

Compliance Report
2000 Okinawa
Trade

Commitment

Para. 36: “We are firmly committed to a new round of WTO trade negotiations with an ambitious, balanced and inclusive agenda, reflecting the interests of all WTO members. We agree that the objective of such negotiations should be to:

- a) Enhance market access
- b) Develop and strengthen WTO rules and disciplines
- c) Support developing countries in achieving economic growth and integration into the global trading system
- d) Ensure that trade and social policies, and trade and environmental policies are compatible and mutually supportive.

We agree to intensify our close and fruitful co-operation in order to try together with other WTO members to launch such a round during the course of this year.”

Assessment

Country	Lack of Compliance -1	Work in Progress 0	Full Compliance +1
Britain			+1
Canada			+1
France			+1
Germany			+1
Italy			+1
Japan			+1
Russia			N/A
United States			+1
Overall			+1

The World Trade Organization (WTO) announced a further round of trade negotiations to begin with the WTO Ministerial Conference in Doha, Qatar, on November 9–13, 2001. All member

states of the WTO are already engaged in negotiations to create the agenda and proceeds for the conference.

Britain

A new white paper published by Britain's Department for International Development (DFID) sets out an agenda for the reduction and eventual elimination of extreme global poverty. The paper is entitled *Eliminating World Poverty: Making Globalisation Work for the Poor*. It looks specifically at the challenges and opportunities presented by globalization and what this means for developing countries.

Among the measures proposed in the white paper: a 50% increase in Britain's contribution to the Global Environment Facility, a new African trade initiative, new opportunities for investing in developing countries, tough action to fight corruption, financial support for the eradication of polio, and an end to the practice of linking aid donations to buying British goods.

Canada

As of September 1, 2000, Canada reduced 570 tariff lines in part to promote trade with developing countries.

France

The French government contributed 1 million euros in October 2000 to the WTO's technical assistance fund. The Secretary of State for French external trade, François Huwart, stated that the French government wished to help finance the WTO's technical assistance actions in order to assist developing countries in participating in global multilateral trade negotiations. Additionally, France pledged to contribute to the financing of the forthcoming African Trade Ministers meeting in Libreville November 13–15, 2001.

Germany

The EU committed itself to offering tariff free treatment for almost all imports from Less Developed Countries (LDCs) and often calls on other developed countries to match EU market openness and offer comparable access to LDCs' imports.

Italy

Similar to Germany, the Italian government, within the broader framework of the EU, committed itself to offering tariff free treatment for almost all imports from LDCs and called on other

developed countries to match EU market openness and offer comparable access to LDCs' imports.

Japan

The Japanese government announced an initiative to reduce industrial tariffs, which was implemented April 2001. The duty-free and quota-free treatment for LDC industrial production will increase from 94% to 99%.

United States

There was further elaboration of the *African Growth and Opportunity Act* adapted in May of 2000. Thirty-four sub-Saharan countries are designated as beneficiaries available for benefits the Senate Subcommittee on Foreign Operations. Export Financing and Related Programs has approved US\$30 million of new funding for biotechnology research aimed at tackling issues such as malnutrition and hunger in developing countries. The money is included as part of the fiscal year 2001 foreign operations appropriations bill for the U.S. Agency for International Development.

Compiled by Philip Popp and Audrey Johnson