

EU statement at the General Council Meeting, 14/05/13

Statement by Angelos Pangratis, Ambassador of the European Union

Mr Chairman, this is a very good day for our organisation.

I want first to congratulate all the Members of the WTO for the excellent result achieved and also for the very good process that led us to this result.

I wish also to pay tribute to all 9 candidates whose qualities were widely recognised and appreciated.

I also want to join others and congratulate the new DG, Ambassador Azevêdo on behalf of the EU and all its Member States. Croatia also associates itself with our statement. I want to congratulate him for his excellent campaign, for his ability to attract impressively wide support from all categories of Members, from all regions, during the whole selection process, and in fact for his ability to build a real and profound consensus in the organisation which is a great asset for the future well beyond this selection result.

Like all other Members who spoke, Mr Chairman, we are deeply grateful to you and to the facilitators in the "Troika", Ambassador Jonathan Fried and Ambassador Joakim Reiter. You provided strong, transparent and inclusive leadership within an overall smooth selection process that allowed us to nominate the most supported candidate in the shortest possible time. The Troika was solidly and actively supported during this process by the vast majority of members who demonstrated a deep commitment to the WTO and to the Multilateral Trading System, well beyond any other short term consideration or emotion. The troika guided us to a successful consensus and we are certainly grateful for that.

In all phases of the process, the EU has been committed and resolved to make a constructive contribution to the building of consensus. We were guided by a deep sense of consciousness and responsibility to protect and strengthen the Multilateral Trading System and to reach at the end unanimity around the best and the most widely supported candidate. Thus, we are naturally very pleased with both the process and the outcome.

To conclude, Mr Chairman, all of us in the room know very well, how deeply Ambassador Roberto Azevêdo is committed to the objectives of this organisation. We also know very well his abilities to lead and help build consensus. He will be taking up his duties at a moment we all recognise as crucial for the future of the DDA, the WTO and the Multilateral System. At the same time, he will take



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over from Pascal Lamy - who provided outstanding services to the organisation during a very difficult period - at a moment which is also a moment of hope. There is certainly an unprecedented recognition among members of the importance of Bali and a widespread and sincere willingness to deliver a "Bali package" and to continue with the DDA after Bali. The new DG will have to guide the organisation through these challenges and beyond. Ambassador Roberto Azevêdo is uniquely qualified for those tasks and he can count on the deep commitment and support of the EU and all its Member States.

Thank you Mr Chairman.