Rupert and the undersigned met with Professor Höppner and Ms Schulz, President and Deputy Secretary General of the German Cultural Council ("Deutscher Kulturrat"). The German Cultural Council is the umbrella association for a number of German cultural associations and has been a very vocal opponent to TTIP, CETA and TiSA. They will organise a "Day against TTIP" on 21 May.

Useful meeting which allowed us to clarify once again our approach on issues related to culture in trade agreements in general and TTIP in particular. Strong request from the Cultural Council to provide more tailor-made communication, possibly even at the level of CM. Agreement that discussion needs to be de-emotionalised and put on a more solid factual basis. Meeting also revealed a high level of misperception on TiSA.

Details of the issues mentioned

- **TTIP general:** RS explained general background, incl. TPA, timeline and our reluctance to go for TTIP light
- **ISDS:** RS set out next steps and general thrust of our ideas for reforming ISDS
- **General carve-out for culture/reference to UNESCO convention:** RS explained that a general carve out is not in our interest nor feasible in light of GATS commitments. RS also underlined that reference to UNESCO convention in TTIP is rather unrealistic, but we will try to get language on cultural diversity as per the negotiating directives. Cultural Council receptive but not fully convinced.
- **Subsidies:** RS explained exclusion of subsidies from services/investment liberalisation sections, hence targeted promotion of local cultural entities is not affected by TTIP. General Council proposed not to use "subsidies" in public communication, but rather "promotion of culture" ("Kulturförderung") which allegedly resonates much better with cultural sector.
• **Positive/negative list and ratchet:** We explained that scheduling approach is a mere technicality, level of protection in negative listing can be the same as in positive listing (as evidenced by CETA), ratchet not applicable to annex II.

• **GIs:** Cultural Council referred to statements made by DE Agriculture Minister. RS clarified that EU system is not up for negotiation; question is rather whether EU GIs will get additional protection in US.

• **Copyright/IPR:** Cultural Council unclear about what will be discussed in TTIP and impact of EU copyright reform. RS reassured: EU would like to get improvements for issues such as public performance rights. Copyright reform is foremost an internal EU issue, DG Trade follows closely.

• **Communication:** Cultural Council recognised improvements of communication on the part of COM, but criticised that TTIP culture paper was not visible enough and too technical. German MPs are not sufficiently familiar with the issue to make a proper judgment. RS said we would check whether communication on TTIP/culture could be stepped up, incl. possibly at CM level (public letter in connection with CM visit to Berlin in June?)

• **EU only/mixed agreement:** RS confirmed that given the likely content of TTIP the agreement would most probably be a mixed agreement. Cultural Council referred to forthcoming TTIP resolution in Second German Chamber in May.

• **Out of scope**

**Follow-up**

- Check possibility of public CM letter on TTIP culture with clear and simple messages on our approach (A.3, E.1, B.1, cab)
- Enquire about forthcoming TTIP resolution of Second German Chamber (Berlin Rep to check please. Kulturrat mentioned [Art. 4.1(b)] from Rheinland-Pfalz as rather influential in the debate about TTIP/culture among German Länder, perhaps useful to find out more)