

**MULTILATERAL TRADE
NEGOTIATIONS
THE URUGUAY ROUND**

MTN.TNC/MIN(94)/ST/74
14 April 1994
General Distribution
(UR-94-0181)

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

Original: French

SWITZERLAND

Statement by Mr. J.-P. Delamuraz
Federal Councillor, Minister of Public Economy

After seven years of hard work, we are now gathered here in Marrakesh to conclude the greatest series of trade negotiations in history. This has been a major challenge for all our governments. Together we have completed a journey beset with difficulties which we have nevertheless been able to overcome without betraying the goals we set ourselves at Punta del Este.

This event has a three-fold significance.

At the political level, it bears witness to the international community's determination to bring to a conclusion a project on a worldwide scale.

At the economic level, it conveys a positive message to all the world's economic operators.

And at the legal level, it will be reflected in a strengthening of the credibility and efficiency of the multilateral trading system.

By concluding the Uruguay Round, we have taken a decisive step towards the adaptation of the multilateral trading system to contemporary economic realities. For many of us this means substantial adjustments to our domestic economic policy. This will be the case for Switzerland with regard to important aspects of its agricultural policy. The new system of balances introduced into the agricultural agreement during the final phase of the negotiations should provide a sound basis for the implementation of these reforms, which the Swiss Government has already initiated.

The conclusion of the Uruguay Round does not spell the end of our task, since during the negotiations a number of questions were left pending.

I have in mind, in the first place, the negotiations relating to specific services sectors. We must endeavour to wrap up these negotiations within the timetable laid down.

Secondly, we intend to give new impetus and a new dimension to our work on trade and the environment, so as to promote sustainable development. The multilateral trading system and the national and international efforts to safeguard the environment must not be allowed to come pointlessly into collision. I note with satisfaction that it will be possible rapidly to implement our programme of work within the framework of the activities of the Preparatory Committee, until such time as a committee of the World Trade Organization is ready to take over.

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With the completion of the Uruguay Round and the establishment of the World Trade Organization, we have added a number of stones to the foundations of a system of multilateral management of the world economy. We have also recognized the interdependence that is binding us ever more closely together. In this context, I note with special satisfaction that the Marrakesh Declaration explicitly confirms the need for positive measures on behalf of the developing countries, and especially the least developed among them, as well as the desirability of possible additional measures for their benefit.

We have also been able to find a basis of understanding with regard to the inclusion of possible additional items in the programme of the World Trade Organization. These could include an examination of the relationship between the trading system and internationally-recognized labour standards.

I am convinced that in this area we should also be able to develop a basis of understanding that will make it possible to reassure those who fear that the opening-up of markets may be detrimental to workers' rights, as well as those who fear that social rights problems are only a pretext for protectionist measures.

The mention of these tasks should not divert our attention from our immediate objective: the ratification of the agreements arising out of the Uruguay Round in accordance with our various constitutional procedures. The Swiss Government will undertake to bring this process to a conclusion as rapidly as possible.

Finally, I would like to stress the undertaking we are going to give not to take any measures detrimental to the results of the Uruguay Round before the Uruguay Round Agreements come into force. That is a commitment to which we must strictly adhere, with no concessions.

To conclude, I would like to convey, in the name of the Swiss Government, our warmest thanks and appreciation to His Majesty King Hassan II, His Government and the people of Morocco for their hospitality and the impeccable organization of this Ministerial Meeting. All my gratitude also goes to Arthur Dunkel and Peter Sutherland and to the members of the GATT Secretariat, whose energy and skill were decisive in bringing the negotiations to a successful conclusion.