

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20508

Ed Mierzwinski
U.S. TACD Co-Chair
TACD Secretariat, 24 Highbury Crescent, London N5 1RX, UK

APR 08 2015

Monique Goyens
Europe TACD Co-Chair
TACD Secretariat, 24 Highbury Crescent, London N5 1RX, UK

Dear Mr. Mierzwinski and Ms. Goyens:

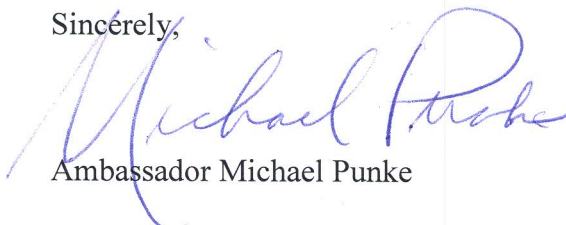
Thank you for your letters regarding the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (T-TIP) negotiations. Transparency has been an important part of the U.S. approach to T-TIP from the beginning. Before we initiated the negotiations, we jointly issued with the EU a public report that laid out in detail what we saw as the main elements of a comprehensive and ambitious agreement. The Obama Administration then described its negotiating objectives for such an agreement in a public March 2013 letter to Congress. This was followed by a formal request for public comment on our negotiating objectives and two days of public hearings.

USTR consults closely with Congress throughout the trade-making policy process. We have held hundreds of Congressional briefings on T-TIP alone. Before we table U.S. negotiating proposals we consult with Congress as well as outside experts who serve on Congressionally-mandated advisory committees. Members of these advisory committees include the presidents of nearly two dozen major labor unions, environmentalists, consumer and public health advocates, local and state officials, as well as farmers, ranchers, and small businesspeople. These outside experts have the opportunity to review and advise us on U.S. proposals before they are tabled in the negotiations.

Early last year, we posted online a detailed, issue-by-issue, plain-English description of the Administration's goals for each negotiating objective. We have posted fact sheets on key topics. As part of our negotiating process, we have solicited public comments on our objectives and held public hearings. We have also organized stakeholder forums during negotiations. And, of course, the text of any proposed trade agreement will be made publicly available well ahead of any vote by Congress on implementing legislation. We believe that these and other measures facilitate a fact-based debate rather than the myths that often dominate discussion of trade policy.

Thank you again for your letter and for your continued engagement. I look forward to working with you as T-TIP negotiations proceed.

Sincerely,



Ambassador Michael Punke