TRADE/2295 - Meeting with AFL-CIO

Meeting date and place
Meeting held on 05/07/2022 16:00 Charlemagne

Participating organisation(s) representative(s)

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<td>Ms</td>
<td>AFL-CIO Participant</td>
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<td>Mr</td>
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Main issues discussed

startled by explaining that worker-centred trade agenda has strong support of President Biden and Ambassador Tai, who is shaping trade policy in this direction. AFL-CIO is working closely with the Administration to shape a new economic model. It sees the international engagements of the US – TTC, IPEF, G7 Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment, as key avenues to pursue this approach and work with partners. Specifically in relation to IPEF, labour movement have been thinking out of the box to bring ideas that will encourage third partners to sign up to commitments of just transition and the digital pillar. AFL-CIO is aware of the possible impact of the US not offering market access in return can have but still believes in the possibility of win-win outcomes. CF notably mentioned that they see this work as an opportunity to challenge the “digital trade model” established by USMCA, which in the view of AFL-CIO does not sufficiently reflect workers’ interests. CF considered that the EU is far more advanced on its digital policy and encouraged for the EU promote its models with the US.

On the TTC Trade and Labour Dialogue, AFL-CIO is working with USTR. In their view, the TALD needs to be a results-oriented. Hence, CF flagged several topics, such as eradicating forced labour in solar supply chain, electrical vehicles or renewable energy (showing strong alignment with the US positions we have seen on these issues in WG 3 and WG 10). In addition, CF also imagines space for dialogue on policy approaches, naming due diligence. AFL-CIO is currently working on written inputs. CF also agreed that exploring EU/US respective activities in third countries would be opportune, mentioning the IPEF region or addressing Ukraine’s actions to roll back its labour laws (more information was promised). ETUC also proposed the topic of gig economy, where DG EMPL was working on a relevant directive.

DG TRADE welcomed the strong buy-in from AFL-CIO in the TALD process. He believed a date for the meeting in September could be fixed very soon. He agreed on a meeting that would focus both on substance and process. He underlined the need for the TALD to avoid being about the TTC in general but for it to focus strongly on the mandate for work as set out in Paris. It was now important to develop in concrete terms and he welcomed that AFL-CIO wanted to put ideas forward proactively. He underlined the need for strong stakeholder engagement in the TALD and the importance of both the workers and the employers side in investing in the process.

Regarding the TALD first meeting, AFL-CIO wishes to already have a substantive discussion, alongside the discussion on format. CF noted that she expects that US Chamber of Commerce would be the business representative on US side (Marjorie Chorlins). ETUC expressed their wish that if the meeting would take place virtually, then the EU side would connect from one place. ETUC also asked about the ministerial meeting and hopes that an in-person meeting of the TALD at ministerial level would be organised at the occasion of the next TTC.

Directorate or unit
TRADE.D.1

Internal participants

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<td>Ms</td>
<td>TRADE D/1</td>
<td>@ec.europa.eu) Notetaker, Participant</td>
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