

Brussels, 11 January 2008
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Lord Vallance of Tummel
European Services Forum
Avenue de Cortenbergh 168
1000 Brussels


Dear Sir,

As your tenure as chairman of the European Services Forum comes to an end and Christopher Taxell has been appointed as your successor, I wanted to thank you for the commitment and leadership the ESF has shown under your chairmanship in support of services trade liberalisation around the world.

The DDA negotiations are a key trade policy priority for this Commission and your support for substantive services liberalisation remains vital. But I also know that ESF has broadened its scope of activity to support bilateral and regional services trade liberalisation, in particular through the negotiations launched following the publication of the Commission's Global Europe Communication. Seeking higher levels of openness to trade from our trading partners in services is a high priority for these negotiations.

Your voice is an important one in a landscape where, as you know, the more 'classical' industries have traditionally been the focus of negotiating attention. I look forward to continue working with the ESF and its new chairman, Christopher Taxell, in the future.

Peter Laker,


Peter Mandelson