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Sent: Thursday, December 12, 2019 4:12 PM
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Subject: Draft flash report from today meeting with the EU-ACB

Commissioner Hogan welcomed earlier today with a visiting delegation from the EU ASEAN Business Council (EU-ABC) representing about 20 different large EU companies active in Southeast Asia. The EU ABC Art.4.1(b) led the delegation.

The Commissioner stressed the importance of keeping up a dialogue with the business community and assured the delegation of his intent to attend the ASEAN Business summit next year. Two different dates were discussed, 12 March or end of August. The EU-ABC expressed their preference for the latter option.

Members of the delegation expressed their strong support for the EU trade agenda in the region and stressed in particular an interest for resumed negotiations with Thailand and work towards a region-to region FTA. The delegation raised a number of market access issues they were facing in ASEAN countries. In particular, control measures on dairy in Thailand, market access issues in Indonesia for both dairy and alcoholic beverages, unfair conformity assessments for toys, IPR issues in the whole region, foreign ownership of insurance companies in Thailand, Indonesia and Malaysia and extremely high tariffs on cars in many ASEAN countries. Most of those issues would be solved through on-going bilateral FTA negotiations.

Several members of the delegation raised their strong interest in an improved situation for data transfer. On the direct question on how the Commission would handle the EU Green Deal in trade agreement the Commissioner explained that the Green Deal would be part of all future FTAs. The Commissioner also informed the delegation about the new focus on implementation of EU FTAs and the creation of a chief enforcement officer at high level in DG TRADE.

Finally, the EU-ABC made a plea for the urgent resolve of the palm oil situation towards Indonesia and Malaysia. Palm Oil was the defining factor for all relations with those two countries and the reason for many of the bilateral trade irritants and market access problems facing EU companies in Indonesia. At a recent visit to Indonesia the EU-ACB had met with Art.4.1(a) had dwelled on this topic extensively. Informal contacts Art.4.1(a) gave that there seemed to be a will to solve the problem and a possible way

forward could be [redacted] Art.4.1(a) [redacted] on sustainable production of palm oil [redacted] From the EU business community's perspective this question was urgent and of the highest importance.

Art.4.1(b) [redacted]

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