



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



11048/06 (Presse 203)

PROVISIONAL VERSION
(to be completed)

PRESS RELEASE

Special Council meeting

General Affairs and External Relations

Geneva, 29 June 2006

President **Mr Martin BARTENSTEIN**, Federal Minister for
Economic Affairs and Labour
Mr Josef PRÖLL, Federal Minister for Agriculture,
Forestry, the Environment and Water Management
of Austria

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OTHER ITEMS APPROVED

None

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- Where declarations, conclusions or resolutions have been formally adopted by the Council, this is indicated in the heading for the item concerned and the text is placed between quotation marks.
- The documents whose references are given in the text are available on the Council's Internet site <http://www.consilium.europa.eu>.
- Acts adopted with statements for the Council minutes which may be released to the public are indicated by an asterisk; these statements are available on the abovementioned Council Internet site or may be obtained from the Press Office.

PARTICIPANTS

The Governments of the Member States and the European Commission were represented as follows:

Belgium:

Mr Karel DE GUCHT

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Czech Republic:

Mr Martin TLAPA

Deputy Minister for Industry and Trade

Denmark:

Mr Birger RIIS-JØRGENSEN

State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Germany:

Mr Bernd PFAFFENBACH

State Secretary, Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs and Technology

Mr Gerd LINDEMANN

State Secretary, Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection

Estonia:

Mr Tõnis NIRK

Ambassador, Permanent Representation to the United Nations Headquarters and Other International Organisations in Geneva

Greece:

Mr George MERGOS

Secretary General, Ministry of Economy and Finance

Spain:

Ms Elena ESPINOSA MANGANA

Mr Pedro MEJÍA GÓMEZ

Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

State Secretary for Tourism and Trade

France:

Ms Christine LAGARDE

Mr Dominique BUSSEREAU

Minister with responsibility for Foreign Trade

Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries

Ireland:

Mr Michael AHERN

Minister of State at the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment with special responsibility for Trade and Commerce

Ms Mary COUGHLAN

Minister for Agriculture and Food

Italy:

Ms Emma BONINO

Mr Paolo DE CASTRO

Minister without portfolio, Minister for European Policy and International Trade

Minister for Agricultural, Food and Forestry Policy

Cyprus:

Mr Louis TSANGARIDES

Senior Officer

Latvia:

Mr Aigars ŠTOKENBERGS

Minister for Economic Affairs

Lithuania:

Mr Antanas VALIONIS

Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs

Luxembourg:

Mr Nicolas SCHMIT

Minister with responsibility for Foreign Affairs and Immigration

Hungary:

Mr Abel GARAMHEGYI

Deputy State Secretary, Ministry for Economy and Transport

Malta:

Mr Anthony ABELA

Parliamentary Secretary, Office of the Prime Minister

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Netherlands:

Mr Richard VAN RIJSSEN

Director Trade Policy Department, Ministry of Economic Affairs

Austria:

Mr Martin BARTENSTEIN
Mr Josef PRÖLL

Federal Minister for Economic Affairs and Labour
Federal Minister for Agriculture, Forestry, the Environment and Water Management

Poland:

Mr Piotr Grzegorz WOŹNIAK

Minister for Economic Affairs

Portugal:

Mr Fernando DE OLIVEIRA NEVES
Mr Fernando SERRASQUEIRO

State Secretary for European Affairs
State Secretary for Trade, Services and Consumer Protection

Slovenia:

Mr Franc BUT

State Secretary at the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food

Slovakia:

Ms Eva ŠIMKOVÁ

State Secretary at the Ministry of the Economy

Finland:

Ms Paula LEHTOMÄKI
Mr Juha KORKEAOJA

Minister for Foreign Trade and Development
Minister for Agriculture and Forestry

Sweden:

Mr Lars-Olof LINDGREN

State Secretary at the Ministry of Industry, Employment and Communications

United Kingdom:

Mr Alistair DARLING

Secretary of State for Trade and Industry

.....

Commission:

Ms Mariann FISCHER BOEL
Mr Peter MANDELSON

Member
Member

.....

General Secretariat of the Council:

Mr Javier SOLANA

Secretary-General/High Representative for the CFSP

.....

The Governments of the Acceding States were represented as follows:

Bulgaria:

Ms Evgeniya KOLDANOVA

Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs

Romania:

Mr Doru COSTEA

Ambassador

WORLD TRADE ORGANISATION (WTO) - DOHA DEVELOPMENT AGENDA (DDA)

The Council took note of the information provided by Commissioners Mandelson and Fischer-Boel on the latest developments in the ongoing WTO DDA negotiations at Ministerial level.

The Council held an exchange of views on these negotiations, inter alia on Agriculture and Non Agricultural Market Access (NAMA) on the basis of the EU conditional offer made on 28 October 2005, and having regard to the preparatory documents on NAMA and Agriculture¹ tabled by both Chairmen of the Negotiating Group on Market Access and of the Special Session of the Committee on Agriculture.

In line with the Council Conclusions adopted on 12 June 2006², the Council reconfirmed its support to the Commission for the negotiation of a comprehensive, balanced and ambitious agreement as a single undertaking, on behalf of the EU.

The Council decided to end its session on Monday 3rd of July. The incoming Finnish Presidency agreed to convene Council meetings at short notice, if need be.

¹ See http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/dda_e/modalities06_e.htm

² See http://www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressData/en/gena/90014.pdf

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