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From: EMBERGER Geraldine (TRADE)
Sent: 06 July 2012 18:50
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Subject: HLWG; regulatory issues; meeting with Euratex; report

Meeting took place together with ENTR C. Siebert and C. Roeland; From Euratex (

Art 4.1b

COM provided overview of HLWG and next steps.

Points raised by Euratex:

- Issues faced by textile and clothing industry are not only of regulatory nature, they also reach into other areas such as PP (most relevant for the textile section) where Euratex would like to include the sub-federal level and trade irritants (Buy America, Lacy Act)
- As to legislation by the CPSC (most relevant to the fashion section) the level of consumer protection in the legislation is roughly similar than in the EU but the implementation differs.

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- Moreover, the US requires third party testing while EU applies SDOC. This means EU industry has to carry out testing before it can trade certain products in the US ds

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- TSCA review could lead to an increase in scope or substances covered and thus trigger the need for special permissions – again costs of doing business would go up.
- As regards labelling, industry asks for the acceptance by US of the EU proposal in the WTO

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- Euratex is willing to look at the relative economic importance of the different NTBs. But given that companies make overall calculations of what it will cost them to enter the market, it will be difficult to single out a certain regulation.
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- Burdensome customs checks and procedures, which come on top of other controls inside the country add additional costs for EU industry when trading their products in the US market
- On tariff, Euratex is in favour of full liberalisation (and thinks US would not have a problem with that, at least in clothing)

- Euratex has had a first exchange with their US counterparts and will intensify contacts (US can be expected to be on the same page as regards the clothing section at least)

Conclusion:

Euratex will send us their revised paper as soon as possible
Further meeting may be envisaged in the fall, if need be

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