



# EUROPEAN ACTION FOR TRADE JUSTICE NOT FREE TRADE



[www.whiteband.org](http://www.whiteband.org)

[www.etuc.org](http://www.etuc.org)

## BACKGROUND

The European March for Trade Justice Not Free Trade is part of a series of actions being undertaken by GCAP, trade networks, the European Trade Union Confederation and other civil society organisations in the run up to the 6th WTO Ministerial Conference in Hong Kong in December 2005. The WTO Ministerial Meeting in Hong Kong is the last chance in 2005 for the European Union and the other rich countries to demonstrate their commitment to poverty eradication and sustainable development.

**In the evening of the 21<sup>st</sup> November, EU Trade Ministers will meet to agree the mandate for the EU Trade Commissioner in Hong Kong.** 15 million Europeans have taken action this year calling for trade justice as part of the Global Call to Action against Poverty (GCAP), through civil society organisations and the European Trade Unions. The objective of the action is to ensure that the voices of the millions of European citizens are heard loud and clear by the EU Trade Ministers and the EU Trade Commissioner.

## WHAT IS AT STAKE?

These negotiations were supposed to be « the round for Doha development » and to put the interests of developing countries at the top of the priorities. Three weeks ahead of the Hong-Kong Conference, the promised agreement on the withdrawal of agricultural exports in the rich countries is still absent whereas these subsidies are a threat for the agricultural productions in the Southern countries.

The EU insists that developing countries permanently and irrevocably reduce and bind their tariffs in industrial goods and services, although these countries need room for their policies to support their existing industries and develop new ones." says Sylvia Borren, GCAP Europe spokesperson.

## WHAT ACTION?

Representatives from GCAP Europe and the ETUC (European Trade Union Confederation) together with trade networks are mobilising in Brussels on 21<sup>st</sup> November under the banner of **Trade Justice Not Free Trade**. The march will start in Square de Meeus at 09:30 and finish in front of the Council building (Justus Lipsius, Rue de la Loi 175).at about 10.30am where European Trade Unions and trade networks will join the mobilisation. **The general gathering of more than 500 demonstrators will take place between 11:30 am and 12.30 in front of the European Council.**

**John Monks**, ETUC Secretary General will meet give a speech together with **Sylvia Borren**, GCAP Europe spokesperson at 11:30 in front of the European Council. They will be on board of "the European Trade Justice not Free Trade Bus." There will be **picture opportunities for the press at 11:30.**

## KEY MESSAGES

The key messages are that the European Union must:

- Respect poor countries' right to decide on trade policies that will help them end poverty, respect worker's rights and protect their environment.
- Stop pushing developing countries to open up their economies to free trade
- Allow developing countries and poor people to protect their public services
- End dumping of rich country products in poor country markets

The European Union must deliver **Trade Justice not Free Trade**.

## CONTACT DETAILS

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