

## PRESS RELEASE

# WTO negotiations: Chambers of Commerce worldwide support win-win game of Trade Facilitation

- **Trade Facilitation would benefit all parties involved**
- **Progress on Trade Facilitation can pull ahead the whole Doha Round**

With a view to the negotiating group on Trade Facilitation, meeting in Vienna on 10-11 July, EUROCHAMBRES, the Association of Latin American Industry Federations (AILA), the ACP Chambers, the Confederation of Asia Pacific Chambers (CACCI), the Caribbean Association of Industry and Commerce (CAIC) and Junior Chamber International (JCI) have endorsed a joint statement, calling on WTO members to reach an agreement on Trade Facilitation (TF). All signatories are members of the Global Chamber Platform (GCP), which links Chambers of Commerce and Industry around the world.

Christoph Leidl, Chairman of the GCP, said: *“Trade Facilitation is a win-win game! It can contribute to world economic growth, while reducing poverty as well. One month ago, EUROCHAMBRES called for an agreement on TF with 7 other European business representatives. Now, 5 other business organisations worldwide are following EUROCHAMBRES on the same path. This shows that an agreement on TF would be to the benefit of everyone, and that it would be a net loss for the entire world business community, as well as for the cause of development, if the gains deriving from TF were not to be secured.”*

The benefits of Trade Facilitation would be considerable:

- According to EU sources, TF measures would enable economic operators worldwide to save some 300 billion Euros per year thanks to rapid and smooth movement, release and clearance of goods, reduced costs and improved legal certainty;
- Trade Facilitation would be beneficial for more than 50% of Latin American companies which perceive custom procedures as a major difficulty for their business, as an AL-Invest survey shows;
- Trade Facilitation promotes efficiency and effectiveness of procedures and collection of dues by customs thus increasing customs revenues for governments, as OECD studies demonstrate.

Additionally, Trade Facilitation could be the driving force towards an overall WTO agreement, serving the main development goals of the Doha Round: economic growth, welfare gains, poverty alleviation, better governance, and strengthened integration into the multilateral trading system.

**The joint declaration can be downloaded from**  
[http://www.eurochambres.eu/PDF/pdf\\_trade/060707-GCPstatementTradeFacilitation.pdf](http://www.eurochambres.eu/PDF/pdf_trade/060707-GCPstatementTradeFacilitation.pdf)

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