

## **A CALL TO LEADERSHIP**

### **International Business Stakeholder Petition to National Leaders and WTO Members on the Doha Development Agenda**

**April 30, 2004**

**As business stakeholders in the global economy and representatives of key economic drivers of worldwide trade, investment and employment, we call upon our national leaders and all WTO members to exert leadership this year to achieve meaningful progress on the Doha Development Agenda and to conclude this round of WTO negotiations as soon as possible;**

**We firmly believe that a strong, multilateral rules-based trading system and the advancement of multilateral trade liberalization are essential to promoting growth, opportunity and prosperity in every economy, and the Doha Development Agenda is a once in a generation opportunity of enormous promise and relevance;**

**While each of our organizations has politically sensitive issues and economic concerns at home, we stand united in our support for reaching a timely, ambitious, and balanced outcome to the Doha Development Agenda centered on providing more open and predictable conditions for trade in agriculture, industrial goods and services, with built in flexibility especially for poorer developing countries;**

**We believe that major forward progress this year towards a timely and meaningful conclusion of the Doha Development Agenda will strengthen the WTO's credibility as a leading force for eliminating trade barriers and promoting trade and economic cooperation worldwide;**

**We look to our trade ministers and other government officials to fulfill their responsibilities and exert joint leadership in achieving progress this year by, above all, agreeing on how to move the negotiations to the next level on agriculture, services and goods. As part of that process, we urge our national governments to conclude the necessary framework agreements;**

**We recognize that fundamental reform and market opening of agricultural markets are of vital importance to developing countries and to the ultimate success of the Doha Development Agenda. We urge the elimination of all forms of export subsidies and of trade distorting domestic support, concomitant with substantial liberalization of major agricultural markets worldwide;**

**We urge national leaders to achieve bold outcomes on industrial goods and services, particularly among developed and middle income countries, including a strategy to effectively address non-tariff barriers to trade. Agreement on improved trading rules, including trade facilitation and enhanced transparency provisions, alongside continued vigorous capacity building and technical assistance for poorer developing countries are also essential to realizing the full potential of the Doha Development Agenda.**

**We are committed to supporting a successful outcome to the Doha Development Agenda within our respective countries and to achieving results this year towards these vital objectives.**

**Signatories:**

**American Chamber of Commerce to the European Union**  
**American Chamber of Commerce – Hanoi (Vietnam)**  
**Australia Food and Grocery Council**  
**Australian Industry Group**  
**Australian Services Roundtable**  
**Business Roundtable (USA)**  
**Canadian Agri-Food Trade Alliance**  
**Canadian Cattlemen’s Association**  
**Canadian Chamber of Commerce**  
**Canadian Council of Chief Executives**  
**Canadian Council for International Business**  
**Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters**  
**Confederação Nacional da Indústria (Brazil)**  
**Canadian Restaurant and Foodservices Association**  
**Coalition of Service Industries (USA)**  
**Dairy Companies Association of New Zealand**  
**Emergency Committee for American Trade (USA)**  
**EuroCommerce (Europe)**  
**European Services Forum**  
**Federación de Cámaras y Asociaciones Industriales Centroamericanas y República Dominicana (Central America and the Dominican Republic)**  
**Grain Growers of Canada Grocery Manufacturers of America (USA)**  
**Japan Services Network**  
**National Association of Manufacturers (USA)**  
**National Foreign Trade Council (USA)**  
**National Pork Producers Council (USA)**  
**National Retail Federation (USA)**  
**Nippon Keidanren (Japan)**  
**Retail Council of Canada**  
**The American Chamber of Commerce in Australia**  
**The United States Council for International Business**  
**UNICE<sup>1</sup> The Union of Employers’ and Industrial Confederations of Europe**  
**US-ASEAN Business Council (USA)**  
**U.S. Chamber of Commerce Wheat Export Trade Education Committee (USA)**

<sup>1</sup> *AIP-CIP, BDA-BDI, CBI, CEOE, Confindustria, DA-DI, Economiesuisse-UPS, FEDIL, SEF, FII-CIE, IBEC, IV, MFOI, NHO, OEB, PT-TT, SN, TISK-TUSIAD, VBO/FEB, VNO-NCW, ANIS, AZZZ, SR, BIA, CEHIC, ETTK, PKPP, SPCR, LPK, AES, HUP, LDDK.*