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European Commission

Information note on Trade and Globalisation

- Globalisation brings precious efficiency gains ensuring the long-term sustainability of demographic and economic growth within the context of finite natural resources. But this growth is often unequally spread, resulting in a North-South divide, or based on unsustainable practices, causing irreversible damage to the environment. Globalisation needs to benefit all the earth's peoples if it is to be sustainable.
- This is why the European Union is seeking positive commitments on globalisation and trade here in Johannesburg, building on to the Doha Development Agenda and the Monterrey Consensus.
- The EU is putting forward a number of positive and supportive measures to enable trade to contribute to sustainable development in developing countries and ensure that they can fully exploit the opportunities that the DDA will afford them.
- Clearly all WTO members must deliver on the commitments they made in Doha, including the timetable. The EU has been prominent in driving this process forward. However the EU believes that more can be done to ensure that trade contributes to sustainable development beyond the multilateral level.
- Key proposals include integrating sustainable development more effectively into regional trade agreements, supporting the efforts of commodity-dependent countries to diversify, promoting markets in sustainably produced goods, expanding the use of sustainability impact assessments of trade agreements and encouraging more sustainable foreign direct investment in developing countries.
- Developed and developing countries share the responsibility to foster sustainable development. Achieving this aim will require a substantially increased effort, both by individual countries and by the international community.