

**MULTILATERAL TRADE  
NEGOTIATIONS  
THE URUGUAY ROUND**

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**GREECE**

Statement by Mr. Georges Kandalepas  
General Secretary for External Trade

Let me first express my thanks and deep appreciation for Morocco's successful and hospitable organization of the closing session of the greatest trade negotiation held in history.

In the view of Greece, on behalf of which I have the honour to address this meeting, the Uruguay Round, and its results, as they will be ratified here, is the response that the international community has given to the emerging new international economic environment.

The main feature distinguishing this response from any previous one is not just the volume of trade liberalization, which is expected by the enforcement of the new agreements, but the fact that these agreements are covering fields far beyond the traditional trade fields.

Services, agricultural policies, intellectual property are already part of the agreements. Trade aspects of environmental protection are already in the agenda of the World Trade Organization.

Another qualitative change, expressed in our agreements here, is the creation of the World Trade Organization. The mere fact of the creation of such an institution is the proof that the unilateralism in international trade is gone, together with whatever arbitrariness and abuse of trade power it entailed. In the multilateral trade and economic environment created by our agreements, this unique multilateral organization has a crucial role to play and an important dynamic to express.

It is therefore accurate to confirm that the agreements of Marrakesh are not yet another tariff cut exercise; they form the framework of an emerging new multilateral international economic environment. It should not pass unnoticed that, even if the Uruguay Round has started in 1986, before the collapse of the state controlled economies, it is being concluded at a time when the world economy begins, or aspires to take uniform characteristics. It is in that sense too, that we should understand the importance of our agreements.

If the agreements of the Uruguay Round are a response to the economic challenges of the world economy today, they do not respond to all such challenges. In the view of the Greek Government, world trade liberalization is not the panacea that will resolve, by itself and without any other considerations, all the problems of all the countries of the globe. After all, free trade is not good because it is an end by itself, but only to the extent that it proves to be the means to create the conditions of a better life.

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The new world economic regime will not have corresponded to our expectancies if it will not address, decisively and successfully, issues such as the social standards and their relations with trade - an issue which the World Trade Organization should take up as soon as possible.

Equally, the emerging new world economic regime will face the risk to fail, if it will not prove its ability to face the challenge of the persisting gap between the developed, the less-developed and the least-developed world.

We all know that the acceptance of these agreements by our countries and governments has not been possible without enormous effort, considerable economic sacrifices in the one or the other field and, last but not least, considerable political will and cost. This applies not only to less-developed economies, but also to countries belonging to the developed world, such as mine. Greece's tribute to the agreements takes the form of abolishing or substantially changing traditional means for preserving and developing the economic activity. This includes in particular the field of agricultural production, where we will have to pay a high and, at least for some products, unjustified price, as well as other fields, such as the textile industry, which, in addition to its already existing structural problems, has to face the challenge of the dismantlement of the Multifibre Agreement under conditions where the opening of certain markets is not as efficient as we had reasons to believe last year at 15 December, at the time when the European Union gave its political approval to the agreements to be signed here.

It would not be fair to end this address without expressing my Government's appreciation to the thousands of the men and women who have worked, very often - if not regularly - in conditions of extreme fatigue and anxiety, for the successful conclusion of this negotiation. Whatever the political assessment of this negotiation as time goes by, they have performed an excellent job, and they deserve our compliments and admiration.