

Mr. Karel De Gucht
Commissioner for Trade
European Commission
Brussels

Dr. Chia-Juch Chang
Minister
Ministry of Economic Affairs
Taiwan

Brussels / Taipei, 27 November 2013

Dear Commissioner, Dear Minister,

We, the representatives of the European Union (EU) and Taiwanese business communities, call upon governments of both sides to deepen the bilateral economic and commercial relationship through the establishment of a study group to explore concrete opportunities of mutual interest.

The EU and Taiwan have enjoyed a long-standing economic partnership. In the past decade, the EU and Taiwan have been important partners in multiple industries, including ICT, automobiles, pharmaceuticals and machinery, as well as transport and financial services. Our bilateral trade volume grew seven-fold from 1981 to 2002, but this growth has stalled in the past decade. In 2012, for example, the trade volume only amounted to EUR 38 billion – approximately the same level as 2010. It is incumbent upon both sides to take concrete actions to revitalize and expand our bilateral trade.

All of these recent trends highlight that there is much room for the growth of the EU's and Taiwan's economies. Both sides should, therefore, take active steps to revitalize our bilateral economic ties.

BUSINESSEUROPE and CNAIC-Taiwan call on both administrations to set up a study group to look, under the current political and economic circumstances, into possible ways to boost bilateral trade, investment and cooperation between the EU and Taiwan.

To reinforce our economic ties, the study group should discuss far-reaching issues encompassing areas such as market access commitments in goods and services, investment, free movement of persons, as well as rules and disciplines in the areas of non-tariff barriers and regulatory cooperation, standards, intellectual property protection, customs, public procurement, and competition.



We believe that this study group will provide an unparalleled opportunity to escalate the level of engagement for both economies, enhance the global competitiveness of numerous European and Taiwanese firms, and identify invaluable opportunities in various areas which will benefit our members.

We urge both DG Trade and the Ministry of Economic Affairs to consider establishing such a study group to explore the untapped potential both our economies could further exploit jointly.

Yours sincerely,

Markus J. Beyrer
Director General
BUSINESSEUROPE

Kenneth C. M. Lo
Chairman
Chinese National Association of
Industry and Commerce,
Taiwan

Cc:

- Mr. Vital Moreira, Chair, Committee on International Trade, European Parliament
- Mrs. Catherine Ashton, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs & Security Policy/Vice-President of the European Commission
- Mr. Antonio Tajani, Vice-President of the European Commission, responsible for Enterprise and Industry
- Mr. David Y. L. Lin, Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Taiwan
- Dr. Kuan, Chung-Ming, Minister, Council for Economic Planning and Development, Taiwan