

PRESS RELEASE

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*ECJ – Opinion of the Court on EU-Singapore Free Trade Agreement*

## Prevent suspense in trade policy for the future

- EU needs to become again a reliable FTA partner
- Launch soon the discussion about mandates and competences
- Finalise without delay the ratifications of negotiated agreements

The German chemical industry association Verband der Chemischen Industrie (VCI) welcomes the opinion of the European Court of Justice (ECJ) on the EU-Singapore Free Trade Agreement, which clarifies the trade policy competences between the European Union and the Member States. VCI director-general Utz Tillmann: “For the future, this opens up the chance for the EU to avoid suspense like for CETA with Canada – and it makes the European Union once more a reliable partner in the trade political arena.”

Now the ECJ stance should be taken up in the EU’s trade policy practice.

Tillmann: “The negotiating mandate for future trade agreements needs to be brought in a shape that reflects the competences as was held today by the ECJ.” Furthermore, the VCI director-general calls upon the national parliaments to ratify without delay the trade agreements with Singapore and Canada which are of great importance for the European Union.

*The VCI represents the politico-economic interests of around 1,700 German chemical companies and German subsidiaries of foreign businesses. For this purpose, the VCI is in contact with politicians, public authorities, other industries, science and media. The VCI stands for over 90 percent of the chemical industry in Germany. In 2016 the German chemical industry realized sales of around 185 billion euros and employed over 447,000 staff.*

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