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SPEECH DELIVERED BY MR. HENK VREDELING, VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE COMMISSION OF
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The last couple of months have shown us once more international cooperation and international understanding is a difficult affair. The energy crisis the world is confronted with, causes a big strain on every type or sort of international cooperation, be it the North-South or East-West cooperation or cooperation between partners or members within an organisational framework. I know it is not only energy, but also access to or availability of raw materials or trade. All states in the world are faced with the same problems or consequences of them. So a pattern of cooperation or negotiation, in which the motive for action is only self-interest, how human or politically understandable this may be, is self destructive. This does not work any more, if it ever did ...

Politicians from the developed world should realise their policy has to be geared to bridging the gap between their world and the world of the countries in development in order to guarantee a future for their children. Politicians from the countries in development should appreciate the political difficulties caused in the developed countries by the high level of unemployment in those countries because they have to service the welfare of their people as well.

The last UNCTAD-conference showed me this is also valid for developed countries amongst each other or for countries in development in their relations towards each other.

Industrialised countries should be willing to rethink the role and functions of existing organisations like the International Monetary Fund in order that countries in development could take part in its work with the belief that this organisation is capable to solve their problems. Rich countries should not hide away in organisations or meetings which in themselves are useful like the OECD and Western summits. We have to work together to improve the relations between the industrialised countries and countries in development because of the interdependence of our economics. An open international system of cooperation, where monetary matters, energy, raw materials, aid etc. could be discussed is vital for the restructuring of our world.

One condition should be met: states should not put international organisations to a test by raising political issues which have nothing to do with the work of that organisation.

If politicians do not change their attitudes an erosion will take place and international organisations will stop to be adequate and will become ineffective. It cannot be that a powerful industrialised country does not take part in the work of the ILO.

The objectives of the ILO are dear to me: social justice. This is the reason why I hope on behalf of the European Community that the United States Government

will join the ILO again in order to reach the aims of it. I am happy to say that the European Community takes more and more interest in the work of the ILO.

And when I take the Preamble of the ILO-Constitution where it is said "the failure of any nation to adopt human conditions of labour is an abstacle in the way of other nations which desire to improve the conditions in their own countries" the endeavours of the Commission of the European Community is to introduce the International Labour Standards in the new LOME-Convention comes to my mind. Not for trade or protectionist purposes but for social justice. I sincerely hope the negotiations on this convention will soon be brought to a successful end.