

# NATIONAL FOREIGN TRADE COUNCIL, INC.

1625 K STREET, NW, WASHINGTON, DC 20006-1604

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July 21, 2008

The Honorable Susan Schwab  
United States Trade Representative  
Office of the United States Trade Representative  
600 17<sup>th</sup> Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20508

Dear Ambassador Schwab:

Members of the National Foreign Trade Council are very concerned about reports from Geneva that the EU and several other countries are calling for the inclusion of TRIPS Agreement amendments as part of the single undertaking in the WTO Doha trade negotiations. Specifically, this group is advocating expanded coverage of geographical indications and mandatory disclosure of genetic resources in patent applications, along with provisions relating to access and benefit sharing.

In our view, both these issues are beyond the negotiating mandate of the Doha Round and have no place in the crucial discussions taking place in Geneva this week. Negotiators should focus their attention on making substantive progress on the three pillars of the Doha Round – agriculture, NAMA, and services – and not be diverted by the introduction of new and controversial topics. This could only undermine the chances for a successful ministerial gathering and progress towards completion of the Round this year.

As you know, the NFTC has been a strong advocate for the Doha Round since its launch in 2001. Its promise of trade liberalization and steps to facilitate global economic growth, particularly amongst poorer countries, is long overdue. The mandates are clear, and there is no basis for re-opening the TRIPs Agreement, as proposed, at this time.

We stand ready to support an ambitious outcome in the negotiations and hope that the Ministerial meetings this week move productively in this direction.

Sincerely,

William Reinsch  
President

*Advancing Global Commerce for Over 90 Years*

[www.nftc.org](http://www.nftc.org)

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Commissioner Peter Mandelson  
European Commissioner for External Trade  
European Commission  
200 Rue de la Loi  
B-1049 Brussels  
Belgium

Dear Commissioner Mandelson:

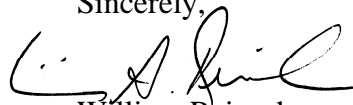
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