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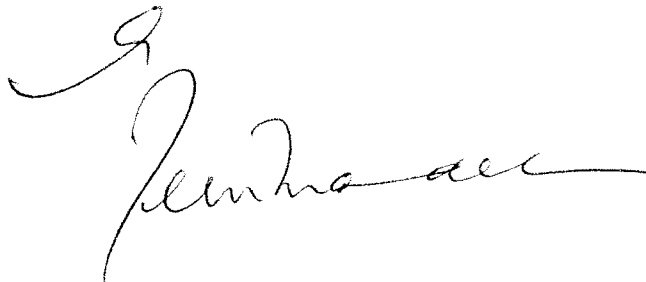
Pascal Kerneis  
Managing Director  
European Services Forum  
Av. De Cortenbergh 168  
1000 Brussels

*See Mr Kerneis,*

As summer holidays come to an end, I would like to take the opportunity to thank the European Services Forum for its continuous support for a successful conclusion of the DDA negotiations. The initiatives you have undertaken to raise awareness of the importance of the services negotiations and of the European ambition in this field have played an important role in creating a positive atmosphere for the services negotiations.

We came very close to an overall DDA agreement in July. It is very unfortunate that the talks broke down on one aspect of the agricultural negotiations. The EU remains committed to the multilateral trading system and stands ready to renew the dialogue to ensure that the progress made in the different areas is not lost.

In this respect, I am pleased that the EU's efforts to push the services negotiations paid off with the organisation of the Signalling conference, which showed the flexibilities of our partners and put services back in focus. While generally the signals made were below our expectations, there was engagement by several key developing countries and a general feeling that the signalling paved the way for further services negotiations ahead.



Peter Mandelson