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European Services Forum welcomes the appointment of WTO DG Okonjo-Iweala

The European Services Forum (ESF), representing the interests of the European service sectors in international trade and investment negotiations, welcomes the decision today by the World Trade Organisation’s General Council, to designate Ms. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala as the WTO’s new Director-General.

“The designation of Dr. Okonjo-Iweala at the helm of the WTO is a strong signal by the new US Administration that there is an urgent need for concrete reform of the organisation” said Noel Clehane, ESF Chairman. “We urge all WTO members to do their utmost to initiate the necessary decisions and reforms to bring the WTO Dispute Settlement Mechanism and its Appellate Body back into operation, and to revitalise the WTO negotiating function”.

The European Services Forum is a strong supporter of the ongoing negotiations for disciplines in Domestic regulation for services, for an agreement on investment facilitation, and more importantly for WTO rules on E-Commerce. “ESF and its members will work together with DG Okonjo-Iweala and her team, and with WTO Members towards positive results by the next WTO Ministerial Conference at the end of this year” emphasised Chairman Clehane.

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