



To whom it may concern

Letter of reference

This is to certify that Mr Marcel Gerds, born 8th December 1983 in Stralsund, Germany, undertook an internship in the Department of Economics at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU), Uppsala, from 4th August until 19th December 2008 under the sponsorship of Professor Yves Surry and Dr. Erik Fahlbeck. This internship was part of the requirements of his studies of agriculture with a major in agricultural economics conducted at the University of Applied Sciences, Neubrandenburg, Germany, with the goal of obtaining a Master of Science (M.Sc.) degree.

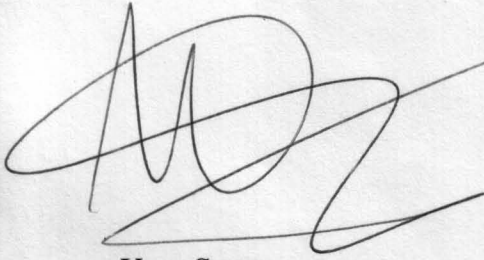
During his stay at SLU, Mr Gerds was involved in various teaching and research activities dealing with agricultural and trade policies, international trade and economic modelling. Concerning teaching, Mr Gerds' main responsibilities were to prepare and develop teaching materials (preparation of graphs and power-point presentations, compiling and developing assignments and providing answers) for an intermediate level undergraduate course in agricultural policy and international trade. His involvement with research activities were mainly to collect and analyse trade and consumption data for two research projects dealing with the international market for wine and agricultural exports of Western Balkan countries.

An important aspect of Mr Gerds' internship at SLU has been to develop his skills and knowledge of quantitative methods applied to the field of economics. More specifically, this training was geared towards the use of various modelling approaches that are employed to assess the impacts of economic, agricultural and trade policies. Mr Gerds had the opportunity to be exposed to: i) trade modelling through the use of UNCTAD's ATPSM model and partial equilibrium models, ii) input-output mod-

els, iii) social accounting matrices and iv) computable general equilibrium models. After having learnt all these modelling tools, Mr Gerds was able to apply them to various case studies using the EXCEL spreadsheet program.

I have been very pleased by Mr Gerds' performance during his stay at SLU. He conducted all the tasks he was assigned to with diligence and seriousness. All his works were done perfectly and in time. He has been showing keen interest in learning and seeing the various facets of professional activities performed by academic staff at SLU in our department.

I hope that this internship conducted at SLU has been a fruitful training experience for Mr Gerds which will help him orientate his future professional career. I would like to wish him all the best and continuing success in everything he will undertake in the future.



Yves Surry
Professor



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