

PRESENTING THE BlackBerry 8700c

- Runs on Cingular's **EDGE**, the largest high-speed wireless data network
- Access to **CORPORATE** and **PERSONAL EMAIL**
- **GSM QUAD-BAND** platform for global use
- **BLUETOOTH** wireless connectivity

EXCLUS 

Web MSNBC Alerts Newsletters RSS Help MSN Home Hotmail Sign I



Newsweek Home >> International Editions

Newsweek International Edition



There Is No Trade King

Lamy on why he wants to run the 'medieval' WTO.

By Karen Lowry Miller
Newsweek International

Feb. 7 issue - Pascal Lamy has been at the center of the globalization storm. As European trade commissioner the last five years, he was a key player when riotous protests disrupted the Seattle trade summit in 1999, and when developing nations abandoned the Doha round of talks in Cancun 16 months ago. After the Doha disaster, Lamy blasted the "medieval" ways of the World Trade Organization. Last week he formally announced his candidacy to become director-general of the WTO when Supachai Panitchpakdi of Thailand steps down in September. At the World Economic Forum meeting in Davos, Lamy discussed trade and his candidacy with NEWSWEEK's Karen Lowry Miller. Excerpts:

Story continues below ↓

advertisement

- Newsweek
- Subscribe Now
- Periscope
- National News
- Politics
- World News
- International Ed.
- War in Iraq
- Business
- Enterprise
- Tech & Science
- Healthbeat
- Society
- Education
- Entertainment
- Tip Sheet
- Columnists
- Letters & Live Talks
- Multimedia/Photos
- Search the Site
- Search Archives

- News Video
- U.S. News
- World News
- Business
- Olympics

WORLD AFFAIRS

- Muhammad Cartoons: Euro
- EU Employment: The East L
- Hamas: Presenting a New F
- Castaneda: How to Get Imn
- Haiti: Mountains to Climb
- North Korea: A Global Kidna

WORLD BUSINESS

- Post-Scandals, Will Korea B
- Pentagon: Cold War, Hot St
- Samuelson: Anxiety Amid T

SOCIETY AND THE ARTS

- Art: Gothic Nightmares Lool
- Movies: Football Scores at t
- Al-Jazeera Unmasked
- Books: Tales From The War
- Art: Modernism's Heavy Me

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLO

- Athletic Aging
- Health: Knee Repair
- Exercise: Hard to the Core
- Still Going Strong: Jack LaL
- Better Living: Small Change
- Science: Paradise Found
- More Watchful Eyes On the
- Technology: Making Sure th

- Sports
- Entertainment
- Tech / Science
- Health
- Weather
- Travel
- Blogs Etc.
- Local News
- Newsweek
- Multimedia
- Most Popular
- NBC NEWS**
- MSNBC TV
- Today Show
- Nightly News
- Meet the Press
- Dateline NBC

NEWSWEEK: Why did the Doha Round get so off-track?

First, the mandate is very ambitious. Once you agree on a program of negotiation, you can't add or retreat. And until all is agreed, nothing is agreed. There have to be trade-offs, and as we know from game theory, the number of combinations is formidable. Second, to get to final agreement, you have to structure and frame it on each issue equally. This tactical environment is formidably complex. It sometimes works and sometimes not.

Why did Cancun fail?

Many reasons, but the basic one is that a number of developing countries chose to pull the rug on an issue which was not the major issue probably, but they decided that the time had come to say we can stop an agreement.

Is EU-U.S. leadership at fault? If they agree, will the developing world follow?

No. The U.S. and EU called the shots until the mid-'80s, then there was a quad, with the U.S., EU, Japan and Canada. But the world has changed, and there is a new balance of forces around the table. Now there are two constituencies, the G20 and the G90, who are fighting more clearly the developing countries' corner. This is about both politics and economics.

How did talks revive in Geneva last July?

It probably has a lot to do with failure in Cancun. There was extreme pressure on negotiators. The U.S. and the EU had to bite the bullet on

- Live Talk: Margolis on Exerc

DEPARTMENTS

- International Periscope
- International Perspectives
- International Mail Call
- The Good Life: Feb. 20, 200
- Zakaria: The Decline and Fa

LIVE VOTE

Should Western European the door to immigrants fro

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

[Vote](#)

Vote to see results

BLOG TALK

Read what bloggers are sa Newsweek article

There are no posts that link to See the most blogged about Newsweek.



RELATED STORIES | WI

- Big Deals, Bad Odds for WT
- Davos: The Dark Side of Gl
- Peter the Great
- France's Pascal Lamy name
- Global Investor: Saudi Arab

MOST POPULAR

- Most Viewed** - • Top Rate
- Carnal Knowledge
- Test Your Boomer Knowledg
- Sex & Love: The New World
- Cheney Alert
- Where's the Oversight?
- **Most viewed on MSNBC.c**

SEARCH THE SITE

agriculture-export subsidies.

Is this a good sign for the future?

Building on Geneva is perfectly feasible. Whether we'll get the necessary engagement remains to be seen. The crucial thing will be the feeling of ownership that developing countries have of the results.

