

Karel DE GUCHT
Member of the European Commission

Dacian CIOLOŞ
Member of the European Commission

Brussels, 07 NOV. 2013
D(2013)3447083

Dear [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your letter of 30 September 2013 where you present the views of your organisations on the key importance of eliminating unnecessary regulatory obstacles to bilateral trade within the framework of the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) negotiations.

First of all let me stress that receiving detailed information on the barriers that our exporters are facing, such as those provided in your letter, is of fundamental importance in order to prepare adequately the EU negotiating position.

As you rightly noted, the TTIP represents a key opportunity to address not only tariff barriers in areas where EU products can compete on the U.S. market, but also all other non-tariff barriers that are equally if not more important than tariffs for EU exporters. In order to fully exploit the potential opportunities offered by the large U.S. marketplace the EU needs to address these two aspects of the negotiations (tariffs and non-tariff barriers) in parallel.

This is in line with the findings of the Final Report of the EU-U.S. High Level Working Group (HLWG), issued on 12 February 2012, which recognised that a significant portion of the benefit of TTIP will come from the removal of behind-the-border barriers.

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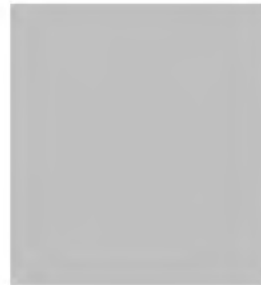
The specific documents annexed to your letter will be studied by our services, which will remain in contact with your organisations.

We look forward to exchanging views on the issues raised in your letter at a future opportunity.

Yours sincerely,



Karel De Gucht



Dacian Cioloș