

Ms Cecilia Malmström  
European Commissioner for Trade

cc.

Ms Helena KÖNIG

Dear Commissioner,

In January of this year, I sent you a letter in light of the consultation for industry stakeholders in the framework of the EU-Indonesia negotiations for a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA). You responded to this letter on February 16th 2017, underlining the importance of the protection of the environment and workers' rights. In this same letter it is mentioned that you are "(...) committed to an inclusive dialogue with a broad range of civil society groups, to gather their inputs and experiences as well as to foster transparency on the negotiations". Furthermore, the letter mentions the launch of a tender for a Sustainability Impact Assessment (SIA) that will complement the one that was carried out in 2009 on the regional EU-ASEAN trade. This SIA is expected to provide a detailed analysis of the possible economic, environmental, social and human rights impacts of the EU-Indonesia FTA.

We welcome the Commission's commitment to an inclusive dialogue, stakeholder consultation and the launch of a SIA that looks into the human rights impact of the EU-Indonesia FTA. However, up until this day – 6 months after we received the abovementioned letter – we have not received any information on either of these two elements. With a new round of negotiations approaching, we therefore once again stress 1) the importance of stakeholder consultation *before* this new round takes place, and 2) the relevance of conducting the SIA on a short notice and sharing the results of the assessment publicly. Transparency does not only imply posting the proposed EU texts on the website, it implies openness, full consultation with and involvement of social partners and CSOs and sharing of information *throughout* the negotiation process.

Furthermore, I would like to draw your attention to another letter that was sent to you. On the 13<sup>th</sup> of June, CNV Internationaal shared with you a research on the systemic occurrence of labour rights violations in the Indonesian palm oil sector. This research was conducted by SOMO and commissioned by CNV Internationaal. It found many workers' rights violations that breach either one or all of the following: the RSPO standard, international law and Indonesian law. When it comes to the palm oil sector, a lot of attention is – justly – paid to environmental degradation and deforestation, however, we should not forget the appalling circumstances that many workers on palm oil plantations are facing. The ongoing violations of workers' rights by Indonesian companies demonstrate the lack of implementation and enforcement of f.i. the ILO core labour conventions by the Indonesian government. Therefore, we call upon the Commission to place the systemic occurrence of labour rights

violations at the centre of the negotiation table during the third round of CEPA negotiations due to take place in Brussel the week of the 11<sup>th</sup> September.

Finally, Mrs. Sulistri Afrileston, Deputy President of the Indonesian confederation KSBSI will visit Europe during the week of the 11<sup>th</sup> September. We would be more than happy to arrange a meeting between her, your team and possibly the Indonesian negotiators.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'L. Carr', is positioned below the closing text.

Liina Carr  
ETUC Confederal Secretary

Ms Cecilia Malmström  
European Commissioner for Trade

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