

MULTILATERAL TRADE
NEGOTIATIONS
THE URUGUAY ROUND

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Trade Negotiations Committee
Meeting at Ministerial Level
Montreal (Canada), December 1988

PORTUGAL

Statement by Mr. Joaquim Martins Ferreira do Amaral,
Minister of Trade

First of all I would like to salute you and this Assembly, which according to the engagements taken by all in Punta del Este is gathering here for the purpose of consolidating multilateralism.

On behalf of the Government of my country, and for myself personally, I would like to congratulate you for presiding over this Ministerial meeting. I also join in to the already expressed thanks to the Canadian Government for hosting and organizing this meeting.

The Representatives of the European Communities have already made known the general points of view of the Community regarding the main questions we are going to discuss. However I would like to emphasize some aspects which I consider of particular significance.

The Portuguese economy is a traditionally open economy. Our position in the present Round of Negotiations fits in with this same spirit of open economy.

We consider it essential that the principle of globality the Community stands for since the beginning of the negotiations, shall prevail during the negotiations. As a matter of fact only full recognition of this principle will allow for a balance of the advantages which all parties legitimately aim to reach in view of these multilateral negotiations.

With the one exception agreed in Punta del Este for tropical products, any anticipated result, satisfying some partial interests, would provoke a distortion in the spirit of multilateralism. This mid-term review gives us the privilege to examine the work already done and also of having a perspective of the final results in a well-balanced global agreement.

In this context Portugal is particularly involved in the success of this Round of Negotiations which includes subjects of primary importance to the world economy, such as agriculture, the textiles industry, intellectual property and services and constitutes a challenge to those who considered that the end of multilateralism had arrived.

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Under these circumstances it is important for us to obtain a more effective contribution of GATT to the coherence among the several economical policies and to the consistence of multilateral relations.

On tropical products, a subject of utmost importance for many developing countries, the Community has played a leading rôle since the beginning of the Round, and we are very happy that at this stage of the Round of Negotiations we have already been able to attain concrete results.

As for the textiles sector, of great importance to various regions of the globe, we think that it is necessary to consider the interests and risks either for developed and developing countries, and to reinforce the rules and disciplines of GATT, in order to assure a well-balanced development of world trade in this sector.

As regards intellectual property, my country favours the global defence of all rights inherent to such intellectual property, including "appellation d'origine" and geographical denominations.

It is true that the sector of services is today one of the most dynamic elements of the world economy. Therefore the adaptation of GATT to this reality is no doubt one of the purposes of the present negotiations. Portugal attaches great importance to the establishment of a multilateral agreement containing principles and regulations which allow for expansion of the exchange of services under conditions of transparency as well as progressive liberation.

On the basis of the questions we are here to discuss, it is evident that we have to find solutions which will be of interest to all and everyone. From our side we will do our best.