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**CONSEIL AU NIVEAU DES MINISTRES**

**26-27 MAI 1999**

**POINT 5**

***COMMERCE, INVESTISSEMENT : DEFIS ET OPPORTUNITES POUR LE SYSTEME MULTILATERAL,  
ET OBJECTIFS POUR UN NOUVEAU CYCLE DE NEGOCIATIONS COMMERCIALES  
DE L'OMC***

**ROYAUME-UNI**

**Déclaration**

**Mr. Ian McCARTNEY  
Minister of State, Department of Trade and Industry**

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**COUNCIL AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL**

**26-27 MAY 1999**

**ITEM 5**

***TRADE, INVESTMENT: POLICY CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE MULTILATERAL  
SYSTEM, AND OBJECTIVES FOR A NEW WTO ROUND***

**UNITED KINGDOM**

**Statement**

**Mr. Ian McCARTNEY  
Minister of State, Department of Trade and Industry**

**dti**

Department of Trade and Industry

**press notice**

P/99/449

27 May 1999

**UK IS COMMITTED TO A COMPREHENSIVE NEW ROUND OF TRADE TALKS****Ian McCartney outlines UK's priorities at OECD Ministerial Meeting**

The UK's strong support for a comprehensive Round of new WTO talks was reiterated at today's OECD<sup>1</sup> Ministerial in Paris.

Industry Minister Ian McCartney emphasised the importance of not allowing individual trade disputes to overshadow the central objective of a new Round. He called for agreement to:

- comprehensive multilateral negotiations embracing subjects and issues of interest to all World Trade Organisation (WTO) members;
- a short, time limited Round lasting in principle for three years;
- the 'single undertaking' concept, where all participants will accept the whole outcome of the negotiations;

Mr McCartney said:

"Our priority areas for negotiations include: agriculture, services, investment, competition, trade facilitation, technical standards, electronic commerce, industrial tariffs, trade and the environment, intellectual property, public procurement and trade defence instruments."

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<sup>1</sup> OECD-Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

Mr McCartney also emphasised the need for Government to work closely with business and other organisations to ensure an effective strategy for the new Round.

"When trade is free, the best of British companies can take on the world and win. Business - and ultimately consumers - can benefit from the additional competition to supply them with higher quality goods and services at lower prices.

"We must make every effort to communicate effectively with all interested groups so that we represent the balance of interests at Seattle and in subsequent negotiations.

At the same time we must work to ensure greater transparency within the WTO, without compromising it as an effective negotiating forum."

#### Notes to Editors

1. The OECD Ministerial took place in Paris 26-27 May at the OECD headquarters, the Chateau de la Muette. The UK was represented by Industry Minister Ian McCartney; Economics Secretary to the Treasury Patricia Hewitt and Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Employment and Equal Opportunities Margaret Hodge.
2. Mr McCartney met trade ministers from non-OECD countries at a Ministerial dinner on 26 May.
3. On Thursday 27 May Mr McCartney participated with other OECD trade ministers in a debate on trade and investment entitled 'Challenges and Opportunities for the Multilateral System and Objectives for a new WTO Round'.

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