



May 10, 2013

Ambassador Demetrios Marantis
Acting United States Trade Representative
600 17th Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20508

Re: NPES Comments on the Proposed Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP): Docket Number USTR-2013-0019.

Dear Ambassador Marantis:

On behalf of NPES The Association for Suppliers of Printing, Publishing and Converting Technologies, a U.S. national trade association of over 550 companies, ranging in size from under \$1 million in annual sales revenue to more than \$1 billion, that manufacture and distribute equipment, systems, software, and supplies used in printing, publishing and converting, we write in support of the proposed Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership, which is in harmony with and advances NPES's longstanding support of free and fair trade.

As the United States-European Union High Level Working Group on Jobs and Growth (HLWG) noted in its June 19, 2012 Interim Report:

[T]ransatlantic trade and investment are the backbone of the world economy. Together, the European Union (EU) and the United States (U.S.) account for nearly half of world GDP and 30 percent of world trade. Each day, goods and services worth \$2.7 billion/€2.0 billion are traded bilaterally, promoting economic growth and supporting millions of jobs in both economies. In addition, the United States and the EU have directly invested more than \$3.7 trillion/€ 2.8 trillion on both sides of the Atlantic.

In light of the magnitude of these statistics and with the enormous potential for even greater economic growth in mind, NPES agrees with the HLWG's conclusion that "a comprehensive agreement that addresses a broad range of bilateral trade and investment issues, including regulatory issues, and contributes to the development of global rules, would provide the most significant mutual benefit . . ." to both the U.S. and E.U.. We are, therefore, gratified by the Obama Administration's intention to enter into negotiations for a Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) agreement with the EU aimed at achieving a substantial increase in transatlantic trade and investment.

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Therefore, as negotiations commence, NPES supports the following as key objectives of the TTIP:

- Enhanced compatibility of regulations and standards.
- Elimination or reduction of conventional barriers to trade in goods, such as tariffs and tariff-rate quotas.
- Elimination, reduction, or prevention of barriers to trade in goods, services, and investment.
- Elimination, reduction, or prevention of unnecessary “behind the border” non-tariff barriers to trade in all categories.
- Effective enforcement mechanisms that reinforce protection of intellectual property rights, and provide appropriately strong sanctions designed to deter violations of those rights.
- Enhanced cooperation for the development of rules and principles on global issues of common concern and also for the achievement of shared global economic goals.

NPES appreciates the opportunity to submit this statement of broad principles and desired goals, and stands ready to provide specific comment relevant to our industry as you continue to work towards the success of the TTIP negotiations.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark J. Nuzzaco
NPES Government Affairs Director

CC: Ralph J. Nappi, NPES President

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