



CSI COMMENDS 70 WTO MEMBERS FOR THEIR WORK IN ADVANCING E-COMMERCE AT MC11

Contact: Shantell Isaac
Tel. 202-289-1953
isaac@uscisi.org

Washington, DC (December 13, 2017) — The Coalition of Services Industries (CSI) commends the United States and 69 other WTO Members, representing both developed and developing economies, for agreeing to launch exploratory discussions on negotiations on e-commerce.

This represents a significant milestone to develop multilateral rules on e-commerce and digital trade, including provisions that ensure the free flow of data and prohibit data localization in all sectors. This is a critical step in bringing multilateral rules into the 21st century, and also importantly brings these rules in line with the developments in digital trade and technology.

CSI also applauds the renewal of the ecommerce moratorium. Since its creation in 1998, the moratorium has stood as a critically important multilateral benchmark in promoting e-commerce and has served as a pathway for the development of rules that allow for the free flow of cross-border data flows.

“In a modern economy, both businesses and consumers rely on digital commerce,” said CSI President Christine Bliss. “The moratorium has been a key WTO-led effort to support e-commerce, and the exploratory discussions on negotiations on e-commerce will advance this cause. This work will promote global e-commerce and allow all firms to compete and grow globally.”

CSI celebrates both accomplishments and looks forward to working closely with the United States and other WTO Members to support the continuation of work on e-commerce.

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The Coalition of Services Industries (CSI) represents the interests of the dynamic American service economy, which employs over 75% of the workforce and generates 80% of national economic output. Since 1982, CSI has created greater public awareness of the major role services play in the U.S. economy, and it has shaped domestic and international economic policies on behalf of the services sector. The broad range of the U.S. service economy is reflected in CSI's membership, which includes major international companies from the banking, insurance, telecommunications, information technology, logistics and express delivery, audiovisual, retail, and other service industries. CSI members conduct business in all 50 states and in more than 100 countries.