TRADE: Miguel CEBALLOS BARON (CAB-MALMSTROM (MCB)), [Art. 4.1(b)] (DG TRADE) - report
Dow Chemical Company: attached list of participants

The meeting was organised at the company's request. MCB outlined broadly the internal functioning of COM, relations between cabinets and DGs and inter-institutional balance. US being the most important trading partner of the EU, TTIP features high among the 10 priorities of Juncker’s COM. MCB explained the strategic, political and economic importance of this agreement, with regulatory cooperation being one of the main novelties and deliverables of the negotiations. As regards the economic interest, EU seeks further opening of the US market for services, government procurement and GIs. Dow Chemicals inquired about the expected timing of TTIP. Sequencing TPA-TPP-TTIP was briefly discussed and Dow Chemicals expressed an optimistic outlook for an early passage of TPA in the Senate (May) and in the House (June). Certain aspects of TPA amendments were briefly touched upon, in particular, LNG related ones and a politically sensitive proposal concerning imports from the Occupied Palestinian Territory. The company raised the issue of GMOs and the importance of a solution for US farmers in TTIP. MCB responded to the claim stressing EU’s respect of the Single Market and the existing authorisation framework at the first place. On energy, Dow Chemicals expressed an understanding and no opposition as such to EU’s proposal for an energy title in TTIP. The company commented on the internal prospects of liberalisation of LNG exports that are likely to progress in parallel to the discussions on energy in TTIP (question of markets, not necessarily of TTIP). Crude oil trade could follow (Ex. oil condensates). Finally, the company expressed the importance of GCC and benefits of an eventual re-start of the negotiation process.