

**EU-Japan Business Dialogue Round Table
Tokyo Meeting 17-18 July, 2000
Working Party "World Trade Organization"
Guidelines for Discussion on WTO Issues**

(A) Background

1. Business community in Japan and EU strongly welcome the success of the Uruguay Round and the setting up of the WTO which provides the framework for free trade and investment liberalisation in the globalized economy.
2. EU-Japan Business Dialogue Round Table pleaded at its October 1999 meeting in favour of a quick launch of a WTO round of negotiations.
3. Our Round Table deeply regretted that the WTO ministerial meeting held in December in Seattle failed to reach the agreement to launch the New Millennium Round.
4. Our Round Table commends the effort taken by the government of Japan and the EU commission to pave a way for the start of the New Round.

(B) Current Situation

The EU-JBDRT supports for the New Round a comprehensive agenda to be concluded by a single undertaking. In view to contribute to this process WTO working party of the EU JBDRT would like to propose a draft policy statement to be issued at the end of the Tokyo session and to discuss the following issues.

1. General issues

1) Restoration of confidence in WTO

-to suggest business initiatives to restore confidence in the WTO multilateral trading system and to create good conditions for a successful and early launch of the New Round.

2) Transparency of preparatory process

-to study WTO member proposals and make recommendations for increasing

transparency of the preparatory process, so that all member countries would understand the situation and participate in the work.

3) Consideration for developing countries

- to identify proposals which would increase benefits of participating in WTO in the New Round for the developing countries.
- to support the capacity building of developing countries so that they could fully implement WTO agreements and would have interest in the various issues in WTO and participate in the decision making process in the WTO

4) Trade disputes and dispute settlement mechanism

- to make sure that each government should follow the decision of WTO panel as soon as the decision is made.
- to make sure that each government should exhaust all the measures including consultations and mediation before launching a case in order to reduce the number of cases.

5) Accession of China to WTO

- to discuss on the consequence of this Chinese accession to WTO and on the effective implementation of the Chinese commitments.

2. Specific issues

Last October, our Round Table have listed specific issues to be included in the agenda of the new Round (1).

There is a broad agreement on these issues with the main exception of antidumping. As time is very short (1 hour including the time necessary to agree on the policy statement) we propose to limit the discussion to this issue with a short presentation by the Japanese side of its concerns on implementation followed by a discussion.

(C) Recommendation

- 1) WTO working party compiled the policy statement as annexed in view of promoting the early launch of the New Round.
- 2) WTO working party will proceed the in-depth investigation for making practical recommendations as the governmental preparatory works will advance.

(1) see the text of the communiqué released last October in Brussels (attached)

Annex : - Draft policy statement

- Policy statement released 7-8 October 1999.