

**MULTILATERAL TRADE
NEGOTIATIONS
THE URUGUAY ROUND**

MTN.TNC/MIN(94)/ST/55
13 April 1994
General Distribution
(UR-94-0165)

Trade Negotiations Committee
Meeting at Ministerial Level
Marrakesh (Morocco), 12-15 April 1994

Original: English

MALTA

Statement by Professor Guido de Marco
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs

Holding this Conference in Marrakesh is a reminder of the role which Morocco has played and is playing in international affairs - a role characterized by a great sense of balance and realism - a land of dialogue equally facing a Mediterranean which remains one of the world's main navigational thoroughfares, and the Atlantic which links up the Americas both to the European and African continents.

To His Majesty King Hassan II and to the Government and people of Morocco our sincere thanks for their hospitality.

This Conference is in itself an assertion of the role of dialogue in world trade. It tries to avoid in a free-trade concept the theory of the survival of the fittest, creating in and through a competitive market, a solidarity approach with the weak and poor countries of the world.

It has brought a message of understanding between the strong and competitive regions.

It has, through the service and dedication of Mr. Dunkel and Mr. Sutherland and so many others made, of the Uruguay Round, "global negotiations with global results", adding the very significant feature of the "large number of developing countries taking part, and taking part effectively".

The Final Act of the Uruguay Round comes at a vital moment for world trade. For it can serve at revitalizing a virtual stagnation in the world economy that began in 1990 and which in the words of Secretary General Boutros Ghali "persists today with little prospect for improvement before the end of this year".

We believe that the agreements we are signing this week, through the liberalization and expansion of world trade, can serve as a tool for generating greater confidence in building a stronger production and consumption pattern, improving the economic and social fabrics of the lives of millions around the world. And in particular to combat unemployment, which has characterized both developed and developing countries.

While it is recognized that there are still outstanding issues which need to be resolved in the next few months, I am confident that all members of a future World Trade Organization, shall work in concert to secure the potential benefits of the substantial market access package.

Trade cannot progress in isolation. It needs the inspiration, dedication and participation of governments, workers and entrepreneurs.

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The liberalization of trade must progress along with the freedoms of all, who are to equitably share in the benefits of trade policies.

It requires a regime of peace and security.

Malta, on whose behalf I am addressing this Conference, shares the finalities and principles of the Marrakesh Agreements and Declarations.

Malta's presence here is a reflection of its resolve and determination to contribute to the evolving trading patterns, rules and regulations - nationally, regionally and worldwide. It is in the same spirit that we see our objectives to become a member of the European Union, with whom Malta shares by far the major part of its trading and service activities.

The Government of Malta notes with satisfaction that due importance has been given to the linkage existing between trade and environment, and the commitment to identify the relationship between trade measures and environmental measures in order to promote sustainable development.

The Government of Malta welcomes the establishment of a multilateral framework for trade in services and for the protection of trade related intellectual property rights, as well as the reinforced multilateral trade provisions in agriculture and in textiles and clothing.

With this in mind, Malta has offered concessions in the areas of tourist services, insurance and maritime transport, services which account for a considerable part of its economic activity.

We are also addressing ourselves to the enactment of advanced international legislation on financial services.

May I now refer to what has come to be known as the "social clause". We share the concern of some delegations to ensure the protection of minimum labour standards, such as rights to form trade unions, collective bargaining and the enforcement of the ban on child labour.

But we must avoid, even the perception, that such a clause be introduced to create a North-South divide, to the prejudice of others in particular the least-developed countries, who can only face competition in international markets by the availability of less costly human resources.

Labour standards are best achieved through the observance of the ILO Conventions, rather than through other measures that may turn suspect.

Our meeting in this beautiful and imperial city of Marrakesh is a culmination of a long trek of negotiations which began in 1986 at Punta del Este.

Ahead of us is another trek - that of implementation.

We are initiating the transition from GATT to WTO.

We are here demonstrating the political will to usher "a new era of global economic cooperation, reflecting the widespread desire to operate in a fairer and more open multilateral trading system for the benefit and welfare of our peoples".