

**MULTILATERAL TRADE
NEGOTIATIONS
THE URUGUAY ROUND**

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Brussels, December 1990

GREECE

Statement by H.E. Mr. Sotirios Hatzigakis,
Alternate Minister of Trade

First of all, I would like to thank the Belgian Government for the warm and cordial welcome extended to us here in Brussels.

Second, may I congratulate all the negotiators for their considerable and unexhausted efforts of the past four years, in order to reach a successful conclusion of the negotiations in the course of the present Ministerial Conference.

At this point, I would like to stress the fact that Greece attaches primary importance to the Uruguay Round and, since its outset, has viewed these negotiations with a more than positive spirit.

It is our belief, too, that the strengthening of the multilateral trade system should constitute a priority target in the quest of an equilibrium between the rights and obligations of all contracting parties, including those undergoing an interim process of transition from planned economies to free-market economies. The multilateral trade system, however, can only be strengthened if we strictly follow the principle of the global approach of the negotiations. In other words, agreements should be reached not in individual sectors but in global terms, so as to achieve an all-encompassing, balanced result.

The evaluation of the present outcome of the negotiations leads us to conclude that, to overcome the last remaining obstacles to the successful accomplishment of the Uruguay Round, we must intensify our efforts. I do hope that the difficulties yet to be settled will prove to be of limited extent so that they would not prevent us from reaching a satisfactory global agreement.

Within a liberalization process that will be the outcome of the Uruguay Round, Greece will, simultaneously have to develop and restructure her industry, including textiles, support her agriculture production and

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gain a foothold in advanced technology sectors. The maritime transport sector is one, where Greece has interests on a world-trade level. For those reasons we strongly believe that the outcome of the Uruguay negotiations will be crucial for our further economic development.

I should like to outline briefly my country's position on those subjects.

Agriculture is a sector, which GATT for the first time in its forty years history, is considering in a comprehensive manner. The reason for that is evidently its particular nature. We believe that a substantive amount of work has been done during the four years of the Round and that the European Community offer represents a substantial contribution to this effort.

Of course, a lot of work remains to be done this week, in order to reach satisfactory results.

As far as textiles are concerned, it is our opinion that the integration of this sector to GATT should on the one hand be based on strengthening the rules and disciplines of GATT and on the other it should allow for a sufficient period of time for the adjustment and restructuring of the textile industry in a number of countries among which one is Greece. Furthermore, we believe that in the effort to increase market access for textiles, all countries should participate.

Referring to services, Greece's interest is mainly concentrated in the maritime sector. In this field, we believe that a strong standstill accompanied by a binding rollback is necessary if we are really determined to make progress towards a freer maritime transport sector on an international level.

To conclude, it is my firm belief that the successful completion of the negotiations would contribute substantially not only to the creation of a climate of confidence, but also to the further development of international trade, while, at the same time, it would provide the contracting parties with new opportunities for economic progress.