

Brussels, 1 October 2012

FLASH: meeting with European Round Table (ERT), BXL, 25 September 2012.

On 25 September, at the invitation of the European Round Table of Industrialists, I participated in 45-minute meeting of the Foreign Economic Relations Working Group of ERT. The objective was to update its members on the Regulation establishing transitional arrangements for BITs of Member States.

As requested by organisers, I made a 15-minute introductory presentation regarding the progress on the proposal for a Regulation, focusing in particular on recent developments, main points of the political agreement between co-legislators reached in the trilogue, as well as the next steps (including with respect to implementation of the Regulation).

The discussion after the presentation was focused on the overall progress in developing and implementing the EU investment policy. From a 2-year perspective after the ERT meeting with Commissioner De Gucht on this topic, they wanted to be updated on how the Commission intends to move from current proliferation of hundreds of MS' investment agreements, with whom and when the EU will negotiate on investment, and what will be the content of EU investment agreements. I responded to these questions mostly by referring to the policy framework established in the Commission Communication of 2010, and by giving an update on the ongoing investment negotiations (CAN, SGP, IND) and short term plans (CHN, Euromed).

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[Redacted] In doing this the Commission should listen to business experience with dispute settlement and seek input from industry (mediation was given as an example of a mechanism that could ensure better efficiency). [Redacted]

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Marta BUSZ

TRADE B.2

Participants from ERT membership: Nestle, Telefonica, Solvay, Royal Philips Electronics, Hydro, Repsol, Nokia, Vodafone, Siemens, Investor AB, Heineken, Moller-Maersk.