THE NEW WORLD TRADING SYSTEM

Informal workshop of the OECD, Paris, 25th-26th April 1994

The OECD is holding the first major international meeting on the New World Trading System, following the signing of the Uruguay Round Agreements in Marrakesh. The Workshop will bring together senior trade policy officials from governments and international organisations, key trade negotiators, as well as the world’s leading academics in trade policy and related fields from universities and private think tanks. The workshop will be opened by Mr. Robert Cornell, deputy Secretary General of the OECD, and chaired by Mr. Geza Feketekuty, Senior Policy Advisor to the United States Trade Representative and Chairman of the Trade Committee of the OECD.

The purpose of the Workshop is to reflect on the implications of the achievements of the Uruguay Round for the multilateral trading system as a whole; to identify the role of the OECD in keeping momentum behind trade liberalisation and strengthening the multilateral rules, disciplines and enforcement mechanisms; and to contribute to the new international trade agenda.

The discussions will be divided into 5 sessions:

- Liberalisation: tariffs, non-tariff measures, textiles and clothing
- Strengthened multilateral trade disciplines
- Agriculture
- Services, trade-related intellectual property and investment measures
- The post-Uruguay Round and the OECD.
With the creation of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), the multilateral trading system will, in many respects, be entering a new and challenging period. The OECD has a unique contribution to make in support of the transition to and implementation of the WTO, and by influencing the shape and content of the future trade agenda. The Workshop provides an opportunity to discuss synergies between the OECD and WTO and how they may best be focused.

A press conference will be held at the OECD Headquarters in Paris on 26th April at 2:30 p.m.

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