

GARCIA LOPEZ BERGES Victor (TRADE)

Subject: Meeting with ACEA, Tep-ex: TTIP NTB cars, 20.11.2013

From: SCHITTEK Carsten (TRADE)
Sent: Wednesday, November 20, 2013 5:39 PM
To: GARCIA BERCERO Ignacio (TRADE); PERREAU DE PINNINCK Fernando (TRADE)
Cc: LEVIE Damien (TRADE); REDONNET Denis (TRADE); EMBERGER Geraldine (TRADE); TRADE TTIP TRANSPARENCY
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Today ACEA invited the Commission for a debriefing on the state of play of the last TTIP round on cars NTBs. DG ENTR was equally invited but could not participate.

I debriefed ACEA members (around 40 participants, and ACEA secretariat including [ART. 4.1b]) on last week's meetings on a positive note, highlighting:

1. the good and high-level participation on NHTSA and DoT, including DoC, and of course USTR (I was later asked about the names which I provided);
2. the good and friendly atmosphere in particular between NHTSA and DoT colleagues with EU negotiating team;
3. the broad overlap on areas that U.S. presented that they would like to explore in further work;
4. the relative open discussion on GTRs and possible strengthening of cooperation, including transposition into national rules;
5. the perspectives of enhanced cooperation with regard to new technologies, including research agendas;
6. the inclusion in the U.S presentation of "equivalence" as a key item to be further explored.

Regarding the last point, I mentioned that not more than a first airing has taken place. I noted that NHTSA equally introduced the possibility of harmonisation of areas where no equivalence could be established. The "methodology" as such was not discussed in any relevant detail, but that we all know that this is where most of the work and efforts will need to be devoted to, starting from the next round.

On a question from participants I added that we had of course also kept environmental issues on the table, but that even internal thinking was still at a preliminary stage.

A number of other questions turned around testing the level of commitment of NHTSA and the role of USTR. Finally, a question was put whether there had been any mentioning of the industry study.

On process, the questions related to the intended frequency and whether inter-sessional meetings were planned. I responded that the next round was confirmed for the week of 16.12. and that it made no sense to have an inter-sessional meeting in the short time before.

The third round would then lead to an assessment on further possible inter-sessional contacts as well. It is probable that some "joint document" should be the outcome of the third round, identifying the areas of further work.

Chief-negotiators were discussing an intense time-table of negotiations until October 2014 – all of which will be part of the stock-taking at Ministerial level.

ACEA [ART. 4.1b] informed that Alliance and ACEA were going to decide this Friday on whom to pick as a consultant for the industry study. [NOT RELEVANT]. I showed our interest in receiving any early information on the methodology the consultant is going to use. ACEA committed to provide us with information by the end of next week. They concluded that they appreciated the close and regular information meetings with the Commission on this negotiation.

Thank you for your interest.