

**Report of the Fourth Meeting  
of High Level Trade Officials of the Developing Eight (D-8)  
Ankara, Turkey, 19-20 April 2005**

1. The Government of the Republic of Turkey hosted the 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of High Level Trade Officials of the Developing Eight in Ankara on 19-20 April 2005. The delegations from all member states attended the meeting. The list of participants is attached as **Annex I**.
2. The Director General of Agreements, Undersecretariat of the Prime Ministry for Foreign Trade, Mr. Tevfik Mengü formally opened the meeting. In his opening remarks, Mr. Mengü mentioned that one of the primary objectives of the D-8 Countries was the development of trade relations among the member states and the Preferential Trade Agreement was the most significant step that had been taken for the fulfillment of that objective. Mr. Tevfik Mengü, the Director General of Agreements, Undersecretariat of the Prime Ministry for Foreign Trade, was also elected to chair the meeting. The text of his remarks is attached as **Annex II**.
3. Ambassador Ayhan Kamel, Executive Director of D-8 was unable to attend the meeting. However, he sent his written message which was read out in the meeting by Mrs. Sunay Dizdar, Assistant to the Executive Director. In his written message, Mr. Ayhan Kamel mentioned the importance of the gains from the implementation of the Preferential Trade Agreement among the D-8 countries and congratulated all the members of the group for what has been achieved so far. The text of his address is attached as **Annex III**.
4. The agenda of the meeting was adopted and attached as **Annex IV**.
5. The Meeting agreed to make some changes to a number of Articles and also added some new Articles to the draft text Agreement. There have been substantive and elaborate discussions on the draft text Agreement.

The points on which there was no consensus have been put in brackets in the Amended Draft Agreement. These points will be taken up for clarification in the next Meeting of High Level Trade Officials of the Developing Eight.

One of the points was the explanation of the Assistant to the Executive Director concerning the new Article 26 of the draft text which stipulates the D-8 Coordinating Unit to serve as the Secretariat of Trade Ministers Council and the Supervisory Committee. She pointed out that at present, the Coordinating Unit does not have the required manpower to provide secretariat support to these meetings. This, however, will be possible once the Coordinating Unit is enlarged and strengthened.

The most important issue was about the tariff reduction modality. Since all D-8 countries are also member of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC), the tariff reduction modality that was agreed upon at the last meeting of the Trade Negotiating Committee of Trade Preferential System among the Member States of OIC (TPS-OIC), which was held on 30 March – 2 April, 2005 in Turkey, was taken up for discussion providing an opportunity to each member to express their views. The Nigerian delegate, however, registered his reservations saying that he had no mandate

to discuss or negotiate the issue. The Turkish delegate stated that, after 4 years time mentioned in the draft modality, product coverage rate of tariff reduction for Turkey may or may not be increased to 10%. He also said that if 10 % production coverage rate cannot be accepted, his country would give more reductions on the decided %7 to compensate the differences. Due to lack of consensus on the modalities, the concerned article has been put in brackets for future consideration.

As regards articles on "Transfer of Payments" and "Balance of Payment Difficulties", the member countries will send their written comments to the D-8 Secretariat within 45 days from the conclusion of this meeting.

The amended draft Agreement is attached as Annex V.

6. The High Level Trade Officials Meeting decided that *The Fourth Version of the Draft Preferential Trade Agreement* be submitted to D-8 Executive Director and circulated to all member countries for further comments.
  7. The meeting decided that the Executive Director of D-8 should consult capitals of Contracting States for a convenient date and venue of the next meeting.
  8. The Head of the Delegation of Nigeria, Mr. A. K. Mohammed on behalf of all participating delegates expressed his appreciation and gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Turkey for hosting the fourth meeting of High Level Trade Officials.
  9. Finally, Mr. Mengü thanked all the delegations for participating in the meeting and concluded his words by reiterating his conviction that the completion of preferential trade agreement will be a crucial step for the future success of economic integration of the D-8 Countries.
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