



## **GEA Welcomes Entry into Force of Services Domestic Regulation Disciplines**

The Global Express Association welcomes the entry into force of the new disciplines regarding services domestic regulation with respect to over 50 WTO member countries so far (with more to follow shortly).

Transparent and predictable licensing regimes, managed by an independent authority, are a key supplement to market access commitments for international service providers, such as express delivery carriers.

The disciplines that have come into force are thus a necessary component of a vibrant and competitive logistics market. This is essential to make sure exporters of all sizes, including micro, small and medium sized enterprises that avail themselves of the opportunities of e-commerce, can reach their target markets efficiently.

Over 70 countries will eventually enter such commitments. They represent a big percentage of the global market for services, but are also less than half of the WTO's membership. In many other countries, arbitrary licensing conditions still prevail, managed by authorities with vested interests in a specific market. The consequence is a subpar regulatory environment that restricts competition, provides unfair advantages to some services providers and results in worse overall logistics for the country.

For optimal logistics services worldwide, we encourage remaining WTO members to join this plurilateral agreement and adapt their domestic legislation to the high standards it sets.

Geneva, March 2024