

**MULTILATERAL TRADE
NEGOTIATIONS
THE URUGUAY ROUND**

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Trade Negotiations Committee

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COMMUNICATION FROM HUNGARY

In a communication dated 15 November 1993, the delegation of Hungary, also on behalf of the Czech Republic, Poland and the Slovak Republic, has requested that the joint Ministerial Communiqué released on the occasion of the meeting of Ministers responsible for multilateral trade affairs from these four countries held in Budapest, Hungary on 12 November 1993, be circulated to the participants in the Uruguay Round as follows.

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1. Ministers responsible for multilateral trade affairs of the Visegrád Group (Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovak Republic), signatories of the Central European Free-Trade Agreement (CEFTA) met in Budapest on 12 November 1993 to discuss the current status of the Uruguay Round multilateral trade negotiations. The meeting was attended by Mr. Peter Sutherland, Director-General of the GATT, who gave a comprehensive assessment of the state of play, as well as of the preparations for the final stage of the negotiations.
 2. Ministers expressed their full support to the personal efforts of Mr. Sutherland in helping to ensure the successful completion of the Round. They confirmed their commitment to seek a comprehensive and balanced conclusion of the Round by 15 December 1993 which they consider as the final deadline.
 3. Ministers emphasized the critical importance of the successful outcome of these negotiations for global economy by creating a more stable and predictable environment for international trade and thus reducing the potential of trade conflicts. The results of the Round will have to provide the much needed stimulus to growth and job creation worldwide. They stressed that a strengthened multilateral trading system is vital to the success of the far-reaching economic transformation undertaken by their countries.
 4. Ministers noted the progress recently achieved in some areas of the negotiations. At the same time, they voiced their serious concerns over the great number of unresolved problems, in particular the insufficient progress towards achieving a substantial market-access package. Continuing controversies surrounding improved disciplines in agricultural trade, persistence to re-open certain basic elements of the rules package, recent initiatives aimed at further diluting and circumventing the national treatment and MFN provisions in service sectors, as well as the challenge against strengthening the institutional framework may put into serious risk the possibility of achieving a balanced outcome within the set time-frame. In this context, they emphasized the particular responsibility of the major trading nations, in particular the United States and the European Communities, in overcoming their own difficulties and in providing the necessary leadership. They expressed their belief that the agreed deadline for

the completion of the Round requires the greatest possible self-restraint in seeking changes in the Draft Final Act.

5. Ministers re-emphasized that the Round coincided with the deep systemic changes and structural reforms undertaken in their countries which required determined efforts in liberalizing their own economies and in opening up unilaterally their national markets. This is an important contribution in itself to achieving the goals of the Round.

6. Ministers indicated that offers presented by their governments in the area of market access and services are fair contributions to, and are consistent with the agreed objectives and provisions of the Draft Final Act and are in line with the respective levels of their economic development. Their governments are determined to continue to participate in joint efforts to bring market-access negotiations to the expected balanced outcome.

7. Ministers emphasized the pioneer rôle of their countries in economic and systemic change on an unprecedented scale. While the economic transformation of their countries has already produced impressive results, it also puts a very heavy burden on their economies. Therefore, this process must be assisted by a more favourable and more supportive external environment to which the Round is expected to make a substantial contribution, inter alia, by improving conditions and opportunities for access to some of their important markets, by halting competitive subsidization in trade of agricultural products and by providing more fair and predictable rules for their participation in international trade. In this context, the outstanding importance of transitional provisions foreseen in the Draft Final Act in a number of areas for countries like their own was emphasized.

8. Ministers firmly believe that a substantial and balanced outcome of the Uruguay Round multilateral trade negotiations by mid-December of this year will bring about major benefits to all participants to international trade. Failure simply cannot be allowed to happen as it would lead to increasing protectionism and to the proliferation of serious trade conflicts which, in turn, might also have adverse implications for global stability.

9. There is only one month left to bring the negotiations to a successful conclusion. With determined efforts, sense of responsibility, political courage and vision, this objective can be achieved.