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**WTO-DOHA DEVELOPMENT AGENDA: UNICE CALLS FOR BALANCED DECISIONS AT THE END OF JULY**

**On 27-29 July in Geneva, WTO Members will decide whether to put the Doha Development Agenda negotiations (DDA) back on track and whether to inject new momentum into the WTO multilateral trading system. The stakes are high for European companies in terms of market access and for the future development of international trade and investment structures in a drastically changing international environment. UNICE is therefore calling on EU negotiators to continue seeking actively a balanced framework agreement for the finalisation of the DDA negotiations.**

UNICE is a strong supporter of the multilateral trading system. Now more than ever, it hopes that the DDA will lead, as soon as possible, to significant and useful results for both developing countries and developed countries and that it will improve the rules of the international trading system for the long term. UNICE regrets that the level of ambition of the DDA has been seriously eroded after the Cancun failure.

*« For UNICE, the July decisions should enable the relaunch of negotiations on a clear and realistic basis and lead, at the end of the process, to real liberalisation of agricultural, industrial and services markets within a reasonable time-frame. The status quo is not an option for European companies in a rapidly changing global environment », declared UNICE Secretary General Philippe de Buck.*

Although the 16 July draft decision submitted to WTO Members will postpone important decisions on the modalities, parameters and calendar of the various issues in the DDA negotiations, it nevertheless goes in the right direction. The draft aims to establish the overall framework, main direction and expected level of contribution of WTO Members for all aspects of the negotiations. A lot of effort was put into the agricultural negotiations to address the concerns of the different WTO Members and thus contribute to unblocking the other elements of the negotiations which are vital for economic growth. For UNICE, the EU negotiators should particularly aim, from now until the 27-29 July WTO meeting, to:

- Ensure balanced proposals in all aspects of the negotiations and between the various issues - all Members should contribute to the negotiations;
- Guarantee that special and differential treatment provisions for developing countries do not allow emerging countries and big developing countries to escape from making commitments and from WTO rules;
- Obtain improvements to the annex on non-agricultural market access so as to lead to substantial results regarding tariffs and non-tariff barriers at the end of the negotiating process and reject requests to introduce new exceptions or derogations (Annex B);
- Maintain a high level of ambition for services liberalisation and obtain clear deadlines (Annex C);
- Ensure that the proposal to launch negotiations on trade facilitation is carried through with clarified modalities for negotiations (Annex D);
- Make sure that work can continue in the WTO on investment, transparency in government procurement and trade & competition between interested WTO Members;
- Ensure that negotiations on the rest of the DDA issues, such as antidumping, will be actively pursued.

UNICE is determined to continue to work in support of a successful end of July WTO meeting, based on balanced decisions, which will strengthen the WTO system.

Note to the editor:

UNICE is the official voice of more than 16 million small, medium and large companies. Active in European affairs since 1958, UNICE's members are 37 central industrial and employers federations from 30 countries, working together to achieve growth and competitiveness in Europe