

**EU-Japan Business Dialogue Round Table**  
**Brussels, 27-28 May 2003**  
**Policy Statement concerning the World Trade Organization**

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

1. We strongly believe that, at a time of growing global political concern and economic uncertainty, further liberalisation of international trade and investment will have a decisive impact on the world's economic growth.

The successful conclusion of a new trade Round negotiation can help restore the unity of the international community through the strengthening of the multilateral free trade system, and provide meaningful answers to our challenges for the sustainable development of a global economy, the realisation of a highly sophisticated Information Society, and the innovation of new technologies.

2. Last year, at our annual meeting held in Tokyo in July 2002, we welcomed the start of a new Round of negotiations and the adoption of a broad and balanced agenda in Doha in November 2001.

We reaffirm that it would be essential to achieve a successful and timely conclusion of the ambitious multilateral trade Round agreed in Doha. We urge all WTO members, including the European Union and Japan, to accelerate the process to complete negotiations by the target date of 1 January 2005. In particular, we encourage the European Union and Japan, together with the United States, to take a leading role to push the negotiation forward. We also note that European Union and Japan share a common position on many issues and expect both parties to pursue closer mutual cooperation.

3. We strongly support the comprehensive approach of a new Round negotiation to address every negotiation agenda without excluding any specific agenda.

Whilst observing progress in a number of areas, we regret noticing that several deadlines of the Doha Development Agenda have expired without a consensus having been reached, notably in the areas of Agriculture, Special and Differential Treatment, and TRIPs and Health. An agreement in these three areas would have been extremely beneficial, not only in terms of progress in the Round, but also for the specific economic and social significance of the issues involved.

4. We encourage all WTO members to achieve a successful outcome of the Fifth WTO Ministerial Conference in Cancún, Mexico, in September 2003, to deliver the necessary progress, including the formal launch of negotiations on all the Singapore issues, which would allow for the timely completion of the Round under the single undertaking approach.

We are prepared to make further efforts in promoting awareness on the importance of, and seeking support for, all the Singapore issues.

5. We recognise the central role of developing countries for the success of the new Round. We therefore expect the negotiations to incorporate consideration of the needs of developing countries in the process, and encourage the European Union and Japan to continue the effort for “capacity building,” in order to allow more effective participation of developing countries in the WTO’s decision-making process.

6. We emphasize that all WTO members should fully comply with all their WTO commitments.

We are deeply concerned about the emerging trend of protectionism and the move to trade-distorting measures, which overshadow the WTO negotiation process. We ask all countries to conform to multilateral rules, and call for the European Union and Japan to confront protectionism by reinforcing the multilateral principles of openness and non-discrimination.

Recognizing the importance of intellectual property rights in today’s economy, we urge in particular the European Union and Japan to monitor the infringements of these rights, and to take appropriate actions, when necessary.

7. We welcome the fact that the European Union and Japan are constructively working together with the aim of making progress in the negotiations and achieving successful results. We encourage the European Union and Japan to continue to maintain close contacts with the representatives of the private sector.

8. We hereby agree that we shall continue to study individual agenda items in detail, and to provide policy proposals from time to time in response to the progress of government-to-government negotiations.

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