

The 4th EU-Japan Business Dialogue Round Table
Tokyo, 8/9 July 2002

World Trade Organisation - Policy Statement

On the occasion of the annual meeting of the EU-Japan Business Dialogue Round Table, business leaders from the EU and Japan have adopted the following message:

1. Having sought the launch of a broad and ambitious New Round of multilateral trade negotiations at our last annual meeting, we now welcome that a broad-based negotiating agenda was agreed in Doha last November and that negotiations have started.
2. We reaffirm our strong attachment to the multilateral trade system managed by the WTO. We strongly believe that a successful New Round will provide a meaningful answer to the challenges related to globalisation and sustainable development, the Information Society and new technological innovations, which we are confronting at the beginning of the 21st century, particularly taking into account the needs of developing countries.
3. We warmly welcome the fact that the positions of the EU and Japan are essentially similar, as this constitutes an important precondition for the success of the New Round. We urge our countries to co-operate closely with a view to achieving results within the timeframe set.
4. In order to ensure the success of the New Round under a single undertaking approach, we emphasise that all issues must be moved forward at comparable speeds.
We encourage the Government of Japan and the European Commission to follow a pro-active approach with regard especially to investment rules, transparency in public procurement, trade facilitation, trade and competition, clarification and strengthening of rules such as on anti-dumping and sustainable development. We will work together with relevant countries and their industries to enhance their understanding of the paramount importance of these issues. We also encourage Japan and the EU to deliver meaningful contributions to the "capacity-building" actions under way to help developing countries participate more effectively in the WTO decision-making process.
5. We welcome the accession of China to the WTO and underline the importance of full implementation of China's commitments in the Protocol of Accession, including those on intellectual property.
6. We are deeply concerned about the current protectionist sentiment starting to overshadow the WTO process. We condemn the emergence of protectionism and trade distorting measures in the world's leading economies, including abuse of safeguard clause, as well as the measure taken by the US to increase agricultural subsidies; and we ask all countries to commit to multilateral rules. We encourage the government of Japan and the EU to fight against protectionist measures by strengthening the multilateral principles of openness and non-discrimination.
7. We encourage the US to secure a full negotiating mandate to promote the New Round.
8. We have decided to pursue our work on specific issues in detail, and to develop joint business policy recommendations as the process develops.