



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Directorate-General for Trade

Directorate B - Services and Investment, Intellectual Property and Public Procurement
Services

Brussels, 15 November 2012

MEETING REPORT

Subject: Meeting with the European Services Forum (ESF) and the Member States Delegates at the TPC Services and Investment, 12 November 2012

Objective: The main objective of this bi-annual informal meeting organized at the initiative of ESF was to discuss the state of play of the plurilateral negotiations as well as the individual FTA negotiations.

Details:

2. Plurilateral negotiations on services

COM ([Art. 4.1 b]): debriefed ESF on the state-of-play of the plurilateral services negotiations among the group of Really Good Friends (RGF).

Comments and questions from ESF and its members:

- ESF and TheCityUK congratulated COM on the progress made since the last ESF meeting.
- ESF expressed support for the possibility to multilateralize the initiative in the future so that the agreement can be extended to other major markets as well later on.
- ESF inquired about the timeframe for other WTO Members to join the initiative.
- ESF and TheCityUK inquired about how the upcoming negotiations will be managed and in particular asked if the WTO Secretariat will be involved.
- Siemens inquired about the objective for including government procurement in this services initiative.
- ESF asked the Cypriot Presidency about the attitude of MSs in the TPC towards the plurilateral initiative, in order to learn if MSs are likely to endorse the process.

COM ([Art. 4.1 b]): elaborated on the expected timeframe and reiterated that the door is left open for other WTO Members to join the initiative either during the negotiations or later. Explained that there is no consensus among RGFs about the role of the WTO Secretariat in the plurilateral negotiations. Mentioned an option that secretarial duties could be executed on rotational basis taking the example of the TPP negotiations.

Emphasized the importance to flag our interest in including government procurement in the plurilateral.

The Cypriot Presidency ([Art. 4.1 b]) explained that there are lot of discussions in the TPC on the details and mentioned that it is hard to predict the progress than can be made until the end of the presidency. Also thanked COM for organizing an expert meeting on the plurilateral initiative.

[Art. 4.1 b] , Trade B.1 - Services