

Press release
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FTA
Foreign Trade Association

EUROPEAN RETAILERS DEMAND PROGRESS OF WORLD TRADE ORGANISATION

The Foreign Trade Association (FTA) which represents the international interests of European Commercial enterprises calls upon the World Trade Organisation to finally create the conditions needed to conclude the present World Trade Round (Doha Development Round). At present the seventh Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organisation is taking place in Geneva.

According to FTA President Ferry den Hoed „the European Retail Trade considers it the responsibility of industrialized countries and developing countries alike to finally create the conditions needed to conclude the World Trade Round which has not shown any tangible results for more than eight years." Until now, insurmountable differences in the trade interests of the industrialized and developing countries, in particular with regard to agricultural policy, have prevented a successful conclusion of the World Trade Round. This threatens to inflict a long-term damage on the World Trade Organisation. Moreover, any further progress with regard to the liberalisation of the international trade is blocked. According to the FTA President “this issue is even more serious considering the fact that the difficult international economic situation has resulted in growing protectionism and the foreclosure of markets on a worldwide scale”.

The World Trade Organisation has an important role in monitoring adherence to the rules and regulations for international trade and may avenge violations of these rules through an arbitral court. „This Ministerial Conference offers the last possibility to create the conditions for an acceptable conclusion of the World Trade Round in 2010”, said Ferry den Hoed. “Both, industrialized and developing countries will have to change their spots and finally cut the knot. Anybody who tries to gain an advantage by continuing to block further progress denies the economic realities and fails to show political responsibility.”

The FTA is the association for European commerce that specialises in foreign trade issues. It is committed to achieving its goal of a true free trade environment. For 30 years it has supported its members, consisting of national trade associations and companies from all over Europe, by providing expertise and up-to-date information and by campaigning on their behalf against protectionist measures in the European and international arena.

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