

## European business concerned over WTO Members opening Pandora's Box over Bali

The decision by the Indian government to seek to link the agreed implementation of the Bali agreement on trade facilitation to public food stockholding, days ahead of the 31 July deadline, risks opening Pandora's box among Members of the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

*"After more than a decade of fruitless negotiations, the Bali agreement gave the business community hope that the WTO can still deliver. If now even this deal is brought into question, then we seriously run the risk of calling the grave-digger for further multilateral negotiations at the WTO,"* said Arnaldo Abruzzini, Secretary General of EUROCHAMBRES.

The simplification and harmonisation of customs procedures through the WTO is a simple yet extremely efficient way for businesses worldwide to boost their economic performance in times of major challenges for the world economy.

The Bali deal on trade facilitation, which WTO members agreed upon last December after long and intensive negotiations, delivered a balanced result between the interests of developed and developing countries, including least developed ones.

EUROCHAMBRES therefore keeps encouraging all parties to make the necessary efforts to help bring the agreed outcomes to a successful conclusion.

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