



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Directorate-General for Trade

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

Brussels,
 USA and Canada

Meeting Report

Short note of JLD intervention at BEUC General Assembly, 22 May

Dear all,

JLD participated in place of the Commissioner (who was in Riga) in the BEUC General Assembly on Friday 22 May. This is the gathering of heads of BEUC member associations in EU Member States – a small audience of approx. 40 people. TTIP was the final item on the agenda.

JLD delivered the speech as prepared for the Commissioner. (Thanks to Art. 4.1 b, it seemed to go down well.)

The following questions were asked, and resulted in quite a good discussion. I do not include JLD's detailed responses since they were in line with usual policy.

A3 colleagues – you may wish to note last question on TTIP myths. Art. 4.1b – you may wish to note Slovene question on jobs (professor's name was not mentioned but I think this is the event you are attending next month).

- France (Que Choisir):
 - Acknowledge Commission efforts on **transparency**. Would like to know how input from consumer groups is taken into account by the Commission.
 - Need access to **consolidated texts**. Will the Commission push the US to be more transparent?
- Germany (Isabelle Buscke):
 - Will the **jobs** created by TTIP be high quality? (Cited ILO report suggesting recent job creation is low level only)
 - Where is the democratic element in **regulatory cooperation**?
 - Welcome EU consultation on **ISDS** but do not believe that the result takes into account the input received. How can the EU be sure to hold its position in negotiating with the US on investment protection?
- Italy:
 - Sentiment among European consumers is not pro- EU trade policy.
 - How can the EU successfully defend the **precautionary principle**?
 - How can lower costs for the food industry be achieved without lowering protection?

- What about impact of TTIP on important issues like **labelling** and **origin marking**?
- Slovenia:
 - Holding a TTIP roundtable next month in Ljubljana. A Slovene professor will join who believes that TTIP will destroy **jobs** in Slovenia. Can you explain more about the impact of TTIP on small EU countries and how we may ensure it is positive?
 - Can you make a list of what you do and don't intend to harmonise through TTIP? Being clear about **what is off the table** would help to show consumers there are benefits to TTIP.
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- Netherlands (Consumentenbond): Generally consumers have supported trade. But ACTA and TTIP have caused huge upswell in **public debate**. What is Commission reaction to this?
- Spain: **ISDS** is the most controversial aspect of the TTIP discussions. Taking into account the broad EU opposition to the policy, what result do you expect in the European Parliament vote on the resolution?
- Denmark (Danish Consumer Council): Can you confirm that nothing in TTIP will affect the EU's right to regulate, lower standards, introduce GMOs to Europe, alter our policy on endocrine disruptors, reduce transparency of clinical trials, affect the farm to fork policy...? *[JLD – I can confirm!]*