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Informal WTO Ministerial Meeting, Davos, 31 January 2009
Personal conclusions of Federal Councillor Doris Leuthard

We have a problem of credibility, because we repeat discussing the same issues without being able to conclude the Doha Round. So what should we do next:

- 1) Financial system is not stabilized but trade is deeply affected. As trade ministers we should contribute to improve the situation.
- 2) We all share that trade is part of the solution. Trade is an economic stimulus and has a multiplier effect – so we have to conclude the Doha Round.
- 3) Each of us is facing protectionist pressure at home and we have to resist to it. We have to be careful about the signals national stimulus packages give. They may have impacts on other countries and there is a risk of a domino effect. The monitoring of trade measures is important and is widely supported.
- 4) We have to build a better understanding for trade at home. The opening-up of markets is the best we can do to fight the crisis.
- 5) All of us have expressed a strong commitment to finalize the Doha negotiations – but this seems not enough, today. We need a commitment on the starting point and that should be what is presently on the table (developments until December 2008). Furthermore, more meetings of ministers are needed in 2009. Possibly, a first meeting could even take place before the G20-meeting in April. There could be another meeting on the margin of the OECD ministerial at the end of June, before Pascal probably will invite us to Geneva for July.

More information: <http://www.evd.admin.ch>
