



Business and Industry Advisory Committee to the **OECD**

Comité Consultatif Economique et Industriel Auprès de l' **OCDE**

Statement of the
OECD Business Community
to OECD Trade Ministers:

Revitalising the WTO Doha Round Urgent

**This is a statement of the major OECD business organisations,
signed by their Presidents**

The Business and Industry Advisory Committee to the OECD (BIAC) was created in March 1962 as an independent organisation officially recognised by the OECD as being representative of the OECD business community. BIAC's members are the major industrial and employers' organisations in the 30 OECD member countries. Via its 19 standing committees, BIAC mirrors all economic policy issues the OECD covers and their impacts on both member and an increasing number of non-member countries.

The major business organisations in OECD Countries, united in the Business and Industry Advisory Committee to the OECD, want to express their strong concern to OECD Governments about the failure of the 5th WTO Ministerial Conference at Cancun.

We wish to emphasise that OECD business remains strongly committed to the multilateral trading system with the WTO at its centre. It remains our firm belief that multilateral liberalisation of international trade is vital to lifting much of the developing world out of poverty and to creating business opportunities for both OECD and non-OECD companies.

For business and industry in OECD Countries, it is a top priority to get the Round started again and to achieve real progress on key priorities for businesses in OECD and non-OECD countries without overloading the agenda. OECD business organisations see a need to focus negotiations on:

- Non-agricultural tariff reductions and reduction of Non-tariff barriers
- Strengthened and expanded commitments on Services
- Trade Facilitation

We also recognise that the WTO as a rules-based system needs to continuously improve "rules" and that such efforts are an important part of the Doha Agenda.

For resolving the Cancun impasse, we believe it is crucial that negotiators overcome the deadlock on agriculture. This is a prerequisite for progress on other core issues. Market access for agricultural products needs to be improved and trade-distorting subsidies reduced, particularly in OECD countries.

At the same time, OECD business and industry expects developing countries and emerging markets to help rebuild momentum in the Doha negotiations and to increase their own market access commitments for agricultural and industrial goods and services. To foster greater understanding OECD Governments should be more active in raising awareness of the benefits of trade liberalisation to the developing world. It is also vital to promote developing countries' understanding that a failure of the Doha Round would be a setback for their economic development and a missed opportunity for their business and industry. The liberalisation of major developing country markets offers the largest stimulus for new business opportunities and economic growth for both OECD and non-OECD economies.

On the Singapore issues, we urge our governments to find the flexibility to move each of these issues forward on its own merit and at its own pace although we wish to see Trade Facilitation included in the single undertaking.¹ We continue to regard the remaining Singapore issues as important elements of the right regulatory environment for business.

Finally, we urge all parties to consider that a prolonged impasse in these negotiations not only defers new benefits from liberalisation and appropriate rules. It also risks eroding the present WTO system because of the pending lapse of consensus embodied in the expiration of the agricultural peace clause (Article 13 of the Agricultural Agreement) and for other issues such as the moratorium on duties applied to electronic transmissions.

We as the OECD's business community commit ourselves to strengthening our outreach activities on trade topics, especially towards business associations in non-OECD countries.

¹ Addition of MEDEF: This shall not be understood as excluding that investment is negotiated within the timeline of the DDA.

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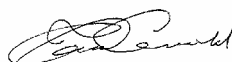
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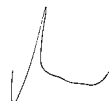
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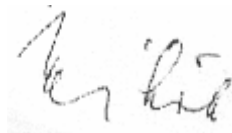
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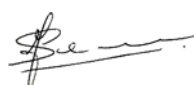
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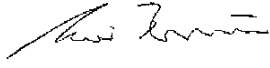
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