

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

WT/MIN(98)/ST/10

18 May 1998

(98-2009)

MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE
Second Session
Geneva, 18 and 20 May 1998

Original: English

DENMARK

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Overall perspective and main priorities

The immensely positive impact of the multilateral trading system on growth, employment and stability has been crucial to the world economy over the last 50 years. The double occasion of the Second WTO Ministerial Conference and the 50th Anniversary of the Multilateral Trading System provides an opportunity to take stock of achievements so far. It also entails a responsibility for WTO Members to address the challenges of future international trade cooperation. This is a task of tremendous importance - not least for Denmark as a small and open economy. Our commitment to the multilateral trading system is stronger than ever.

Denmark has noted with g

in both developed and developing countries. It is therefore necessary to provide new momentum to the work on trade and environment in the WTO with a view to encouraging concrete results and to including the topic in future comprehensive negotiations as a key element.

Denmark is one of the staunchest supporters of continued trade liberalization in a multilateral framework. Denmark strongly opposes any protectionist use of environmental issues. Full consideration must be given to the special situation of developing countries in further advancing the trade and environment agenda.

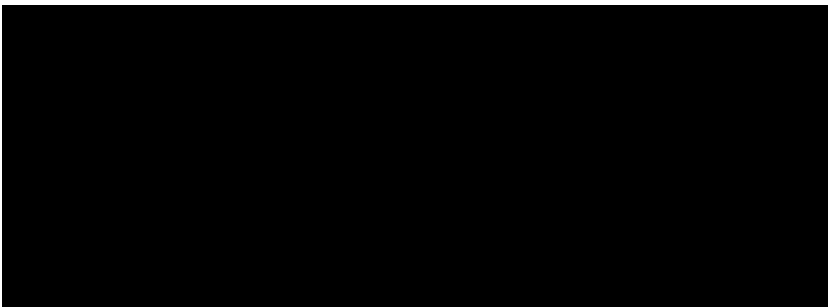
At the same time, WTO rules should not stand in the way of enhancing environmental standards at either the national, regional or global level. This includes that the WTO must recognize the use of trade measures in multilateral environmental agreements when necessary to reach globally agreed environmental objectives.

In sum, the WTO must aim for a stronger integration of environmental considerations and principles with a view to maximizing mutual benefits of trade and environment towards sustainable development.

- Respecting core labour standards...

Denmark attaches great importance to the promotion and respect of core labour standards. While strongly believing that the WTO has an important role to play, we firmly reject the use of labour standards for protectionist purposes. The comparative advantage of countries, particularly low-wage developing countries, must not be put into question.

On this very clear basis, core labour standards should be included in



shielding the WTO from criticism, greater transparency could play a key role in communicating the benefits of trade liberalization. In turn, more public support for the WTO would be generated.

Denmark is therefore committed to making the WTO more transparent and open. At the same time, it is important to stress that no initiative on openness must put the effectiveness of the WTO at risk. From our perspective, there is no inherent conflict between openness and effectiveness.

While recognizing the steps already taken by the WTO, Denmark stands ready to promote further the issue of openness in the WTO. In order to establish an on-going process addressing this important question, one way forward could be the setting up of a WTO working group on openness and transparency.

- Addressing the challenges of globalization...

Globalization has put new demands on the WTO. As a result, investment and competition aspects of international trade are becoming ever more important. Today, competition and investment practices are perhaps more relevant to the flow of international goods and

- Implementing existing commitments...

The Uruguay Round and the Singapore Ministerial Conference resulted in far-reaching agreements and liberalization commitments. The full implementation of these commitments by all WTO Members within the agreed time-frames is of utmost importance.

Developing countries may encounter special