

EUROPEAN BUSINESS FOR DOHA

25th January 2007

WTO Negotiations

Save the Doha Round Now

Following the suspension of negotiations in July 2006, the Doha Round is in crisis. Time is running out. European business – service providers, trade and industry - is united in its deep concern over the current impasse. If WTO negotiators fail to reach an agreement on the core of the deal by Spring 2007 not only do we stand to lose the benefits of multilateral trade liberalisation, but the costs of failure will be diverse and severe.

Unique benefits

The WTO multilateral trading system is unparalleled in generating economic growth, welfare gains, poverty alleviation, better governance and strengthened integration. Bilateral and regional agreements can be helpful complements to the multilateral system, but are no substitute.

Gains for all

Business and consumers worldwide will gain from new WTO commitments:

- The dismantling of tariff and non-tariff trade barriers lays the foundations for enhanced competitiveness and economic growth across all regions, cutting the costs of living and increasing consumer choice.
- Services account for around 20% of all world exports and for 60% of annual FDI flow. Better market access for service providers will foster wealth and growth in developing countries.
- The case for simpler and harmonised customs procedures is uncontested. Trade facilitation measures will enable economic operators worldwide to save some 300 billion Euros per year.
- Improved multilateral rules, e.g. on antidumping and regional trade agreements, will provide for more legal certainty and predictability, also easing dispute settlement processes.

The key to success

Should Governments allow all this to be lost, because of disagreement over certain aspects of agricultural policy? Absolutely not. A reduction in trade and market distorting subsidies and tariffs is in the interests of the vast majority of people. Agricultural protectionism raises prices for consumers and hinders imports from poorer countries. If farmers need support, less trade distorting methods should be used. All WTO members, including EU and U.S., must make the necessary compromises.

Action now

Too much time has already been lost. European business urges all WTO member governments to make their contribution to revive the Doha Round and conclude it successfully as soon as possible. Responsibility for future generations lies in your hands.

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American Chamber of Commerce to the European Union (AmCham EU)

www.amchameu.be



BUSINESSEUROPE - The Confederation of European Business

www.businessseurope.eu



European Services Forum (ESF)

www.esf.be



Eurochambres

www.eurochambres.eu



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FOREIGN TRADE ASSOCIATION

Foreign Trade Association (FTA)

www.fta-eu.org



Trans Atlantic Business Dialogue (TABD)

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