



European
Commission

Transatlantic Trade & Investment Partnership Advisory Group

Report of preparatory meeting, 21 January 2014

Date: 6/02/2014

Trade

1. Welcome

2. Introductions

3. Adoption of the agenda

4. Discussion and agreement of the draft Terms of Reference

The following points were raised during this part of the discussion:

- Frequency and timing of meetings. Members discussed whether meeting before or after rounds would be most practical, and stressed the importance of being able to help shape decisions rather than being informed about them. The Chair explained that the negotiations are a continuum and that the group can still give meaningful input after a negotiating round on topics included in a negotiating round. On that basis, the members agreed on a regular frequency of meetings. Four or five dates before the summer break would be identified as soon as possible.
- Improving consultation with stakeholders. Members discussed the added value of the group in comparison to other initiatives, in particular the announced consultation on investment protection (including ISDS). They offered their expertise to help improve stakeholder engagement on the TTIP negotiations, starting with the investment protection consultation.
- Transparency of meetings. The members discussed the extent to which they would consult with their interest groups to provide advice and agreed means would need to be found to make that possible. Minutes of the meetings would not attribute comments unless specifically requested by the member.
- Information security and confidentiality. On one hand, a high level of confidentiality is necessary for certain details and EU-only documents that are not available to the public, in order to avoid adverse impact on the negotiations. On the other hand, for purposes of transparency it is necessary to share key elements with stakeholders. To strike a balance between these requirements, the Chair confirmed that he would specify when information shared with the group needs to remain confidential; otherwise it should be presumed that members of the group can share the information with their constituencies in order to provide expert advice. Members also discussed the US system of advisory committees,

and how in practice the Chair would share confidential information with the group.

- Composition of the group. Members highlighted the importance of retaining the balance of the group throughout its mandate, and discussed the value of inviting additional experts if particular items were on the agenda. It is helpful to keep this option open in order to maintain flexibility.

5. Summary of progress in negotiations and next steps

The Chair briefly summarised the current standpoint of the TTIP negotiations. He underlined the importance of the overall balance, for example in terms of market access in all three areas of tariffs, services and investment, and public procurement. The political stocktaking scheduled for 17-18 February 2014 between US Trade Representative Michael Froman and Commissioner De Gucht is the next key step, in advance of the fourth negotiating round in Brussels from 10-14 March 2014.

The following points were raised during this part of the discussion:

- Importance of the EU's precautionary principle
- Forthcoming consultation on investment protection, including Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS). Members welcomed this initiative in terms of raising awareness of the topic in the EU and urged the Commission to extend this exercise to other areas such as regulatory issues. They offered their long-standing expertise with similar types of consultations to assist DG TRADE with this one.
- Financial services regulation. Members discussed different perspectives on what TTIP might deliver in this area.
- Benefits for consumers. The group discussed the potential impact of the removal of tariffs on consumer goods bought in the US and brought back to the EU, or bought online.

6. Any other business

All members agreed to confirm their willingness to take part in the TTIP Stakeholder Advisory Group after receiving a new and final version of the Terms of Reference by email. Mr Garcia-Bercero thanked everyone for their input, and confirmed that dates for the next meetings would be identified as soon as possible.

Attendees

Members of the TTIP Stakeholder Advisory Group

BOWLES Edward (Services)
DE POUS Pieter (Environment)
ECKELMANN Ulrich (Labour and trade union)
FEDERSPIEL Benedicte (Consumers)
FELLER Roxane (Food and drink)
GOYENS Monique (Consumers)
HODAC Ivan (Manufacturing)
JENKINS Tom (Labour and trade union)
KERNEIS Pascal (Services)
LØGSTRUP Susanne (Health, alternate for Monika Kosinska)
PESONEN Pekka (Agriculture)
QUICK Reinhard (Manufacturing)
SANTOS Luisa (Business)
TOUBEAU Cécile (Environment, alternate for Jos Dings)

Commission officials

GARCIA-BERCERO Ignacio (DG TRADE)	TTIP Chief Negotiator
LEVIE Damien (DG TRADE)	Deputy TTIP Chief Negotiator
HENCSEY Monika (DG TRADE)	Lead, Sustainable Development
BHASKAR Renita (DG TRADE)	Official
DAWKINS Miranda (DG TRADE)	Official
GUEGUEN Catherine (DG TRADE)	Official
BEZEGOVA Edita (DG TRADE)	Trainee