

**From:** [Art. 4.1(b)] (TRADE)  
**Sent:** 06 October 2015 09:00  
**To:** SCHLEGELMILCH Rupert (TRADE); GARCIA BERCERO Ignacio (TRADE);  
 [Art. 4.1(b)]  
**Cc:** [Art. 4.1(b)] (TRADE)  
**Subject:** meeting with BAGFW, the Association of German Social Welfare Organizations 29.09.15

-----for ARES registration pls-----

[Art. 4.1(b)] participated in a meeting with BAGFW, the Association of German Social Welfare Organizations including Paritat, German Red Cross, Diakonie, Caritas, ZWST, AWO.

*Summary:*

Meeting dedicated to discuss the EU approach to social services in the publicly available EU revised services offer in TTIP. We went through the BAGFW questions, and provided them with explanations on the EU position. BAGFW was not able to come up with any concrete problems with the EU approach. They seemed to be reassured on most of the issues, even though they expressed a preference to have a concrete exclusion of social services in the "public utilities" reservation.

*Details:*

BAGFW raised the following questions:

- Are there any legal reasons why the commitments in TTIP have to meet at least the level of the ones in the GATS?
- What is the scope of EU commitments related to social insurance and in particular what is meant by "publicly funded". In particular do tax exemptions/reduced VAT would make the services publicly funded?
- Can social services be subsidized under TTIP?
- Why the EU reservation on public utilities does not mention social services? Does this reservation cover this sector? Is it conceivable to add social services?
- Does ISDS apply to social services? What are the consequences?

We responded to those questions and agreed to get in touch in the case BAGFW had new issues. We also informed BAGFW about the new post of TTIP spokesperson who could engage with BAGFW on a more regular basis, if necessary.