

ORAL QUESTION WITH DEBATE O-0096/05

pursuant to Rule 108 of the Rules of Procedure

by Francis Wurtz, Helmuth Markov, Diamanto Manolakou, Pedro Guerreiro, Ilda Figueiredo, Kyriacos Triantaphyllides and Miguel Portas, on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group to the Commission

Subject: WTO negotiations and the WTO General Council of 19 and 20 October

The Human Development Report 2005 'International cooperation at a crossroads: Aid, trade and security in an unequal world' highlights the fact that extreme inequality between countries and within countries is identified as one of the main barriers to human development. This is just one of the reports that could be quoted to confirm that income, social and economic inequalities are growing worldwide, as is the gap between rich and poor countries. Poverty and unemployment levels remain high and are growing, while profits continue to rise. This reality is a result of ongoing economic and social policies, to which the great increase in trade and capital liberalisation worldwide have contributed the most.

In view of the WTO General Council to be held in Geneva on 19 and 20 October 2005 in the framework of the Sixth WTO Ministerial Conference to be held in December 2005, can the Commission say:

- what stage has been reached in the negotiations concerning agriculture, non-agricultural products and services;
- what is its opinion on the need to revise its current negotiating mandate, taking into account that trade liberalisation of agriculture, industry and services will aggravate the gap between rich and poor, put at risk food sovereignty and public services, and promote relocations and social and environmental dumping; and
- what is being done to fulfil development needs, taking into account that current trade liberalisation policies have been in conflict with a true development policy, as has been clearly shown by the results of the implementation of the GATT agreement?

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Deadline for reply: 25.10.2005