

GARCIA LOPEZ BERGES Victor (TRADE)

Subject:

Summary meeting IGB - ETUC/AFL-CIO, 09-10-2013

From: NIETO HERNANDEZ Esther (TRADE)

Sent: Thursday, October 10, 2013 3:55 PM

To: GARCIA BERCERO Ignacio (TRADE); LEVIE Damien (TRADE); SORENSEN Carsten (TRADE); SCHMITZ Jan (TRADE); GUEGUEN Catherine (TRADE); EMBERGER Geraldine (TRADE); FORMENTINI Silvia (TRADE)

Cc: TRADE TTIP TRANSPARENCY; GUELLNER Lutz (TRADE); GAGO DE LA MATA Montserrat (TRADE); HENCSEY Monika (TRADE); BROWN Colin (TRADE)

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Participants:

[ART. 4.1b], [ART. 4.1b] (ETUC), [ART. 4.1b] (AFL-CIO)

Ignacio Garcia Bercero, Silvia Formentini, Esther Nieto, Jan Schmitz (TRADE)

Main highlights

- Almost 1h30 mn meeting with a focus on the regulatory aspects of the negotiations as well as on investment/ISDS
- IGB explained the current state of play, the prospects of negotiations in 2013, etc, as well as the guiding principles the EU intends to take in the regulatory negotiations
- Trade Unions welcomed the information provided and the various examples given but noted their concerns about how the regulatory compatibility elements of the negotiation could work in practice. ETUC/AFL-CIO noted their interest in standardisation and showed support to the CEN/CENELEC work as they are directly involved in the process of standards definition. Also, ETUC/AFL-CIO expressed their concern about the "real" regulatory agenda of the USTR, given public statements of Ambassador Froman.
- ETUC/AFL-CIO also enquired about the prospects of negotiations on financial services regulation.
- Overall IGB highlighted the high interest from the Commission services to engage regularly with trade union representatives on TTIP and offered also the possibility of organising in-depth technical meetings with lead negotiators in areas of particular interest
- As regards the future institutional framework, ETUC/AFL-CIO enquired about the interaction with stakeholders with that process and the link to the right to regulate. They also expressed particular concern on two related issues, that they also consider key for the overall TTIP process, the privileged access of business and transparency. On this, ETUC/AFL-CIO asked whether the EU intends to set up a similar framework that what exists in the US with its advisory committees and noted that whatever practice is pursued, there must be balanced stakeholder engagement. ETUC showed interest in participating actively in whatever the EU sets up
- Another issue briefly raised was investment/ISDS. ETUC/AFL-CIO enquired about the EU position, in particular following the various MS positions on the issue and the fact that this issue is being raised as a concern by a wide range of stakeholders. IGB stressed the need to find a proper balance between rights to regulate and investor rights as well as to ensure that the right procedures are put into place. ETUC/AFL-CIO also noted with concern the recently published factsheet on ISDS by DG Trade. It believes it is purely defensive and does not address the real concerns civil society is putting forward on ISDS.
- It must be highlighted that ETUC underlined the good communication it has to TRADE services and welcomed, in particular, the over 3 hour meeting they had had the day before with unit D1 on the SD chapter as well as the relations with the investment unit.