

*Beyond Agriculture:  
Business Perspectives on the DDA*

•SAARC-CCI: South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation Chamber of Commerce and Industry

[www.saarc-sec.org/](http://www.saarc-sec.org/)

•Cefic: European Chemical Industry Council

[www.cefic.org](http://www.cefic.org)

•Foreign Trade Association

[www.fta-eu.org](http://www.fta-eu.org)

•Eurocommerce

[www.eurocommerce.be](http://www.eurocommerce.be)

•BDI: German Industrial Confederation

[www.bdi-online.de/](http://www.bdi-online.de/)

•UNICE: Union of Industrial and Employer's Confederations

<http://wto.unice.org>

# UNICE

THE VOICE OF BUSINESS IN EUROPE

## ***Beyond Agriculture: Business Perspectives on the Doha Development Agenda***

### **TRADE & DEVELOPMENT**

Union of Industrial and Employers' Confederation of Europe

June 2003

Visit UNICE's website on the new WTO round: <http://wto.unice.org>

# UNICE

**35 Industrial and Employers' Federations  
from 28 countries**

**16 million small, medium and large  
companies**

**More than 106 million people employed by  
these companies**

**UNICE addresses development concerns in  
all of its position papers on the WTO:**

**Market Access: opposed to tariff escalation.**

**TRIPs: balanced solution to address serious  
health problems while guaranteeing the  
patent system.**

## How can the WTO contribute to development?

- Liberalisation increases economic welfare and efficiency.
- Liberalisation encourages south-south trade.
- Liberalisation encourages pro-competitive reforms in all countries over the long term.
- Trade challenges are best dealt with in a rules-based multilateral system.
- The WTO contributes to transparency, good governance and to combat vested interests.
- « Flanking » measures need to be adopted to ensure maximum benefits from trade liberalisation.

## **Special & Differential Treatment:**

**How can we address development challenges while maintaining a trading system based on common rules?**

- 1) A single set of WTO rules for all countries should be the long-term goal**
- 2) Transition periods for implementation based on a clear understanding of the level of development of the country and/or the industrial sector under consideration.**
- 3) Further positive incentives for developing countries in specific negotiations.**

## **Concrete examples of S&DT in Doha negotiations**

- **Market Access**: sectoral negotiations based on the export interests of D.C.s. This could be expanded to include wider D.C. interests such as « inputs ».
- **Trade facilitation**: A ladder approach with different commitments based on the level of development.
- **Services/GATS**: Improved commitments on Mode IV (temporary movement of business personnel); ie. Computer and business services.

## Concrete examples of S&DT in Doha negotiations

- Investment: GATS-like negotiations allows countries to make commitments in the sectors they wish. This will allow D.C.s that are strong supporters of an agreement to go further than countries that want more time.
- Environment: Recognition/equivalence for D.C. eco-labels.
- Antidumping: Clearer rules in the interest of all.
- Competition: Will bolster regulatory powers in D.C.s

## **Where is capacity building necessary?**

- **To ensure that D.C.s remain full participants in the negotiating process.**
- **To ensure that D.C.s can meet their WTO commitments.**
- **To ensure that D.C.s benefit fully from WTO rights and obligations – notably access to WTO dispute settlement.**
- **To ensure that D.C.s can effectively participate in global trade**



# Concrete examples of Capacity building

- **Financial support for legal services in WTO disputes.**
- **Financial support for participation in international standard setting bodies.**
- **Technical assistance to improve institutions that facilitate trade, ie. customs services.**

## **What still needs to be debated?**

- **How can the notion of « graduation » be made operational? How do we define the countries/sectors that should benefit from special and differential treatment?**
- **How long should we delay WTO implementation for?**
- **How can development policy ensure full participation in globalisation?**

## Concrete examples

- **Business cannot accept that OECD members benefit from special & differential treatment.**
- **Countries that « permanently » delay implementation of WTO rules for development reasons don't develop!**
- **Aid programmes to consider the short, medium and long-term effects of trade on competitiveness.**

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