

**MULTILATERAL TRADE
NEGOTIATIONS
THE URUGUAY ROUND**

MTN.TNC/MIN(94)/ST/67
13 April 1994
General Distribution
(UR-94-0173)

Trade Negotiations Committee
Meeting at Ministerial Level
Marrakesh (Morocco), 12-15 April 1994

Original: English

CROATIA

Statement by H.E. Dr. Miomir Zuzul
Ambassador, Permanent Representative to the United Nations Office
in Geneva
(Speaking as an Observer)

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to you, Mr. Chairman, for this opportunity to address this historic assembly on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Croatia.

Croatia wishes to congratulate the signatories of the Final Act at the Ministerial meeting here in Marrakesh on their achievements to date. We are sure that the signing of this Final Act is not just of significance and of historical importance to the existing signatories but also to the countries that are acceding to the GATT as this will be a pre-requisite for beginning the new process of entering the World Trade Organization (WTO). The WTO will of course heavily rely on the contributions of its members and it is with this aspect in mind that we wish to convey Croatia's sincere pledge of supporting the successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round and the establishment of the WTO, not only as an observer but as a potential member.

As an observer, Croatia has seen the enormous positive contributions of each of the signatories towards the success of the multilateral trade system. The talents of each of the signatory countries were used not for the benefit of the individual country but for the success of this international team victory.

The road to achieving democracy in Croatia has not been easy especially as war and aggression was imposed upon us against our will. The result was an enormous loss of lives and injuries as well as huge destruction to our infrastructure, and the tremendous responsibility of caring for the countless displaced persons and refugees. In spite of the war and aggression, Croatia began the process of transition into a market economy and has already made changes to the legal and financial infrastructure in support of a market economy. Croatia has benefitted and learnt significantly from the international community especially in trade relations. The GATT Secretariat and the contracting parties of the GATT have been more than helpful in assisting our accession to date.

In order to reflect your confidence in our young State, Croatia has constitutionally committed herself to being a democratic country with a free-market economy, and has already taken concrete steps to become an active member of the international community at all levels. There is absolutely no doubt that we will continue to use all our efforts to meet your expectations and to keep the integrity of the accession to the GATT and its obligations. Our intention of becoming a signatory of the GATT as soon as possible is a continuation of our main objective from the very beginning of our independence, that is, to become a fully fledged and active member of the free and democratic world in all aspects. Stressing the point that Croatian economy is deeply related to the world economic society it is clear

that becoming a contracting party to the GATT and, following that, full member of the WTO is at the same time both a logical aim as also a necessity for optimal development.

The introduction of the WTO within the last decade of this dynamic 20th century comes not as a last resort but as a crucial foundation stone for the architects of the new 21st century. Your signatures here in Marrakesh are for the successful development of all future multilateral and bilateral trade activities. Tomorrow, the formalities of this meeting will be just another addition to the list of significant achievements of the century. However, the goodwill and spirit of the signatories will continue to be present in the future. This spirit will enter the Round at its implementation date and the result will definitely be a living and healthy WTO.

I once again take this opportunity to congratulate you on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Croatia on your achievements to date and we look forward to your continuing support during our accession to the GATT.

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to His Majesty King Hassan II and to the Moroccan Government for the warm hospitality that was offered to my delegation, and congratulate them for the excellent organization of this conference.