



Committee on International Trade

The Chairman

MK/mt

EXPO-INTA D(2014)62262

Ms Cecilia Malmström
Commissioner for Trade
European Commission
B-1049 Brussels

320931 19.12.2014

Subject: Improved access for Members of Parliament to documents related to TTIP negotiations

Dear Commissioner,

In reply to your letter of 12 December, please allow me to reiterate our appreciation of your and Commission's efforts in widening the access to the negotiating documents. Commission's Communication of 25 November has *theoretically* opened way for a broader access to TTIP documents for Members and members of staff. Like you I am pleased that the technical discussions between the respective teams from DG Trade and INTA Secretariat have progressed, but *practically* access has not been increased yet because concrete modalities still need to be agreed.

While details of some modalities need to be discussed further (such as meaningfully increased access to so-called 'consolidated TTIP documents' in reading room, on-request access to 'limited' documents for all Members, and access for staff members), you have in principle agreed to granting access in reading room to 'EU Restricted' TTIP documents to all Members as of January.

Therefore **we should take a first practical step in this on-going process by giving as of 5 January 2015 to all Members of Parliament access to 'EU Restricted' TTIP documents** (i.e. those originating in the Commission) **in the Commission's reading room** (in the Charlemagne building)¹ **and** as soon as possible **in the Parliament's reading room** (managed by our Classified Information Unit, CIU). In relation to this, it would be appreciated if your services could inform INTA Secretariat of all the practical information that would need to be passed on to the Members in order to provide them with access to the Commission's reading room. In practical terms it would also need to be assured between the relevant services that the same documents are available in both reading rooms, and that the Members are subject to same type of treatment.

For avoidance of any doubts, a separate copy of new 'EU Restricted' documents should continue to be made available also through INTA Secretariat, in order to allow continuing servicing the Members who have a right to receive paper copies of such documents.

¹ Temporarily, until the end of February.

I would also like to use the opportunity to make two additional comments in reaction to your letter:

You have not specifically covered the 'consolidated TTIP documents' in your letter. Until now only 29 Members have access to this type of documents in a secure reading room managed by CIU, whereas only 13 of them (INTA Chair, Vice-Chairs, Coordinators, Rapporteur for US, and Shadow-Rapporteurs for US) have access to all 'consolidated texts', while 16 members (Chair and Rapporteur for opinion from AGRI, LIBE, CULT, ECON, EMPL, ENVI, AFET, ITRE, IMCO, JURI, and TRAN) have access only to 'consolidated texts' concerning their committee. We understand that access to those documents requires also the consent of the US counterpart, but we believe that reading room access to these documents should be also enlarged to all Members or at very least meaningfully increased to all INTA Members and Members from other key committees covering all groups from committees concerned. Moreover, we believe that these Members should have access to all 'consolidated TTIP documents', i.e. there should be no longer limitations between committees.

Regarding 'limited' documents it is suggested in your letter that all other Members could be provided on demand with individual watermarked paper copies of those documents as well. Currently all INTA Members (full and substitute) receive this type of documents by e-mail, and in addition 16 Members from 11 other committees have a right to get their own personal watermarked copies of those 'limited' documents concerning their committee. While we fully share your view that confidentiality of information contained in 'limited' documents must be ensured, we find excessive the requirement to apply to 670 Members the cumbersome procedure that is today applied mostly for 'EU Restricted' documents and for 16 Members for TTIP 'limited' documents. Instead, we suggest to set up a dedicated IT-solution (such as SharePoint intranet site with individual log-on) managed by INTA Committee that would provide Members and relevant staff with on-demand access to 'limited' TTIP documents (watermarked).

We also look forward to continuing our discussions on categories of staff who should also have access to reading room, and in certain cases to be able to work with paper copies of 'EU Restricted' documents.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Bernd Lange', written in a cursive style.

Bernd Lange