

**MULTILATERAL TRADE
NEGOTIATIONS
THE URUGUAY ROUND**

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Trade Negotiations Committee

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COMMUNICATION FROM THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

The Permanent Delegation of the Commission of the European Communities has requested that the following communication, dated 2 April 1992, from the Union of Industrial and Employers Federations of Europe (UNICE) addressed to the President of the Commission of the European Communities, be brought to the attention of the Uruguay Round participants.

UNICE is convinced that a strengthened multilateral contractual trading system provides the best guarantee of lasting and equitable economic development. From the outset in 1986, European industrialists have deployed their efforts to propose and develop constructive positions, in close co-operation with Community negotiators, so as to achieve the ambitious objectives of Punta del Este. When the draft Final Act was published in December 1991, they considered that, despite its drawbacks, it constituted a valid basis for negotiations and called for negotiations to resume rapidly on two essential areas for the future of industry: market access and services.

Today, UNICE notes with concern that, at the time when the Round is on the point of reaching a conclusion, the political inflexibility of the leaders of the main contracting parties on agriculture is curbing progress in these two areas, may well lead to unjustified concessions on industrial goods and services, and could even serve as a pretext for the breakdown of the negotiations. It would be wrong and inexcusable if this should occur, especially at this time of economic slow-down and loss of employment.

On behalf of all the European enterprises which UNICE represent, I call on you, Mr. President, to use all your influence, both in the Community and at the international level, to ensure that the negotiations lead as rapidly as possible to a balanced global package. All the factors of success are in the hands of the negotiators. The time has come for the leaders of the contracting parties to have the political will to bring the negotiations to a successful conclusion in the general interest.

The European industrialists are ready to lend you their support in these efforts. To that end, UNICE is inviting each of its member federations to take appropriate steps at the national level. After so many declarations and professions of faith, it is finally time to take decisions.

For your information, a similar letter has been addressed to the President of the European Council, Mr. A. Cavaco Silva.