

MEETING TRADE CABINET-ECSA 16 July 2015

MEETING REPORT

Participants:

COM: Maria Åsenius, Head of Cabinet
 Christian Burgsmueller, Member of Cabinet
 Rupert Schlegelmilch, Director DGTrade B-1
 [Art. 4.1(b)] DGTrade B-1

ECSA: Patrick Verhoeven, Secretary General
 Lieselot Marinus, Director

ECSA (EU association of Ship-owners) explained the background of its position on TTIP, which has become increasingly supportive of the TTIP negotiations over the last months.

COM summarised the state of play of the TTIP negotiations, [Art. 4.1(a)] [Art. 4.1(a)]. COM explained that the discussions are now getting new momentum (TPA, EP resolution), and that it intends to step up its action in a number of areas where the EU has clearly offensive interests, including of course maritime services. Although maritime is a sensitive subject for the US, the EU level of ambition should be high, and go beyond simply maintaining the existing situation, by obtaining some new market access.

ECSA welcomed the confirmation by COM that maritime transport is a real offensive objective of the negotiations, which fact is important for ECSA [Art. 4.1(a)] [Art. 4.1(a)]. ECSA explained that it has undertaken a study which is now about to be concluded; the study will focus on two specific areas [Art.4.2] [Art.4.2], where it appears that an opening of the US market would be beneficial for both the EU and the US (e.g. more activities in ports, less pollution). In parallel to the study, the ECSA Secretariat is also collecting information from its members that will provide COM with very useful background for the negotiations.

COM welcomed the increasing engagement by ECSA and underlined the importance for the Commission to get clear signals from the industry about what exactly its priorities are, and as much information as possible in support of these objectives.

[Art. 4.2]

[Art. 4.2]

[Art. 4.1(a)]

It was agreed that, for the various reasons mentioned above, it is important that COM and ECSA continue to maintain and even intensify their contacts over the next few weeks, so as to best coordinate their respective actions and elaborate an overall strategy that will be then implemented within the next few months.