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Lamy: "We have resumed negotiations fully across the board"



Director-General Pascal Lamy, in his report to the WTO General Council on 7 February, said that "political conditions are now more favourable for the conclusion of the Round than they have been for a long time". He added

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[WTO chairpersons for 2007](#)



The General Council, on 7 February, noted the consensus on a slate of names of chairpersons for WTO bodies, and elected Amb. Muhamad NOOR (Malaysia) as its new chairman. The WTO chairpersons for 2007 are:

General Council: H.E. Mr. Muhamad NOOR (Malaysia)

Dispute Settlement Body: H.E. Mr. Bruce GOSPER (Australia)

Trade Policy Review Body: H.E. Mr. Vesa HIMANEN (Finland)

Council for Trade in Goods: H.E. Mr. Karsten Vagn NIELSEN (Denmark)

Council for Trade in Services: H.E. Mr. C. Trevor CLARKE (Barbados)

Council for TRIPS: H.E. Mr. Yonov Frederick AGAH (Nigeria)

Committee on Trade and Development: H.E. Mr. Shree Baboo Chekitan SERVANSING (Mauritius)

Committee on Balance-of-Payments Restrictions: H.E. Mr. Chitsaka CHIPAZIWA (Zimbabwe)

Committee on Budget, Finance and Administration: Mr. Tony LYNCH (New Zealand)

Committee on Trade and Environment: H.E. Mr. Manuel A.J. TEEHANKEE (Philippines)

Committee on Regional Trade Agreements: Mr. Julian METCALFE (United Kingdom)

Working Group on Trade, Debt and Finance: Mr. Ravi BANGAR (India)

Working Group on Trade and Transfer of Technology: H.E. Mr. Kwabena BAAH-DUODU (Ghana)

Chairpersons of Bodies established under the Trade Negotiations Committee (to serve until the next Session of the Ministerial Conference):

Negotiating Group on Trade Facilitation: H.E. Mr. Eduardo Ernesto

SPERISEN-YURT (Guatemala) **Work Programme on Small Economies:** The

Chairman of the Dedicated Session of the Committee on Trade and Development reported that while there had been no formal meetings of the Dedicated Session since December 2006, the proponents had met a number of times recently to discuss their proposals in the various negotiating groups and other WTO bodies, and had also engaged in a number of bilateral and plurilateral meetings on issues concerning Agriculture, NAMA, Services, Trade Facilitation and subsidies. Given the recent developments in the negotiations, it was his understanding that the proponents were keen to resume this work.

Non-recognition of Rights under Article XXIV:6 and Article XXVIII of the GATT 1994 – Communication from Honduras and Guatemala: The

Chairman reported on consultations he had held on 5 February on this matter, which had included all interested delegations and had been without prejudice to any Member's rights under the WTO. The consultations had been positive and constructive and had resulted in a clear understanding that the parties directly concerned would be engaging, in the next few weeks, in direct and substantive dialogue and in good faith on the issues and concerns raised by Honduras and Guatemala. While it remained to be seen what result would emerge from these contacts, they were in his view a necessary step and a sign of progress.

The Council agreed to revert to this matter at its next meeting.

Review of the Exemption Provided under Paragraph 3 of GATT 1994:

Reverting to this review under the current two-yearly cycle as provided for in paragraph 3(b) of GATT 1994, Members agreed to proceed in a manner similar to that in 2005. In keeping with this procedure, severTj k

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ILO and WTO Secretariat issue joint study on trade and employment



The International Labour Office and the WTO Secretariat, on 19 February 2007, issued "Trade and Employment: Challenges for Policy Research". Director-General Pascal Lamy and ILO Director-General Juan Somavia, in their foreword to the study, said "the multilateral trading system has the potential to contribute to increasing global welfare and to promote better employment outcomes".

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The WTO website gets a new look

On 7 February, the website got a new look in response to a recent survey of users.

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The Salzburg Retreat: A presentation of outcomes for the Doha Round



Experts from four leading institutions present the outcomes of an intensive four-day problem solving retreat dedicated to advancing the Doha Development Agenda. The retreat, held in Salzburg, Austria, from 16-20 February, brought together 50 leading figures from government, industry and civil society who are based in developed, developing and least-developed countries. Director-General Pascal Lamy opened the meeting and a number of WTO negotiating chairs participated in the session. By putting the Doha negotiations into a global context and clarifying the potential gains and costs that may arise from a failure of the talks, participants sought to lay the political groundwork for resolving current differences while building momentum for a conclusion.

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