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HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

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Brussels,
15. 09. 2015
A(2015)

Dear Mr Lymbery,
dear Mr Weidenhofer,
dear Mr Ivanov,
dear Ms Stoczkiewicz,
dear Mr Jensen,
dear Mr Di Croce,

Thank you for your open letter (our reference ARES(2015)1606418). Please accept our apologies for the delay in replying to you.

We fully understand your concerns about the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) which are not new to us and we can assure you that they are fully taken into account in the ongoing negotiations.

The Commission is monitoring agricultural markets closely, both inside the EU and on the international marketplace. We are fully aware of the difference between production standards in the U.S. and in the EU and of the diverging cost structures between the EU and U.S. This is clearly integrated into our negotiating positions.

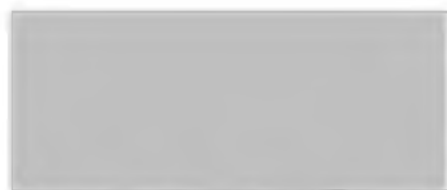
As regards public health, including food safety, as well as animal welfare and environmental protection, the Commission has already made it clear that TTIP will not result in any lowering of our standards. We can only confirm this commitment. We are working to ensure that international trade agreements achieve a level playing field. We would like to add that worker protection is also not for negotiations under TTIP.

Philip Lymbery, Chief Executive, Compassion in World Farming
Harald Weidenhofer, General Secretary, EFFAT
Todor Ivanov, Secretary-General EuroCoop
Magda Stoczkiewicz, Director Friends of the Earth Europe
Génon K. Jensen, Executive Director, HEAL
Paolo Di Croce, Secretary General of Slow Food

Having said that, it is also important to recognise the positive role of agricultural trade for EU farmers. As you rightly mention, the quality and safety of EU food are among the best in the world. We believe that TTIP can provide further market opportunities in particular for these highly valued products. This would be for the benefit of EU farmers and food industry.

We hope that this letter has addressed all the issues you have raised.

Yours sincerely,



Cecilia MALMSTRÖM



Vytenis ANDRIUKAITIS



Phil HOGAN
