



European Commission, DG Trade

**Danish Agriculture
& Food Council**

Sent by e-mail to: trade-eu-us-consult@ec.europa.eu

Axelborg, Axeltorv 3
DK 1609 Copenhagen V
Denmark

T +45 3339 4000
F +45 3339 4141
E info@lf.dk
W www.lf.dk

CVR DK 25 52 95 29

Public consultation on EU-US high-Level Working Group on Jobs and Growth

The Danish Agriculture & Food Council (DAFC) welcomes the launch of an EU-US High-Level Working Group on Jobs and Growth. DAFC underlines that a successful conclusion of the Doha Development Round in the WTO must continue to be a first priority for the European Union. However, given the lack of progress in the multilateral negotiations a main focus for the EU should be achieving free trade agreements with emerging growth economies, especially in Asia.

The US is often a global competitor within the agriculture and food sector. At the same time, the US market is important for Danish (and European) agriculture and food export and strengthened cooperation between EU and US is therefore welcomed. We do not consider traditional market barriers as tariffs and quotas as a major obstacle for enhanced EU-US trade in the area of agriculture and food. US import duties on food products are generally not considered as high, by contrast, the United States have much to gain if European tariffs are reduced.

The most significant barriers to trade in the agriculture and food sector are technical barriers as well as the SPS area (sanitary and phytosanitary measures). This applies both within the meat, dairy and plant sector. The two continents have very diverse interpretation of international rules and standards, particularly regarding SPS regulation. EU's position on food policy issues are often considered as a challenge in the United States. Among several examples that have created trade conflicts are the so called hormone case, the EU's position on the use of GMOs and Novel Food. We believe it is in these areas that progress must be made in order to strengthen future cooperation and trade relations between EU and US.

Sincerely

Anna de Klauman
Head of Division

Trade & Market Relations

D +45 3339 4257
M +45 3083 1068
E adk@lf.dk

The Danish Agriculture & Food Council is a trade association representing agriculture, the food and agro industries. With annual exports in excess of DKK 100 billion and with 145,000 employees, we represent one of Denmark's most important business sectors.

Through innovation and promotion of the industry's contribution to society, we work to ensure a strong position for our members in Denmark as well as in international markets.