

## **GARCIA LOPEZ BERGES Victor (TRADE)**

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**Subject:** Report meeting Eurogroup for Animals - 20 February 2014

**From:** GUEGUEN Catherine (TRADE)

**Sent:** Thursday, February 20, 2014 5:09 PM

**To:** REDONNET Denis (TRADE); GUELLNER Lutz (TRADE); BHASKAR Renita (TRADE); DAWKINS Miranda (TRADE); EMBERGER Geraldine (TRADE); GARCIA LOPEZ BERGES Victor (TRADE); GUEGUEN Catherine (TRADE); LEVIE Damien (TRADE); NIETO HERNANDEZ Esther (TRADE); PADURARIU Amelia (TRADE); SCHMITZ Jan (TRADE)

**Cc:** LLORENTE GONZALEZ Eva Maria (TRADE); MAIER Wolf-Martin (TRADE); WEIGL Ulrich (TRADE); SOMOGYI Zoltan (TRADE); HENCSEY Monika (TRADE); VAN EECKHAUTE Jean-Charles (TRADE); BILLAUX Cecile (TRADE); TRADE TTIP TRANSPARENCY

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Participants:

Six representatives were present, not all of them had cards.

[ ART 4.1b ], Eurogroup, [ ART 4.1b ]  
[ ART 4.1b ], Eurogroup, [ ART 4.1b ]  
[ ART 4.1b ], Humane Society, [ ART 4.1b ]  
[ ART 4.1b ], Compassion in World Farming, [ ART 4.1b ]

Ignacio Garcia Bercero (IGB)

Catherine Gueguen

Eva Lorrente

Wolf Maier

The discussion focussed on TTIP negotiations and in particular those aspects that are of interest to the group.

IGB explained the schedule and the objectives of the TTIP negotiations, which include strengthening of regulatory coherence in general and in specific sectors, including SPS. He also recalled the possible timing of the negotiations.

### 1. Advisory Group and other means of participation in TTIP negotiations

Eurogroup expressed regret that they are not part of the Advisory Group. The agriculture and food sectors are represented through COPA-Gogeca and FoodDrink Europe. IGB explained that Eurogroup can work through these representatives. Also, COM is always open to have further discussions between leads and NGO's. Happy to receive any input and comment, very interested in papers detailing the technical implications of some measures. Stakeholder presentations and consultations are planned during the fourth round of negotiations in March (Wednesday 12 March) in Brussels. Details can be found on the web site of TRADE.

### 2. Farm animal welfare and other EU standards related to food production

The group expressed concern that TTIP might lead to a dilution of EU standards related to food safety or animal welfare. Hormones, GMOs, AMTs, growth promoters and cloning were mentioned as examples. IGB made it very clear that these concerns are unfounded. The group also expressed concerns that the auditing system on the US side might not be appropriate to guarantee that the EU food safety requirements are met.

### 3. Other areas of concern in TTIP

Environmental standards: Commitments related to environmental standards are also of interest and IGB invited the group to analyse the Agreements which the EU and US have recently concluded with Korea. Possibly, such an exercise can help to identify specific issues that group wishes to highlight.

Wildlife protection: The group would welcome a commitment of EU and US to collaborate more to discourage wildlife trafficking, not only on a bilateral scale, but globally.

Illegal fishing: The group would welcome strong commitments to discourage illegal and unsustainable practices, also in third countries.

IGB suggested that the group makes contact with Monica Hencsey and DG ENVI to discuss these aspects in more detail.

#### 4. Questions outreach and validation of the process

Outreach : the group asked questions regarding the outreach process in the Member States and asked how they could participate. IGB explained that this is the competence of each Member State to organize the outreach regarding TTIP. The Commission is happy to help for material and send officials to participate in presentations/debate when possible but the negotiating team is limited and very busy working on the details of the negotiations.

Validation by the national Parliaments : IGB explained that we don't know yet if it will be a mixed agreement or not. He recalled the need for legal scrubbing and translations.