



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Directorate-General for Trade

Directorate E - Neighbouring countries, USA and Canada
USA and Canada

Brussels,
 USA and Canada

Meeting Report

Meeting with Housing Europe – 20.01.2015

Participants from COM side: J. Mungengová (JM), Art. 4.1 b Art. 4.1 b

Overall, good and constructive meeting, where we managed to provide reassurances on several aspects of TTIP (notably in the area of services, public procurement and state aid) which Housing Europe saw as potentially affecting either its members or its beneficiaries.

Housing Europe sought reassurances and clarifications with regard to the impact of TTIP on social services, pointing that - as an entrusted company - some of its members were not publicly funded. Their specific concern was whether, the EU could maintain its existing schemes related to social housing. They were not afraid of new competition from possible US providers of the same services as the EU companies as long as the US companies followed the same EU rules. JM emphasized at the outset that the ability of each side to regulate would be fully preserved. MG explained in detail how it is ensured in public services on the basis of agreements concluded so far, including CETA.

Housing Europe raised questions about the potential negative effect of TTIP in the area of subsidies and requested a clarification on the definition of SGEI which appeared different in CETA. JM replied that no TTIP commitment would prevent a Member States to provide state aid as it deems fit.

Questions regarding public procurement, notably impact on tendering have also been discussed. JM explained that discussions on public procurement were still on-going but explained that in any case TTIP would not interfere with the modalities for tenders but simply lay out a non-discriminatory framework for US operators.

Housing Europe also inquired about any possible provisions to ensure greater access to finance. JM confirmed EU's strong interest in achieving regulatory cooperation on financial services. MG further explained that TTIP is an opportunity to consolidate the current openness on both sides and , all while safeguarding EU's prudential stability. Housing Europe sought clarifications regarding the role and alleged decision-making power of the Regulatory Cooperation Council (RCC) . JM explained that the aim of the RCC is to be a non-binding forum for mutual consultations.

Last, the discussion also touched upon outreach and transparency. Housing Europe welcomed the new information available on the website and expressed interest in participating in the dedicated stakeholders events.