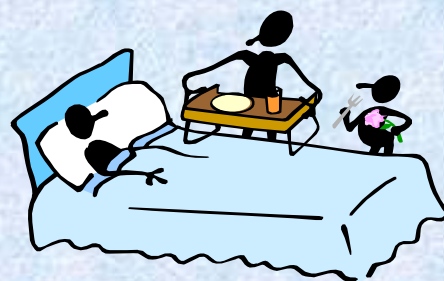




# SERVICES TRADE UNDER THE GATS

- An Introduction -



Trade in Services Division  
WTO



The GATS: A  
latecomer in  
the multilateral  
system ...

# Services in the Multilateral System: Since 1995



YEAR	ROUND	Members
1947	Geneva	23
1949	Annecy	23
1951	Torquay	33
1956	Geneva	35
1960/61	Dillon Round	42
1964/67	Kennedy Round	75
1973/79	Tokyo Round	85
<b>1986/93</b>	<b>Uruguay Round</b>	<b>128</b>
2001 -	Doha	152



## The traditional view

- **Services** = intangible = **non-tradable**
- **Services** = **government monopolies**
- **Services** = **rich countries' playfield**
- **Services** = **unsuited for GATT-type disciplines**



# Changes over time

- **Technical progress (e-trade, etc.)**
- **Regulatory reform (telecom, banking, ...)**
- **Rapid expansion of merchandise trade (transport, ... )**
- **Increasing mobility of services consumers (tourism)!**
- **Growing importance of FDI**





# Challenges during the Uruguay Round

- **Sector coverage?**
- **Types of transactions?**
- **Role of MFN?**
- **Permissible policy instruments?**
- **Need for GATT-type trade remedies and regulatory disciplines?**



# GATS: Main Features



# Observation

GATS IS FAR WIDER IN  
SCOPE THAN CONVENTIONAL  
TRADE AGREEMENTS ....



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