

USTR NEWS

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**Statement of Ambassador Susan C. Schwab before the
WTO Trade Negotiations Committee**

“This is not a time for long speeches, as Pascal has noted, but rather is a time for reflection. And certainly not a time for name calling but for constructive leadership. So my remarks today will be brief.

“I would like to begin by expressing my deepest appreciation to Pascal Lamy, Bruce Gosper, Crawford Falconer, and Don Stephenson for their tireless efforts, particularly over the past ten days---and long nights---of intensive work. We would not have gotten nearly as far as we did without their persistence, patience, and dedication. But a very special word of gratitude and admiration to you, Pascal. Both as EU Trade Commissioner and as Director-General, you have been the driving force and the primary visionary of these negotiations from their very start. I have no doubt that you will continue to bring these qualities to bear on this institution as we collectively determine its path ahead.

“I also want to thank the many people of the WTO Secretariat who support the negotiations with their substantive contributions, their interpretation and translation skills, their fabulous logistical arrangements, and many other tasks that are absolutely necessary to operate this institution but that many of us forget to note. Their skills and commitment have been particularly evident during the intensive period that we all have experienced in these past weeks.

“I would also like to acknowledge the efforts that so many of my colleagues, and their teams from capitals and Missions here in Geneva, have made to tackle the very difficult issues in our attempts to move the negotiations forward. We made enormous progress together. It’s a huge disappointment for each of us, and for our citizens at home, that we did not reach our goal. Looking ahead, we will have to determine the best way to pick up the pieces and move forward with the agenda of the WTO. In that regard, let me assure our partners and you, Pascal, that what the U.S. has put on the table remains on the table.

“In the coming weeks and months, there naturally will be a lot of soul searching about the process; could we have been more successful if the process had been different in one way or another? There is always room for improvement in managing a process. But we cannot lose focus on the substance. The difficulties that frustrated our efforts over the past ten days did not

hinge on process, but rather on the substance. We faced some very difficult and complex issues of vital importance to the Membership that did not readily lend themselves to traditional “split-the-difference” solutions or “lowest common denominator” solutions. To get back on the path to success, we all will need to think hard about how we tackle these issues.

“Finally, let me assure everyone in this hall that the United States remains fully committed to the mission of the WTO as the foundation of the rules-based multilateral trading system, and to multilateral negotiations. None of us can afford any diminution in this organization’s role as the guardian of a progressively liberalizing trading system based on non-discrimination and fair play for all. It also is the centerpiece in our efforts to bring the developing countries increasingly into the global economy on terms that enable them to benefit fully from the opportunities created by international trade.

“Pascal, once again, thank you for your magnificent leadership. You have our full support as we move forward from this week.

“Thank you.”

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