



ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT

OECD Policy Dialogue with non-members on Aid for Trade: From Policy to Practice

Doha, Qatar 6-7 November 2006

Press Release: "Time to Deliver on Aid for Trade", Participants at OECD Doha Dialogue Speak Out

Five years after the launch of the Doha Round, senior policymakers from OECD and developing countries as well as aid and trade experts convened in Doha on 6-7 November 2006 to chart the way forward for Aid for Trade, a pillar of growing importance in the world trading system. This OECD dialogue was opened by His Excellency Sheikh Hamad Bin Jassim Al-Thani, First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Qatar, who had previously chaired the meeting that kicked off the Doha Round and underlined yesterday the important benefits for the world economy of concluding the Doha Round. The gains to developing countries of better access to foreign markets could be multiplied by a successful Aid for Trade initiative, which is a shared responsibility of all WTO members. His Excellency Dr. Ahmed Al-Mutawa, Secretary-General of GOIC, pointed out that Aid for Trade has the potential to convert greater market access into a reality through generating the capacity to produce competitive exports.

Developing country ministers present at the meeting recounted three lessons from success stories to participants at this OECD dialogue: a commitment to make trade a major lever for development, ensuring a business-friendly environment, and engaging with the private sector who, after all, are the generators of successful export industries

Participants expressed their wish to build quickly on the recommendations of the WTO Task Force on Aid for Trade that were adopted in October 2006. They furthermore affirmed the 2005 Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness as the basic reference for implementing the Aid for Trade agenda. This calls for mutual accountability of donors and recipients, further donor coordination, and focusing on impacts. Country ownership is critical for the success of the Aid for Trade agenda and strong support should be provided to those developing countries that have decided to embrace trade as an important lever for economic growth and poverty reduction.

The OECD and the WTO will now take forward as a priority task the implementation of the Taskforce recommendation for a new WTO-hosted mechanism for global monitoring of Aid for Trade.