

From: [Art. 4.1(b)] (TRADE)
Sent: 07 September 2015 18:17
To: SCHLEGELMILCH Rupert (TRADE); [Art. 4.1(b)]
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Cc: [Art. 4.1(b)] (TRADE)
Subject: TTIP - Pearle - Meeting report 07/09/2015
Categories: Comments from party

Attendants:

Pearl: 4 people delegation led by Mr Rolf Bolwin (president) and Ms Anita Debaere (Director).

TRADE: [Art. 4.1(b)]

- **Pearle** is a 25 years-old organisation of associations dealing with all matters related to performing arts (theatres, music industry, orchestras, opera houses); represents 40 members in 20 countries; 7,000 enterprises;
- Pearle is aware of the recent letter to CM from **Deutsche Orchestervereinigung** (DOV); however, DOV are the musicians (employees), whereas Pearle represents the companies (employers). Not aware of the reply from CM;
- Main Pearle concern is about **subsidies** to cultural activities. They are aware of the COM's argumentaire on the matter. We reaffirmed those arguments and insisted on a reinsurance message;
- Pearle wondered about the consideration or not of cultural activities as "**Public Services**". We clarified that "Public Services" are not a notion used as such in the negotiation; we have not taken position on whether theatres or orchestras would qualify as "Public Services", but the issue is irrelevant insofar as this has no impact on public funding/ subsidies. The US largely shares the EU approach on the matter.
- Pearle also concerned about **visa procedures and costs** faced by EU artist on tour in the US (e.g. need for 100 members of a Munich orchestra to fly for a visa request to Berlin). This is asymmetrical to upcoming "artist visas" allowing 1 year stay to non-EU performers. We explained the problems attached to TTIP negotiations on mobility.
- Finally, limited availability of **radio spectrum** creates increasing difficulties to install micros in theatres. Until now, this was possible without license ("cultural exemption") but TTIP and presence of US mobile operators may add to those difficulties.

[Art. 4.1(b)]

