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Sent: Wednesday, September 05, 2012 12:03 PM
To: PERREAU DE PINNINCK Fernando (TRADE)
Cc: EMBERGER Geraldine (TRADE); ROELAND Christophe (ENTR); MUSALL Benjamin (TRADE); GARCIA BERCERO Ignacio (TRADE)
Subject: Meeting with VCI - summary report

Meeting with VCI (Verband der Chemischen Industrie e.V.)
represented by *PA 4.16*

Commission: Mr Perreau de Pinninck, Ms Emberger, Mr Musall
and Mr Neira (TRADE); Mr Roeland (ENTR).

- VCI welcomes the dialogue with the US and, taking into account the support for this initiative, hopes for an agreement dealing with Tariffs, NTBs and SPS issues. They note that the transatlantic regulatory breach/gap has grown in the last 15 years. It is necessary to make an effort to convince industry of the good results that could be achieved in this case.
- They warn against dealing with sensitive topics such as GMOs, REACH, Cosmetics (Animal Testing).
- They note that a common position of the US-EU chemical industry would be difficult to be agreed upon. The US chemical industry will be defensive fearing that REACH could be extended while EU industry is now defending REACH and working on its implementation.
- There are, however, common fields of interest for the chemical industries on both sides of the Atlantic: data sharing, acceptance of testing requirements, risk assessment, GLPs and classification of substances. Their input will provide more detailed information.
- Key element is regulatory cooperation based on forward-looking approach; they suggest that an eventual agreement should establish a regulatory cooperation process by means of which the US and the EU would consult each other on regulatory initiatives. Not putting into question the regulatory competence of the EU and US, but allowing for a better exchange of information.
- They referred specifically to nanotechnologies, which should be used as a case study, necessary to cooperate with the US, avoid going in different directions. [on this point,]

NOT RELEASABLE

Technical dialogue foreseen 2x/year under TEC] They

suggested that nanotechnologies should be dealt with by REACH, by adapting the guidelines to cover nanomaterials.

- They would welcome the harmonising effects of EU-US cooperation, in particular as it could help avoiding multiple regulatory frameworks around the world (i.e. a Chinese third framework, in addition to REACH & TSCA).

CONCLUSION:

VCI welcomes the exercise, whose major output should be a procedural agreement by which the US and the EU could improve their regulatory convergence. Other specific issues for the chemical industry could also be targeted. They will provide input in the following weeks, however, as it will be agreed with the US counterparts, it needs to be taken as a point of departure, on which we will need to build upon.