

Brussels, 25. 02. 2015  
JM/is Ares(2015)

Ms Goyens,  
Mr Mierzwinski  
Dear members of the TACD Steering Committee,

I would like to thank you for your letter of 30 January 2015 related to transparency in the on-going negotiations for a Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP).

I am pleased to read that you welcome the publication of the EU proposals for legal texts in TTIP. This complements other initiatives that have been taken by DG Trade since the start of these negotiations such as, for example, the publication of EU position papers in nearly all the negotiation's areas.

As you know I have made transparency a priority since I took on the trade portfolio in November 2014. The Commission has recently taken extensive steps<sup>1</sup> to ensure greater transparency in the TTIP negotiations both for Members of the European Parliament and for European citizens in general.

I want to ensure a meaningful engagement of interested stakeholders, in particular civil society representatives, in the negotiation process and in the public debate around the EU's trade agreements, including TTIP. But I also believe that we must ensure that it is an informed engagement, based on facts about what is really the substance being negotiated, not only on emotions or myths. We will therefore continue to seek improvements that can be made on transparency in our trade negotiations, starting in particular with the implementation of the elements identified in the "Communication on the transparency of the TTIP negotiations" endorsed by the Commission on 25 November 2014.

I invite you to regularly monitor our TTIP website<sup>2</sup>, which is the most comprehensive source of information about the negotiations, to access the most up-to-date information and documents.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/news/2014/docs/c\\_2014\\_9052\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/news/2014/docs/c_2014_9052_en.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/trade/policy/in-focus/ttip/>

Ms Monique Goyens  
Director General, BEUC  
EU Co-Chair of TACD

Mr Ed Mierzwinski  
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I also take note of your request that we release other negotiating documents beyond the initial EU legal proposals, in particular so-called "consolidated" documents. I am aware that this is an important request from civil society representatives and would contribute to enhancing transparency. But, we also need to respect the approach of our negotiating partners, and consolidated documents incorporate US textual proposals. These are not texts they wish to make public.

Representatives of the EU Member States as well as Members of the European Parliament can access consolidated texts on a reading room basis. As you know these two EU institutions play a crucial role in the negotiating process and will ratify at the end of this process the agreement reached.

I take this opportunity to thank TACD again for your engagement throughout these negotiations not only by providing constructive suggestions in how we could improve transparency but also relating to the substance of the negotiations themselves. TACD is one of our key interlocutors, and I look forward to continuing working with you in the near future.

Yours sincerely,



Cecilia MALMSTRÖM