

## EU statement at the WTO Meeting of the General Council, 10/12/14 - Item 2: Report of the TNC Chairman

*Statement by Ambassador Angelos Pangratis*

- I would like to thank the TNC Chairman for his report.
- We are now indeed starting a particularly intensive period of consultations with tremendous systemic potential: if we succeed, we will take a decisive step toward the conclusion of the DDA.
- The EU attaches a very high priority to the multilateral system and considers the conclusion of the DDA to be a strategic objective. The imperative of concluding the Round is I am sure shared by each and every WTO Member.
- The question on everyone's mind and reflected in the comments of today is of course how to move forward under the best possible conditions.
- When we started our debate on the Post Bali Work at the beginning of this year, the Director General set out a number of parameters to guide our conversations, and this morning he developed them further, stressing
  - the need for a sense of urgency,
  - the need to be realistic and pragmatic, focussing on what is truly important now and what is doable,
  - the need for a high degree of engagement, including from capitals, and
  - the need for broad and horizontal approach, including all areas of negotiation.

The EU fully agrees with and supports these parameters. They also very much reflect our own thinking. It may also be useful to recall a number of additional concepts that surfaced earlier this year, including simplification, parallelism and respecting each other's real red lines and building step by step convergence in the Membership.

- Over the next few months, until July 2015, we need to translate these parameters and principles into concrete ideas on substance and on how to move forward in individual negotiating areas and horizontally. This will of course be difficult, but it is possible. Each one of us has elements of information and overall an almost intuitive understanding of what is doable; we need to now concentrate on translating this into a negotiated outcome.



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