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EU-INDONESIA BUSINESS DIALOGUE REMARKS BY EOIN O'MALLEY

Yesterday the dialogue was honoured to be welcomed by high level officials from Indonesia and the European Commission, Mr. Retno Marsudi and Mr. James Moran, who highlighted the growing importance of the Indonesia EU trade and investment relationship. We then had the scene set by the presentation of Professor. Nancy and Prof. Eyskens. It is certainly positive to note that the trade relationship has withstood the economic crisis. Nonetheless, there is more work to be done to remove some of the barriers to trade and investment in both directions.

We then heard a variety of business views in reaction to this scene setting, from broad-based as well as sectoral organisations and from Indonesia and the EU. We also had reaction from the government side.

This morning's plenary session included presentations on the European mobile telecommunications sector, which seeks important regulatory and tax reforms to facilitate the deployment of the mobile internet. We heard from the Indonesian forestry sector, which faces considerable difficulties in its exports to Europe in relation to voluntary partnership agreements on logging practices. The Indonesian fisheries sector gave a detailed overview of its views on how to create a better business environment for the industry. And there followed the very interesting presentations from Kadin and the Indonesian renewable energy sector. We were also lucky to have input from the European Commission's Directorate General for Transport and Energy on the progress here in renewable energy regulation.

Finally, this afternoon, we have had a very interesting exchange on a number of cross cutting issues, cooperation for sustainable development, capacity building for standards and certification, improving the investment climate and corporate social responsibility.

Overall, I think we can all be pleased that there has been such willingness for both business communities and the authorities to discuss both on the importance of the relationship and the challenges faced in each other's markets. I hope that this will continue going forward.