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

TRADE: [Art. 4.1(b)]

- Pearl 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;
- Pearl is aware of the recent letter to CM from Deutsche Orchestervereinigung (DOV); however, DOV are the musicians (employees), whereas Pearl represents the companies (employers). Not aware of the reply from CM;
- Main Pearl 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;
- Pearl 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.
- Pearl 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)]