

**EU-Japan Business Dialogue Round Table**  
**Tokyo meeting 17-18 July 2000**  
**Working Party “World Trade Organization” - Policy statement**

On the occasion of the annual meeting of EU-Japan Business Dialogue Round Table, business leaders from the EU and Japan have adopted the following message, having the common interest in early launch of a comprehensive WTO New Round in view of promoting further free trade and investment in the globalised economy of the 21st century and improving, strengthening and establishing appropriate rules and disciplines for the changing circumstances.

- (1) We strongly reiterate our full support for the multilateral rule-based trading system, which has benefited all WTO members and individuals for fifty years.
- (2) We urge both the EU and the Japanese government to continue to work as a first priority for launch of a comprehensive round of negotiations as soon as possible. This new round must be carefully prepared and must clearly benefit all WTO members to secure the support of all members including developing members, and rebuild confidence. In this connection, we confirm that capacity-building of developing members is important.
- (3) We call for greater transparency of the WTO and for flexibility in the preparatory process of the new round agenda.
- (4) We strongly support a new round which must cover a large number of issues, including further market access liberalisation, strengthening and improving existing rules and disciplines and also establishing new WTO rules, as well as promoting sustainable development and the better integration of developing countries. In this regard, we consider that our policy recommendations made last year in Brussels remain valid\*. We have decided to pursue our work in depth on specific issues and to develop joint business policy recommendations as the process develops.
- (5) We are committed to improving dialogue on the WTO agenda with business leaders from developing and developed countries. We will develop our communications through various channels on the positive effects of the WTO system.
- (6) We commend the breakthrough made this year in the process for accession of China to WTO and encourage WTO members to finalise negotiations by the end of 2000.
- (7) We ask both EU and Japanese administrations to note that US business leaders share the same interest in early launch of an inclusive and broad-based round.

\* The Round should be comprehensive in scope, covering a large number of issues including the built-in agenda (agriculture and services), investment, trade facilitation, market access, government procurement, trade and competition, trade and environment, and more fairness and transparency of the trade defense instrument.