



News Release

For immediate release

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EUROPEAN SERVICES INDUSTRY HAILS TRADE MINISTERS FOR SAVING THE WTO

The European Services Forum (ESF) welcomes the adoption of a political deal in WTO MC9 in Bali, in particular the package on trade facilitation.

ESF Chairman Sir Thomas Harris commented the news by saying: “*We are glad that the trade ministers in Bali have finally reached an agreement after tough talks in the last months and last hours. This historical moment will give back some shine to the World Trade Organisation. Today’s deal will save the WTO since it will allow it to pursue its essential negotiating role*”.

The European services industry is a strong supporter of the adoption and implementation of the Trade Facilitation package, since it is services companies (transport & logistics, customs agents, etc.) that are carrying and clearing all these world trade goods across the borders and it is the services companies (Transport & logistics as well as wholesale and retail distribution companies) that are in charge of spreading out the imports and exports to the final consumers; and to business suppliers who often wait a long time for equipment which is essential to supply services to other businesses in the global value chain. ESF encourages all parties to swiftly finalise the agreement and implement it as soon as possible for the sake of the world economy.’

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The **European Services Forum (ESF)** is a private sector trade association that represents the interests of the European services industry in International Trade Negotiations in Services. It comprises major European service companies and European service sector federations covering service sectors such as financial services, tourism, telecommunications, maritime transport, business and professional services, distribution, postal and express delivery, IT services, environmental services and the audio-visual industry. The EU is by very far the biggest exporter of services, with 24% of world export of services (+800 Billion US\$ in 2012).