

MINISTERS WELCOMED IN PARTICULAR RECOGNITION BY THE OECD OF THE IMPACT OF AGRICULTURAL TRADE DISTORTIONS ON DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. ACTION TO REMOVE MEASURES DISTORTING TRADE IN COMMODITIES WILL MAKE AN IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TO EXPORT PROSPECTS FOR COMMODITY-DEPENDENT DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. THEY NOTED THE SPECIAL IMPORTANCE OF THESE MEASURES FOR THOSE FACING ONEROUS DEBT BURDENS.

MINISTERS NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT EXISTING POLITICAL WILL NEEDS TO BE TRANSLATED INTO ACTUAL REFORM IN THE URUGUAY ROUND CONTEXT. IN THIS REGARD THEY WELCOMED AGREEMENT BY OECD MINISTERS TO PURSUE NEGOTIATIONS VIGOROUSLY AND THE CALL FOR COMPREHENSIVE NEGOTIATING PROPOSALS TO BE TABLED PROMPTLY.

THEY ALSO NOTED THAT ATTENTION HAD BEEN DRAWN IN PARIS TO THE FACT THAT THE PUNTA DEL ESTE DECLARATION PROVIDES FOR AGREEMENTS REACHED AT AN EARLY STAGE TO BE IMPLEMENTED ON A PROVISIONAL OR DEFINITIVE BASIS BY AGREEMENT PRIOR TO CONCLUSION OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. THEY CONSIDERED THAT SUGGESTIONS OF AN "EARLY HARVEST" OR MID-TERM PACKAGE IN THE GATT ROUND SHOULD INCLUDE INTER ALIA, BOTH AGRICULTURE AND TROPICAL PRODUCTS. THEY RECOGNIZED THE PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE OF TRADE IN TROPICAL PRODUCTS FOR A LARGE NUMBER OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.