

**MULTILATERAL TRADE
NEGOTIATIONS
THE URUGUAY ROUND**

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Trade Negotiations Committee

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COMMUNICATION FROM ARGENTINA*

The following communication, addressed to the Chairman of the Trade Negotiations Committee at official level, has been received from the Permanent Mission of Argentina, with the request that it be circulated to the Uruguay Round participants.

I have the pleasure to attach hereto the text of the letter which the President of Argentina, Dr. Carlos Saúl Menem, delivered on 11 March 1993 on behalf of thirty-seven governments to the President of the United States of America, Mr. William Jefferson Clinton, the President of the Commission of the European Communities, Mr. Jacques Delors, the Prime Minister of Denmark and President of the Council of the European Communities, Mr. Paul Nyrup Rasmussen, and the Prime Minister of Japan, Mr. Kiichi Miyazawa.

* For technical reasons, the United Republic of Tanzania has expressed reservation with respect to the status of the present document.

TEXT OF THE LETTER*

On behalf of the Governments of the Republic of Argentina, the Commonwealth of Australia, the Republic of Austria, the People's Republic of Bangladesh, the Republic of Bolivia, the Republic of Chile, the Republic of Cuba, the Republic of Cyprus, the Czech Republic, the Dominican Republic, the Republic of El Salvador, the Republic of Finland, the Republic of Guatemala, the Republic of Honduras, Hong Kong, the Hungarian Republic, the Republic of Iceland, the Republic of Indonesia, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Kingdom of Norway, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Republic of Peru, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Poland, Romania, the Republic of Senegal, the Republic of Singapore, the Slovak Republic, the Kingdom of Sweden, the Swiss Confederation, the United Republic of Tanzania, the Kingdom of Thailand, the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, the Eastern Republic of Uruguay, and the Republic of Venezuela, I am writing to urge that the highest priority be accorded to efforts to bring the Uruguay Round to an early and successful conclusion.

World leaders cannot but be concerned at the poor health of the global economy, which has led to continued high levels of unemployment and mounting protectionist pressures. A successful Uruguay Round can do much to help reverse these disturbing trends. By further reducing barriers to trade, and strengthening and extending the coverage of multilateral disciplines, it will provide a much needed boost to business confidence, so vital to investment and the further growth of international trade. It will also encourage and stimulate the autonomous trade liberalization underway in many countries, particularly many developing countries and also in countries making the transition market economies.

A successful Uruguay Round should also take into account the needs of developing countries, in particular the least-developed among them, as embodied in the terms of the Punta del Este Declaration.

It has taken six years of painstaking effort, along a difficult path, to bring the negotiations to the point where the basis for the final result stands largely prepared. To complete the task, the detailed package of market access commitments covering all areas of goods and services needs to be settled and the few remaining differences relating to the Draft Final Act must be resolved. Unless these steps are tackled urgently, and unless changes to the Draft Final Act are kept to the absolute minimum, the prospects of a successful conclusion will be seriously jeopardized.

The future of the Round -- indeed of the entire multilateral trading system -- rests largely in the hands of the major economies. In this

* Following the delivery of this letter, the Republic of Malta has expressed its formal support thereto.

regard, we welcome the recent announcement that Congress will be asked to renew the US Administration's Fast Track negotiation authority. It is vital that the time-frame envisaged for such a renewal reflect the urgent need to conclude the negotiations on the basis of the objectives set down at Punta del Este.

Beyond this, we count on the United States, the European Communities and Japan, as major trading entities, to engage constructively in further negotiations in Geneva and to take the final difficult decisions in order to bring the Round to an early and successful conclusion.

We recognize, however, that the Uruguay Round is a global undertaking. It can stimulate world trade growth and economic recovery in which we all can share. Accordingly, in calling upon the major countries to display leadership at this critical time and to give the Round the priority it so clearly deserves, we underline our commitment to contribute to its success.