

Brussels, 10. 11. 2016
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Dear Ms Long, Ms Goyens, Mr Mierzwinski,
Dear Members of the TACD Steering Committee,

Thank you for your letter of 20 October 2016 and your interest in the negotiations for a Trade in Services Agreement (TiSA).

I fully agree with you on the importance of an open and transparent process in trade negotiations. You may be aware that I also attach high importance to ensuring that EU trade policy in general, and also specific trade negotiations are open and transparent to Member States, parliaments and civil society.

I am pleased to read your positive assessment of our transparency efforts in TiSA and other negotiations and that you consider the steps that we have taken as a useful example for other countries.

Indeed, in the past months alone, the EU published more detailed TiSA post-round reports and its proposals on the state-to-state dispute settlement and on administrative and institutional provisions. The 2nd revised EU offer will be published shortly as well. Furthermore, the European Commission has recently published a new factsheet on TiSA¹ which, in addition to explaining the content of the future agreement, highlights the EU interests in key negotiating areas and provides further explanations on a number of concerns raised by civil society.

The European Commission is committed to maximising transparency wherever this can be done without undermining neither the EU's negotiating position nor our international relations. In this context, I trust you will understand that the EU cannot publish negotiating documents which are tabled by other Parties and which reflect other Parties' negotiating positions. Whether those Parties choose to make their documents and positions public is a matter for their governments.

Hence, while not all negotiating documents can be shared with the public, the European Commission will continue working closely with the Council of the European Union and the European Parliament, which already receive all negotiating documents and regular updates of the rounds. We will also continue engaging with our stakeholders through our civil society dialogues, in order to take into account the views of our vast array of stakeholders and sharing information on every step in the negotiations. Following the

¹ <http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/html/154971.htm>

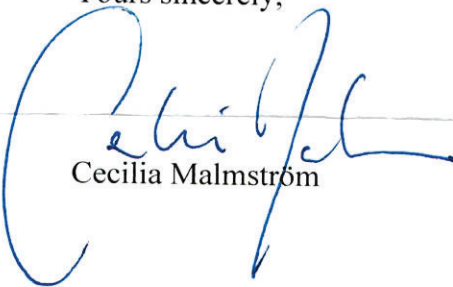
Ms Long, Ms Goyens, Mr Mierzwinski
TACD Coordinator Consumers International
24 Highbury Crescent, London, N5 1RX, UK
UNITED KINGDOM

very useful civil society meetings in September 2016 in Geneva, the EU will shortly invite stakeholders to a meeting in Brussels to present the outcomes of the 21st round.

I believe that these activities provide for substantial transparency in the negotiations. At the same time, the European Commission is committed to remain engaged with civil society in Geneva and in Brussels throughout the TiSA negotiations.

Should you have any other questions on the negotiations, I and my team in DG Trade and the Cabinet stand ready to answer them.

Yours sincerely,



Cecilia Malmström