

May 10, 2013

Mr. Douglas Bell
Chairman, Trade Policy Staff
Committee
Office of the US Trade
Representative
Executive Office of the President

Re: Docket number USTR–2013–0019 - Meetings: Proposed Transatlantic Trade and Investment Agreement

In anticipation of the official launch of the negotiations for an EU-US Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership, Eurometaux, the European Association of the Non-Ferrous Metals Industry¹ submits this letter in response to the April 1, 2013, *Federal Register* notice.

Eurometaux welcomes the initiative to launch negotiations on an ambitious, deep and comprehensive EU-US Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership. We believe that the future EU-US Agreement should aim at achieving a fair balance for both parties.

Goods: Although EU-US tariffs are comparatively low, trade volumes between the regions could still deliver sizeable gains. Eurometaux believes that TTIP should aim at full elimination of tariffs.

Regulatory cooperation: While the main objectives of Chemicals management legislation in both jurisdictions are comparable, there are intrinsic differences between the US and EU approaches to chemical management, whether in respect of design, development or implementation.

Enhanced regulatory cooperation between the EU and US may help to achieve a better understanding of these differences, identify opportunities for compatibility, and address inconsistencies where possible. By removing an unnecessary regulatory burden, this would enhance the competitiveness of the US and EU manufacturing industries, boost trade between the regions, and promote high standards for human health and environmental protection.

Eurometaux's proposal is therefore to promote the identification and understanding of the differences, to develop common principles underpinning regulatory decisions in several priority areas in chemical management.

Intellectual Property Rights: Eurometaux believes that in the context of transatlantic cooperation, joint efforts should be made towards the enforcement of Intellectual Property rights.

Services: Visa facilitation process for non-US citizens in the USA would significantly help our globally acting companies in respect of job rotations.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this comment. Please note that we are working in close co-operation with our U.S. partner NAMC, the North American Metals Council, and soon will be

¹ European non-ferrous metals industry represents 2% of EU GDP and create 450,000 direct jobs and over 1 million indirect jobs in Europe

able to present a joint submission to US and EU authorities. Feel free to contact us at vyboldina@eurometaux.be or verougstraete@eurometaux.be with any questions or requests for additional information.

Yours sincerely,

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