

Sent: Wednesday, June 18, 2014 1:21 PM

Subject: Meeting with EFPIA on innovation and TTIP

Dear all:

Yesterday [article 4.1 b], the Research and innovation counsellor, and I met with [article 4.1 b] from EFPIA at his request to discuss the possibilities to include an innovation chapter in TTIP. [article 4.1 b] suggested two specific items which could be included in a potential TTIP innovation chapter:

1) Cooperation in regulatory science. This is the upstream regulatory cooperation that would start way before a regulatory initiative has been put on the table, but which many experts consider crucial to have a common starting point and a common knowledge base which would help to avoid divergence at the downstream regulatory/ market stages. We told him that more specific suggestions on his side would be very welcome and informed him about the EU insistence on having regulator to regulator dialogue in TTIP as part of the horizontal regulatory discussions. [not releasable]

2) Another interesting point he made is that there is a convergence of technologies, like chemistry, biology, nanoengineering, ICT and data handling to produce new medicines (as well as in other fields) and that it is important not to consider sectors in isolation when facilitating pathways to markets. Inspired by this, one way of making the case for including upstream pre-regulatory cooperation as part of the TTIP discussion would be to focus on societal challenge "mission oriented" areas where new areas of commerce/ markets/ trade are and will be coming on-stream in the future which driven by emerging and converging areas of S&T. One illustration/ example could be EU-US cooperation on research programs like the IMI "Innovative Medicines Initiative" (to date this is mainly an EU initiative which US organisations would like to get involved in) which are public-private partnerships to pull resources together to address a problem, like for example rare diseases. Although the US lags behind the EU on this type of joint public private partnership, he mentioned some examples like in the past Bush's crusade against cancer, or Obama's announcement to map the brain... which would benefit from a joint coordination with EU programs. The value added that TTIP could provide here would be in providing a framework to enable these initiatives to become transatlantic, like to create contact points, establish a basis regarding how IPR are going to be attributed when companies bring molecules to a project... however, he recognised himself a caveat: there is a certain controversy regarding the IMI program in the EP and MS because "the Commission was giving money to pharma companies" [I assume then that it would be interesting to have support from a broader spectrum of sectors beyond the pharma].

There is one event in Boston and the other in San Diego - BIO 2014 - (the Director for Health Research in DG RTD - will be speaking at the latter in a session on TTIP) which will explore possibilities to improve EU-US collaboration in research and innovation projects and programs.

3) He was also open to a brainstorming to see what other items include in a potential innovation chapter. He was very well aware that intellectual property issues are very sensitive with the EP and the MS, but there is still margin to include other things non IP related.

Best regards,

[article 4.1.b]