



VALDIS DOMBROVSKIS

EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Rue de la Loi, 200
B-1049 Brussels
Tel. +32-2 295 00 00
cab-dombrovskis-contact@ec.europa.eu

Ms Sylvia Noury
Founder and Co-Chair
Equal Representation in Arbitration Pledge Global Steering Committee
Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer
100 Bishopsgate
London EC2P 2RS

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Dear Ms Noury,

I would like to express my congratulations and my appreciation to you on founding the Equal Representation in Arbitration (ERA) Pledge to improve gender diversity in the world of arbitration, in particular the appointment of female arbitrators on an equal opportunity basis.

On behalf of the European Commission, I am pleased to inform you of the European Commission's adherence to the ERA Pledge with respect to dispute settlement in the area of external trade and investment.

Gender equality has been one of the key priorities of the Commission since President von der Leyen took office in December 2019. The importance attached to gender equality by this Commission is reflected in the European Union's ambitious new Gender Equality Strategy, announced in March 2020. This is a comprehensive strategy which underscores the need for all policy areas, both at EU and Member State level, to work in tandem to deliver on the objectives of Sustainable Development Goal 5.

As Executive Vice-President of the European Commission with responsibility for trade, I share the drive to make gender equality central to the EU's trade and investment policy.

I am consequently delighted that the European Commission can support the work of Equal Representation in Arbitration Pledge in its trade and investment dispute settlement activities.

Yours faithfully,

Valdis Dombrovskis

