

**From:** CAB MALMSTROM ARCHIVES  
**Sent:** Tuesday 25 April 2017 12:08  
**To:** CAB MALMSTROM ARCHIVES  
**Subject:** Summary of CM+MA meeting with KREAB on the inauguration of its new Office, 29/03/2017

On 29 March 2017, the EU Trade Commissioner, Ms Cecilia Malmström, accompanied by her Head of Cabinet, Ms Maria Åsenius, attended the inauguration of KREAB's new Office in Brussels. On this occasion, the Commissioner congratulated KREAB for their new premises and thanked them for the invitation to their celebration.

In her short remarks, the Commissioner recalled the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Treaty of Rome which the EU celebrated a week earlier, and some important achievements of the integration process over the past decades such as the successive enlargements and the gradual broadening of EU policy competence. The Commissioner stressed that expectations on the EU to deliver concrete results for the benefits of its citizens are equally high today as they were at the onset. There are also new challenges such as Brexit, terrorism and protectionism that make the EU action even more needed in present times. The Commissioner highlighted that when asked, EU citizens' support for membership in the EU is as high as 65-70%. She stressed that people gradually realise the danger which would result from the disintegration of the EU and return to nationalism. The Commissioner also mentioned that EU citizens see globalisation as a phenomenon that needs to be better harnessed to mitigate its negative externalities. In this context, she underlined the role that a rule-based trade policy that promotes both EU interests and values plays in fostering sustainable growth and jobs creation. She made it clear that the EU unlike Trump's USA is committed to open and fair trade, the effective counterweight to protectionism. The Commissioner therefore presented the audience with an overview of EU's busy trade agenda for this year, including the completion of the EU-Japan FTA talks, ongoing negotiations with Asian and Latin American partner countries, and upcoming new negotiations with Australia and New Zealand. She concluded her remarks by stressing the need to continue implementing the EU's ambitious domestic reform agenda as well (e.g. for the internal market, environmental protection, investment protection, etc.) as actively engaging with citizens on the future of the EU, using the White Paper on the Future of Europe as a springboard for a constructive discussion.

