

**MULTILATERAL TRADE
NEGOTIATIONS
THE URUGUAY ROUND**

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ROMANIA

Statement by H.E. Mr. Mihai Berinde
Secretary of State for Foreign Trade

Allow me first of all, on behalf of the Government of Romania, to express our satisfaction at the successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations. After more than seven years of effort on the part of all the participants, we have reached the end of an extremely complicated process, the results of which lay the foundation for a rejuvenated and reinforced multilateral trade system capable of responding to the needs of the world economy in the 21st century.

In our opinion, these results are attributable to the determination of the States that have taken part to grasp the nettle of present and future challenges in world trade. Indeed, the individual and collective interests of all participants, large or small, developed or less developed, can be pursued and satisfied only through a more open, transparent and stable multilateral trade system.

We therefore welcome the fact that realistic agreements and compromises between the parties have led to a global consensus on the results of the Uruguay Round. These results considerably exceed the expectations of those gathered at Punta del Este when the negotiations were first launched. This is due to the fundamental political and economic changes that have taken place since then and to the growing conviction that trade liberalization could make a genuine contribution to economic recovery and the ultimate success of the transition processes in which many countries are engaged.

We are all preparing to sign the final documents of the Uruguay Round. There is no doubt that our Meeting will thus take on a historic significance. In our opinion, however, Marrakesh marks only the first stage, admittedly a particularly important one, of our joint endeavour.

The results achieved thus far must be fully implemented as soon as possible. At the same time we should keep in mind a number of points of particular importance for the action we are to take in the short and medium term.

First of all we should not embark on anything which might neutralize the effects or reduce the scope of the liberalizing mechanisms and measures that we have already agreed. In this respect the commitment of all the participants to the achievements of the Uruguay Round is essential.

Secondly we should all act wisely and in a spirit of cooperation so that the Preparatory Committee for the World Trade Organization can carry out its work in the time available. As the third institutional pillar of the world economy, alongside the IMF and the World Bank, the WTO must from its inception have a strong basis, so that it can function efficiently in the interests of all its Members.

Lastly, we must continue to be realistic and recognize that, even after seven years of negotiations, there can be no respite. We should step up our efforts to reach acceptable solutions in the sectors where we have still to discern the light at the end of the tunnel. Above all, this applies to certain sectors of trade in services, familiar to us all, and to a number of new topics we have already broached in principle, such as trade and the environment.

As a result of the fundamental restructuring of its political and economic system, Romania has over recent years been able to play a more active and substantial role in the Uruguay Round negotiations. In this context, participation in the multilateral trade system and faster integration in the world economy have been prioritized for the Government of Romania for some years. In this way alone can the efforts put into the transition to a market economy be made finally to bear fruit.

For this reason, despite the major objective difficulties created by this process, Romania has committed itself totally to the multilateral trade negotiations. The 100 per cent binding of its tariff, the commitments to liberalization in the area of access to markets in services and its readiness to take part in new multilateral mechanisms designed to regulate world trade are just some of the most obvious indicators of that. All this is in addition to the autonomous measures aimed at widespread liberalization taken immediately after 1989, including the abolition of the State monopoly on foreign trade and currency, of the discretionary import licensing system and of central planning of the economy.

I would like to convey to you Romania's dedication to the negotiated commitments incorporated in the documents to be signed by us at this Meeting.

At the same time we hope that the other participants will, in their turn, implement all the liberalization measures agreed upon. These are essential not only for the well-being of international trade in general but also to support the development and restructuring under way in the developing countries and in those which are moving over to a market economy. Trade and market access are of the utmost importance in this context, even more important than economic and financial assistance in itself.

These are the feelings of the delegation of Romania here in Marrakesh at this historic moment for the multilateral trade system.

Under no circumstances could I conclude my statement without thanking all the delegations gathered here today for their efforts and spirit of cooperation which have helped us conclude the Uruguay Round.

We must also pay our sincere respects to the very dynamic and determined Director-General of GATT, Mr. Peter Sutherland, and his predecessor Mr. Arthur Dunkel, without whose wisdom and hard work we would not be here today.

Our thanks also go to all the members of the GATT Secretariat for their skilful and outstanding work during this long and complicated process.

We would also like to extend our warm thanks to the authorities of the Kingdom of Morocco for their unstinting efforts and the flawless organization of our Meeting at Ministerial Level.

It is a great privilege for us to express our deep appreciation to His Majesty King Hassan II for his enlightened spirit and our wholehearted gratitude for his support in making the Kingdom of Morocco the land of welcome, meeting and dialogue for international trade.