

# European Community

## News Release

### BRUSSELS ROUND OF TRADE NEGOTIATIONS

The Council of Ministers of the European Community meeting in Brussels yesterday, announced EC support of a new round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations. It further proposed that the new round should be inaugurated in Brussels.

Suggestions for a new round of multilateral trade negotiations have been the subject of careful international consideration for the past two years. They received particular attention at the meeting of the OECD Ministers in May 1984, at the London Economic Summit in June 1984 and at the meeting of the contracting parties at the GATT in November 1984. Such multilateral negotiations have been a regular feature of the GATT since its inception.

While a new round of trade negotiations is of the utmost importance to the strengthening of the open multilateral trading system and to the expansion of international trade, it is not sufficient on its own. The European Community will therefore urge, during negotiations aimed at launching the new round, that the following separate but related requirements be given serious parallel consideration.

1. In order to ensure credibility, reaffirmation will be necessary of the international commitments accepted at the Williamsburg and London Economic Summits, and at the last meeting of the OECD Ministers in Paris and of the GATT contracting parties in Geneva:
  - to effectively halt protectionism and resist continuing protectionist pressures (standstill);
  - to relax and progressively dismantle trade restrictions as economic recovery proceeds (roll-back);
  - to pursue the 1982 GATT work programme as complemented by the decisions of the contracting parties in November 1984.

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2. Solutions to imbalances whose origin lies in the monetary and financial areas cannot be found in trade negotiations. Determined, concerted action is required to improve the functioning of the international monetary system and the flow of financial and other resources to developing countries. Results in the monetary and financial areas should be sought in parallel with results in the trade field.
3. As regards negotiations on agriculture in the new round, the EC is ready to work towards improvements within the existing framework of the rules and disciplines in GATT covering all aspects of trade in agriculture products, both as to imports and as to exports, taking full account of the specific characteristics and problems in agriculture. However, the EC is determined that the fundamental objectives and mechanisms both internal and external of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) shall not be placed in question.

On possible new topics for negotiation, the EC considers that trade in services seems suitable for inclusion. Problems of counterfeit goods and the defence of intellectual property also deserve consideration. Other possible new items should be examined on their merits.

Against the background of a balanced package of topics for negotiations in which all participants will find advantages and in the light of the above mentioned considerations, the European Community considers that the new round of trade negotiations would help to promote world economic recovery and growth and would reinforce the multilateral structures and disciplines of the GATT. Subject to the establishment of an adequate, prior, international consensus on objectives, participation and timing, the Community declares its readiness to participate in the launching of such a new round. The Community will accordingly enlist the support of its trading partners, particularly among the developing countries, to this end.

To initiate the process, the Community renews its proposal of last May for an ad hoc GATT meeting, in the coming months, preferably at the level of senior officials from capitals, to intensify consultations about a new round and with the objective that a broad consensus on subject matter and participation should be secured at the earliest possible date.

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