

Global Business & Manufacturers Statement on WTO Doha Round

Geneva, Switzerland

March 15-16, 2006

We the undersigned organizations strongly believe that the successful completion of the Doha Round of World Trade Organization (WTO) multilateral trade negotiations is of critical importance to the global economy. Following the Hong Kong WTO Ministerial, strong political leadership is needed from all WTO members if we want ensure the successful conclusion of the Round by the end of 2006.

The major objective of global manufacturers' continued collaboration is to ensure that the priorities and commercial interests of the global industrial sector – which represents 75% of global merchandise trade – are fully realized in the outcome of the Doha Round.

We believe that an ambitious and balanced agreement on agriculture is a critical step to securing a comprehensive and successful outcome for the Round. However, in order to be successful and supported by the global industrial sector, the round must achieve significant gains in real market access for manufactured goods (NAMA), services, trade facilitation and advancement of other aspects of the negotiations, including rules.

We continue to see the “Swiss formula” and voluntary sectoral agreements with critical masses of countries as key elements of a successful outcome in the Doha Round. We seek deep and comprehensive reductions in the tariff rates countries apply to manufactured goods imports in as broad a manner as possible. We also want to underscore the importance of pursuing ambitious negotiations on non-tariff barriers (NTBs) in as far-reaching a manner as possible on a horizontal and vertical basis.

The final Doha agreement needs to ensure that all countries participate in and benefit from the gains of trade liberalization. An ambitious agreement in NAMA is essential to achieving that objective. While we understand the special needs of developing countries, many have highly competitive industries and it is vital that they agree to participate in genuine market liberalization.

With major deadlines approaching in April, we the undersigned organizations strongly urge all WTO member countries to make the political decisions necessary to lay the groundwork for a successful completion of the round by the end of 2006.

We will continue to work with our respective government negotiators to ensure that our common objectives are realized in the final outcome of the Doha Round.

Business New Zealand
Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters
Korea International Trade Association
Nippon Keidanren
U.S. National Association of Manufacturers
The Union of Industrial & Employers' Confederations of Europe¹

¹ UNICE Members	UK: CBI	France: MEDEF	Denmark: DI – DA	Norway: NHO	Sweden: SN	Germany: BDA - BDI	Italy: Confindustria
	Austria: IV	Belgium: FEB	Czech Republic: SP	The Netherlands: VNO-NCW	Finland: EK	Spain: CEOE	Portugal: AIP - CIP
	Greece: SEV	Hungary: MGYOSZ	Cyprus: OEB	Luxembourg: FEDIL	Poland: PKPP	Switzerland: Economiesuisse	Malta: MFOI
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