



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 5 December 2003

15804/03

**WTO 146
OC 824**

"A" ITEM NOTE

from: Permanent Representatives Committee
to: Council (General Affairs and External Relations) on 8/9 December 2003

No. Cion prop. : 15529/03 WTO 140

Subject : Draft Council Conclusions on the Commission communication "Reviving the DDA negotiations – the EU perspective"

COMMON GUIDELINES
Deadline for consultation: 05-12-03

Following intensive examination at the Article 133 Committee level on 28 November 2003 and at the Informal Meeting of Trade Ministers on 2 December 2003 of the Commission communication "Reviving the DDA negotiations – the EU perspective", the Permanent Representatives Committee unanimously agreed on 5 December 2003 to recommend to the Council (GAERC), at its session on 8/9 December 2003, to approve the text of draft Council conclusions appearing in the Annex.

Annex

Draft Council conclusions on the Commission communication

"Reviving the DDA negotiations - the EU perspective"

1. The Council welcomes the Commission communication "Reviving the DDA negotiations – the EU perspective", which brings to an end the process of reflection and review that the Commission and Member States have carried out since the failure of the Cancún Conference. The Council notes that the communication responds to the invitation and to the orientations of the European Council on 16/17 October 2003.
2. The Council endorses the analysis of the Commission and the approach the Commission proposes to explore. To this end the Council reaffirms the following orientations:
 - (a) the EU's commitment to the multilateral approach to trade policy remains unchanged and is a top priority in EU's external relations;
 - (b) the EU expresses its conviction that the Doha Declaration is still relevant and that the DDA negotiations continue to offer great potential to foster long-term economic growth, to stimulate trade and investment, including among developing countries, to promote sustainable development and the management of the challenges of globalisation and to contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development goals;
 - (c) the Council conclusions of October 1999, revisited and reaffirmed in subsequent Council conclusions, in particular in July 2003, remain valid;
 - (d) the EU is in favour of an early relaunch of the DDA and is determined to participate constructively and actively in efforts to this end. The EU expects all Members of the WTO to act in the same spirit by being willing to reflect on their own approach and come back to the negotiations with the flexibility needed to show their commitment to a successful resumption of negotiations;
3. In the expectation of a constructive attitude on all sides, the Council encourages the Commission to explore with the other WTO Members the ideas contained in its communication with a view to refining the EU negotiating approach in a number of areas and to taking account of the manner in which discussions have developed over the past few months or at Cancún itself.

The Council invites the Commission to continue to operate in close consultation with Member States and to report back to the Council with a view to assessing the state of play in the light of the outcome of the exploration carried out by the Commission as well as of efforts undertaken by other WTO Members.
