

CECILIA MALMSTRÖM
MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, **07 DEC. 2017**

Dear Minister Faurie,

Dear Jorge

I am writing to you to express my concerns regarding the decisions of the Argentinean authorities to revoke the accreditation of certain civil society representatives at the upcoming WTO Ministerial Conference in Buenos Aires.

I consider it very important that trade policy is open, inclusive and transparent, and informed by the widest range of opinions. For the EU, this means giving all representatives of the civil society a possibility to make their voices heard, including in Buenos Aires during the Ministerial Conference. Ensuring the security of the Conference is of course essential, but I fail to see how the NGO representatives based in Europe who have seen their accreditation refused would pose any security threat. It is most regrettable that the Argentinean authorities have not provided clarity as to the specific security grounds behind these decisions.

Following the advice of the Argentinean Foreign Ministry, several EU Member States have intervened on behalf of the NGOs based in their countries, asking for the revocation decisions to be reviewed. However, it appears that this has not led to a positive outcome for all the individuals concerned and, indeed, that there are now questions concerning their potential access to Argentina during the period of the Ministerial Conference.

I can only express my hope that, even at this late stage in the preparations, these decisions can be changed and arrangements found to enable the participation of European civil society, which can help make this Conference a success.

I look forward to working closely together with you in Buenos Aires.

Yours sincerely,


Cecilia Malmström

Jorge Marcelo Faurie, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Worship, Argentina
Cc: Minister Susana Malcorra Chairwoman of WTO MC11