

foodwatch e.v. · brunnenstraße 181 · d-10119 berlin

Mrs. Cecilia Malmström  
European Commissioner for Trade  
European Commission  
per fax and email followed by this letter  
Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat 200  
1049 Brussels  
Belgium

Berlin, 17th February 2015

**Subject: Study of CEPR on the Economic impact of TTIP**

Dear Commissioner Malmström,

we are writing on behalf of foodwatch to seek clarification of data that appear in the abovementioned study, commissioned by DG Trade in 2013.

As you will be aware, the study's findings have assumed a central role in the current debate about TTIP. Among its objectives is an assessment of the overall economic impact of the proposed agreement on the Union, where it predicts an increase of the EU GDP of 0.47% after 10 years (to become effective in 2027). In a so-called 'ambitious' scenario, the increase of the EU's GDP would translate to the attractive sum of 119 billion Euros.

Given the importance of robust data to a healthy public debate, we would like to understand how this figure was derived. We apologise for contacting you directly on this matter, however in spite of several efforts following the normal channels, we have been unable to obtain an answer.

Initially, we sought clarification from the EU representation in Berlin. Unable to assist, they recommended we contact directly the research institute CEPR and the author of the study, Mr. Joseph Francois. Despite several attempts and repeated mails we were not able to elicit a satisfactory answer.

Finally, we contacted Mr. Gabriel Felbermayr from the IFO Institute in Munich, the author of two other important TTIP studies on behalf of the Bertelsmann Foundation and the

German Ministry of Economic Affairs in Berlin. He also could not explain these figures or the underlying calculations and assumptions.

We assume those concerned will have reported our approaches to DG Trade, so this letter may not come as a total surprise.

Since the numbers of the CEPR study are used in public to justify and to promote the TTIP, it must be possible to get a precise explanation of these assessments.

In the interests of a transparent and well-informed debate on the TTIP process, we request that you make public the necessary substantiation of this data as a matter of high priority. Since the underlying research must be readily available somewhere, we assume that this should be possible to do within a week?

We look forward to your early response,

Sincerely,



Dr. Thilo Bode  
(Executive Director)



Lena Blanken  
(Campaigner)