

Cancun, 14 September 2003 (17h00 Mexican time)

MISSED OPPORTUNITY IN CANCUN

European business is very disappointed by the failure of the WTO Ministerial Conference today in Cancun. This unfortunate result is a great missed opportunity for all WTO Members, and in particular the developing countries, to create the conditions for increasing welfare all around the world.

It is too early to assess the specific implications of the failure of the Conference but the inevitable result is to delay the benefits of the Doha Development Agenda for poor people around the world.

European business is concerned that the WTO multilateral trading process is seriously at risk and progress in the Doha Development Agenda is put into jeopardy.

European business remains strongly committed to the WTO multilateral liberalisation process and urge all WTO Members to press ahead with substantial negotiations as rapidly as possible.

Note to the editor:

UNICE speaks on behalf of 16 million small, medium and large companies active in Europe. Active in European affairs since 1958, UNICE's members are 35 central industrial and employers federations from 28 countries, working together to achieve growth and competitiveness in Europe.

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