At the request of E.1 I participated in a panel debate on "Third countries and TTIP: status quo and stakes in 2015" organised by the Swiss foreign policy think tank "Foraus" in cooperation with the foundation of the German Liberals ("Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom").

Other panellists: (Economiesuisse), (Norwegian Liberal Party Venstre), (Turkish Industry and Business Association TÜSİAD).

I presented the state of play of TTIP. Referring to the WTI study on the impact of TTIP on CH (thanks Stéphanie for drawing my attention to this study) I set out the possible positive impact of TTIP on third countries in particular of the regulatory chapter ("positive regulatory spillover"). I also mentioned our usual line in terms of openness of TTIP for third countries (once an agreement on the content of TTIP is reached and if third countries are ready to meet the level of ambition of TTIP).

All panellists stressed the importance of TTIP for their countries' trade policy. The representative of TÜSİAD mentioned studies showing considerable negative impact of TTIP on the Turkish economy. He called for inclusion of a well-defined accession clause in TTIP and for granting formal "observer status" to eligible third countries.

Discussion with the small audience focused on the negative public opinion in a number of MS, possible ways to communicate TTIP more positively and on various aspects of regulatory cooperation, incl. financial services.