

The World Trade Organisation Ministerial Conference in Cancun, Mexico

From the 10 - 14 September 2003, trade representatives from governments across the world gathered in the holiday resort of Cancun in Mexico for the latest round of World Trade Organisation (WTO) talks.



Caroline Lucas calls for an end to export subsidies, which result in rich countries 'dumping' produce in poorer countries, destroying local markets.

Caroline Lucas MEP was a member of the European Parliament's official delegation to the WTO summit. Dr Lucas sits on the Parliament's influential Trade Committee and has had lengthy experience as an advisor on trade to a major UK development agency.

Following the collapse of the summit, Dr Lucas said:

"The failure of the trade talks is a triumph for democracy. The developing countries have shown they are a force to be reckoned with: the most populous nations have aligned themselves into a new 'bloc' and thus been able to resist richer nations' attempts to bully them into accepting an agreement which is not in their interests. The EU and the US have shown utter contempt for the views and needs of developing countries and delegates must now return to their capitals to re-examine and reform the undemocratic WTO practices that have allowed them to do so."

Before Dr Lucas left for Cancun she said:

"As an MEP for the South East region I will be representing the views of my constituency in Mexico in September at the World Trade Organization's Ministerial Conference. I will be calling on world leaders to reform the rules that govern international trade. The WTO summit in Cancun is an opportunity for world leaders to wake up and change trade rules so that they are not rigged against some of the world's poorest people."

Dr Lucas has consistently argued against more economic globalisation and for alternative policies to promote 'localisation', to protect local communities in poor *and* rich countries across the world. In her report 'Time to Replace Globalisation', she says:

"The purpose of this Report is to challenge the growing myths about the alleged benefits of ever increasing trade liberalisation, and in particular to tackle head-on the greatest myth of all – that economic globalisation is inevitable. The Report also makes clear that an alternative to this damaging process exists, that a radically different set of trade rules can bring about the necessary transition, and that the EU must play a key role in delivering it."