JOINT INDUSTRY CALL FOR THE CONCLUSION OF THE EU-INDONESIA FTA NEGOTIATIONS (CEPA) IN 2023

Brussels, 28th of November 2023

Dear Coordinating Minister Airlangga,
Dear Commissioner Dombrovskis,

We, the undersigned associations representing a wide range of companies across diverse sectors of the European and Indonesian economies are writing to you today with a sense of urgency and shared conviction. As negotiations for the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) between the European Union and Indonesia approach a pivotal juncture, we urge both sides to accelerate the pace of negotiations and reach an ambitious agreement in the coming months.

The forthcoming electoral cycles in Indonesia and the European Union underscore the imperative for a swift breakthrough in these negotiations.

We are aware of the challenges involved, but we strongly invite you to grasp the opportunity and work together to find common ground on outstanding issues. A mutually beneficial CEPA agreement requires compromises on both sides. This can only be achieved through active participation in a constructive and open dialogue addressing sensitive issues with direct implications on trade such as sustainability and government procurement.

This accord should mirror our shared commitment to stimulate investment and economic growth, facilitate trade, foster job creation, and uphold the principles of social and environmental sustainability – while ensuring meaningful and tangible market access benefits for all undersigned sectors. We are convinced that in the current uncertain international environment such an unpreceded deal would be perceived as a strong positive signal by investors and the entire business community.

Indonesia and the European Union share a deep history of cooperation and cultural exchange, and we believe that a comprehensive and forward-looking CEPA agreement will further strengthen these ties. We envision an agreement that fosters innovation, enhances market access for all undersigned sectors, reduces trade barriers, reinforces IPR protection and enforcement and promotes a sustainable and inclusive economic agenda. The agreement should foster collaboration to ensure sustainability will drive trade and investment across the two partners and avoid that regulatory action results in market access barriers and trade disputes.

In conclusion, we urgently call on both sides to prioritize the successful conclusion of the EU-Indonesia CEPA negotiations in the next months. Let this be a testament to our commitment to working together in the face of global challenges and in pursuit of shared prosperity. The time to act is now, for the benefit of citizens, workers, and businesses from both sides.

Yours sincerely,

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ABOUT THE SIGNATORIES

AmCham EU speaks for American companies committed to Europe on trade, investment and competitiveness issues. It aims to ensure a growth-orientated business and investment climate in Europe. AmCham EU facilitates the resolution of transatlantic issues that impact business and plays a role in creating better understanding of EU and US positions on business matters. Aggregate US investment in Europe totalled more than €3.7 trillion in 2022, directly supports more than 4.9 million jobs in Europe, and generates billions of euros annually in income, trade and research and development.

API (Indonesian Textile Association) was founded in Jakarta by a number of textile entrepreneurs in 1974. The association covers all players of the textile industry from mainstream industry to downstream industry (fiber and filament manufacturing, texturising, spinning, weaving, knitting /embroidery, dyeing/printing/finishing, batik, garments and other textile goods as well as trade in national textile products). API focuses on serving the needs and interests of members and other industry's stakeholders. Our activity would bring all our stakeholders together, including the government, textile entrepreneurs, machineries, designer associations, universities and academics, the press, textile experts, and other parties with the aim of developing textile industry and trade in Indonesia.

APINDO (Indonesian Employers' Association) is the representation of the Indonesian business world, established on January 31, 1952, under the leadership of the National Executive Board (DPN) based in Jakarta, along with Provincial Executive Boards (DPP) in 34 provinces and 350 City/Regency Executive Boards. With a primary focus on Industrial Relations and Labor Affairs at its inception, APINDO's role has become increasingly strategic in promoting national interests through the expansion of its focus into various sectors, human resource development, and partnerships. APINDO's international advocacy is actively carried out through its membership and participation in the International Organization of Employers (IOE), the ASEAN Confederation of Employers (ACE), and the Confederation of Asia-Pacific Employers (CAPE). APINDO is represented in Tripartite Institutions (consisting of Government, Employers, and Workers), with several APINDO representatives serving on the National Tripartite Cooperation Institution, National Wage Council, and Occupational Safety and Health Council.

APRISINDO (Indonesian Footwear Association) is an industry association that oversees 300 companies operating in the footwear sector. APRISINDO has been established for 35 years and our vision is to grow footwear industry in Indonesia by creating business friendly environment for all the players in the supply chain. APRISINDO members include end to end supply chain of the industry, such as footwear manufacturers, traders, brand owners/licensees, material producers, laboratories and machine providers.

CAOBISCO is the Association of the Chocolate, Biscuits & Confectionery Industries of Europe. We represent more than 13,000 European chocolate, biscuits and confectionery manufacturing companies, 99% of which are SMEs. The sector is a major player in the European economy, with over 280, 000 direct employees and an annual turnover of over €55 billion.

