



INTERNATIONAL TRADE

The L'Aquila Summit has given a crucial impulse to unlocking the Doha trade negotiations, to help to relaunch international exports and to support development in Low Income countries.

FACTS

The liberalisation of international trade is an important tool to support global economic growth and to generate substantial gains in terms of efficiency, productivity and development, especially for low income countries (LICs).

Negotiations in the World Trade Organisation (WTO) on the Doha Development Agenda for the liberalisation of international trade began in 2001. One of the specific objectives of the Doha agenda is to support the development of the LICs, by enhancing their access to the markets of industrialised countries, along with aid and loans.

The last attempt to conclude the negotiations in July 2008 failed, although significant progress was made on many issues. Despite the commitment adopted in Washington, on the 15th of November 2008, to conclude the negotiations before the end of the year, almost a year has passed without concrete steps forwards.

Why address the issue now:

- The economic crisis causes an increase in unemployment which reinforces protectionist pressures.
- In the context of a fall in international trade (which the WTO forecasts to be around -10% in 2009), the crisis reinforces the need for coordinated responses to stop the collapse in exports and to restore confidence in the international community.

THE G8 RESPONSE

In L'Aquila, the Leaders of the world's major economies (G8+5+Egypt and MEF countries) have committed to conclude the Doha negotiations in the WTO by **2010, building on the results already achieved last year.**

In addition to the 2010 deadline, Leaders have mandated, as intermediate step, **Ministers** in charge of trade to immediately engage in consultations and to meet before the Pittsburgh Summit (24-25 of September).

Furthermore, progress will build on what was already agreed in 2008, including the modalities previously negotiated (reductions of tariffs and subsidies).

This important result, achieved together with the major emerging economies, is a key message of the **G8+5 Joint Declaration "Promoting the global agenda"** and is also supported by the Leaders of Australia, the Republic of Korea and Indonesia.