

- WITHOUT REVIEWING ALL OF THE ISSUES I JUST MENTIONED, I WILL COMMENT BRIEFLY ON SOME OF THE SYSTEMIC QUESTIONS AND ON TRADE IN AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES.
- THE MULTILATERAL TRADING FRAMEWORK EMBODIED IN THE GATT HAS FOR THE MOST PART SERVED US WELL. HOWEVER, MANY PARTS OF IT ARE ALMOST FORTY YEARS OLD AND ARE SHOWING SIGNS OF STRAIN. ONE OF OUR MOST IMPORTANT TASKS IN THE NEW ROUND WILL BE TO UPDATE AND STRENGTHEN THE SYSTEM, SO THAT IT CAN ADEQUATELY RESPOND TO OUR TRADING NEEDS IN AN INCREASINGLY COMPETITIVE WORLD. THIS MEANS OVERCOMING THE IMPASSE WE ARE EXPERIENCING ON ISSUES SUCH AS SAFEGUARDS, AND DRAMATICALLY IMPROVING OUR MEANS OF DISPUTE SETTLEMENT.
- WE ARE FACING A VERY DIFFICULT PERIOD IN AGRICULTURAL TRADE. INTERNATIONAL PRICES FOR AGRICULTURAL GOODS ARE AT EXTREMELY LOW LEVELS. THIS IS A RESULT OF LARGE SURPLUSES, STEMMING FROM ARTIFICIAL STIMULATION OF PRODUCTION, THROUGH TIGHTER IMPORT RESTRICTIONS AND PRODIGIOUS EXPENDITURES WHICH DISTORT COMPETITION. THE SITUATION WILL BE EXACERBATED BY MAJOR TECHNOLOGICAL IMPROVEMENTS.
- WE URGE EARLY COMPLETION OF THE OECD MINISTERIAL TRADE MANDATE ON AGRICULTURE. THIS WOULD ALLOW THE RESULTS TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN THE NEW ROUND OF TRADE NEGOTIATIONS. IN THE MEANTIME, COUNTRIES MUST REJECT POLICIES WHICH AGGRAVATE THE PROBLEM.
- MOREOVER, WE MUST NOT ALLOW TRADE DISPUTES IN SENSITIVE SECTORS LIKE AGRICULTURE TO ESCALATE TO THE POINT WHERE THEY THREATEN THE ENVIRONMENT FOR THE NEW ROUND. MORE IMMEDIATELY, THEY COULD ALSO HAVE A MAJOR ADVERSE IMPACT ON LARGE AGRICULTURAL EXPORTERS LIKE CANADA.
- IMPORTANT WORK HAS BEEN DONE ON FISHERIES QUESTIONS, BUT FURTHER EFFORT IS NEEDED. THE URGENCY OF GETTING ON WITH THIS WORK IS UNDERSCORED BY THE VISIBLE DETERIORATION OF THE WORLD FISHERIES SITUATION. AND FOR MAJOR FISH EXPORTERS LIKE CANADA, THIS IS A HIGH PRIORITY FOR ACTION.
- CANADA IS VERY SUPPORTIVE OF IMPROVING TRANSPARENCY AND DISCIPLINE IN THE USE OF MIXED CREDITS. AGGRESSIVE MIXED CREDIT PRACTICES ARE GROWING. WE ARE CONCERNED WITH THE TRADE DISTORTING EFFECTS AND