



### News release

For immediate release

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### Implementation of WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement put at risk

The WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement provides concrete and substantial benefits for both developed and developing countries, but India is now trying to impede the effective implementation of the Agreement.

- India now wants to link implementation to a solution on the issue of food security for which the timeline has been concluded by all WTO members to be end-December 2017.
- India's move would be a blow to the multilateral trading system and the WTO as an organisation. It could put the entire implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement at risk.
- In Bali, WTO members agreed to have different timetables for the different decisions taken: adoption of a protocol transposing the Trade Facilitation Agreement in WTO law (31 July 2014), establishment of a work programme leading to the conclusion of the Doha round (December 2014), and addressing the issue of food security (end of December 2017).
- The Trade Facilitation Agreement provides a significant reduction of costs and a simplification and acceleration of customs clearance for imports and exports. Smooth customs procedures are an indispensable part of global trade and the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement will contribute to stimulate growth and jobs in all WTO member countries.

Luisa Santos, BUSINESSEUROPE Director of International Relations, commented: *"We clearly understand that food security is important, but this cannot be used as an excuse to block progress in other areas. Failure to implement the Trade Facilitation Agreement would be a strong setback for the joint efforts to organise global trade via multilateral trade rules."*

For more information on BUSINESSEUROPE's priorities for the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement / Bali Ministerial Conference, you may refer to our [position paper](#)

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