

**GENERAL AGREEMENT
ON TARIFFS AND TRADE**

SR.50/ST/20
22 December 1994
Limited Distribution

(94-2900)

CONTRACTING PARTIES
Fiftieth Session

Original: French

EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Statement by H.E. Mr. Jean-Pierre Leng
Ambassador, Permanent Representative

First of all, I wish to convey my congratulations to the Ambassador of Japan and the representative of Argentina who have told us the good news about ratification in their countries, and let you know that as far as the Community is concerned the good news will come a little later, but it will come. Today, we all hope that the successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round has considerably strengthened the multilateral trading system based on law, before which we all will be, and are, equal. We must see the new status of the WTO as a challenge and devote ourselves to building a system that forms a reliable, harmonious whole.

The satisfaction which we have every right to feel today should not lead us to overlook the concerns felt in some quarters, and we will only be able to succeed in our endeavours with the support of our public opinions. We must now and in future above all strive to strengthen our dialogue and cooperation with our less developed partners so as to narrow the gap between our economies; otherwise our undertaking as a whole will be doomed to failure. Furthermore, if we wish to keep an open, law-based multilateral system, we must take account of the changing realities of trade, be receptive to fears and misunderstandings, and be ready to tackle the new problems stemming from the opening of our markets and heightened competition.