



Negotiating Group on the Multilateral Agreement on Investment (MAI)

LODGING OF COUNTRY-SPECIFIC RESERVATIONS TO MAI OBLIGATIONS

(Letter from the Chairman)

To Heads of Delegations to the Negotiating Group

Object: Lodging of Country-specific reservations to MAI obligations

Dear Sir/Madam:

We have concluded at our December meeting that the negotiations on outstanding issues on the text of the MAI and on country-specific reservations should proceed in parallel. We also agreed that individual country lists of reservations should be submitted to the Secretariat. This will allow us to prepare for our discussions at the February, March and April 1997 meetings, based upon the procedures we agreed upon at our December 1996 meeting.

The Negotiating Group has already endorsed the Drafting Group N°2 proposals for the submission of country specific reservations [section III of DAFPE/MAI/DG2(96)2]. The working assumptions are that these reservations should be based on a top down approach (i.e. all non-conforming measures shall be listed) and be as narrowly defined as possible. The Group also suggested a standard presentation for these reservations, which is reproduced in the Annex to this letter. In addition, the reservations should be in conformity with the standstill commitments which apply to the existing OECD instruments (Liberalisation Codes and National Treatment Instrument).

I call upon every delegation to closely follow these guidelines in drafting their proposed reservations. I would also like your submission to reach the Secretariat **by 3 February 1997** so as to meet the tight deadline ahead of us.

I wish you an excellent New Year.

Yours sincerely

Chairman of the Negotiating Group

Annex

Standard presentation of individual country-specific reservations

Sector:

Sub-Sector:

Obligation or MAI article in respect of which the Reservation is taken:

Level of Government:

Legal source or authority of the Measure:

Succinct Description of the Measure:

Purpose or Motivation of the Measure: