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Directorate-General for Trade

Directorate E - Neighbouring countries, USA and Canada
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USA and Canada

Report: Meeting with ACEA Tep-Ext on TTIP cars, Brussels, 20.05.2015

On 20.05.2015, DG Trade ([redacted] , [redacted]) and DG Grow ([redacted]) debriefed ACEA Members on the last round of TTIP negotiations on cars. The meeting lasted around 1.30h.

Commission opened the meeting with a general assessment of the process – which has continued to increase in probability of delivering a result again during the last round. The engagement of both sides remains at a high level. However, the size of what is going to be the end result is still a function of the next technical discussions and more importantly the political process to start over the summer. The industry studies on both the equivalence and the economic importance of an agreement will have an impact on the size of what can be achieved.

DG Grow debriefed on the four areas of discussion (equivalence, 1998 Agreement, bilateral harmonisation, research cooperation). She provided quite some detail on NHTSA's proposal for the three areas of bilateral harmonisation (automatic emergency braking, adaptive driving beam, seatbelt interlock). We clarified the potential benefits of these areas. Industry did not react negatively. On equivalence, she mentioned the third test case on crashworthiness that DG Grow is elaborating. Industry wanted to have clarity on the time frame. The objective is to have it ready for presentation in the next round, but that no reaction from NHTSA would be expected.

On the 1998 Agreement, reference was made to the joint trilateral process and the joint paper for the WP.29. The next step is now to reflect on how to proceed in Geneva with regard to third countries. A possible submission in June is not excluded, but may be some intermediary steps are needed. Industry enquired whether this trilateral process could have negative repercussions on the Japan FTA negotiations. Commission clarified that the trilateral process has only helped both bilateral process, with U.S. and with Japan, since in Japan the basis for discussion is the 1958 Agreement.

An important part of the discussions was the question of cumulation on rules of origin in TTIP. DG Trade provided a general outline of the issue and various parameters that needed to be considered. The reaction of industry was polite, but tension could be sensed in the room. Commission offered cooperation also with technical experts from industry.

Thank you for your interest.