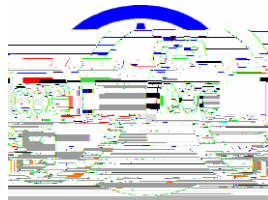
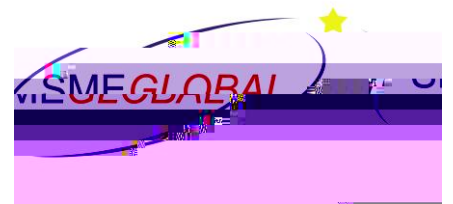
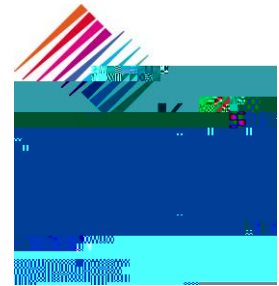
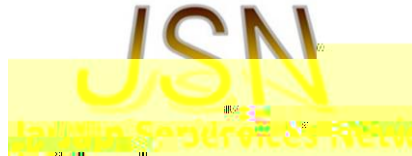
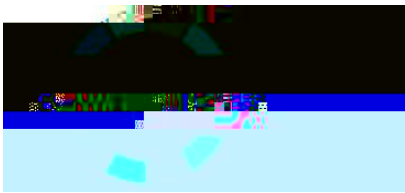
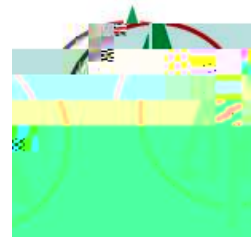


JOINT STATEMENT BY BUSINESS ASSOCIATIONS WORLDWIDE

8 DECEMBER 2017



1. Safeguard the WTO system: Ensure that it stays the guardian of the trade rulebook

The Dispute Settlement Understanding of the WTO is one of the most important pillars of the organisation since it ensures the enforcement of multilateral trade rules in an independent manner. We call on all Member States of the WTO to support the proper functioning of the system in order to preserve a rules-based trading system.

2. Progress on agriculture and fisheries subsidies: Support LDCs and fight hunger

In order to show that the WTO can continue to deliver



FTA is the

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SME Europe is the European People's Party's (EPP) organisation for Small and Medium Entrepreneurs. Its purpose is to shape EU policies in a more SME friendly way. SMEs are the backbone of the European economy as it is especially them that create sustainable jobs, growth and prosperity. As a pro-active organisation within the political networks of Christian-Democrats and Conservatives, SME Europe wants to bring a new spirit and a fresh entrepreneurial wind into the political debate. The interests of SMEs are best served when market mechanisms can freely make an impact. It is about time to contain the role of governments, so we need to have less and smarter state intervention. This provides the best framework conditions for SMEs to grow.

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SME Global is the business organization of the International Democrat Union, which gathers political parties of the centre-right from all continents. It provides an institutional framework for small and medium sized entrepreneurs and focuses on trade issues as one of its main fields of activity. SME Global was founded in 2003 by its current president, Dr Paul Rübiger, Member of the European Parliament.

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USFIA supports fashion made possible by global trade. USFIA represents textile and apparel brands, retailers, importers, and wholesalers based in the United States and doing business globally. Founded in 1989 as the United States Association of Importers of Textiles & Apparel with the goal of eliminating the global apparel quota system, USFIA now works to eliminate the tariff and non-tariff barriers that impede the industry's ability to trade freely and create economic opportunities in the United States and abroad.