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## A transatlantic and global perspective on agricultural trade

Senator Jean Bizet, Senate of France

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me, first of all, to acknowledge each and every one of you, and congratulate you for your interest in the international agricultural negotiations taking place within the WTO. I am so pleased to be here today at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

For almost ten years now, ever since the Marrakesh Agreements that integrated agriculture into the international trade negotiations, no one has been truly satisfied with the decision-making processes in place ... in fact, no one has been truly satisfied with the decisions themselves.

Why?

Because, quite simply, agriculture is not like other activities. Agriculture cannot be separated from the environment, food safety and security, the reliability of supply, land management, the fight against poverty, or the sovereignty of States.

Because the existing economic models, and in particular the World Bank model, no longer provide an effective response to the challenges that agriculture represents for the future of humankind.

Because trade negotiations as a whole, and in particular the agriculture component, must lead to improved governance in Developing Countries and the Least Developed Countries ... and we are far from having achieved that goal.

That is why I am so delighted that WOAgri – the World Organization for Agriculture – was created, and I congratulate Pierre PAGESSE and Alain CATALA for having had the idea and for bringing it to fruition.

As a founding member of WOAgri and Chairman of the French Senate oversight committee for the WTO negotiations, my presence here today bears witness to France's desire to break free of the incessant fighting during international negotiations and restore meaning to international cooperation, a cooperation for which the European Union and the United States should be the driving forces.

I realize that WOAgri operates as a private sector initiative. Far from being a handicap, I see this rather as an asset, for we have not confined ourselves to any predefined framework in our efforts toward the future.

I might add that these efforts are being followed closely in France, with great interest on the part of the President and the government.

In creating the UNEO – the United Nations Environment Organization – on February 3rd of this year, France's former President sought to formalize the need to include the "environmental dimension" in all industrial and agricultural activities throughout the world. The submission of a recent joint report by

the ILO – the International Labor Organization – and the WTO – the World Trade Organization – highlights how important it is to build bridges between trade and the labor standards of various countries.

These elements should all combine to lay the foundations for improved governance and greater flow and transparency in international trade.

In building a new economic model that will be operational in early 2008, WOAgri will provide international negotiators with new parameters that integrate the complexity of the various components of agriculture while emphasizing agriculture's strategic importance. The countries of the southern hemisphere, which constitute the majority of WTO member countries, will therefore be in a position to more fully benefit from these negotiations and thereby – I must stress this point again – enter into a cycle of improved governance.

In conclusion, I would like to clarify that we are well aware of the difficulties at hand ... but we – the United States and European Union alike – have no choice but to succeed! ... Because peace and security in many of the countries in the world depend on our success.

And we all know that Peace and security are essential to ensuring the economic and intellectual prosperity of the men and women who have made the conscious choice to join a market economy.

I thank the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, for helping us to succeed.

