GATT'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY MINISTERIAL ROUND-TABLE DISCUSSION

Transcript now available

The full text of the round-table discussion between nineteen trade ministers held on 30 November 1987, as part of the GATT's 40th Anniversary celebrations, is now available from the GATT secretariat.

This candid discussion of issues affecting the international trading system and hopes and problem areas for GATT's Uruguay Round, the eighth round of multilateral trade negotiations, was led by three internationally recognized economic journalists and by a well-known legal authority on the GATT.

Attended by several hundred senior trade diplomats and officials from most of GATT's member countries, the round-table provided trade ministers with a forum to address openly such vital issues as: progress in and hopes for the Uruguay Round; participation by developing countries in the multilateral trading system, and the future of GATT.

Trade ministers engaged in a lively exchange on questions concerning GATT and the trend towards bilateralism, as opposed to multilateralism; the interconnections between trade, finance and monetary policies and GATT's role in maintaining progressive liberalization of trade. Problems relating to trade in agriculture, textiles and clothing, dispute settlement procedures and the inclusion of services in the GATT were also addressed in detail by trade ministers.

Copies of the 40th Anniversary Ministerial Round-Table Discussion can be requested, free of charge, from the GATT secretariat. Although prepared essentially in English, where participants in the round-table spoke in French or Spanish, the text includes both the original as well as an English translation.

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