



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Directorate-General for Trade

Directorate E - Neighbouring countries, USA and Canada
USA and Canada

Brussels,
USA and Canada

Meeting Report

Report meeting between CM and the European Centre of Employers and Enterprises providing Public Services (CEEP) – 19 December 2014

Attendants

Valeria RONZITTI – CEEP General Secretary; Rainer PLASSMANN – CEEP Chair SGI Taskforce; Art. 4.1b

Cecilia Malmström, Miguel Ceballos Baron (CAB), Art. 4.1b

45 minutes meeting, in which CEEP presented the views of its members concerning public services (SGIs) and in particular on public procurement and on the link between concessions and investment notably in the context of CETA (CEEP position on these issues explained in the attached paper). ISDS and transparency were also raised.

- On Services of General Interest (SGIs), CEEP signalled its main concern is the preservation of the *acquis communautaire*, notably concerning public procurement rules. CEEP explained its analysis of how CEEP believes the CETA provisions in the investment chapter on inclusion of the award of concessions and in the procurement chapter on "in-house" rules will/may have an effect on the SGIs *acquis*. CEEP believes investors from Canada could bring claims against violations of the two chapters. The attached papers summarises the position of CEEP on these issues.
- On ISDS CEEP noted the radical stance of some its member but stressed that CEEP overall supports the inclusion of ISDS subject to certain improvements as per CEEP's contribution to the consultation.
- CEEP welcomed the new transparency initiative and encouraged the Commission to do an effort in explaining better and clearer about its policies and activities. It is not enough to simply say that SGIs will not be touched.
- CEEP reiterated its interest to become a member of the Advisory Group (AG).

- CEEP looks forward to future meetings of the Civil Society Dialogue with the Commissioner.

The Commissioner expressed her commitment to continue engaging with stakeholders, provided an update on the transparency initiative and informed CEEP about the publication on 13 January of the report of the ISDS consultation. She thanked CEEP for the input provided, encouraged CEEP to continue engaging with her team and DG Trade and ensured CEEP an appropriate follow-up would be given to the document handed during the meeting. On CEEP's request to become a member of the AG the Commissioner highlighted the various means and fora stakeholders have to share their views on our policies. She did not close the door to invite CEEP to a meeting subject to the topic under discussion.