



July 21, 2010

The Hon. Karel De Gucht
Commissioner of Trade
European Union
BE-1049 Brussels
Belgium

Ambassador Ron Kirk
United States Trade Representative
600 17th Street NW
Washington, DC 20508

Dear Commissioner De Gucht and Ambassador Kirk:

The undersigned organizations are writing to urge you to move forward aggressively to help break the impasse in the Doha Round negotiations. We believe that the Doha Round will only promote economic growth and development through trade expansion and investment in new business opportunities if it is ambitious and balanced among major trading economies.

While the proposals on the table provide a foundation for moving forward, they fail in their current form and substance to significantly support economic growth and development. The U.S. and European business communities are committed to working with you and the other WTO members to move the Doha Round negotiations forward so they will promote substantial economic growth and the creation of new jobs for all WTO members.

We believe that the first essential step in moving the Doha Round forward is to reenergize the Non Agricultural Market Access (NAMA) and services negotiations to substantially expand their market opening commitments.

- On industrial goods, it is essential for the large emerging countries to participate in negotiations on key industrial sectors. We expect you to engage these countries in those negotiations. Progress in eliminating non-tariff barriers is lacking, and these negotiations

need to be given a new priority to deliver ambitious market access. Furthermore, an ambitious trade facilitation agreement will also help in reducing non-tariff barriers in the customs field.

- On services, what is on the table falls far short of providing the substantial and meaningful improvements in market access, especially by the large emerging countries, that are needed to create the new business opportunities essential for economic growth, development and job creation. We expect services negotiations to resume rapidly and ambitiously on all sectors and modes of supply.

We also believe it is equally important for these and the agriculture negotiations to move forward in concert.

The success of the Doha Round depends on the willingness of the large emerging countries — especially Brazil, China and India—to assume the responsibility commensurate with the economic benefits they have been realizing as a result of global trade and investment liberalization. The large emerging countries now have the fastest growing economies in the G-20, and will clearly be major beneficiaries of the Doha Round. With their new economic power, they are now clearly distinguished from the least developed members of the WTO and, as a result, have a new and greater responsibility to share in leading the Doha Round forward in the NAMA, agriculture and services negotiations. Indeed, most of the significant additional market access available for the least developed countries lies in the reduction of market access barriers to the rapidly emerging economies—which could substantially boost south-south trade.

We are now in the Round's ninth year and we do not want to rely on the promise of a hypothetical follow-up WTO Round to provide the economic growth the world economy needs in the short-to-medium term. The Doha Round is still the best hope for the future, and we are committed to working with you in any way we can to realize that ambition.

Concluding the Doha Round will require a higher level of political engagement. We are prepared to back you in a push to successfully conclude the Round. We look forward to working closely with both of you to ensure the Doha Round expands global trade and development, which will bring growth and development to all WTO economies

Sincerely,

Business Europe
Business Roundtable
Coalition of Service Industries
European Services Forum
National Association of Manufacturers
U.S. Chamber of Commerce