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**Jean-Luc Demarty at the Corporate Advisory and Support Group of BusinessEurope**

**18 February 2016, 15:00-16.30 at BusinessEurope**

## Summary

BusinessEurope introduced the meeting presenting the main topics of discussion. JLD provided an update on the state of play of the TTIP negotiations and the EU-Japan FTA as requested by BusinessEurope. Participants raised questions on TTIP: general progress – energy chapter – regulatory cooperation notably on chemicals – e-commerce – conflict minerals; prospects for an FTA with India; Mercosur and Indonesia; MES China and TDI reform.

JLD's 20 minute intervention was followed by approximately one hour of Q&A.

On **TTIP**, participants raised the following issues:

OMV wondered how the recent White House statement that it was unlikely TTIP would be concluded under the Obama administration was perceived by the Commission, and enquired about progress on the **energy chapter in TTIP**. EGF asked about the deliverables in the **energy chapter in TTIP**. JLD answered that the White House statement in question had been subsequently corrected to state that TTIP could not be *ratified* in 2016. JLD stated that the energy chapter remained a high priority for the EU, with clear objectives on transit, renewable energy etc, and hoped for positive developments in the next rounds.

General Electric enquired about progress in the negotiations in view of reaching an agreement this year. JLD indicated that the negotiations were most advanced on tariffs and work remains to be done on services, public procurement and rules.

IBM asked whether the **e-commerce chapter in TPP** could be a good template for TTIP or the **EU-Japan FTA**. JLD said that this would be an important element in the context of the services negotiations.

Caterpillar referred to the **conflict minerals** Regulation and its relation with the TTIP negotiations. JLD highlighted that the EU approach was different from the US Dodd-Frank Act.

BASF highlighted the issue of bio feedstock and bioenergy in TTIP and wondered whether **chemicals** would be included in the chapter on **regulatory cooperation**. JLD explained that the articulation between the industrial use of bio feedstock and other uses was complex and further complicated by US subsidies in the sector. JLD clarified that there would be a new text on regulatory cooperation, the objectives of which would first have to be agreed upon. BusinessEurope emphasized the importance of maintaining a high level of ambition in this chapter.

Other issues raised:

Heineken enquired whether the EU would start negotiations with **India**. JLD referred to a meeting with his Indian counterpart next week to explore the re-launching of negotiations but added a word of caution and pointed at the importance of the car sector in particular (but also spirits, services, mode 4).

Michelin asked about **Mercosur, Indonesia** and the prospects for **TDI reform**. JLD answered that a revised exchange of offers with Mercosur could potentially take place in April and highlighted the various offensive interests and sensitivities in agriculture. On Indonesia, JLD referred to the improved mood, ongoing work on scoping and the ASEAN summit in March where Commissioner Malmström will participate. JLD noted that the MES debate could be an opportunity to revisit the blockage of the TDI file in Council.

ArcelorMittal raised the **MES China** issue: referred to the demonstration of the steel industry last Monday, asked about the next steps. JLD emphasized the importance of finding solutions to protect European companies from unfair practices while complying with the EU's international obligations. JLD called on business to help in finding a balanced solution in this regard.

[Art. 4(1)b]

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**European Commission**

DG TRADE G3 - Market Access, Industry, Energy and Raw Materials

