

From: Art. 4.1(b) (TRADE)
Sent: Thursday, December 11, 2014 4:00 PM
To: GARCIA BERCERO Ignacio (TRADE)
Cc: Art. 4.1(b) (TRADE); Art. 4.1(b) (TRADE); Art. 4.1(b) (TRADE); Art. 4.1(b) (TRADE); Art. 4.1(b) (TRADE); TRADE TTIP TRANSPARENCY
Subject: Meeting with British Medical Association on CETA, TTIP and health services

Dear Ignacio,

To note that the British Medical Association (BMA) met with Art. 4.1(b) from B2, Cecile Billiaux from the Cabinet (whom I understand the BMA requested to organise the meeting) and myself on Tuesday this week.

Art. 4.1(b) from the London office and Art. 4.1(b) of the Brussels office explained that they were keen to understand more about the EU's policy on health services in trade agreements, in order to explain the situation more clearly to their UK membership base (they're both a trade union and a professional body). Art. 4.2 first indent and 4.3 first subparagraph

They appreciate there are not yet any TTIP texts to look at – hence the interest in CETA. We explained the structure and the reservations of CETA with regards to public health services.

They showed interest in high level declarations e.g. from the Commissioner about protection of public services Art. 4.3 first subparagraph. We noted the information already on our website and the Chief Negotiators' statements at the end of R7.

They asked about progress on the ISDS consultation, and we referred to the Commissioner's point in DC that the report would be released in the New Year.

Lastly they were also keen to understand what CETA has done with regards to mutual recognition of professional qualifications. We explained that CETA merely sets a framework to facilitate the voluntary negotiation of MRAs in the future, led by the regulators as appropriate.

The BMA has been quite vocal in the UK debate about its concerns over the risks that TTIP and CETA may pose to the NHS, so it is good news that they want to know more about the detail behind the headlines. Art. 4.2 first indent and 4.3 first subpara. We have therefore sent clarifications in writing as you'll see below and attached.

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