

European policies amidst the globalisation of trade

Resolution of the Economic and Social Commission (Paris - 7 June 2000)
adopted by the Berlin Central Council (16 June 2000)

- ◇ Noting the failure of the Seattle conference due to the lack of an analysis of the economic and social impact of the Marrakech agreements, and to the disagreement between the United States and the European Union on the agenda for the next round of negotiations;
- ◇ taking into account the deteriorating conditions for exchange which adversely affect the developing countries;
- ◇ underlining the importance of resuming negotiations in the framework of the WTO - which plays an essential role in a prosperous and balanced system of world trade, and of adopting a common European stance;

The European League for Economic Co-operation would like to see the EU:

- ◇ **reaffirm** its common stances on:
 - pursuing or resuming negotiations in sectors under transition (agriculture, textiles and financial services) and pending matters (telecoms, maritime transportation, aeronautics, steel, and professional services);
 - the need to take human rights and the rights of workers into account when trade questions are addressed by fostering collaboration between the WTO and other international organisations such as the ILO and WHO.
- ◇ **promote** reflections on "new subjects" such as the environment, investments, competition and the stability of currency parities;
- ◇ **strive** to reach an agreement with the United States on the agenda for the new round of negotiations to be proposed to the WTO;
- ◇ **promote** the negotiated settlement of conflicts with the United States by entrusting a joint Europe-US scientific commission to study objectively the issues raised by GMOs and animal feed, and doing this in consultation with consumers;
- ◇ **ensure**, amidst the process now under way to admit China into the WTO, that this country truly respects the rules of fair competition and that trademarks and industrial property are protected. The European Union, for its part, should remain vigilant towards the application of all WTO principles, if needed resorting to anti-dumping procedures. Similar principles should also be followed at a later time when the equally crucial question of Russia's membership is addressed;
- ◇ **reassure** public opinion on the effects of globalisation that brings economic growth but that requires adjustment policies to attenuate the social effects that are adverse in the short-term, as well as installation of structures.
