



The European Union has not revised its negotiating position downwards, and our basic demands remain unchanged. Our aim is not to impose ready-made solutions but to explore new options together and to respond to the need for clarification.

If my country, together with the European Union, today reiterates its desire to see negotiations in the WTO deal with the relationship between trade and the environment, and the link between trade and social development, and if we still maintain that agriculture has a role to play in the public interest that goes beyond production alone, this does not mean that we are insensitive to the reactions that these issues may have caused in countries outside the European Union, but that we are responding to a sense of concern felt by public opinion in our countries.

In my view, those who accuse Europe of attempting to restrict international trade by putting forward social or environmental concerns seem to forget that European consumers, who served for years as an outlet for colonial trade, today refuse to face globalization in the same state of ignorance and compromised principles, and the same is true of investors.

The right to information must be taken into account in the development of trade. As current events show, uncertainty is a factor of insecurity and destabilization. It must be possible to apply the precautionary principle and reverse the burden of proof, for food security and consumer confidence depend on it.

For many of us, the reforms under way in the agricultural sector are essential, and they must be pursued through progressive liberalization, taking into account the non-trade-related aspects of agriculture, and in particular its multifunctional character.

The abolition of agricultural subsidies, which sometimes seems like a *sine qua non* in the free trade discourse, may perhaps appear to presage the eventual disappearance of small- and medium-sized farms in Europe and elsewhere, but such a radical measure will not necessarily have the desired impact on poverty reduction. We can continue reformulating the issues, but not for much longer.

The WTO has reached a point of no return: the difficult TD Tc 0am0 smdTO de4eg isral sun