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July 20, 2004

Dr. Supachai Panitchpakdi  
Director-General  
World Trade Organization  
154 rue de Lausanne  
Geneva, Switzerland

Dear Dr. Supachai:

We are writing to express our hope that, in any text resulting from the General Council meeting at the end of the month, services be given treatment equal to agriculture and goods.

As you know, such treatment is consistent with the treatment of services in the draft Seattle declaration, the Doha Declaration, and in the Derbez text.

What this means in practice is that the second paragraph in Section 1e of the draft General Council Decision would become a new Section 1d.

We believe it is important to maintain this equality of treatment in order to underscore that a successful negotiation in services could be one of the hallmark achievements of the DDA, to keep a sharp focus on the need to get more and better offers, and then to work hard in bilateral negotiations to improve offers. This will be a long and difficult process and it should begin, with energy, as soon as possible early this fall.

We hope you will do all you can to raise the level of attention given to services. Obtaining equal treatment with agriculture and goods in the new General Council text would help do so.

Sincerely,

Australian Services Roundtable  
Brazil Services Forum  
Canadian Services Coalition  
Coalition of Service Industries (U.S.)  
European Services Forum  
Japan Services Network  
Hong Kong Coalition of Service Industries  
NASSCOM (National Association of Software & Services Companies of India)