CEEV (Comité Européen des Entreprises Vins) represents the wine companies and exporters. in the European Union. It brings together 26 national organizations from 18 countries. With more than 7.000 companies, mainly SMEs, and more than 200.000 direct jobs in the EU, its members produce and market most quality EU wines, with and without a geographical indication, and account for over 90% of European wine exports.

CELCAA is the European Liaison Committee for Agricultural and Agri-Food Trade and, as such, represents at European level the most essential food sectors and their trading operations with commodities such as meat and livestock, dairy, cereals, grain, and oilseed trade, eggs, egg whites, and egg yolks, wine and aromatized wine products, hops, tea, and herbal infusions, tobacco, and the craft butcher sector. We represent more than 25.000 agri-food producers and traders in Europe. CELCAA's is mission is to ensure that agri-food trade is recognized as an essential pillar of sustainable and resilient EU food and farming systems.

CLEPA represents over 3,000 companies supplying state-of-the-art components and innovative technology for safe, smart and sustainable mobility, investing over €30 billion yearly in R&D. Automotive suppliers directly employ about 1.7 million people in the EU.

EDRA/GHIN is the European DIY Retail Association and the Global Home Improvement Network Our membership includes 225 home centre companies operating over 34,000 stores in 78 countries. Our members generate over 1.6 million jobs and total revenues of approximately €360 bn.

ESF (European Services Forum) is the European private sector organisation that represents the interests of the European services industries in international trade and investment negotiations. It comprises major European service businesses and European service sector federations covering service sectors including financial services, telecommunications and IT services, maritime transport, postal and express delivery services, business and professional services, construction, and distribution services.

EuroCham Indonesia is a non-profit membership-based organization formed on the initiative of European businessmen in Indonesia. EuroCham Indonesia is the principal business organisation in Indonesia which promotes European business interests and represents European member companies. EuroCham Indonesia directly represents more than 170 European companies and organisations in Indonesia of different sizes, large, medium and small enterprises from a wide variety of industry sectors.

Eurochambres (Association of European chambers of commerce and industry) represents approximately 20 million businesses in over 40 countries and via a European network of 1700 regional and local chambers. Chambers' member businesses employ over 120 million people.

EuroCommerce is the principal European organisation representing the retail and wholesale sector. It embraces national associations in 27 countries, sector associations and leading global players. Over a billion times a day, retailers and wholesalers distribute goods and provide an essential service to millions of business and individual customers. The sector generates 1 in 7 jobs, offering a varied career to 26 million Europeans, many of them young people. It also supports millions of further jobs throughout the supply chain, from small local suppliers to international businesses. EuroCommerce is the recognised European social partner for the retail and wholesale sector.

FEDIOL represents the interests of the European vegetable oil and protein meal industry. With over 180 facilities in Europe, the sector provides over 20.000 direct employments. Our members process approximately 55 million tonnes of basic products a year for the food and non-food markets. Oilseed crushing produces vegetable oils and protein meals as co-products. While vegetable oils are used for food and technical uses (pharmaceuticals, paints, detergents, biodiesel, etc.), protein meals are used to meet the increasing global demand for meat and protein.

FESI (Federation of the European Sporting Goods Industry) is the unique pre-competitive platform representing the interests of the sporting goods industry in Europe, advancing its members' priorities and promoting initiatives that benefit the sector, EU citizens and the society as a whole. FESI represents the interests of approximately 1.800 sporting goods manufacturers (85% of the European market) through its National Sporting Goods Industry Federations and its directly affiliated member companies. 70-75% of FESI's membership is made up of Small and Medium Sized Enterprises. In total, the European Sporting Goods Industry employs over 700.000 EU citizens and has an annual turnover of some 81 billion euro.

Kadin Indonesia was established by Law Number 1 of 1987 as the hub organisation for business in the fields of state business, cooperative business and private business. As the organisation of Indonesian businesses, Kadin provides policy advocacy, business information, education and skills training, trade and investment facilitation, arbitration support, business promotion, and strategic collaboration to drive sustainability and innovation of its members. Kadin's business network extends to provinces and regencies/cities throughout Indonesia. Kadin is home to business associations covering all business sectors. Kadin's extensive network of business contacts throughout the region makes Kadin a very attractive and strategic partner for business, trade and investment activities.

spiritsEUROPE represents the interests of the spirits sector in 30 national associations as well as of the 11 leading multinational companies. Distilled spirits are as diverse as the EU's Member States, spanning 47 product categories and including a host of geographically-specific products that contribute to the culture of their regions and the European Union. As the leading voice of the European spirits sector, we seek to maintain and advance the freedom to produce and market spirits in a responsible way.

Toy Industries of Europe (TIE) is the voice of the reputable European toy manufactures. Our mission is to promote the right of every child to play safely and securely and to promote fair practices and fair legislation, allowing responsible toy companies to continue to grow. TIE's membership includes 19 international toy manufacturers, eight European national toy associations, who represent their local manufactures, and seven affiliate members.

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