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Directorate-General for Trade

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Luxembourg, GR Business Days 2015, Workshop "The potential of TTIP for SMEs" – 18 June 2015

Dear colleagues,

A short summary of the Workshop yesterday in Luxembourg:

The Workshop attracted only few participants (Chambre de Commerce Luxembourg, EU citizens, European Commission). The intense fact based discussion revealed that there are many misconceptions due to the information in the media. Only few were aware that the Commission is delivering already high transparency for the TTIP negotiation. All were surprised that the EU had a bilateral positive trade balance for goods and services. There remains a diffuse anxiousness of EU citizens regarding a possible worldwide dominance of large US companies. The resistance against TTIP in some countries could also be seen as a public opposition against national governments. The low participation showed that business persons, especially from SMEs, have limited time to participate at TTIP information events. After the presentation, participants mentioned that they were astonished about the huge amount of available information on SMEs issues and that TTIP could be good for small companies if fair competition is ensured in an open transatlantic market.