



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 6 October 2004

13149/04

WTO 112

"A"-ITEM NOTE

from : Permanent Representatives Committee
to : Council (General Affairs and External Relations) 11/12 October 2004

Previous doc. : 13012/04 WTO 109

Subject : Draft Council Conclusions on WTO/DDA

1. Following the agreement on framework modalities reached on 1 August 2004 in Geneva in the ongoing WTO/DDA negotiations, and in the run-up to the WTO's next Ministerial Conference in December 2005 in Hong Kong, the Presidency has presented draft Council Conclusions, aiming at outlining the EU's objectives for the remainder of the DDA negotiations.
2. The Council (General Affairs and External Relations) is invited to adopt, as an "A"-item on its agenda on 11/12 October 2004, these draft Council Conclusions (appearing in Annex) as agreed by the Permanent Representatives Committee on 6 October 2004.

Draft Council Conclusions (GAERC October 2004)

- 1 The Council considers that the approach to the DDA based on a broad agenda including ambitious trade opening, strengthened trade rules and a specific focus on the needs and interests of developing countries in order to promote their integration into the world trading system remains at the heart of the EU position in the ongoing negotiations.
- 2 The Council agrees that the negotiating framework adopted by the General Council of the WTO constitutes a good basis for the next stage of the DDA negotiations. The Council underlines that the negotiating framework advances only part of the DDA-negotiations and that all elements of the DDA negotiations must be brought to the same level of ambition and specificity. It is therefore necessary to intensify the work on several issues, in particular those not, or only partly, addressed in substance in this framework.
- 3 The Council reconfirms the importance of achieving a balanced outcome of the Doha Round and in this respect stresses the principle of the single undertaking as reconfirmed in the framework agreement.
- 4 At the same time and in all areas, EU offensive as well as defensive interests need to be taken into account. In order to attain a balanced outcome, specific attention to EU interests in the field of *inter alia* NAMA, services, trade facilitation and rules is needed. The Council emphasizes that all WTO partners need to make contributions, commensurate with their level of development.
- 5 On Agriculture, the Council reaffirms the importance of a satisfactory outcome as regards EU sensitivities in agricultural market access, the importance of full parallelism on the elimination of all forms of export subsidies, the need for major reform in other industrialised countries, the need to preserve the reforms of the CAP and the need to make progress on other issues of interest to the EU, such as non-trade concerns and geographical indications.
- 6 The Council therefore requests the Commission to continue the active and constructive role of the EU in pursuing the forthcoming negotiations on the basis of the various conclusions adopted by the Council since 1999 in relation to these negotiations in close consultation with the 133 Committee. The Council will continue to follow closely these negotiations and invites the Commission accordingly to keep in touch with the Council on any significant developments in this matter.