

## **From Doha to Cancún: towards a more inclusive global trade system ?**

CONFERENCE - DEBATE

**9 October 2003**

**Brussels**

**European Parliament**

Two years after the failure of the Seattle WTO Ministerial Conference, the work programme adopted in Doha and called « the Doha Development Agenda » intended to show WTO Members willingness to put the emphasis on development and non-trade issues. None of the deadlines set by the Doha agenda was met. From 10 to 14 September, WTO Members will meet in Cancún (Mexico) in order to take stock of the negotiations progresses and other work required, sixteen months before the planned end of the Doha Development Agenda.

Cancún will be a crucial test for multilateralism.

The insertion of developing countries in the global economy cannot be achieved only through liberalization. How can we re-balance the trade relations, taking into account the necessity of a categorisation among developing countries?

How can we drag our American partners towards a liberalization scheme more open to societies concerns and towards sustainable development?

The European Union, being in a position where it has to defend its trade interests and its values has been given a mandate to promote liberalization accompanied by balanced rules. Will it manage to reconcile this objectives and convince its partners?

We will analyze the results of Cancun on the basis of this mandate, through two round tables:

- Did the Cancun ministerial enable WTO Members to make a step towards the reduction of inequalities in the world?

Figures show that there is a correlation between countries level of development and their participation in international trade. But, helping the least advanced countries to insert themselves in global trade cannot be achieved merely by granting them more flexibilities for the implementation of the agreements.

The results of the horizontal negotiations (Special and Differential Treatment, Implementation) and issues by issues (market acces and subsidies in agriculture and industrial labour intensive products, access to medicines, preferential trade agreements, investment,...) will be decisive as regards the Doha Development Agenda main objective : putting developing countries interests and needs at the center of the negotiations.

- Did the EU manage to promote its commercial interests as well as its sustainable development values?

The mandate of the EU is to have its trading competitors open their markets (which means opening EU's one, given the principles of the WTO) as well as protecting its social model (public services of quality, multifunctional agriculture, precautionary principle, consumers protection,...) and fully playing its role as an intermediary between developed and developing countries. In the services sector, the EU defends its « offensive interests » and ensures the coherence between internal and external choices. But, it still has to show its willingness to substantively help developing countries. In the other areas of the Single Undertaking: agriculture, market access for non agricultural products and Singapore issues (investment, competition, trade facilitation and government procurement), EU's position will be decisive for the overall result of the negotiations.

## **PROGRAMME / TENTATIVE LIST OF SPEAKERS**

The two round table will be chaired by **Ms. Erika Mann**, MEP and chairwoman of the Informal Trade Group at the EP.

### **14h30 – 16h15**

#### **First round table : What are the results of Cancun as regards the development objectives ?**

- **Ms. Lakshmi Puri**, Director of UNCTAD's Division for trade in goods and services, and commodities
- **Mogens Peter Carl**, Director General of DG Trade, European Commission,
- **John Evans**, Director of the Trade Union Advisory Committee (TUAC),
- **Philippe Herzog**, President of *Confrontations Europe*, MEP (GUE),
- **Jeremy Hobbs**, Executive Director, Oxfam International

### **16h15 – 16h30: Coffee Break**

### **16h30-18h00**

Second round table : What are the results of Cancun in terms of EU's interests and values ?

- **Mogens Peter Carl**, Director General of DG Trade, European Commission,
- **Nicholas Clegg**, MEP (ELDR), Member of the Industry and Trade Commission
- **Georges Garot**, MEP (PES), Member of the Agriculture Commission
- **Philippe Herzog**, President of *Confrontations Europe*, MEP (GUE)
- **Ricardo Mélendez Ortiz**, Executive Director of International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD),
- **Mike Waghorne**, Assistant Director General, Public Services International,