

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

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**Council for Trade in Services
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COMMUNICATION FROM KOREA

APEC Ministers Call for Progress on Services

The following communication, dated 11 May 2005, from the delegation of Korea is being circulated to the Members of the Council for Trade in Services.

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1. We, the Ministers responsible for Trade of APEC economies who are members of the WTO¹, are seriously concerned about the slow progress in the services negotiations under the Doha Development Agenda (DDA). An urgent effort is required to impart momentum into these negotiations and to ensure a speedy and balanced outcome from the Round.
 2. Competitive services sectors are of crucial importance for the efficient functioning of our economies. They promote innovation, and they permit the easy interaction of all economic sectors. Meaningful offers in sectors and modes of supply of interest to all economies, with particular attention to be given to developing economies, will support these aims further.
 3. We recognize the importance of targeted technical assistance for WTO developing members with a view to enabling them to participate effectively in the negotiations. We also note that efforts should be made by WTO members to conclude the negotiations on rule-making under GATS Articles VI:4, X, XIII and XV in accordance with their respective mandates and deadlines.
 4. In Santiago in November, 2004 we called on all APEC members to submit urgently their initial offers if they had not yet done so, and to meet the agreed WTO deadline of May 2005 for improved revised offers. All APEC members are aiming to achieve this. We now call on all other WTO members to do likewise. Doing so will make a substantial and tangible contribution to the Hong Kong WTO Ministerial Conference in December.

¹ APEC economies that are also WTO members are: Australia; Brunei Darussalam; Canada; Chile; China; Hong Kong, China; Indonesia; Japan; Korea; Malaysia; Mexico; New Zealand; Papua New Guinea; Peru; Philippines; Singapore; Chinese Taipei; Thailand and United States. Russia and Vietnam are negotiating to become WTO members and their support to this Ministerial Statement is without prejudice to the terms and position of their accession negotiations to the WTO.