

The EU would like to join its voice to those of many others today in congratulating the ITC and Executive Director A. Gonzalez for the results and achievements of the organisation in 2016. We would like to also thank you for the excellent work together in the past.

As a most recently example, I would like to refer to the highly successful seminar in Brussels on women and trade, jointly hosted by ED Gonzalez and European Commissioner Malmström.

We align with the donors' statement, and highlight also the comments made by Chile on behalf of the Friends of MSMES - the work of ITC in supporting SMEs and microenterprises should remain at the top of our joint agenda.

The ITC has been and remains an extremely valued partner for the EU, and we look forward to working together on a number of new projects in 2017 and 2018. We also look forward to showcasing examples of our successful work together this week at the A4T Global Review.