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European Information and Communications  
Technology Industry Association

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## **EICTA JEITA AEA Position Paper on the Importance of a New Round of WTO Negotiations**

Brussels, 6 November 2001

Members of the European Information, Communications and Consumer Electronics Technology Industry Association (EICTA), the Japan Electronics & Information Technology Industries Association (JEITA) and the American Electronics Association (AeA) urge WTO Members to launch at their upcoming Fourth Session of the Ministerial Conference a new and balanced round of multilateral trade negotiations.

Now is the time for the world's collective political leadership to find the necessary consensus to agree the future work programme in order to launch a new round of negotiations. Failure to do so would represent a major setback for the multilateral rules-based trading system. Liberalizing global trade and investment and improving the rules to govern them are indispensable for rekindling much-needed economic growth.

World policy-makers should publicly demonstrate their support for the fact that an open, transparent and predictable rules-based multilateral trading system contributes to the promotion of economic growth, thereby enabling sustainable development, alleviating poverty and addressing the social aspects of globalization. Multilateral trade and investment liberalization plays an important role in addressing significant issues of globalization and provides the means to satisfy the social, economic and environmental objectives of governments, industries, consumers and NGOs.

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