
EU Statement at the General Council Special Session - Appointment of the next Director-General, 15 February 2021

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Local Statements

Statement delivered by Ambassador João Aguiar Machado

The EU wishes to warmly congratulate Dr. Okonjo-Iweala for her appointment as the next WTO Director-General - the first female and African national to head the Organisation.

The EU would also like to thank you Mr. Chairman, as well as the Chairmen of the Dispute Settlement Body and of the Trade Policy Review Body, Ambassadors Castillo and Aspelund, for your patience and dedication in supporting the membership in successfully completing this difficult selection process.

Our words of thank also go to the four Deputy Directors-General – DDG Agah, Brauner, Yi and Wolff - for competently steering this Organisation since September last year.

Today is a good day for the WTO. We have been waiting for this day since the Chairman announced the result of the selection process on 28 October last; and good things come to those who wait.

Today marks also a new beginning and gives us all the opportunity to refocus our energy on the urgent and challenging tasks ahead. We have negotiations to conclude, bridges to rebuild, new challenges to tackle and reforms to pursue.

Dr Okonjo-Iweala, the Members cannot achieve these tasks without your able and effective leadership. The EU is fully confident that this is what we can expect from you.

We offer you our full support and look forward to develop fruitful cooperation, based on trust and openness.

Our warmest welcome to you Dr Okonjo-Iweala.

Author

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