Informal Meeting between ESF and TPC SI on 17 June 2014

Part on TiSA & Investment

Short summary: On services, briefed ESF on the state of play of TiSA; other FTAs were not addressed due to time constraints. In the Q&A session together with Member States, discussions addressed a variety of issues (need for industry input on non-FTA countries for TiSA, timing of different negotiations, financial services and ICT in TiSA etc).
Full report

briefed ESF members about the current state of play on TiSA. He reiterated the need for industry input on market access issues for countries with which the EU does not have or is not negotiating an FTA on services. He reported that the main emphasis for the coming rounds will be on regulatory disciplines, particularly in areas where quick progress might be possible, notably domestic regulation, financial services, ICT, but also mode 4, and, to a more marginal extent, transparency.

Due to time constraints, the session with Member States started with a Q&A session across a number of services issues immediately. The following issues were raised:

HSBC mentioned that regarding financial services in TiSA, the EU approach was a good starting point. Regarding market access, they reported some difficulties with Turkey on data, as well as middle and back office functions. Input will be provided in written.

British Telecom mentioned that on ICT and the digital agenda, the pro-competitive rules should be reflected, and that TiSA could be crucial in this respect. The representative was also interested whether India would join TiSA.