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## European Services Forum warmly welcomes the conclusion of the negotiations for an EU-India Trade Agreement

The European Services Forum (ESF), representing the interests of the European service sectors in international trade and investment negotiations, warmly welcomes the conclusion of the negotiations for an EU-India Free Trade Agreement, announced by the two parties in New Delhi today.

“In times of growing protectionism, concluding these negotiations sends a strong and necessary signal that the EU remains open, engaged, and that a commitment to rules-based trade is the way forward in trade policy.” says ESF Chair Annette Meijer.

The removal of trade barriers in services sectors and the increased transparency in regulations will enable greater market access, facilitate a steady flow of services and improve foreign direct investment between the parties. Trade in services already represent one third of EU-India total trade. Bilateral trade in services between the EU and India has significantly grown since 2020 and stood at more than €66 billion in 2024. The agreement will undoubtedly allow an increase in both directions.

We congratulate the EU negotiators in gaining binding commitments matching or reportedly improving upon those agreed by India with the United Kingdom in sectors including financial services. Indian commitments towards progressive better regulatory transparency in rules for services sectors, including beyond federal level, will help European businesses to navigate more easily the sometimes-complex Indian authorisation procedures.

The European Services Forum now urges the two parties to ratify the agreement swiftly to allow an early implementation. ESF will closely monitor the implementation of this crucial deal.

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