

Star BUSINESS

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UNLOCKING WORLD TRADE TALKS

Mandelson seeks new political impetus from EU, US

AFP, Brussels

EU Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson called on Saturday for a "new political commitment" between Europe and the United States to revive the stalled Doha round of world trade talks.

His comments came ahead of Monday's meeting in Washington between European Commission President Jose Barroso and US President George W. Bush.

Mandelson himself will hold talks with US Trade Representative Susan Schwab in Washington on the same day.

"Monday's meeting is the opportunity for the EU and the US to invigorate the multilateral Doha trade talks," Mandelson said in a statement.

"I hope both sides will signal strong new political commitment to rapid progress. We have now entered a narrow window of oppor-

tunity lasting until Easter during which success for the world trade talks is possible," he added.

"The quiet, constructive bilateral contacts of the last few months have made clear to us all the possible outline of a final deal. We now need the added momentum of political leadership from the highest level. Europe and the US have a shared responsibility to make this happen."

The EU officials hope to see a change in political willingness to end the impasse with the passage of control in the US Congress to the Democrats.

"It's undeniable there was protectionist rhetoric around the elections in November but I think we have to look beyond that," Mandelson's spokesman Peter Power said on Friday.

The World Trade Organisation suspended the so-called Doha round in July after negotiators from

six major players, including the US, EU, Brazil and India, failed to hammer out a framework of an accord after five years of talks.

The Doha Round, launched in the Qatari capital in November 2001, is mired in an impasse as Western and developing countries remain split on issues such as agriculture subsidies and market access.

Developing countries are demanding lower tariffs on their agricultural exports to US and European markets while industrialised nations seek greater access to developing and emerging countries for their industrial goods and services.

Mandelson's office stressed that Europe remains willing to improve its farm tariff offer by adding substantially to the 39 percent cuts it offered a year ago.

Europe is ready to add more than ten percentage points "and

get within close reach of the average farm tariff cut demanded by developing countries," which is 51.5 percent, the statement said.

"We are ready to do this in a way that demonstrably gives new market access to the United States and other agricultural exporters in all products," it added.

The EU is asking Washington to make for real cuts in its farm subsidies, also to levels close to those requested by developing countries.

This would mean a budget cut of around eight billion dollars from current ceilings of 23 billion to around 15 billion dollars.

Mandelson's "window of opportunity" is slightly narrower than that expounded by WTO Director General Pascal Lamy, who last month said the window would remain open for the first half of the year.

The key date is July 1, 2007, when the Trade Promotion Authority which allows Bush to negotiate trade deals, for Congress to approve, expires.

Mandelson believes the key Doha breakthrough must come well ahead of that date to avoid complications.

Apart from Mandelson and Barroso, the EU's External Relations Commissioner Benita Ferrero-Waldner will also take part in the visit to Washington.

Trade and economic ties aside, the talks are also expected to focus on energy security, climate change and the Middle East.

The White House has also said that Afghanistan, Darfur and the fight against terrorism will also be on the agenda.



PHOTO: RAHIMAFROOZ
The pavilion of Rahimafrooz (Bangladesh) Ltd won the 3rd 'Best Local Participant Award' at the recently held Dhaka International Trade Fair-2006. Rahimafrooz Group CEO Samir Asaf received the award from Finance Adviser Shoaib Ahmed at the concluding ceremony of the fair.

SHIPPING

Chittagong Port

Berthing position and performance of vessels as on 7/1/2007

Berth No.	Name of vessels	Cargo	L. Port call	Local agent	Dt of arrival	Leaving	Import disch
J1	Ping Jiang	GI	Chin	Cosco	30/12	9/1	2965
J7	An Qing Jiang	GI	Osaka	Cosco	2/1/2007	7/1	3859
J8	Vinashin Mariner	Cont	Sing	PSSL	27/12	9/1	290
J9	Nan Hai	Wheat(p)	Odessa	Lithmond	16/12	7/1	1875
J10	Csva California	Cont	Col	PSSL	27/12	9/1	64
J11	Mare Hibemum	Cont	Sing	Seacon	26/12	7/1	-
J12	Banga Biraj	Cont	Sing	Bdship	25/12	7/1	-
J13	KotaRukun	Cont	Sing	Pil(Bd)	31/12	9/1	50
CCT/1	Rio Lawrence	Cont	Ptp	OCSL	28/12	10/1	428

Vessels due at outer anchorage

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L. Port call	Local agent	Type of cargo	Loading ports
Mir Damad	9/1/2007	Chenn	BSCA	Cont	L/kol
Phu Tan	7/1	Sing	PSSL	Cont	Sing
Ja Vesta	7/1	P.Kel	Vega	Cont	Sing
Jesco View	7/1	P.Kel	RSL	Cont	Sing
CS Topper	7/1	--	IBSA	--	--
Sea Drill-6	7/1	--	IBSA	Pro. Equip	--
Pacific Steel	7/1	--	IBSA	Pro. Equip	--
Sakura	9/1	Ctg	OTL	Scraping	--
Banga Borti	8/1	Pkl	Baridhi	Cont	Pkel
QC Wisdom	8/1	Sing	QCCL	Cont	Sing
Ghangi Hope	8/1	Busa	Oil	G(hrc)	Sing
OEL Enterprise	8/1	Col	PSSL	Cont	Sing
Zhe Hai-315	9/1	Sing	Vega	Cont	Sing
Luo Qing	9/1	--	Cosco	Tsp	49 Gi
Oriental River	9/1	Pkl	Prog	G1(stpa)	--
OEL Freedom	10/1	Sin	PSSL	Cont	L/sing

Tanker due

Name	7/1/7	Sing	MTCL	CPO	--
TCP-6	7/1	P.Kel	ESL	CPO(RM/4)	
AlKuwaitiah	10/1	Kuwa	MSTPL	HSD	

Vessels at Kutubdia

Name of vessels	Cargo call	Last Port	Local agent	Date of arrival
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Outside port limit

Pacific Champion	Pro. Equip	--	IBSA	3/1/2007
Gulf Drill-9	Pro. Equip	--	IBSA	3/1
Simba	Crude Oil	IEBEL	Uniglobal	1/1
Banglar Jyoti	C. Oil	--	B&C	R/A(6/1)

Vessels at outer anchorage

Vessels ready

Eagle Pioneer	Cont	Sing	Ct	29/12/2006
Kota Rakayet	Cont	Sing	Pil(Bd)	30/12
Dai	Cont	Col	Seacon	31/12
Kota Berjaya	Cont	Sing	Pil(Bd)	29/12
Malaysia Star-1	Cont	Tanj	QCCL	31/12
Sea Master One	Cont	Sing	PML	1/1/7
Pacific Express	Cont	Sing	Pil(Bd)	1/1

The above are the shipping position and performance of vessels at Chittagong Port as per berthing sheet of CPA supplied by Family, Dhaka.

STOCK



PHOTO: SANOFI-AVENTIS
The winners of 2006 sales performance award of sanofi-aventis, a leading pharmaceutical company, pose for photographs with the senior officials at the annual sales and marketing conference of the company held on Saturday in Dhaka.