

CA+ 4.1b]

(TRADE)

Subject: Report: Commissioner Cecilia Malmstrom (CM) meeting with President of BusinessEurope (BE) on 6 November

From: [Art. 4.1b]

Sent: Friday, November 07, 2014 3:27 PM

To: DEMARTY Jean-Luc (TRADE); [Art. 4.1b] [Art. 4.1b] PETRICCIONE Mauro Raffaele (TRADE); GARCIA BERCERO Ignacio (TRADE); [Art. 4.1b] [Art. 4.1b] [Art. 4.1b] [Art. 4.1b] [Art. 4.1b] [Art. 4.1b]

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Report: Commissioner Cecilia Malmstrom (CM) meeting with President of BusinessEurope (BE), Emma Marcegaglia (EM), and the Director General of BE, Markus Beyrer (MB). CAB: Jon Nyman. COM: Signe Ratso. [Art. 4.1b] [Art. 4.1b]. Date: afternoon of 6th of November 2014.

At their request, CM met with BE at a get-to-know meeting where they raised some of their trade policy priorities, which are included in a trade paper (attached for reference) they have recently prepared in view of the start of the new Commission. After highlighting that Trade is one of their main priorities and a major tool to boost growth in Europe, BE mentioned in particular: TTIP including ISDS; CETA/ISDS; Trade relations with Russia including on sanctions; and the ongoing FTA with Japan.

On TTIP: EM emphasized that BE clearly supports this agreement, which has received a strong support from national business and sectoral associations across Europe, unlike some other FTAs where industry might be divided. BE stands behinds a comprehensive agreement. They are aware of the floating idea of having a smaller interim agreement, but TTIP can only be successful if it covers a critical mass of issues including on the regulatory part. Indeed, the regulatory part will be particularly beneficial for SMEs and moving towards transatlantic standards could influence the set up of higher standards in other regions such as China. The lack of concrete results achieved so far combined with the increasing voices in the public opinion against this agreement are making TTIP an increasingly challenging task. Moreover, they perceive a lack of commitment from the US side as an additional impediment. Finally, BE recalled their view that ISDS should be included in the deal. CM fully shared the views on the need of having a comprehensive and ambitious TTIP. On ISDS, she acknowledged that the topic has very much caught the attention of the public opinion. There is consensus on the fact that ISDS provisions had to be changed, something that has already been done in CETA. But TTIP is bigger than ISDS and in order to make the case for TTIP, we need tangible examples from business at national and local levels on the benefits TTIP can bring. BE informed about an event they are organising at the EP in January, with the aim of getting SMEs to tell their story about the benefits that TTIP can offer.

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