

Mission Report
EU-US High Level Working Group
Meeting with USTR counterparts
24/05/12-25/05/12

MEETING WITH US DAIRY EXPORT COUNCIL

Participants: [4.1.6]
Rupert Schlegelmilch (RS), Anders C. Jessen (ACJ), Guilio Menato (GM), Sibylle Zitko (SZ).

On May 24, 2012 we met with representatives of the US Dairy Export Council (USDEC). RS briefly explained in the background for the visit and the nature of the discussions that were on-going within High-Level Working Group on intellectual property (IP). He noted that an important part of the exercise was to canvass various stakeholders on both sides of the Atlantic on their views/interests/concerns about a possible launch of FTA negotiations. RS also mentioned that the recent common names initiative illustrated the need to talk since it seemed to be based on several misperceptions of EU GI policy.

JC expressed a strong interest to engage in discussions, including on geographical indications, while noting that discussions were likely to be very very difficult [

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GT explained that the recent common names initiative was in part triggered by a need to counter some of the things that the EU was doing, for example, through its FTAs, although he added that the USDEC clearly accepted GIs.

RS asked whether there was any agreement on the basic principles applying to GIs.

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RS noted the calendar and suggested to stay in contact as we the process moved forward.

MEETING WITH THE MOTION PICTURE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Participants: MPAA, Rupert Schlegelmilch (RS), Anders C. Jessen (ACJ), Michaela Chen (MC), Sibylle Zitko (SZ)

We subsequently met with representatives of the Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA) to discuss a range of issues linked to the on-going work in the HLWG. The MPAA particularly confirmed their strong interest in seeing a IPR Chapter included in any agreement not least because of the signal it would send if the world's two leading economies concluded an FTA without such a Chapter. There was also a brief discussion of the current state of play in Europe on ACTA and the general backlash against IP.