

Read out - discussion with Business Europe delegation ahead of their DC tour, 29 May 2014

Ambassador Vale de Almeida hosted yesterday the Business Europe Delegation led by [article 4.1 b] ahead of their DC tour. This includes meetings with USTR Mike Froman, Cathy Novelli at State Department and the Commerce Department. Their meeting with the Treasury was cancelled [article 4.1 b]

JVA provided an overview of the situation in the US (TTIP and TPA in view of political context/midterm elections, impact of Ukraine situation, etc.)

[article 4.1 b] indicated that their key message would be to insist on the need for the US to show more ambition in the coming months.

[not releasable]

[note: in [article 4.1 b] brief intervention at the event hosted for Pdt Barroso at the US Chamber this morning [article 4.1 b] said US movement was needed on tariffs, procurement and regulatory aspects, notably sectoral component; Pdt Barroso agreed and insisted on the importance of a comprehensive and ambitious agreement covering procurement, services and regulatory issues].

[not releasable]

[article 4.1 b] inquired about the possibility to decouple TTIP from TPP, since TPA was a victim of TPP criticism ahead of midterm elections. [not releasable]. [article 4.1. b] noted it was unlikely there would be a specific TPA for TTIP only: historically the US had always done TPAs covering multiple agreements; the current one also covered TiSA. A specific TPA for TTIP would also put into question the US commitment to the Asia pivot.

[article 4.1 b] noted that some national trade unions were supportive of TTIP and that this should be further emphasised. [article 4.1 b] noted differences across Europe in how unions view TTIP. [article 4.1 b]

Other issues that came up in the discussion included: key arguments on the importance of TTIP in the US, data transfer/privacy issues, the need to better communicate on the importance of TTIP for EU and US SMEs that do not have resources to manage complexity/need to communicate, public opinion on TTIP in some European countries and BE's work with the Chamber on a TTIP campaign in key capitals.