

From: [Art. 4.1(b)] (TRADE)
Sent: 06 May 2015 18:14
To: SCHLEGELMILCH Rupert (TRADE); [Art. 4.1(b)]
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Subject: Meeting VKU Hessen on TTIP, TiSA and public services - 6 May 2015

- For registration in ARES -

Today I met the Board of the Association of Communal Enterprises of the Federal State of Hessen (Landesgruppenvorstand Hessen des Verbands Kommunalen Unternehmen - VKU).

Upon their request, I presented the state of play and background on TTIP and TiSA and their impact on public services.

Overall, it was a **constructive** meeting. Representatives understood and appreciated technical arguments and acknowledged that it was difficult to counter an emotional debate. When asked for examples, they pointed to Veolia investing in some German water networks while German companies do not have access to French markets, and agreed these are difficulties not related to TTIP and existing already today in the EU.

Particular questions and comments:

- **Transparency** – how is the Commission dealing with the public opposition, did it come as a surprise? [I responded that public attention to TTIP in comparison with other FTA is immense and highlighted recent transparency initiatives]
- ISDS will undermine German judiciary system [I pointed to existing investment agreements in Germany and developments currently taking place]
- Will trade agreements touch upon wage agreements (Tariftreuegesetz) [I referred to labour clauses in FTAs]
- Commission always mentions that negotiators do not talk about public services – it is important to do so to define and exclude them. [I responded that indeed, Malmstroem and Froman did talk about public services publicly, understanding between negotiators that public services of the other Party are not touched]
- Are there any sectoral reservations for public services that are not yet as developed as education, water, health etc [in general the horizontal public utility reservation applies, sectoral reservations go a bit further wrt MA and NT. I asked for concrete cases.]

[Art. 4.1(b)]