Begin forwarded message:

From: (art. 4.1(B))

Date: 18 Dec 2014 16:40:55 CET

To: "ASENIUS Maria (CAB-MALMSTROM)" <Maria.ASENIUS@ec.europa.eu>, "NYMAN Jon (CAB-MALMSTROM)" <Jon.NYMAN@ec.europa.eu>

Subject: Meeting with EuroCommerce on 17 December 2014

Dear both,

Enclosed the report of yesterday’s meeting with EuroCommerce.

REPORT
Meeting Head of Cabinet Maria ÅSENIUS with EuroCommerce
17 December 2014, 16:30-17:15 at BERL 11/334

Participants:

Mr Christian VERSCHUEREN (EuroCommerce)
Mr Ralph KAMPHÖNER (EuroCommerce)
Mr Stefan KVARFORDT (Svensk Handel)
Ms Maria ÅSENIUS
Mr Jon NYMAN
(art. 4.1(B)) (DG TRADE)

- EuroCommerce presented the association representing 5.5 million retail and wholesale trading companies, including IKEA, Carrefour and TESCO and securing 33 million jobs. Over 99% of the member companies are SMEs. They are represented in EuroCommerce via their associations.

- EuroCommerce just elected Kenneth Bengtsson as its new President.
• As regards TTIP, EuroCommerce presented its Common Declaration (enclosed) issued on the same day. EuroCommerce has an ongoing dialogue with trade unions.

• EuroCommerce mentioned that the sector is increasingly going digital, but online cross-border commerce is lagging behind due to lack of trust. Last year, EuroCommerce published a Manifesto for the New Parliament and Commission. Its main proposals for the next five years were: an enhanced digital policy, a plan for European retail and wholesale competitiveness, open markets and sustainability.

• EuroCommerce is mainly interested in TiSA, TTIP, India, Japan, Russia and Vietnam. Svensk Handel underlined its preference for single transformation in Vietnam, as the country imports around 80% of the components for footwear, textiles and clothing from neighbouring countries, such as Taiwan and India. Single transformation would dynamize the value chain, whereas double transformation would not be of much use to its members.

• Exchange of views on the situation in Russia.

• EuroCommerce was very grateful for the Commissioner's participation in the civil society dialogue.

• Regarding the TDI organization, EuroCommerce advocates the "goods on the water" clause in order to enhance predictability. There is a consensus among EuroCommerce members on this issue. Most of the companies are working with
just-in-time logistics and would not give up this business model for a particular anti-dumping case. EuroCommerce is willing to discuss concerns regarding circumvention and any built-in securities.

- EuroCommerce would like to invite the Commissioner to a Board meeting at the second half of next year.

Season's greetings,

(art. 4.1(B))

European Commission
DG TRADE G3 - Market Access, Industry, Energy and Raw Materials
B-1049 Brussels/Belgium
(art. 4.1(B))