

**From:** Kerneis Pascal - ESF Art.4.1(b)  
**Sent:** Thursday 12 April 2018 10:30  
**To:** MALMSTROM Cecilia (CAB-MALMSTROM)  
**Cc:** DEMARTY Jean-Luc (TRADE); STROTMANN Maximilian (CAB-ANSIP); MOEDAS Carlos (CAB-MOEDAS); STYLIANIDES Christos (CAB-STYLIANIDES); CRETU Corina (CAB-CRETU); SCHMITT Diane (CAB-AVRAMOPOULOS); BIENKOWSKA Elzbieta (CAB-BIENKOWSKA); MOGHERINI Federica (CAB-MOGHERINI); TIMMERMANS Frans (CAB-TIMMERMANS); OETTINGER Guenther (CAB-OETTINGER); CAB JUNCKER PRESIDENT; HAHN Johannes (CAB-HAHN); KATAINEN Jyrki (CAB-KATAINEN); VELLA Karmenu (CAB-VELLA); Kristalina Georgieva (84036) (kristalina.georgieva@ec.europa.eu); VESTAGER Margrethe (CAB-VESTAGER); CAB THYSSEN; SEFCOVIC Maros (CAB-SEFCOVIC); Art.4.1(b) (CAB-ARIAS CAÑETE); MIMICA Neven (CAB-MIMICA); HOGAN Phil (CAB-HOGAN); MOSCOVICI Pierre (CAB-MOSCOVICI); NAVRACSICS Tibor (CAB-NAVRACSICS); DOMBROVSKIS Valdis (CAB-DOMBROVSKIS); JOUROVA Vera (CAB-JOUROVA); BULC Violeta (CAB-BULC); CAB ANDRIUKAITIS WEBPAGE; KIRALY Adrienn (CAB-NAVRACSICS); VICENTE Antonio (CAB-MOEDAS); VINCIUNAS Arunas (CAB-ANDRIUKAITIS); SMULDERS Ben (CAB-TIMMERMANS); MARTINEZ ALBEROLA Clara (CAB-JUNCKER); LOBILLO BORRERO Cristina (CAB-ARIAS CAÑETE); JUUL-JOERGENSEN Ditte (CAB-VESTAGER); BERNAERTS Inge (CAB-THYSSEN); LEPASSAAR Juhan (CAB-ANSIP); NOCIAR Juraj (CAB-SEFCOVIC); MUELLER Juergen (CAB-VELLA); WYNANDS Kai-Alexander (EP); ASENIUS Maria (CAB-MALMSTROM); Art.4.1(b) (REGIO); JAGER Marjeta (DEVCO); HAGER Michael (CAB-OETTINGER); KARNITSCHNIG Michael (CAB-HAHN); LANDABASO ALVAREZ Mikel (COMM); BEHRNDT Nils (CAB-MIMICA); BAILLY Olivier (CAB-MOSCOVICI); POWER Peter (CAB-HOGAN); NIKOLAY Renate (CAB-JOUROVA); ARTJOKI Risto (CAB-KATAINEN); MANSERVISI Stefano (DEVCO); CHRISTOPHIDOU Themis (EAC); HUSAK Tomasz (CAB-BIENKOWSKA)  
**Subject:** ESF Call for swift signature and ratification of concluded FTAs  
**Attachments:** ESF2018-05 - Cecilia Malmström - ESF Call for swift signature and ratification of concluded FTAs.pdf

Dear Commissioner Malmström,

The European Services Forum has been heavily involved in providing input for the trade negotiations that the European Commission has lead and we have welcomed the conclusion of the talks with Singapore in October 2014, Vietnam in February 2016 and Japan in December 2017. Services companies are wondering when the implementation of these agreements will begin. In a world that is evolving ever faster with the digitalisation of the economy, members are asking why it is taking so long after the conclusion of the difficult part of the negotiations, to move to the implementation phase.

Consequently, we are calling on you and your colleagues at the European Union institutions who are directly involved in trade policy, to swiftly sign and ratify the trade agreements that have already been concluded, notably the deals with Singapore, Vietnam and Japan, in order for

businesses to start enjoying the benefits of the positive negotiated agreements. This is particularly important as these three countries have now concluded the Comprehensive and Progressive Trans Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), and we strongly believe that the EU should be a first mover.

ESF believes the EU cannot afford another process as lengthy as the one that followed the conclusion and signature of the EU-Canada Comprehensive Economic Trade Agreement.

In accordance with the Opinion 2/15 of the European Court of Justice, which clarified the scope of the respective competences in the field of European trade policy, we therefore urge you to submit the trade parts of these agreements as being full EU competence, to the European Council and the European Parliament, for signature and ratification as soon as possible. This could facilitate their entry into force before this Parliament legislature recess. The Investment chapters, when relevant, - that have been clearly identified by the Court as being covered by a mixed competence between the European Union and the EU Member States and hence requiring a legitimate longer period for ratification - should be submitted in separate packages.

We therefore urge the college of Commissioners to submit these three agreements to the Council at its meeting of 17th April 2018. We remain at your disposal for any further information on this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Art.4.1(b)

ESF Chairman

168, Avenue de Cortenbergh  
B - 1000 - Brussels  
Tel: +322 230 75 14

Art.4.1(b)

Fax: +322 230 61 68

Email: [esf@esf.be](mailto:esf@esf.be)

Internet: [www.esf.be](http://www.esf.be)



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