

Subject: Meeting with the ICT services industry

On March 1st, we met with the European ICT services industry. The objective of the meeting was to update industry representatives on the current EU trade agenda with regard to ICT services and exchange view on a number of outstanding issues.

Participants:

[Art. 4.1 (b)], ESF;

[Art. 4.1 (b)], BT Group plc;

[Art. 4.1 (b)], IBM Europe, Middle East and Africa;

[Art. 4.1 (b)] FRANCE TELECOM group to the EU;

[Art. 4.1 (b)], INMARSAT Global Ltd. London;

[Art. 4.1 (b)], SES;

[Art. 4.1 (b)], NOKIA;

[Art. 4.1 (b)], ERICSSON;

[Art. 4.1 (b)], DEUTSCHE TELEKOM AG;

[Art. 4.1 (b)], TELEFÓNICA and ETNO;

[Art. 4.1 (b)], VODAFONE;

[Art. 4.1 (b)], DIGITALEUROPE;

[Art. 4.1 (b)], TELENOR.

Marco Duerkop, Fabien Gehl, Lucrezia Tuis, DG TRADE B1; Nils Weller, DG TRADE G3.

Christer Hammarlund, Silvia Viceconte, Cristina Vargiolu, DG INFSO A2.

Summary:

COM presented the ongoing discussions and negotiations which are taking place at both multilateral and bilateral level. COM also highlighted issues subject to ongoing debate, such as convergent services, the potential inclusion of services in the ITA review and the cross-border data flows.

Highlights of the comments by the industry:

[not relevant]

- On the EU-US relationship, BT stressed the well-known problem of access to leased lines (to so-called "special access" issue, whereby AT&T and Verizon overcharge operators to have access to their network) and invited COM to tackle this issue.

COM invited all industry representatives to share interests and concerns, especially for country with which FTA negotiations are ongoing. All participants welcomed the initiative and encourage COM to repeat the event.

Best,

Fabien