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Directorate-General for Trade

Directorate C - Sustainable Development, Bilateral Trade Relations
Trade relations with South Asia, Korea and ASEAN

Brussels, 31 August 2010

Ministry of Trade of the Republic of Indonesia
Jakarta

Dear friend

It was good meeting you in Da Nang in occasion of the ASEAN-EU consultations. I was also pleased that Minister Pangestu and Commissioner De Gucht in their bilateral meeting reiterated the support to the Vision Group and requested us to prepare for the first meeting.

In this respect, I thank you very much for your letter of 6th August sent to Ambassador Wilson agreeing on the ToR of the Vision Group and providing suggestions on the project supporting the work of it. The Jakarta Delegation will formally launch the ToR of the support project taking into consideration your suggestions. Please find below some additional responses from my side to the points you raised in your letter.

I agree that – in line with our Partnership and Cooperation Agreement – we should aim at a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement. The Vision Group will work on suggestions on how to substantiate this idea.

Regarding the proposed subjects for studies, I believe the Vision Group should start its work on the basis of existing studies. Two studies will be ready soon (“Trade and Investment between EU - Indonesia: Opportunities and Obstacles” and the complementary study “Indonesian Trade with the EU: Opportunities and Challenges”) specifically to help the Vision Group in its work. We are also ready to offer to underpin the Vision Group work with additional technical advice included in the support contract. Lastly, I am of the view that the more in depth studies on goods, services and investment will be needed slightly later in 2011, building on the discussions and recommendations of the Vision Group. I propose that we go ahead with the support contract now so the vision group has logistical support as it starts its work.

Regarding the participation of the Project Team in the Vision Group, I do not envisage the presence of the consultant in the Vision Group. This should be formed by experienced professionals in different areas that will bring their views and ideas in a free and open way.

I agree with your suggestion of having a first meeting on the modalities and timing of the Vision Group meeting on **Monday 4th October at 3 PM**. As I cannot travel to Jakarta this time, I propose to have the meeting via phone or videoconference.

With my Best Regards

Best regards