

Cecilia Malmström
European Commissioner for Trade
European Commission
Rue de la Loi 200
1000 Brussels

Brussels, 25 July 2019

Dear Commissioner Malmström,

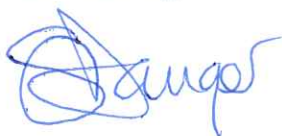
The American Chamber of Commerce to the EU (AmCham EU) welcomes the signature of the EU-Viet Nam Free Trade and Investment Protection Agreements, and the conclusion of the EU-Mercosur trade talks after 20 years of negotiating the parties' Association Agreement.

The EU-Viet Nam free trade agreement (FTA) is the most ambitious and comprehensive FTAs the EU has ever concluded with a developing country. It sends the important signal that Europe remains open for business, and that the EU and Viet Nam aim to deliver on free trade when others hesitate. As the largest non-Asian foreign investor in Viet Nam, the EU businesses and consumers will benefit from this comprehensive agreement through increased trade flows and economic growth, boosting innovation and job creation, as well as continuing to open up markets. This FTA will help Viet Nam to pursue its successful integration as a global market economy, as well as to intensify Viet Nam's commitment to sustainable development. AmCham EU will call on the European Parliament to swiftly ratify the agreement to demonstrate the EU's commitment to free and fair trade in times of increasing global protectionism.

Additionally, the conclusion of the trade talks between the EU and Mercosur is yet another important signal to the global trade community, businesses and consumers, that rules-based trade is a cornerstone of successful economic and political integration. After 20 years of negotiation, the parties committed to the necessary compromises in favour of a high-standard agreement that will cover a population of 780 million people. It will set the stage for a deeper strategic partnership between the EU, Mercosur, and the wider region. AmCham EU urges the parties to conduct the necessary legal reviews and translations so that the agreement can enter into force as soon as possible.

In challenging times for trade policy, these agreements between large global regions represent an important signal that international trade remains an engine of economic growth and job creation. We look forward to our continued engagement during the ratification process.

Yours sincerely,



Susan Danger
CEO
AmCham EU