



Slovensko predsedstvo EU 2008
Slovenian Presidency of the EU 2008
La Présidence slovène de l'UE 2008

**UNCTAD XII Side Event:
Launching of the UN CEB Interagency Cluster on Trade and Productive Capacity
Accra, 20 April 2008**

The EU welcomes the establishment and approval of the CEB Cluster on trade and productive capacity – and the consolidated approach to a set of very important issues and tasks critical to promoting development in the context of the building of national (and regional) trade and productive capacity, which should contribute to overcoming the constraints faced by developing countries and regions in particular of the least developed of these.

The EU believes that building-up of trade productive capacity in developing countries is at the heart of national and international policies to promote sustained economic growth, wealth creation and poverty reduction within the Millennium Development Goals.

The EU notes with appreciation and satisfaction the broad membership of the Cluster in the context of »Delivering as One« and that UNCTAD, together with UNIDO, FAO, the WTO, UNDP and ITC, will play an important role in the implementation of this initiative.

The constraints of developing countries in trade in terms of capacity are well known and have been analyzed within the UN system and by many other international organizations and it is an achievement that an action-oriented consolidated approach is being realized. There is a broad selection of areas that needs to be addressed before, at individual country levels, specific results and improvements will become evident. One of the important areas is the need for effective investment and other measures, at the national levels, since investment and foreign direct investment and competition policies have an important role to play in building productive and trade capacity.

The EU will provide support for the initiative wherever necessary and will help promote the strengthening of the welcome interagency UN response to the »Aid for Trade« initiative, which should help to mainstream trade issues into development through UN-wide country level assistance.

It is important that the membership of the Cluster remains open and flexible.

Check against delivery