



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



Council Conclusions on WTO/DDA

*2859th EXTERNAL RELATIONS Council meeting
Brussels, 10 March 2008*

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

- "1. The Council heard an update from the Commission on the state of play in the WTO DDA negotiations, ahead of possible WTO Ministerial discussions in Geneva. Recalling all its earlier conclusions on this matter, the Council reiterated the crucial importance that the EU has attached to the DDA negotiations since their inception in 2001, and recalled the substantial contribution that the EU has made throughout the negotiations.
2. The Council reconfirmed the importance of achieving a comprehensive, ambitious and balanced final outcome within and across all of the areas of the DDA, in agriculture and non-agricultural market access and also including services, rules, trade facilitation and geographical indications, in conformity with the negotiating directives as defined in its previous conclusions. It also reconfirmed its commitment to a successful result, meeting the main objectives of the EU and the needs and interests of developing countries, in particular LDC's. To that end, the Council urged WTO partners to make meaningful contributions to the negotiations, commensurate with their level of development. For emerging economies, in industrial tariffs in particular, this requires granting additional market access.
3. In this context, the Council expressed its support for the Commission in seeking the further improvements of the Chairs' negotiating texts needed to move the negotiations forward, alongside further progress on the Single Undertaking as a whole, including services and geographical indications.
4. The Council agreed that a special session of the Council, as well as meetings of the Article 133 Committee, would be convened in the margins of the possible WTO DDA ministerial negotiations in Geneva. The date will be determined by the Presidency in the light of developments."

P R E S S
