

**MULTILATERAL TRADE
NEGOTIATIONS
THE URUGUAY ROUND**

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Trade Negotiations Committee
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TURKEY

Statement by S.E. M. Yener Dinçmen
Under-Secretary for Customs

I should first like to express our satisfaction at seeing you in the chair of the last meeting of the Trade Negotiations Committee which will constitute an important landmark in the history of the modern world's economic and commercial relations. Through you and your predecessors, your country has played a memorable role in the negotiations which bear its name.

I should also like to voice our gratitude to His Majesty King Hassan II, to his Government and to the people of Morocco for the warm welcome and traditional hospitality extended to us in this beautiful city of Marrakesh.

Our special thanks go to Mr. Peter Sutherland whose essential role in the successful conclusion of the negotiations is well-known to all. I also wish to express our warm appreciation to Mr. Arthur Dunkel, for the untiring efforts he has made over several years in order to bring the negotiations to a satisfactory end. Our thanks also go to the Secretariat which has shown dedication and a great sense of professionalism all along.

My country is particularly satisfied to see the conclusion of these negotiations which appeared on the brink of failure on more than one occasion. Indeed, even before they were launched, Turkey had embarked on a vast programme of reforms and liberalization which has led to the progressive dismantling of all quantitative restrictions applicable to foreign trade. Considerable progress has been made in the direction of a better integration of our economy with that of the world at large. The volume of our foreign trade has grown from 18 billion dollars in 1986 to 45 billion in 1993. We are confident that the successful conclusion of the negotiations will give a new impetus to world trade for the greater benefit of all countries which like mine have adopted export-oriented development policies. All studies made by international organizations, including the GATT Secretariat, agree on the positive effects expected from the successful conclusion of the negotiations for the recovery of the world economy and we consider this to be a major source of satisfaction. By submitting a complete market access offer supplemented by offers concerning textiles and tropical products, Turkey has reached the objectives set in the framework of the negotiations and thus contributed to their success.

Moreover, Turkey has recently intensified its efforts at integration with the European Union. The customs union between Turkey and the European Union which will be completed in 1995 will in fact mark an important milestone in Turkey's own integration with the world economy. Once this union has occurred Turkey will adopt the European Union's common external tariff which is one of the lowest in the world.

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This event will have positive effects for all, including for our commercial relations with third countries.

My Government welcomes the creation of the World Trade Organization which undoubtedly constitutes one of the most important results of these negotiations. Once it becomes operational, this new organization will ensure the effective application of all agreements negotiated in the Round by putting an end to the interim status of the GATT whose disadvantages are well-known to all.

Moreover, we are particularly glad to see the initiation of the process which will eventually lead to the integration of trade in textiles and clothing and agricultural products into the multilateral system from which they have been kept apart for too long. As a country which enjoys considerable comparative advantage in trade and services, Turkey also attaches importance to the agreement which establishes for the first time a multilateral framework in this sector where exchanges are expanding at great speed. Finally, we are happy to see the conclusion with a satisfactory agreement of the negotiations on intellectual property rights which have been particularly difficult. The adoption of multilateral and effective disciplines in this area should promote investment, encourage transfers of technology and also put an end to bilateral pressures exerted by a number of countries. Turkey, which is already a party to the main agreements concluded in the framework of WIPO, is updating its legislation and intends to make it fully compatible with the provisions contained in the agreement which has emerged from the negotiations.

Fully conscious of the dangers faced by the environment, Turkey is pleased by the forthcoming establishment of a Committee on Trade and the Environment entrusted with the task of identifying the relationship between environmental and trade measures, and submitting recommendations on whether modifications need to be made to the provisions of the multilateral trade system. However, I wish to warn those who might be tempted to adopt unilateral and discriminatory trade measures under the guise of the preservation of the environment, simply in order to protect different branches of production from foreign competition.