

**BUSINESSEUROPE**



THE PRESIDENT

The Rt. Hon Peter Mandelson PC  
Trade Commissioner  
European Commission  
B-1049 Brussels  
BELGIUM

7 October 2008

Dear Commissioner,

On behalf of BUSINESSEUROPE, I would like to thank you for your hard work in pursuit of an open trade agenda and a strong stance against protectionism during your term as Trade Commissioner. I would also like to congratulate you on your new responsibilities as Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform where I am sure that you will excel in your new tasks.

During the last four years as Trade Commissioner, you have always been open to the concerns of European companies, and BUSINESSEUROPE could count on your support in support of ambitious trade and investment liberalisation. Moreover, BUSINESSEUROPE appreciated your commitment to strengthening the global competitiveness of European companies with the Global Europe strategy. This strategic reform of European trade policy was a milestone during your term. Global Europe effectively modernised EU Trade Policy by linking it to the EU's Competitiveness Strategy. BUSINESSEUROPE still firmly believes that this strategy is the response to tackling key trade and investment challenges from emerging countries in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

BUSINESSEUROPE regrets that a breakthrough could not be reached on the WTO Doha Round negotiations in July 2008 in spite of your very strong personal engagement to push through a compromise. This was a bitter disappointment for all Europeans involved in the Doha Round.

Your decision to launch FTA negotiations with Korea, India, ASEAN and Ukraine was also an important strategic move for EU Trade Policy. The European Union must adopt a future-looking strategy to deliver new market access for business in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. In that perspective, we have also very much welcomed your sometimes tough but also constructive stance towards China. Moreover, BUSINESSEUROPE was supportive of your efforts to negotiate Economic Partnership Agreements with the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries on the basis of equal partnership. Although

these negotiations were a real challenge, they will inevitably encourage African business to seize new opportunities to export to the EU and to attract more investment for growth.

I would like to close this letter by reiterating my appreciation of our excellent cooperation over the last four years. Let me assure you that we will work hard to maintain the same close relations with your successor, Catherine Ashton. I wish you all the best in your new functions in the British government.

Yours sincerely,



Ernest-Antoine Seillière