



## Remarks of Mr Ignacio Garcia-Bercero EU Chief Negotiator- EU-US TTIP

Press conference-20 December 2013, Washington DC

I think we can be satisfied by the end of this third round of talks. We remain on track to deliver an ambitious trade and investment deal that should boost our economies, deliver growth and more importantly jobs for both Europeans and Americans at a time when it is most needed.

Both sides have had the opportunity to discuss all topics which each side would like to see covered in this comprehensive trade agreement. This has been possible as a result of the strong mobilisation of our teams including active participation of regulators on both sides.

As we move forward towards the next negotiating rounds, let me highlight some considerations:

**On Market Access:** it is critical that both sides maintain a high level of ambition on all three market access elements of tariffs, procurement and services/investment.

**On Regulatory issues:** progress should be achieved across the board on both horizontal and sectoral elements.

**On Rules:** by the next round we should intensify our work in the range of other issues that we have been discussing, such as competition policy, trade related aspects of energy and raw materials and sustainable developments, including labour and the environment. I would also like to highlight that it would be critical that TTIP achieves real and improved benefits for SMEs and anchors these benefits via a specific chapter on SMEs.

We anticipate a 'political stocktaking' meeting early next year to give us guidance on the way forward.

We understand this is not a routine trade negotiation. This agreement needs not just strong support from all stakeholders, it needs and in fact cannot be done, without direct involvement

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from stakeholders. This is because of the nature of what we have set out to do, with an ambitious behind-the-border regulatory agenda. The regulatory component of this negotiation, in particular, requires us to develop a much more substantial process of stakeholder consultation.

We have engaged, again this week, with a very broad range of stakeholders. We have dedicated the best of a full day on Wednesday - that's one day out of 5 here - to absorbing input from over 50 stakeholder presentations, and engaging in a question and answer session with them. I would also like to take this opportunity to mention that on the 14 of January the European Commission will be organising a civil society dialogue which will be open to all interested stakeholders.

We will continue to innovate in the area of transparency and outreach. We are determined to get this right.

On regulatory issues more generally, I would like to reiterate - and I think I can speak for both sides - that we are committed that these negotiations will not be about lowering or compromising the highest standards of consumer, environment, health and other protection, or each side's regulatory autonomy.

TTIP is not and will not be a deregulation agenda.

Last but not least, as EU chief negotiator, I am pleased to announce that we will hold the fourth round of negotiations in Brussels and we will shortly be announcing the dates.