

## **GARCIA LOPEZ BERGES Victor (TRADE)**

---

**Subject:**

FW: minutes Meeting with Fertilizers Europe - gas prices in Russia and WTO Commitments

---

**From:** WESTERHOF Jan Gerrit (TRADE)

**Sent:** Tuesday, July 03, 2012 12:30 AM

**To:** BALAS Peter (TRADE); RATSO Signe (TRADE); SOURMELIS Petros (TRADE); PIERROS Filippas (TRADE-PARIS); WESTERHOF Jan Gerrit (TRADE); AMILHAT Jane (TRADE); PAWLOWSKI Krzysztof (TRADE); KISS Balazs (TRADE); OSIECKA Agnieszka (TRADE); D'APRILE Fabrice (TRADE); SORENSEN Carsten (TRADE); MUSALL Benjamin (TRADE); DUKATS Ivars (TRADE); GALLE Kurt (TRADE)

**Subject:** minutes Meeting with Fertilizers Europe - gas prices in Russia and WTO Commitments

### **DG TRADE meeting with Fertilizers Europe, 2 July 2012**

Participants:

Industry: [

Fertilizers Europe);

Art. 4.1b  
Art 4.1.b ] Gas Strategies.

DG TRADE: Balás, Amilhat, Ratso, Sourmelis, Pierros, Pawlowski, Westerhof, D'Aprile, Galle, Dukats, Osiecka, Kiss, Sorensen, Musall (minutes),

Key points:

[ NOT RELEVANT TO THE REQUEST ]

- As regards the **possible launch of EU-US FTA negotiations**, COM (C. Sorensen) explained that the recently published interim report of the High-Level Working Group (HLWG) on Jobs & Growth only gave recommendations, but did not include any commitment to actually open FTA negotiations with the US. First a **political agreement** would be needed, if this would be the case it may be expected that the Commission **negotiating directives** would be approved by the Council in the first half of 2013 (probably around spring 2013). The preparatory steps would also necessarily include an **impact assessment** stage. Stakeholders are currently being consulted on the various issues important for a possible agreement between the EU and US. Asked by FE whether such negotiations may be used to address the important issue of significant differences in EU and US carbon policies, PPB clarified that such issues would not be subject to FTA negotiations but needed to be raised in a broader context. For instance, this could possibly be addressed in international climate change negotiations.