

Cecilia Malmström  
Commissioner for Trade  
European Commission  
BE-1049, Brussels  
Belgium

14 September 2016

Dear Ms Malmström,

Today more than ever, there is a need for a strong and positive voice in the discussions on trade issues. The EU's delivery on growth, prosperity and jobs for all depends not only on structural reforms and strong public finances, but also to a large extent on an open, progressive and balanced trade policy. Europe needs to demonstrate clear leadership in negotiating free trade agreements if we are to generate the growth we need to meet future challenges.

We therefore strongly believe that more trade is necessary if we are to continue creating new jobs in the EU. We must push for a trade policy that also stands up for workers' rights, the environment, people's health and our democratic space. In addition, trade agreements should naturally protect our own scope for decision-making.

We are pleased that negotiations on the EU-Canada Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) have been completed. CETA is a broad and deep agreement based on the reality of today's trade patterns, taking on board the content of a modern trade agreement. We are now looking forward to the signing of CETA on 27 October and provisional application of the agreement.

EU-US trade and investment represents the world's largest bilateral economic relationship, and the EU and the US are each other's most important economic partners. The Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) is an opportunity to shape the rules of trade in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. We should fully seize it together with our American partners. The Commission has been working hard to take these negotiations forward, inform stakeholders and consult with Member States. The TTIP negotiations have made progress, given the large scope and high level of ambition of the agreement. However, outstanding issues remain and we should focus our attention on finding solutions.

We are confident that you will be able to achieve the goals and secure our objectives in line with the Council negotiating mandate of 2013. Thus we reiterate our commitment and support given to the Commission in the negotiations. We look forward to the continuation of the TTIP negotiations with the US and to working closely with the Commission in the coming months.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Jan MLÁDEK  
Minister for Industry and Trade

Mr Kristian JENSEN  
Minister for Foreign Affairs

Ms Liisa OVIIR  
Minister of Entrepreneurship

Mr Kai MYKKÄNEN  
Minister for Foreign Trade and  
Development

Ms Mary MITCHELL O'CONNOR  
Minister of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation

Mr Carlo CALENDÀ  
Minister for Economic Development

Mr Edgars RINKĒVIČS  
Minister of Foreign Affairs

Mr Linas LINKEVIČIUS  
Minister of Foreign Affairs

Ms Margarida Marques  
Secretary of State for European Affairs

Mr Jaime GARCÍA-LEGAZ PONCE  
Secretary of State for Trade

Ms Ann LINDE  
Minister for EU Affairs and Trade

Lord Mark PRICE  
Minister of State for Trade and  
Investment