Subject: ESF position paper on Business Support for Key Principles in Bilateral Investment Agreements

Dear Sir,

Please accept my apologies for the late reply which has been due to administrative oversight.

Thank you very much for having sent us your above mentioned position paper, which I have read with utmost interest. It was also a great pleasure for me to participate in the Informal Meeting between ESF and TPC SI on 17 June 2014.

The Commission intends to ensure that future European investment agreements constitute an effective means to promote investment in a context of full legal certainty, and at the same time continue to ensure that the EU and its Member States can continue to regulate in the public interest. This is also a demand from the EU civil society which is increasingly loudly voiced. It is for this reason that Commissioner De Gucht decided to launch a public consultation on the approach that the EU should take in the negotiations on investment protection and ISDS in the TTIP, which has met massive response.

As I had the opportunity to underline on 17 June, the Commission considers it important for the industry to enter the arena and make itself heard in such a vivid debate as this.

Let me therefore thank you for what I consider a clear and constructive contribution to our reflection from the point of view of investment protection at large, and encourage you to let us have your points on view on TTIP by answering to our above mentioned consultation.

Yours faithfully