

# WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

WT/MIN(99)/ST/139  
2 December 1999

(99-5341)

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MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE  
Third Session  
Seattle, 30 November - 3 December 1999

Original: English

## POLAND

### Statement by Ms Anna Skowronska-Luczynska Secretary of State, Ministry of Economy

Poland, a founding Member of the World Trade Organization, attaches a great importance to the success of the Third Ministerial Conference in Seattle and the forthcoming round of multilateral trade negotiations and will try to make a useful contribution to this end.

We are of the opinion that negotiations should cover a broad spectrum of topics without excluding *a priori* any topic from the agenda. We believe that the current liberalization of world trade on the global scale is both reflected in, and augmented by the expansion of regional economic arrangements. Poland's resolve to join the European Union should also be seen as an expression of our intention to become better integrated in the world economy as well as a testimony to our readiness to participate actively in the world trading system.

It is essential in our opinion that the commencement, the conduct and the conclusion of negotiations should be treated as parts of a single undertaking.

An assurance of mutual and increased benefits for all WTO Members is an extremely important aim of the new round of negotiations. A general balance and equity of negotiation results should also be seen as one of the principal objectives. We support, therefore, the idea that multilateral trade negotiations should be conducted with due consideration given to special concerns of developing countries. Taking into consideration these special needs of developing countries and of LDCs in particular, Poland will support their special and differential treatment.

We further believe that the negotiation process should be governed by the principle of transparency. It will favour an effective participation of all parties concerned in negotiations. We recognize, therefore, the importance of current consultations with NGOs, civil society, trade unions and professional organizations, which warrants realization of economic interests of all WTO Members.

Poland supports a continuation of the reform process in agriculture on the grounds of Article 20 of the Agreement on Agriculture. Results of these negotiations should assure equilibrium between the long-term objective of a gradual reduction of support and protection brought about by the reform process and the remaining aspects embracing, *inter alia*, the multifunctional aspect and the specific role of agriculture in the economy of individual countries.

Poland trusts that negotiations should aim to restrict and eliminate those factors that exert a negative impact on international trade in services and to endeavour to attain a higher level of the liberalization of trade in this area.

We also believe that a modification of schedules and MFN exemptions will be an important element of negotiations.

We consider it desirable that commercial aspects of intellectual property rights should be included in the negotiations agenda of the new round. These rights should be duly protected in the process of accelerated technology development and technology transfer.

Poland, along with other countries, is of the opinion that the Understanding on Rules and Procedures of Dispute Settlement (DSU) assures stability and predictability of the multilateral trading system. There is a need, however, for a clarification of procedures and improved implementation of DSB decisions in the WTO dispute settlement system.

We consider that such important issues as those of investments and competition which have been examined for some time already on the grounds of the mandate by the Ministerial conference in Singapore should find a proper place in the new round of negotiations.

In the face of the progressing globalization and liberalization of trade, a multilateral regulation of investment and competition principles may bolster up the rules based system of international cooperation, which is in the interest of all countries.

It should be pointed out that gradual liberalization of duties on non-agricultural products, elimination of tariff peaks, effected with due regard to specific nature of particularly sensitive sectors, and the issue of non-tariff barriers in Member States as well as an elimination of duties on imports from LDCs should rank high on our agenda and become major achievements of the new round.

Poland supports the idea to establish principles concerning transparency in government procurement as the first step towards the establishment of multilateral rules on Government Procurement.

We also support the initiative of broadening the commodity coverage of the Agreement on Liberalization of Trade in Information Technology Products (ITA) assuming that the achievement of acceptable solution on the grounds of a consensus by parties to the Agreement can be reached.

Looking ahead, we abide by the view that a complete and effective implementation of WTO Agreements is a basic precondition for the efficient functioning of the WTO system. Our position is that a fulfilment of earlier obligations by WTO Members should constitute the foundation for further negotiations.

The trade and environmental protection policies should be mutually supportive in order to achieve a sustainable development. Ecological aspects should be taken into consideration during negotiations to ensure that the final results fully comply with obligations undertaken by countries in Multilateral Environmental Agreements.

There is no need to emphasize that human rights and labour standards issues rank prominently on Poland's political agenda. Accordingly, we see a possibility to establish an appropriate forum outside the WTO structure to initiate an analysis of new and complex interrelationship among trade policy, trade liberalization, development and core labour standards.

The outcomes of such works should in no case create a base for protectionist actions, for example in the form of trade sanctions related to the non-observance of labour standards.

The ultimate goal of the new round is to step up international trade, give a new momentum to the development of the world economy and increase welfare on the global scale to the benefit of all countries.

I am confident that the new Round will strengthen the WTO and consolidate its unique position in the multilateral trading system. Accordingly, it should enable the WTO both to foster development and the principle of democratic and participatory decision-making in the Organization.

As a result the WTO should become more open, responsive and better equipped to meet new challenges, reinforce cooperation with other international organizations and carry on the dialogue with civil society.

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