



## EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Directorate-General for Trade

Directorate E - Neighbouring countries, USA and Canada  
**USA and Canada**

Brussels,  
USA and Canada

### Meeting Report

#### Flash report: meeting with EESC study group on TTIP and SMEs – 06.03.2015

Denis and Art. 4.1b (GROW) met today the EESC study group working on the opinion on SMEs. Draft attached, but it is changing. Rapporteur is Ms Butaud-Stubbs, co-rapporteur Mr Gkogas, members de Buck, Federspiel, Ladefoged, Lechner, Mallia, Palmgreen, Somville, Studnicna, Verboven.

Denis presented overall benefits of TTIP for SMEs and content of SME chapter. On the report, it went in the same direction of COM's objective sin TIP, which are 1) to mainstream SMEs into TTIP overall; 2) assess the impact of TTIP on SMEs (IA, SIA); 3) more information for SMEs who want to export. Some areas raised in the report relate not so much to what we do in trade agreements, but more on the accompanying measures at EU and MS level.

One issue they were interested in (especially the rapporteur Ms. Butaud-Stubbs) was the difference in SME definition in EU and US – this does not impact the benefits from TTIP and DG GROW has no plans to change our definition. Chair says they will revise that part of the report.

Other issues raised were

- is SME chapter a first in FTAs? (yes for EU, US started in TPP to raise this issue)
- what can we achieve for SMEs in procurement, set-asides (procurement overall important objective because of Buy America but still under negotiation)
- G2 study on export SMEs: why is data from 2011? Is there anything more recent (will check, but suspect it is because firm-level data, which implies a lag. DG GROW: will launch a flash eurobarometer on exports of goods and services from SMEs this year.)
- can EESC participate to SME committee (normally gov-to-gov but plan to have interaction with stakeholders)
- when TTIP remove barriers, our companies will face more competition from US? (also more opportunities in US markets)
- do you need to do more impact assessment? Do you need more input? (we have IA and doing SIA, but always open on input on barriers faced by SMEs. Stakeholder events.)
- will SME chapter address specific sectors (no but rest of TTIP will help)
- IPR protection important for our exports (agree, part of the info we want to put on the website)