

PRESS RELEASE

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European Service Industry welcomes the EP Recommendations on TiSA

The European Services Forum (ESF), the voice of the European services sectors in international trade, welcomes the adoption today by the European Parliament, with a strong majority (76%), of the Recommendations to the European Commission on the negotiations for the Trade in Services Agreement (TiSA). The report of MEP Viviane Reding (EPP – LU) gives clear blue lines and red lines to the negotiators to carry these negotiations in Geneva. The 16th Round of talks is currently going on this week and is focussing on fine-tuning rules on financial services, on telecom and e-commerce, and on domestic regulations. ESF also encouraged EU Trade Commissioner Cecilia Malmström to push for an ambitious deal when she met with other TiSA Countries ministers in Davos on 23rd January.

“This EP Report on TiSA is a strong political support to the Commission negotiators, which will help the EU in getting a strong deal with its TiSA partners” said ESF Chairman Sir Thomas Harris. “The industry will continue to closely monitor the negotiations and hopes for an ambitious conclusion by end 2016” he added.

Background: The Trade in Services Agreement (TiSA) is a trade agreement currently being negotiated by 23 members of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), including the EU. Together, the participating countries account for 70% of world trade in services. The negotiations started in 2013.”

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The European Services Forum (ESF) is a private sector trade association that represent the interests of the European services industry in International Trade Negotiations in Services & Investments. It comprises major European service companies and European service sector federations covering service sectors such as financial services, telecommunications, maritime transport, business and professional services, distribution, postal and express delivery (see full list of members on the website: www.esf.be)