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Directorate-General for External Policies of the Union
Committee on International Trade
The Head of Unit

16 NOVEMBER 2010

MEETING WITH THE EUROPEAN BUSINESS ORGANISATION

16 NOVEMBER 2010

Attendees

Mr Alberto Rodas, Head of Unit, Secretariat of the Committee on International Trade (INTA)

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Mr Jan Wisswaesser, Assistant to MEP Mr Daniel Caspary (EPP group),

Ms Alina Schapmann, Assistant to MEP Mr Daniel Caspary (EPP group)

Mr Fernando Sampedro, Assistant to MEP Mr Menendez del Valle (S&D group),

Dr Frank . Schauuff, AEB Russia.

Mr Michael Collins, Eurocham, Singapore.

Ms Elisabeth. Hamdouch, Eurocham, Singapore.

Mr. Renato Pacheco Neto, Eurocamaraj, Brazil

Mr. Hovhannes Loityer, EUCCA, Armenia

Mr. Michael Maibach, European - American Business Council, USA

Mr. Freddie Hoeglund, European Chambers of Commerce, Taipei,

Ms. N. de Mel, ECCSL, Sri Lanka

Mr. J. J. Lee, ECCCK - South Korea,

Mr. Martin Pilser, DG Trade, European Commission

Mr. Wolfgang Pape, DG Enterprise, European Commission

Ms. Yoalnde de Becker, DG Enterprise, European Commission

Detail

The European Business Organisation is a worldwide network representing EU-wide business interest within third countries. The EBO requested a meeting with INTA in order to present their proposal for an EBO Network Resource Centre, for which they are seeking Public Funding funding from the EU. The EBO representatives explained that the EBO is an organisation that brings together, under one umbrella, European business representatives in third countries, including the different National Chamber of commerce of the EU Member States and EU Companies. They offer services to EU companies seeking to access third country markets, especially SMEs, largely through lobbying services, information gathering etc. Their proposal foresees the setting-up of a network, with a head-office in Brussels, which would facilitate the information between decision makers and the business on the ground and which augment the capacity of the EBO to perform its tasks.

The EBO representatives stated that the services that they offer are already in line with the EU 2020 strategy and therefore they see a lot of scope for their project to be funded by the

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EU. They explained that other international partners, such as the US, have a solid trade presence, backed up by public funding, in countries where the EU has a bigger share in trade and that unless the EU invests more in this European business will to loose out. They also explained their interest and their involvement in the ongoing EU FTA negotiations and several representative gave examples of how their offices have aided the EC by providing on-the-spot information and how they would like the EU to market to EU businesses the benefits of the FTAs it negotiated.