Do you see a risk of rising protectionism?

There is always a risk. Free trade is not something natural. Openness in general is something which needs to be nurtured, managed and guarded because human beings have the sense that they have to defend themselves from the rest.

DAVOS 2005 [More](#)

- Ethics, Poverty Take Center Stage at Davos
- How High-Tech Tools Can Help the Poor
- Economy: Robert Shiller on Booms and Bubbles
- Forum Buzz: Is Iran Next?
- Live Talk Transcript: Christopher Dickey From Davos



Trade disputes between the U.S. and EU seem to be accelerating. How serious are they?

Trade disputes are probably 1 percent of the EU-U.S. trade relationship, which is absolutely huge and growing every day.

When you have Boeing and Airbus, which have a sort of flag on them, there is high visibility. But there is a rules-based system by which these two elephants have to abide.

Are the proliferation of bilateral deals going to poison the multilateral system?

The position of the director-general has to be doctrinally orthodox. I think negotiators have a more pragmatic view. But there are risks. Some countries cannot spread their negotiating resources around. We [at the EU] were the ones who proposed this trade round, and you cannot have two priorities. Doctrinally I prefer international agreements.

Why do you want to head an institution you once called medieval?

Twice, in Seattle and in Cancun. I was terribly frustrated at the way ministerial conferences are structured, or unstructured. Only a miracle could have saved Seattle or Cancun. When taking the right decisions depends on a miracle, we are back to the Middle Ages. We need to improve many things, such as the roles of the host minister and the chief of the negotiating council, how do we decide when topics need facilitators, and so on. We need more transparency.

So what would you do as king of the WTO?

There is no king. You've got to be recognized as a broker, and you have to earn your respect every day.

In this climate, doesn't the director-general have to be able to knock heads together?

There is a leadership challenge now. But the same people who insist on leadership are the same who insist on the fact that we are a member-driven organization. [As the director-general] you don't have any power. You have to build a capital of trust across the board, among all the members, which they accept you might try spending from time to time.

© 2006 Newsweek, Inc.

Rate this story Low ☆☆☆☆ High

Current rating: 0 by 0 users • View Top Rated stories



Print this



Email this



Blog this



IM this

Sponsored by



MORE FROM NEWSWEEK: INTERNATIONAL EDITIONS

Next →

Newsweek: International Editions Section Front

- Terror: An Old Message With a New Twist
- Iraq's Oil Bust
- The Other Big Brother at the Pentagon
- Music: Revisiting the Magic of Mozart
- Japan: High-Tech Crisis of Confidence
- Newsweek: International Editions Section Front

TOP MSNBC STORIES

- U.N. criticizes Gitmo treatment
- WP: Lobbying pays big dividends
- White House faces shooting fallout
- Chertoff overhauls FEMA
- U.S. speedskater captures gold

Newsweek TOP STORIES

- Starr: Meet Bob Condron, Olympics Funny Man
- Can Bloom Keep Pace for Moguls and NFL?
- Hirsh: Waste and Abuse in Pentagon Budget
- Satire: Govt. Plans a 'Cheney Alert' System
- Class Act: Michelle Kwan Ends Her Dream

advertisement

PRESENTING THE BlackBerry 8700c



BlackBerry® functionality In a stylish phone

▶ GET IT NOW!

Rollover to learn more

EXCLU cin

Sponsored Links

[Make Your Donation Today](#)

Help Rebuild Lives & Communities in Hurricane Affected States.
www.BushClintonKatrinaFund.org

[Help Hurricane Victims](#)

Donate to the Disaster Relief Fund Providing Shelter, Food & Support
www.RedCross.org

[Gulf Hurricane Relief](#)

Help Support Health Clinics Providing Critical Aid to Evacuees.
www.DirectRelief.org

[Subscribe to Newsweek — Lowest Rate Available](#)

[Add Newsweek RSS Feeds](#)

[ARCHIVES](#) | [NEWSWEEK RADIO](#) | [ABOUT NEWSWEEK](#) | [SUBSCRIBER SERVICES](#)
[PRESSROOM](#) | [ADVERTISING INFORMATION](#) | [VIEWPOINT](#) | [CONTACT US](#) | [EDUCATION PROGR.](#)
[BACK COPIES](#) | [RIGHTS AND REPRINT SALES](#) | [SHOWCASE ADS](#) | [ONLINE AND DISTANCE LEARNING C](#)

[Cover](#) | [U.S. News](#) | [World News](#) | [Business](#) | [Sports](#) | [Tech/Science](#) | [Entertainment](#) | [Travel](#) | [Health](#) | [Blogs Etc.](#) | [Weather](#)
[Newsweek](#) | [Today Show](#) | [Nightly News](#) | [Dateline NBC](#) | [Meet the Press](#) | [MSNBC TV](#)

[About MSNBC.com](#) | [Newsletters](#) | [RSS](#) | [Podcasts](#) | [Help](#) | [News Tools](#) | [Jobs at MSNBC.com](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Terms & Con](#)

© 2006 MSNBC.com

© 2006 Microsoft [MSN Privacy](#) [Legal](#) [Advertise](#)