



INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS, ECONOMICS & LAW

**GLOBAL TRADE OPINION POLL  
SURVEY No. 12 (January 2006)**

**SUMMARY**

This latest poll was timed to give respondents a few weeks to reflect on the outcome of the Hong Kong Ministerial Conference and the road ahead in the Doha Development Agenda WTO Round.

This time around, participants in the poll were relatively evenly divided on whether the outcome from Hong Kong made a significant contribution to progress in the Round. This is not surprising in light of the fact that the poll shows that very few people believe that the newly agreed targets will be met by negotiators and that it will be possible to conclude the negotiations in 2006. Since a large majority of respondents also expect the American negotiating authority to expire on schedule in 2007, we have to wonder what all of this means for the eventual fate of the DDA.

In this poll, Geneva and capital-based respondents were in rough agreement on most points, however, their views diverged importantly on (a) the chances for concluding the round in 2006, (b) whether the April deadlines will be met and (c) the impact of linking the level of ambition in agricultural and industrial market access.

The poll was conducted over two weeks in January and included our regular pool of more than 100 respondents comprised of negotiators, policy-makers and experts from both developed and developing countries located in Geneva and key capital cities around the world.

**RESULTS**

Overall Prospects for the DDA

Sixty-three percent of all respondents think it unlikely that it will be possible to conclude the DDA in 2006. None of our Geneva respondents are betting on the round ending this year, although 21% give it a fifty-fifty chance. Capitals-based participants are more optimistic, with 29 percent holding that a conclusion in 2006 is likely and 19 percent giving it a fifty-fifty chance.

### Value of the Declaration / Assessment of DG Lamy

There is no clear view on whether the Hong Kong Declaration has made a significant contribution to the DDA: 38 percent thought it made no real contribution, 35 percent disagreed and 27 percent are undecided on the issue.

Fully 70 percent of respondents agreed that DG Lamy had no choice but to lower expectations for the HKMC ahead of the conference and allow the discussion in Hong Kong to avoid core negotiating issues.

### Prospects for the Agriculture Negotiations

Eighty-eight percent of capitals-based respondents and 58 percent of Geneva participants think it unlikely that the end of April targets will be met in the agriculture negotiation. Overall, just 2 percent of all respondents think the targets are likely to be met.

There is broad agreement (78 percent) that the key to agreeing agriculture modalities is agreement first on the treatment of “sensitive” products.

Overall, a slight majority of 53 percent of respondents think that the linkage in paragraph 24 of the Declaration will reduce the level of ambition in both agricultural and industrial market access, but capitals and Geneva see this quite differently, with 67 percent of capitals-based respondents holding this view compared to just 37 percent of Geneva-based respondents.

### The View for Services is Unclear

Asked whether the language from Hong Kong on services is likely to encourage significant liberalization in the Round, 40 percent of respondents said they thought the text was good, 38 percent took the opposite view and 22 percent were undecided.

### Developing Country Issues

Seventy-eight percent of all respondents said they thought that the position of developing countries was far better coordinated and effective in Hong Kong compared with the Cancun meeting.

On the duty-free / quota free undertaking for LDCs, 55 percent of respondents now say they expect this issue to be off the table for the remainder of the Round. Capitals and Geneva disagree on this point, however, with only 43 percent of capitals-based respondents holding this view compared to 68 percent of Geneva participants in the poll.

American Negotiating Authority

Seventy percent of all respondents believe that American trade negotiating authority will expire as scheduled in mid-2007. Another 15 percent of participants give expiration a fifty-fifty chance.

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Andrew Stoler  
Executive Director

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