



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
Directorate-General for Trade

Director General

Brussels, **12 02. 2016**
DG TRADE/B1/NS/kg/763223

Subject: ESF Call for swift conclusion of ambitious agreement

Dear Sir Thomas,

Thank you for your email dated 18 January 2016. Commissioner Malmström asked me to reply on her behalf.

I am happy to confirm that, on 23 January, an informal Ministerial meeting on TiSA took place in the margins of the World Economic Forum in Davos.

The EU, as one of the co-chairs, is indeed one of the most active players in TiSA. Commissioner Malmström took the opportunity in Davos to call for a swift conclusion of the negotiations – an objective that was shared by her fellow Ministers. However, she also made clear that speed should not prevail over substance. In this context, the Commissioner stressed that TiSA needs to be an ambitious agreement both with respect to regulatory disciplines and market access commitments, and that this level of ambition should also be shared by new participants.

In addition, at the last round of negotiations, which took place between 31 January and 5 February, the TiSA participants agreed on an ambitious work plan that should bring the TiSA negotiations closer to conclusion.

We stand ready to continue our fruitful cooperation with the ESF in order to make a meaningful agreement happen as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

[Art. 4.1 b]

Jean-Luc DEMARTY

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