

From: Art. 4.1(b) (TRADE)
Sent: Friday, October 14, 2016 6:16 PM
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Subject: Report meeting with UNIFE

On Thursday 13 October 2016 Art. 4.1(b) and I participated in a meeting organised by UNIFE, the European Rail Industry. Participants to this meeting were representatives from private and public entities in the railway sector. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss various aspects of interest to the European rail industry with respect to China, specifically on public procurement, investment and the one-belt-one-road map. Colleagues from DG GROW and MOVE were also present.

I gave an overview of the state of play of the EU – China investment negotiations and explained the scope of the negotiations in line with the convergence reached early 2016. Questions were raised on the timeline for conclusion of the negotiations the potential effects of the Vattenfall case for these negotiations and the interaction with the parallel US-China negotiations.

In concluding the meeting, industry representatives noted that China's evolving tax regime and the growing rail manufacturing capacity render the conclusion of the Investment Agreement an imperative to protect the interests of European companies in the sector.

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