

Dear Minister Susana MALCORRA,

Dear Mr. Director General Roberto AZEVÈDO,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honour and a great pleasure for me and the Romanian delegation to be here in Buenos Aires attending the 11-th WTO Ministerial Conference.

I would like to express my sincere congratulation to the Argentinean nation for its hospitality and excellent work in the preparation of a successful Ministerial Conference.

Romania, as European Union Member State, is fully committed in supporting the WTO's role as a gardian of the multilateral trade system. This is essential in promoting an inclusive economic growth and an open, rule-based and non-discriminatory multilateral trading system.

We hope that our work in Geneva and in Buenos Aires will lead to balanced and positive results for our citizens and traders on many issues as possible. This may include e-commerce, transparency and good regulatory practices for goods and services as well as public stockholding for food security, and fisheries subsidies.

In line with the rest of the EU, Romania is highly interested with WTO rule-making agenda on modern issues like transparency and

good regulatory practices for the benefit of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), e-commerce and horizontal subsidies.

As Minister for entrepreneurship, SMEs and trade, I am committed to improving the business environment in my country, through a greater degree of transparency and concrete programmes, such as Romania Start-Up Nation which is the largest program in EU for StartUPs, through which the Romania Government financed this year 10.000 new companies and created 21.000 new jobs for young entrepreneurs, providing them an easier access to finances and increasing their participation to the international trade flows.

Romania is also fully supporting the link between gender equality in international trade and the removal of barriers to women's participation in multilateral trade and economic development. I believe it's very important to mention that more than 45% out of the new companies being financed this year by the Romania government through Romania StartUp Nation program are women's entrepreneurs.

My Government is willing to encourage the revival of the plurilateral trade negotiations on Trade in services Agreement (TiSA) and on the Environmental Goods Agreement (EGA).

The Trade Facilitation Agreement represents an important tool for the development of trade flows, improving transparency and legal certainty, reducing costs for importers and exporters by

streamlining customs procedures. It represents a powerful tool for all WTO Members and providing a needed boost to the global economy.

Dear Colleagues,

I came to Buenos Aires with the firm conviction that together we will get a successful Ministerial Conference for the benefit of all Members. We must constantly promote multilateralism as the first, best option for guaranteeing open, fair and rule-based system in the best interests of all WTO members.

We encourage all participants to assume their responsibilities, translating the political declarations into concrete actions in order to achieve a positive outcome at MC 11.

I am confident that our active involvement and joint efforts will bring positive results that will ensure a solid basis for further work, actions and decision, here and beyond the 11th WTO Ministerial Conference.

I want thank you all for your attention and wish you all a very successful Conference!