Paris, 24th June 1994

OECD ROUND TABLE ON THE NEW DIMENSIONS OF MARKET ACCESS
IN A GLOBALISING WORLD ECONOMY

Paris, 30th June-1st July 1994

A round table devoted to the new generation of trade issues arising in the post-Uruguay Round period is to be held at the OECD in Paris on 30th June and 1st July 1994. The round table will focus on the evolving nature of market access in the context of the increasing globalisation of the world economy, and on the policy- and rule-making challenges it raises, both nationally and internationally. The round table will also seek to identify the OECD’s contribution to the strengthening of the multilateral trading system. It will be open to the press.

Some 200 senior representatives from government, business and academia will meet to discuss issues examined in the OECD’s recent work on the "New Trade Agenda". This work has focused on better understanding the interrelations between trade policy and a number of other policy areas (mainly competition, investment and environment). The work has been conducted in close co-operation with other OECD committees (Industry; Investment, Multinational Enterprises; and Competition Law and Policy) and has been endorsed by the Council at Ministerial level on 7th and 8th June last.

A common theme in each of the different areas of work has been the importance of better understanding the new dimensions of market access in a world economy characterized by ever deeper forms of integration. Government policies affect the way firms are able to compete globally, although they are only one among many factors (others being firm competitiveness, strategies and motivation, the existence of firm-specific advantages, etc.). The recent conclusion of the Uruguay Round provides a good point of departure for exploring this issue in greater depth. In order to profit from the momentum created by the recent conclusion of the Round and to advance work on the "New Trade Agenda", a brainstorming session is being organised under the auspices of the Trade Committee on the new dimensions of market access. The purpose of this round table is to focus the minds of leading experts and practitioners on the continuum of trade-related issues requiring attention in a post-Uruguay Round setting. This exercise should also serve to clarify the contribution that the OECD can make in the lead-up to possible future multilateral trade negotiations.

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The round table will focus on the triad of policy fields -- trade, investment and competition -- whose interaction is emerging as a key to allowing firms to organise their activities globally in the most efficient ways and taking best advantage of the availability and movement of production factors, technology and business skills. The perspective adopted throughout the round table will be to treat the issues emerging from this interaction as part of a whole. In three separate sessions, an opportunity will be provided to focus on the perspective of each policy area, allowing assessment of the interlinkages between it and the other policies as well as of the degree to which they can all be mutually supportive of a more open and liberal multilateral trading system. The final session will attempt to bring together the ideas explored in the previous three sessions while trying to better focus the OECD’s contribution in shaping the future multilateral trade agenda.

For programme details and registration, please contact: Mrs. Maureen Moreau, OECD Trade Directorate, 2 rue André Pascal, 75775 Paris cedex 16  [tel (33 1) 45 24 89 38 – Fax (33 1) 45 24 19 41].