

**MULTILATERAL TRADE
NEGOTIATIONS
THE URUGUAY ROUND**

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ROMANIA

Statement by H.E. Mr. Romulus Neagu
Ambassador, Permanent Representative

I would like, from the outset, to join the other speakers in underlying the special significance of this day. Indeed, after more than seven years of collective efforts, we have succeeded in achieving our common goal; the accomplishment of the most complex and ambitious round of negotiations in the history of the multilateral trading system.

The sizable results obtained represent a coronation of a difficult process. At the same time, the achieved agreements set a fresh start in laying new, strengthened and more comprehensive basis for our mutual economic relations, in a multilaterally-agreed framework.

As any complex understanding resulting from the confrontation of a multitude of interests, generated by the economic specificities of participants and the varying degrees of accepting fruitful compromises, the consensus reached in the Uruguay Round represents, as has been stressed by many delegations, a delicate balance. This balance is translated into a consistent package of new and improved mechanisms, rules and disciplines set to govern the international trade in the years to come.

We can thus congratulate ourselves for the positive political will that ultimately prevailed in our endeavour.

In the achievement of this important outcome, alongside industrialized countries an outstanding contribution was made by developing countries and countries in transition.

Speaking for Romania, I would like to underscore the efforts made by us to integrate ourselves, as fully as possible, in the overall effort of mutual concessions and facilities, to implement meaningful autonomous liberalization measures in spite of the important existing economic and social difficulties posed by both internal factors - the reform of the economic and political system - and external ones, created by the huge losses that the Romanian economy registers as a result of the strict and full application by the Romanian Government of the well-known economic sanctions established by the UN Security Council. These efforts were fuelled by the conviction that demonopolization, deregulation and liberalization are the main keys to modern development. We are confident that the new multilateral trading system will answer our expectations.

Romania has brought its contribution to the Uruguay Round negotiations by presenting comprehensive offers in all the fields: market access in both industrial and agricultural products, including a 100 per cent binding of the customs tariff, as well as trade in services. It is our understanding that this contribution, made to the fullest of our possibilities, has met both the requirements of the new framework of world trade the requests of our partners.

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It is our hope that the principles, rules and disciplines agreed upon in the Round, including the flexibilities provided for the countries in transition and for the developing ones, will help us in our strive to fully integrate Romania in the world economy, to successfully overcome the period of transition and achieve economic and social progress. As other countries in transition and developing ones, we also consider that the flexibilities accorded to us are fewer and smaller than expected and deserved by us. We hope, however, that with the recovery from depression the industrialized countries will be more generous with us.

I would like to assure you and the other participants of Romania's determination to fully participate in the new GATT.

In concluding, I would like to thank you, Mr. Chairman, for the wise guidance you have provided to us throughout all this last phase of the finalization of the Uruguay Round negotiations, for your persistence in the belief that this has to be a success and happily it is indeed a great success. My thanks go also to your close collaborators and to all GATT Secretariat staff for their commitment and tremendous work deployed day and night and during the weekends.

I also want to thank all the participants for the efforts made and for their spirit of compromise, cooperation and partnership, which made possible the successful outcome of the Uruguay Round.

Last but not least, may I pay the deserved tribute to the former Director-General of GATT, Mr. Arthur Dunkel, under whose leadership we started and advanced on an important part of the road that we finish today.