DG TRADE and GROW officials discussed TTIP and Cosmetics with Cosmetics Europe on 02/07/2015

- COM noted that main difficulty remains the fact that several products (e.g. sunscreens) are classified in the US as Over the Counter Drugs (OTCs) whereas in the EU they are classified as cosmetics. This leads to very different assessment and approval procedures. US is unlikely to change the definition of cosmetics. It is also not clear if it is possible to distinguish between primary and secondary functions of UV filters. There were some initiatives from the US consumers that pleaded for a faster approval of UV filters in the US. The EU position paper of March 2015 is still valid. There is no legal text available.

- Cosmetics Europe noted that the US Sunscreen Innovation Act does not define what scientific data will be required to prove safety of UV filters. This will be done later by means of FDA guidance.

- A pilot project on a concrete UV-filter already approved in the EU (including the data submitted) but not yet in the US could be developed (It could be however challenging to identify a UV filter + address the human resources needed).

- Cosmetics Europe enquired why allergens would be put forward as a TTIP discussion area. COM clarified regulatory cooperation in new/non regulated areas is useful. There is however no particular regulatory objective.

- As regards harmonization of labelling requirements, the financial benefit seems to be limited.

Participants:

Gerard Renner (Cosmetics Europe)