



Pascal LAMY  
Director-General

09 DEC 2005

## REPLY TO OPEN LETTER BY NGOS ON SERVICES NEGOTIATIONS

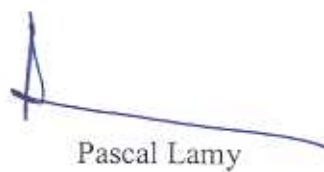
Dear Signatories,

Thank you for your letter of 30 November 2005 responding to my earlier communication. In my letter dated 17 November 2005, I had already provided a comprehensive explanation of the process undertaken within the Special Session of the Council for Trade in Services in preparing the draft Hong Kong ministerial text on services, a bottom-up process where the Members are in the driving seat. The points I made in my letter all remain valid.

After numerous discussions and consultations among all WTO members, on Friday 2 December the WTO General Council, which as you know is composed of the full Membership of the Organization, decided to forward the second version of draft ministerial text to the Hong Kong Ministerial Conference for consideration by Ministers. This is the first time the membership takes such decision. This marks the end of the preparatory work of the Trade Negotiations Committee in Geneva. It is now up to Ministers, when they gather in Hong Kong, to carry forward the discussions and to finalize the text of the Ministerial Declaration. It is my hope that Ministers will make the best of this opportunity to advance towards a strengthened, improved and fairer multilateral trading system.

I hope to have addressed your queries. In the interest of transparency I will post this letter in our website

Yours sincerely,



Pascal Lamy