



# Business calls for a deal on Trade Facilitation in Bali

## JOINT STATEMENT BY BUSINESS ASSOCIATIONS WORLDWIDE

**Date:** 21 November 2013

**A few days ahead of the WTO Ministerial Conference in Bali, the undersigned organisations call upon the WTO members to finalise the deal on Trade Facilitation.**

The simplification and harmonisation of customs procedures worldwide is a vital building block for economic growth and development. Trade Facilitation is the simplest, most regulatory efficient way to recover economic performance and generate wealth creation for the good of all societies, regardless of location or region.

In times of immense challenges, economic operators worldwide are waiting anxiously for negotiators to show leadership and demonstrate the ability of the World Trade Organisation to really deliver at the upcoming WTO Ministerial Conference in Bali.

The undersigned bodies believe the consensus-driven negotiations and the progress made in the last weeks on the Draft Agreement on Trade Facilitation now have sufficient shape to be concluded and implemented, for the good of all economies. We call on all developed and emerging economies to take significant step to finalise the deal with the least possible derogations or transition periods and commit to help poorer countries in achieving their customs reforms.

We believe that such an early agreement to implement the Trade Facilitation Agreement would offer a key and significant boost for the global trading community during these critical economic times and show the WTO has the determination to deliver.

### **SIGNATORIES:**

**ANTAD - Supermarkets and Department Stores Association of Mexico** - Mexico

**EABC - East African Business Council** - East Africa

**EICC - Europe India Chamber of Commerce** - India

**Eurochambres** - Europe

**EuroCommerce** - Europe

**ESF - European Services Forum** - Europe

**FTA - Foreign Trade Association** - Europe

**KITA - Korea International Trade Association** - Korea

**NRF - National Retail Federation** - United States of America

**RCC - Retail Council of Canada** - Canada

**SME GLOBAL** - Europe

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**Supermarkets and Department Stores Association of Mexico (ANTAD)**

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**ANTAD** gathers Supermarket, Department and Specialized Chain Stores. ANTAD is a service organization that represents the legitimate interests of its Associates and promotes the development of retailers and their suppliers in an open market economy with social responsibility. ANTAD Objectives:

- To promote free, fair and honest competition
  - To train the personnel of its Associates for their development
  - To foster the exchange of information and best practices to improve trade operations
  - To foster an efficient relationship between the components in the distribution chain
  - To promote the social responsibility aspects of its affiliates
  - To promote a culture of respect for the environment, efficient energy use and the fostering of renewable energy
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**East African Business Council (EABC)**

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The East African Business Council (**EABC**) is the apex body of business associations of the Private Sector and Corporates from the 5 East African Countries. It was established in 1997 to foster the interests of the Private Sector in the integration process of the East African Community. Originally comprising members from Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda, its membership was expanded after 2007 to include private sector from Burundi and Rwanda.

Currently, EABC has 54 Associations and 102 corporate Members. Amongst the associations are all the national Private Sector Apex Bodies; four manufacturers' Associations; 5 Chambers of Commerce, 3 Employer Associations; 2 Women Associations, 2 Bankers Associations and the Confederation of Informal Sector Associations of East Africa. Given that the Secretariat is based in Arusha, EABC's structure includes National Focal Points (NFPs) – who are all currently the national private sector apex bodies.

EABC's overarching objective is to be an effective change agent for fostering an enabling business environment and to promote private sector's regional and global competitiveness in trade and investment. EABC therefore provides a regional platform through which the business community can present their concerns at the EAC policy level, with the overall aim of creating a more conducive business environment through targeted policy reforms. Additionally, EABC also work towards promoting private sector's regional & global competitiveness in trade and Investment through addressing challenges experienced by Members at organizational and firm level; and through provision of tailored market intelligence.

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**Europe India Chamber of Commerce (EICC)**

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The Europe India Chamber of Commerce (**EICC**), founded on 4 October 2004 is recognized as the Apex Chamber of Europe which promotes bilateral trade, investment and economic relations between European Union and India. The EICC speaks for multilateral rule based trading system and improvement in European and Indian competitiveness. The chamber is realizing its mission through high level strategic dialogue and debate in which trade, commerce, economic and bilateral issues – political and strategic – are intensively discussed. EICC has been headquartered in Brussels from where it serves EU-India economic relations nationally and internationally.

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**Eurochambres**

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**Eurochambres** – The Association of European Chambers of Commerce and Industry represents over 20 million enterprises in Europe – 98% of which are SMEs – through members in 43 countries and a network of 1700 regional and local Chambers.

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**EuroCommerce**

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**EuroCommerce** represents the retail, wholesale and international trade sectors in Europe. Its membership includes commerce federations and companies in 31 European countries. Commerce plays a unique role in the European economy, acting as the link between manufacturers and the nearly 500 million consumers across Europe over a billion times a day. It is a dynamic and labour-intensive sector, generating 11% of the EU's GDP. One company out of three in Europe is active in the commerce sector. Over 95% of the 6 million companies in commerce are small and medium-sized enterprises. It also includes some of Europe's most successful companies. The sector is a major source of employment creation: 33 million Europeans work in commerce, which is one of the few remaining job-creating activities in Europe. It also supports millions of dependent jobs throughout the supply chain from small local suppliers to international businesses.

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**European Services Forum (ESF)**

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The **European Services Forum (ESF)** is a private sector trade association that represents the interests of the European services industry in International Trade Negotiations in Services. It comprises major European service companies at the CEO level and European service sector federations covering service sectors such as financial services, tourism, telecommunications, maritime transport, business and professional services, distribution, postal and express delivery, IT services, environmental services and the audio-visual industry.

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**Foreign Trade Association (FTA)**

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The Foreign Trade Association (**FTA**) is the association of European and International commerce that promotes the values of free and sustainable trade. It brings together hundreds of retailers, importers, brand companies, and national associations to improve the political and legal framework for trade in a sustainable way.

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**Korea International Trade Association (KITA)**

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Having its headquarters in Seoul, Korea, **KITA** is a non-profit economic organisation representing interests of its 70,000 member companies. KITA has 12 regional centres within Korea and 9 overseas centres including Brussels Centre located in Brussels, Belgium. KITA Brussels Centre carries out variety of trade promotional activities such as business meetings, trade conferences & exhibitions, matchmaking services, information sharing and many more.

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**National Retail Federation (NRF)**

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As the world's largest retail trade association and the voice of retail worldwide, **NRF** represents retailers of all types and sizes, including chain restaurants and industry partners, from the United States and more than 45 countries abroad. Retailers operate more than 3.6 million U.S. establishments that support one in four U.S. jobs – 42 million working Americans. Contributing \$2.5 trillion to annual GDP, retail is a daily barometer for the nation's economy. NRF's [This is Retail](#) campaign highlights the industry's opportunities for life-long careers, how retailers strengthen communities, and the critical role that retail plays in driving innovation.

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As the largest retail trade association in Canada and the voice of retail, **RCC** represents retailers of all types and sizes, including independent merchants, specialty retailers, grocery and pharmacy chains, department stores, big box retailers and dot.com merchants. RCC's membership represents more than 85% of all retail sales in Canada. Retailers employ more than 2 million Canadians and the industry is the largest employer in the country. RCC is recognized as the most authoritative and effective advocate for retailers in Canada and its mission is to advance, promote and protect the interests of its members through effective advocacy, communications and education.

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SME Global is a think tank and a network of politicians, who are members of the International Democrat Union. It provides an institutional framework for small and medium sized enterprises at the international level. It was founded in 2003 by its current president, European Parliament member Dr. Paul Rübig.

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