



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR TRADE

Directorate E - Neighbouring countries, USA and Canada
The Director

Brussels
TRADE.DGA2.E/RS

Dear Ms Simpson,

Thank you very much for your letter of 15 January 2020 to the CETA Joint Committee and your letter of 26 January to President von der Leyen including a list of women with specialized knowledge in international trade law, which the President and Commissioner Hogan have asked me to reply on their behalf.

As you also acknowledge in your letter, Canada and the EU share a deep commitment to gender equality and have already taken concrete action also in the framework of CETA to support women working in international trade.

Your letter has received the full attention of the President and Commissioner Hogan, and reflections are currently ongoing on how best to promote gender balance both in the drawing of the list of arbitrators as well as in composing an arbitration panel in a specific case. Under Article 29.8.1 the CETA Joint Committee may review the list of arbitrators at any time. The said reflection will be completed shortly and you will be kept informed of developments in this regard.

I would like to thank you for your contribution to this important issue.

Yours sincerely,

Rupert SCHLEGELMILCH

Commission européenne/Europese Commissie, 1049 Bruxelles/Brussel, BELGIQUE/BELGIË - Tel. +32 22991111
Office: CHAR 06/188 - Tel. direct line +32 229-52464

Rupert.SCHLEGELMILCH@ec.europa.eu