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PRESS RELEASE

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**EUROPEAN SERVICES INDUSTRY URGES WTO MINISTERS
TO RESUME TALKS IN GENEVA IN THE COMING DAYS**

The European services industry calls upon world trade ministers to resume urgently the WTO Doha talks in Geneva, as instructed by the G20 leaders in Washington on 15 November 2008, and to adopt the modalities on agriculture and goods products before the end of this year.

It is more than timely to close this modalities' chapter so that negotiators finally enter into serious negotiations on services. This means that "agreement on the modalities must be accompanied by a well-defined roadmap on the services negotiations, with clear and short deadlines leading to the conclusion of the DDA in the coming months" said Pascal Kerneis, Managing Director of the European Services Forum (ESF) when speaking to the EU Trade Commissioner Catherine Ashton and French Trade Minister Anne-Marie Idrac at a Market Access Symposium in Paris today.

The sooner the Round can be concluded, the greater the contribution to restoration of confidence and reinvigoration of the world economy, now in crisis.

ESF urges WTO members to enhance their revised services offers, building upon the promises made in Geneva at the Signalling Conference on Services on 26 July 2008.

Only ambitious improved offers with clear new market access opportunities for services businesses will enable the European Union to achieve a balanced overall package and thus be in position to support the Single Undertaking concluding the DDA round.

The European Services Forum (ESF) is a network of high-level representatives from the European Services Sector committed to promoting the interests of European services and the liberalisation of services markets throughout the world through WTO Services Negotiations. It comprises more than 30 major European service companies at the CEO level and 30 European service sector federations covering service sectors like financial services, tourism, telecommunications, maritime transport, business and professional services, distribution, postal and express delivery, IT services, energy services and the audio-visual industry (see list of members and position papers in the web-site: www.esf.be).

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