



social aspects of globalization and feels it necessary to associate the WTO to that process in the view of a better understanding of the issues involved.

We all want to ensure that an open and non-discriminatory multilateral trading system and the promotion of sustainable development are indeed mutually supportive; we therefore think there is a need to clarify WTO rules, while providing adequate safeguard against protectionism.

We also believe that further market access should be accompanied by clarifying, updating and developing the rules. We believe now is the time to initiate a process leading to negotiations on sound rules in investment and competition.

As for Agriculture, you know that this activity is of great importance and sensitivity to the European Union as well as to many other countries. I refer to our position clearly stated by the Commissioner.

The European Union welcomes the accession of China and Chinese Taipei to the WTO as a major step in reinforcing the universal character of the Organization. The world as a whole will benefit from these accessions.

Together, we must all assess our priorities and show the necessary flexibility to make sure that every one can return home at the end of this meeting with a result reflecting the mutual gains of fruitful negotiations.

More than ever, this Conference that brings us together in Doha must contribute to a closer world community.

It is with this spirit that the European Union has come to Doha.

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