

To the attention of Mr Maroš Šefčovič
European Commissioner for Trade and Economic Security;
Interinstitutional Relations and Transparency

Congratulations on your appointment as EU Commissioner for Trade and Economic Security and support for advancing the conclusion of CEPA negotiations

Brussels, 28 January 2025

Dear Commissioner Šefčovič,

We, the undersigned associations representing a wide range of companies across diverse sectors of the European and Indonesian economies, extend our warm congratulations on your appointment as the EU Commissioner for Trade and Economic Security. This role reflects your extensive experience and steadfast commitment to advancing Europe's global engagement and economic security.

As you begin this new mandate, we urge you to prioritize the swift conclusion of the EU-Indonesia Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) in the coming months. This pivotal agreement offers an exceptional opportunity to strengthen economic ties and deliver significant mutual benefits for businesses and communities in both regions.

The conclusion of this agreement offers a unique chance to deepen the economic partnership between the EU and Indonesia. By reducing trade barriers, enhancing intellectual property protection, promoting a sustainable and inclusive agenda, and fostering innovation, the CEPA can unlock significant mutual benefits, drive investment, create jobs, and support sustainable economic growth on both sides. Crucially, it must also ensure meaningful and tangible market access benefits for all sectors represented by the undersigned associations, without exclusions.

This agreement aligns closely with the priorities outlined in your mission letter, particularly the focus on promoting sustainable trade, ensuring global competitiveness, and fostering fairness in international partnerships. By reducing trade barriers, supporting sustainability, and enhancing intellectual property protections, the agreement can advance these goals while driving innovation, investment, and job creation.

Your recent parliamentary hearing highlighted your dedication to finalizing trade agreements and fostering strategic economic partnerships. This underscores the importance of advancing the CEPA as a cornerstone for deepening EU-Indonesian relations.

We recognize the complexities involved in negotiating such a comprehensive agreement. However, with renewed leadership on both sides, there is a unique window of opportunity to build fresh momentum and achieve an ambitious and balanced deal. Indonesia's recent application to join the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) further underscores the urgency of finalizing the CEPA negotiations. Swiftly concluding the CEPA will allow the EU to secure a first-mover advantage and solidify its economic presence in the country. Furthermore, a timely resolution would send a strong signal to the global business community, demonstrating the EU's commitment to open, rules-based trade.

As the New Year begins, we stand ready to support your efforts in delivering a CEPA that reflects our shared values of openness, sustainability, and growth. Together, we can ensure this agreement benefits all stakeholders and strengthens our economic ties for years to come.

We wish you every success in your mandate and look forward to collaborating on this vital initiative under your leadership.

Yours sincerely,

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.

BusinessEurope is the leading advocate for growth and competitiveness at European level, standing up for companies across the continent and campaigning on the issues that most influence their performance. A recognised social partner, we speak for enterprises of all sizes in 36 European countries whose national business federations are our direct members.

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 European Union wine and aromatized wine companies. It brings together 25 national organisations from 13 EU Member States, plus Switzerland, UK and Ukraine, as well as a consortium of 4 leading European wine companies. The companies represented by CEEV, mainly SMEs, produce and market most quality European wines, with and without a geographical indication, and account for over 90% of EU 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 mission is to ensure that agri-food trade is recognized as an essential pillar of sustainable and resilient EU food and farming systems.

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.

EU-ASEAN Business Council is the primary voice for European business within the ASEAN region. The EU-ABC serves as an independent body committed to promoting European business interests and driving policy and regulatory changes that enhance trade and investment between Europe and ASEAN.

Eucolait Eucolait is the European Dairy Trade Association, representing the interests of importers, exporters and wholesalers of dairy products, ingredients and derivatives. With a membership of over 400 companies covering more than 100,000 employees, we keep the milk moving!

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.

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.

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.