AUSTRIA

Statement by Mr. Gerhard Waas
Director-General, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs

It gives me particular satisfaction at this historic moment to welcome the successful conclusion of the most ambitious and most comprehensive round of trade negotiations ever conducted.

This event takes place at a time when the world economy is faced with problems of varying nature, low growth and rising unemployment.

The effects of the agreements achieved in the Round and the climate of confidence thus created will be an important contribution to strengthen and accelerate the process of economic recovery and will have beneficial effects for developing and developed countries alike.

The strengthening and improvement of the model of market economy as represented by the GATT will be an important encouragement for the so-called reform countries and countries in transition on their way towards market economy.

We look forward to the implementation of the results of the Round and in particular to the creation of the World Trade Organization with a participation as universal as possible.

Particular importance has to be attached to the new work programme of GATT to be submitted to Ministers in Marrakesh. This programme will have to deal with such important and pressing matters like the inter-relationship between trade environment and similar priority areas of the nineties.

In conclusion I would like to extend to you, Mr. Chairman, my delegation’s deep appreciation and thanks for the tremendous task you have accomplished by guiding us so successfully through the decisive last six months of our negotiations.