

**UNITED STATES-MERCOSUR
COUNCIL ON TRADE AND INVESTMENT (4+1)
MEETING OF COORDINATORS
Buenos Aires, Argentina
April 16, 2002**

STATEMENT

On April 16, 2002, the Third United States - MERCOSUR Council on Trade and Investment Meeting of Coordinators (4 + 1) took place in Buenos Aires. The MERCOSUR delegation was headed by Amb. Martin Redrado, Argentine Secretary of Trade and International Economic Relations, and included the Four Plus One National Coordinators of Brasil, Amb. Clodoaldo Huguene Filho, Uruguay, Amb. Elbio Rosselli, and Paraguay, Amb. Rigoberto Gauto. The United States delegation was headed by Amb. Peter Allgeier, Deputy United States Trade Representative (USTR).

The Vice Ministers defined a schedule of future work, consistent with the objective of eliminating obstacles to trade and investment and creating increased market access opportunities for both Parties. They agreed that the Working Group on Agricultural Trade will meet in Buenos Aires in May, focusing on sanitary and phytosanitary measures - particularly related to meat, dairy products and fruits - and biotechnology. The Industrial Trade Working Group will meet in Washington in July to consider technical barriers to trade, begin the identification of existing market access difficulties for both Parties, and identify possible business facilitation measures to be agreed among the Parties. Regarding the Investment Working Group, seminars on Information Technology and Energy will take place in September.

The Vice Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to maintaining momentum in the World Trade Organization (WTO) and Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) negotiations, and agreed to continue working together through the Four Plus One Council and other multilateral fora to ensure the conclusion of both negotiations by January 1, 2005.

Likewise, they agreed that the meeting of the FTAA Trade Negotiations Committee (TNC) on April 23-26 in Venezuela will be critical to ensuring the progress of the hemispheric negotiating process, and reiterated their commitment to fulfill the Ministerial mandate of agreeing on methods and modalities that allow us to initiate negotiations in the Negotiating Groups of Market Access, Agriculture, Investment, Services and Government Procurement no later than May 15, 2002.

The Vice Ministers reviewed the progress on the development of the WTO Doha Agenda, reaffirmed their shared interest in promoting the ambitious agriculture negotiating agenda achieved at Doha, and highlighted the importance of issues related to trade and investment capacity building. They agreed to coordinate efforts to ensure that the development of the Doha agenda will advance consistently with deadlines and time frame agreed to by Ministers at the last Ministerial Conference.

The Vice Ministers received the report of the Working Group on Electronic Commerce, which

concluded its meeting in Buenos Aires on April 15.

The next National Coordinators meeting will take place in the United States during the second half of September 2002.