

**PRESS RELEASE**

Brussels, 27th June 2005

**European Services Industry Leaders insist that substantial Services liberalisation is essential to a successful Doha Round**

A high level delegation of leaders of European services companies, led by Lord Vallance of Tummel, Chairman of the European Services Forum (ESF), met the EU Commissioner for Trade, Peter Mandelson, today in Brussels. Two days before a crucial informal Mini-Ministerial meeting about modalities on Agriculture and Customs Tariffs on Goods to take place in Geneva, the European services industry reiterated their strong message that any DDA agreement must include a strong package on services.

“We fully understand the political importance of the negotiations on agriculture, but agriculture is only 8% of world trade, and a good outcome on services, with genuine liberalisation, is at least as important.” said ESF Chairman, Lord Vallance of Tummel. Europe stands to benefit from open markets for services via a successful Doha Round. Services exports are of crucial importance for the EU balance of payment: the EU 25 increased its external surplus in International Trade in Services from € 37 bn in 2003 to €42.8 bn in 2004. Europe’s greatest competitive advantage is in services.

Leaders of major European Services sectors highlighted priorities for their various sectors ahead of the **informal ministerial stocktaking meeting on services** that will take place in **Geneva on 1st July 2006**. They call upon the Commissioner to make sure that countries like Brazil, China, India & South Africa will effectively improve market access for their companies.

ESF believes that if the Doha Round is to yield substantial results in services, high quality offers from developed and key emerging economies have to be tabled by the end of July, the deadline agreed in Hong Kong at the last WTO Ministerial.

ESF wants countries to submit revised and improved offers which go beyond binding existing practice, and open new trading possibilities. Binding, i.e. making firm commitments to, existing levels of market access will provide investors with the necessary legal security: but beyond that a successful Round should provide real new liberalisation and new business opportunities in the services sectors. It would make little economic sense for the WTO to deliver concrete results in agriculture and manufacturing, but no new market opening for the services companies that represent by far the largest part of the domestic economies of most WTO members.

Just as it is clear that no progress can be made without movement on agriculture and NAMA, it is now time to realise that a successful Doha Round cannot be achieved without substantial progress in services.

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**ESF Leaders Group Delegation to Commissioner Mandelson – 27/06/2006**

1. **Lord Vallance of Tummel**, ESF Chairman,
2. **Mr. Alain Sagne**, Secretary General, Architects' Council of Europe (ACE)
3. **Mrs. Verena Wiedeman**, Secretary General, ARD
4. **Mrs. Claudia Dittberner**, Director International Affairs, German Liberal professions Association (BfB)
5. **Mr. Tillman Kupfer**, BT, Chairman of International Affairs of ETNO (European Telecommunications Network Operators Association)
6. **Mr. Helmut Martin**, Senior Vice President, Head of Brussels Liaison Office, Commerzbank
7. **Mr. Jonathan Goldsmith**, Secretary General, European Bar Association (CCBE)
8. **Mr. Eric Fischer**, CEO Ad interim – Comité Européen des Assurances (CEA)
9. **Mrs. Annette Meijer**, Senior Global Public Policy Manager, DHL
10. **Mrs. Aarti Holla-Maini**, Secretary General, European Satellite Operators Association (ESOA)
11. **Mr. Ralph Kamphöner**, Director International Affairs, EuroCommerce
12. **Mr. Alfredo Acebal Neu**, Chairman of Executive Board of ETNO; Head of Brussels Office, Telefonica SA.
13. **Mr. Henri Olivier**, Secretary General, Fédération des Experts Comptables (FEE)
14. **Mr. Richard O'Toole**, Managing Director, Goldman Sachs International
15. **Mr. Hans Ulrich Maerki**, Chairman of IBM Europe, Middle East, Africa
16. **Mrs. Frances Moore**, Vice President, International Federation of the Phonographic Industry - IFPI
17. **Mr. Adrian Van den Hoven**, Director International Relations, Confederation of European Business (UNICE)
18. **Mr. Pascal Kerneis**, Managing Director of ESF.

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*The European Services Forum (ESF) is a network of high-level representatives from the European Services Sector committed to promoting the interests of European services and the liberalisation of services markets throughout the world through WTO Services Negotiations. It comprises more than 40 major European service companies at the CEO level and 40 European service sector federations covering service sectors like financial services, tourism, telecommunications, maritime transport, business and professional services, distribution, postal and express delivery, IT services, energy services and the audio-visual industry (see list of members and position papers in the web-site: [www.esf.be](http://www.esf.be)).*

*Lord Vallance of Tummel, Chairman of ESF, is a member of the British House of Lords and a former President of the CBI and of British Telecom (BT) in the UK.*

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**For further information, contact: Pascal Kerneis, ESF Managing Director. Tel: +322 2307514, Fax: +322 2306168 – [esf@esf.be](mailto:esf@esf.be)**