

**MEMO# 14145**

November 15, 2001

## **WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION LAUNCHES NEW TRADE ROUND**

[14145] November 15, 2001 TO: INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE No. 60-01 RE: WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION LAUNCHES NEW TRADE ROUND On November 14, 2001, the members of the World Trade Organization (WTO) agreed to launch a new round of global trade negotiations in January 2002. The negotiations on trade in services, which was initiated in January 2000, will continue within this broader round of negotiations. The final Doha Ministerial Declaration reaffirms the Services Guidelines and Procedures for the Negotiations, which was adopted by the Council for Trade in Services in March 2001, as the basis for continuing negotiations. If WTO members had failed to agree to a new round of negotiations, there were concerns that not much progress would be made in the services negotiations. Now with the launch of the new round, members of the WTO will be required to submit initial requests for specific commitments in services by June 30, 2002 and initial offers by March 31, 2003. Jennifer S. Choi Associate Counsel

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