

**WORLD TRADE
ORGANIZATION**

Cambodia, as we did Armenia and FYROM, and as we will welcome Vietnam, Russia, Saudi Arabia and all the others that are embracing the rules of trade and the rule of law.

This shows the great importance developing and least-developed countries attach to a free and regulated trade as a key tool for their development. We are well aware how difficult this process is, because not only it is complicated to set the rules, but also, even more so, to implement them. That is why we are engaged in a Round focused on the reduction – or even better the elimination – of the existing economic gap between countries. If the DDA succeeds in maintaining its original drive, the long lasting effects will in the end greatly contribute to the process of convergence between North and South.

The European Union has a great responsibility – as just mentioned by Commissioner Lamy – to its continuing commitment to this process. It is a path on which the EU is already embarked, attaching great attention to the issue of Implementation, Special and Differential Treatment and the importance of opening our markets to the LDCs without reservation. We are ready to continue this commitment now and in the future. We believe that we could be an example for the industrialized

On NAMA I would say that the reduction of tariffs, the cutting of tariff peaks and the elimination of non-tariff barriers, will give a boost to trade, create more wealth and reduce poverty. This will be the path to follow and I do hope that the "modalities for negotiations", which we are going to discuss, will help us to pursue that path to a further and deeper opening of markets.

Certainly, we do have some concerns. In particular, the reduction of tariffs in some specific sectors – such as textiles – should be harmonized and implemented by all.

As far as the Singapore Issues are concerned we ask all partners to support the launching of new negotiations, because we are convinced this will help to accelerate growth in all countries.

Therefore, our request takes account of development issues and is in line with the principle stressed in the DDA, that of safeguarding the "political space" for all partners.

This is a *condition sine qua non* which we put forward. There will be no danger that these issues could impinge on the ability of these countries to maintain unchanged their authority and autonomy in those areas.

In parallel with market access liberalization, it is necessary to work for the strengthening of Rules. Different levels of social and environmental protection do not help the growth of trade. In any case, our final objective is to spread welfare around the globe. Part of this welfare is also a proper respect of the dignity of workers. We need a major effort from all parties to assure a sustainable development from an environmental perspective and to assure social conditions linked to the fundamental labour rights.

So far some progress, although still not for us enough, has been made concerning the relationship between trade and the environment.

On technical assistance, the European Union, and if I may say so Italy in particular, are strongly committed to the initiative launched in Doha aimed at increasing the negotiation capabilities of developing and LDCs and the economies in transition.

Italy contributed 2 million euros to the DD Trust Fund, in addition to 900,000 euros for the Integrated Framework and 1 million USD for the Advisory Centre.

I should like to conclude by expressing my total satisfaction for the achievement of the agreement on par.6 of Doha Declaration on TRIPs and health, which marks at the same time an important conclusion of a process and the starting-point for a more effective cooperation between industrialized and developing countries. I hope that it will pave the way to a positive conclusion of this Conference.

If we succeed in accomplishing our mandate to facilitate world economic growth, we will have given an example to other International Organizations to do the same, because only coherence between all policies can constitute the basis of a better life for future generations.
