

Brussels, 25 MAY 2016

Dear 4(1)(b),

I am responding to the letter of your predecessor of 16 April 2016, which follows my meeting with the EU-ASEAN Business Council in Chiang Mai in March.

Since that meeting, the preparatory discussions for an EU-Indonesia free trade agreement have been successfully concluded. We are now working towards the launch of FTA negotiations with Indonesia, which could take place once we have concluded the internal process with EU Member States.

This is a very welcome development, which fits well in the 2015 EU trade policy strategy "Trade for All", that had identified Indonesia as one of our priority partners.

An ambitious and comprehensive free trade agreement with Indonesia would liberalise trade in goods and services, open investment and procurement markets, and provide the necessary framework for EU exporters and investors to reap the benefits from engaging in the Indonesian market.

At the same time, we do expect the negotiations to be challenging. I have already conveyed to my counterpart the need for the EU to see that major trade and investment restrictive measures maintained by Indonesia are addressed early on. In this respect, the list of measures that you have provided is very useful and I look forward to your continued input during the forthcoming negotiating process.

Yours sincerely,
4(1)(b)

Cecilia Malmström

4(1)(b)

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