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DIAL/MIN(99)4/ADD 10

UNCLASSIFIED / NON CLASSIFIÉ

DIALOGUE SPÉCIAL AU NIVEAU MINISTÉRIEL AVEC DES PAYS INVITÉS

26 MAI 1999

***LA COHERENCE DES POLITIQUES DANS L'ECONOMIE MONDIAL :
AVANTAGES ET ENJEUX DE L'INTERDEPENDANCE***

PORTUGAL

Déclaration

**M. Francisco SEIXAS DA COSTA
Secrétaire d'Etat aux Affaires Européennes,
Ministère des Affaires Etrangères**

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SPECIAL DIALOGUE AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL WITH INVITED COUNTRIES

26 MAY 1999

***POLICY COHERENCE IN THE GLOBAL ECONOMY:
OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES OF INTERDEPENDENCE***

PORTUGAL

Statement

**M. Francisco SEIXAS DA COSTA
Secrétaire d'Etat aux Affaires Européennes,
Ministère des Affaires Etrangères**

STATEMENT FROM MR. FRANCISCO SEIXAS DA COSTA
Secretary of State for European Affairs
PORTUGAL

Mr. Chairman,

I think that we should congratulate ourselves for the opportunity created by this first meeting with invited countries and cannot fail to welcome the fact that contacts among OECD Members and Non-Members have been increasing in the last years.

It is my intention to concentrate my brief comments precisely on underlining the advantages of this exercise, which is, as we all have been witnessing, an interesting occasion for a fruitful dialogue, crossing different perspectives and experiences.

The fact that we were able to cover diverse areas of the world and very particular national situations is a clear proof of this.

We do believe that, if associated to a rapid integration at trade and investment level, a growing dialogue is mutually beneficial and can be highly productive, namely in what regards employment growth and poverty reduction.

We should take into account that today's meeting is the result of a gradual process and highlights the advantages of pursuing efforts in co-operation and partnership.

My Country's willingness on joining the consensus for this kind of dialogue follows well known new circumstances which allowed the creation of conditions for a new momentum.

We may just hope that these circumstances may be maintained.

Mr. Chairman,

As the Secretary General rightly mentioned, integration into the world economy involves more than the opening of markets and the establishment of an enabling environment for international investment.

There are a number of policy and institutional measures which we consider vital if we want to sustain an effort based on balanced and fair rules, obviously taking into due account national conditions.

In this context, we are of the opinion that the social dimension and environmental protection are essential to sustained growth and to market opening on the basis of sound competition rules.

But we should be aware that nothing can be done without good governance and the pre-eminence of law under a legal framework which is the normal basis for the creation of a climate of confidence for investors and economic operators.

Without all these cumulative conditions the benefits of trade and investment liberalization cannot flourish and we may be faced with a contradictory system with negative impacts on international financial and economic co-operation.

As I said before, all these efforts need to be made taking into account national specific cases.

This is the reason why we consider that co-operation with Non-Member Countries has to evolve according both to specific calendars and measures, for each concerned country.

In this context, we must also be attentive to the proportion of effective tax systems, financial infrastructures and efficient labour markets, which are essential conditions for a successful and long term integration.

That is why, Mr. Chairman, this special dialogue with Non-Members is so important as the appropriate opportunity to reinforce our mutual understanding, particularly relevant in our common work in the next round of WTO, which may represent an important occasion to reinforce a fair and balanced international economic system.