



THE WTO DOHA ROUND

KEY MESSAGES

- 1** BUSINESSEUROPE is a key supporter of the Doha Round because it improves access to global markets.
- 2** BUSINESSEUROPE wishes to see progress as soon as possible. Specific sectoral agreements in goods and services should be part of an ambitious Doha outcome.
- 3** The European Commission should line up with key negotiating countries in order to facilitate a deal. Key emerging countries, in particular Brazil, India and China, will have to make contributions commensurate with their economic and political weight.
- 4** The EU should consider parallel tracks for action within the WTO without undermining the Doha Round. The starting point for such action could be existing elements of the negotiations which have wide support, such as the trade facilitation package.

BACKGROUND

Launched in 2001, the Doha Round has struggled over the years to come to a successful conclusion. The original comprehensive agenda has basically been narrowed down to agriculture and NAMA, and services to a certain extent. Without a significant increase in political momentum, it will be impossible to close the gaps in the talks between the main players. With mid-term elections and presidential elections looming in the US and Brazil, there are serious doubts about finding a renewed political commitment.

Nevertheless, negotiations are continuing at technical and Geneva Ambassadors' level to move forward on the basis of the most recent drafts of the chairs' negotiating texts. On industrial goods, discussions are focusing on how to include special sectoral agreements. In the agriculture negotiations there are also some further outstanding issues. An outcome on services is dependent on a breakthrough in the industrial goods and agriculture negotiations. Some slow but good technical progress is being made in the areas of non-tariff barriers and trade facilitation.

WHAT DOES BUSINESSEUROPE AIM FOR?

- Rapid, ambitious and balanced conclusion of the Doha negotiations.
- Specific sectoral agreements in goods (chemicals, machinery, gems and jewellery, footwear, renewable energy) and services, which should be part of an ambitious Doha outcome.
- More contributions from key emerging countries, in particular Brazil, India and China, commensurate with their economic and political weight.
- Moving ahead with parallel tracks for action within the WTO, for example on the trade facilitation package.

BUSINESSEUROPE



MEMBERS ARE 40 LEADING
NATIONAL BUSINESS FEDERATIONS
IN 34 EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

 Austria	 Belgium	 Bulgaria	 Croatia	 Cyprus	 Czech Republic
 Denmark	 Denmark	 Estonia	 Finland	 France	 Germany
 Germany	 Greece	 Hungary	 Iceland	 Iceland	 Ireland
 Italy	 Latvia	 Lithuania	 Luxembourg	 Malta	 Montenegro
 Norway	 Poland	 Portugal	 Portugal	 Rep. of San Marino	 Romania
 Slovak Republic	 Slovenia	 Spain	 Sweden	 Switzerland	 Switzerland
 The Netherlands	 Turkey	 Turkey	 United Kingdom		

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