

Report of the meeting with ESF Policy Committee, 7 June 2016

I. Meeting of the ESF Policy Committee

On 7 June 2016, [Art. 4.1 b] from DG TRADE (unit B1) met members of the European Services Forum (ESF) in the meeting of the ESF Policy Committee in Brussels. The ESF members represent sectors including insurance, financial services, telecommunications, postal and express delivery services, distribution and retail, maritime transport, professional services, and computer services. The Commission updated the ESF members on the state of play of various on-going trade in services negotiations and initiatives, focusing on [Out of scope] TiSA and [Out of scope]. The presentation was followed by a Q&A session. The main questions and points raised by the ESF members during the discussion were the following:

- SES (Global Satellite Services Provider) expressed its interest in telecom services and asked for an update on progress in negotiations concerning the telecom sector.
- ESF stressed the importance of going beyond commitments at federal level in the US, as many companies suffer from barriers at sub-federal level.
- FEE (Federation of European Accountants) asked about the US interest in having a MRA on the audit profession.
- MEDEF inquired if the EU has a common position on data flows.
- ESF expressed that it is supporting COM in trying to make the US move on several sectors, such as maritime transport services, telecommunication services, and financial services.
- ESF asked whether COM consider the EU revised TiSA offer to be of good quality, and stated that ESF supports further improvement of the offer, at the same time expressing the need to keep leverage vis-à-vis other negotiations.
- [Out of scope]
- [Out of scope]

II. Informal meeting between ESF and members of TPC SI

On 7 June 2016, [Art. 4.1 b] (unit B1), and [Art. 4.1 b] (unit B2) from DG TRADE met the members of the European Services Forum (ESF) and the members of the Trade Policy Committee on Services & Investments (TPC S&I). ESF reported on its actions over the last year and explained its position towards a number of EU trade agreements, such as

[Out of scope]

- [Out of scope]

- [Redacted]
[Out of scope]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
- [Redacted]
[Out of scope]
[Redacted]

The Commission then gave a report on the state of play of the TiSA negotiations after the negotiating round in May where revised offers were exchanged, [Redacted]

[Redacted]
[Out of scope]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

- FTA inquired where the TiSA Parties stand regarding China's possible accession to TiSA.
- ESF stressed the need to clarify what constitute new services, as there seems to be a misunderstanding in media.
- On data flows, ESF argued that Member States need to push for engagement in TiSA.
- [Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Out of scope]
[Redacted]
- [Redacted]
[Out of scope]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
- [Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
- [Redacted]
[Redacted]
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[Out of scope]
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