feature of their organizational structure and practice while streamlining and updating related fields of information management and having an organized focal point for academic collaboration and outreach.

This Division will be established with no impact on the headcount and will draw on the resources readily available in the Secretariat by transferring staff members already carrying out the related tasks. Mr Werner Zdouc is being reassigned to head this Division. Consequently, the creation of this new Division will not have any budgetary impact on the Organization.

The management of knowledge and information is of utmost importance for individuals, businesses and international institutions alike. It is important for the WTO to adopt a strategic approach to gathering, consolidating and preserving knowledge to be used, passed on and made accessible. The same is true for information.

In its 25th year, the WTO has generated valuable information, knowledge and practices which are important for the work and advancement of the rules-based system. It is important that this is managed in a systematic way in a structured framework. To this end, the new Division is being created through the amalgamation of units engaged in information management and collaboration with academia and the establishment of a unit dedicated to knowledge management.

The new Division will incorporate the Library and the Information Management Section from the Languages, Documentation and Information Management Division, and the Chair's Programme from the Institute for Training and Technical Cooperation and will establish the Knowledge Management Section building upon expertise drawn from the Economic Research and Statistics Division.

Yours sincerely,



Roberto Azevêdo

Permanent Representatives of WTO Members
and Observer governments (by email only)