

[Out of scope]

From: [Art. 4.1(b)] (TRADE)
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To: [Art. 4.1(b)]
 [Art. 4.1(b)] (TRADE)
Cc: [Art. 4.1(b)] (TRADE); [Art. 4.1(b)] (GROW)
Subject: Aristocles: Conference TTIP - services juridiques, 13.10.2015

I sat in on a panel on "*TTIP – what market access for legal services*", organised by the French Institut Aristocles last Tuesday evening. [Art. 4.1(b)], [Art. 4.1(b)], Counsellor of the French Senate Committee on EU affairs. Of the three announced MEPs, only Marietje Schaake (ALDE) showed up (with some delay) but she gave a stellar performance, convincingly making the case for TTIP and defending the proposal on ISDS. MEP Jean Arthuis was eventually unable to make it on time. The event was moderated by [Art. 4.1(b)] of Paris II Assas.

Overall it turned out to be a non-controversial event, to an audience that seemed interested but not fully up to date on TTIP.

I presented the rationale for TTIP, and the increased role of the EP since Lisbon [Art. 4.1(b)], many thanks for the outline !!]. [Art. 4.1(b)] praised the high transparency and work to inform national parliaments. [Art. 4.1(b)] questioned the usefulness of willing to conclude during Obama's term; ambitious agreements always tend to take much longer, and negotiations do not yet seem to be well advanced or close to conclusion.

On legal services, I played down fears that TTIP would lead to an overhaul (bouleversement) of the legal services profession in Europe. I explained that the US indeed focuses on nationality and residency requirements and establishment restrictions, and that they would ideally want to enjoy internal market treatment - but that they also have their issues with regulation at State level, and that it simply would not be realistic to expect that EU MS would change such restrictions especially where these are written in law. Moreover, these mainly relate to domestic/criminal law. Instead we are taking a more pragmatic approach looking at opening markets further for foreign legal consultants, and trying to open up fly-in fly-out where possible.

I also assured that we have a policy space reservation for "public functions" like notaries and bailiffs and also exclude them from our market access offer – meaning that TTIP would not force EU MS to change their legislation. [Art. 4.1(b)] head of the EU federation of bailiffs (huissiers de justice) welcomed this (he was unaware of the Annex 2) but is likely to ask a follow-up meeting in the coming weeks.

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