

GARCIA LOPEZ BERGES Victor (TRADE)

Subject: FW: Meeting with CLEPA - US regulatory negotiations (short report)

From: NIETO HERNANDEZ Esther (TRADE)

Sent: Tuesday, March 05, 2013 10:34 AM

To: PERREAU DE PINNINCK Fernando (TRADE); SZYMANSKI Arkadiusz (TRADE); PIOVESANA Regina (TRADE); DANIEL Ewelina (ENTR); ROELAND Christophe (ENTR); BONVISSUTO Barbara (ENTR)

Cc: LEVIE Damien (TRADE); SORENSEN Carsten (TRADE); SCHMITZ Jan (TRADE); EMBERGER Geraldine (TRADE)

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Participants:

[Art 4.1b], [Art 4.1b] (CLEPA)

Fernando Perreau de Pinninck, Arkadiusz Szymanski, Regina Piovesana, Esther Nieto (DG TRADE), Christophe Roeland, Ewelina Daniel, Barbara Bonvissuto (DG ENTR)

Main points of the discussion

TRADE provided an overall explanation on the current state of play regarding the preparation of the upcoming negotiations and underlined the importance of negotiations on the regulatory front. TRADE also recognised that while the leaders have shown the political willingness to move in the direction of a comprehensive and ambitious agreement, [NOT RELEASABLE].

ENT explained the on-going preparation of the HLRCF, the tentative agenda, including the publication of the EU notices, and the EU expectations regarding deliverables from the meeting. It was underlined the importance for EU organisations such CLEPA to be present and active during the meeting.

CLEPA confirmed its presence in the HLRCF and that it is undertaken consultations with its US counterparts.

TRADE outline the intention to be as ambitious as possible regarding regulatory negotiations in the automotive sector, exploring to the maximum extent the concept of recognition. [NOT RELEASABLE]. TRADE enquired about other potential areas for discussion.

In particular ENT underlined the need to get input from business on how to assess the differences between the two systems, their real impact and also to what extent these could be overcome. The differences should not be assessed on their technical aspects but also on why the differences exist. Industry should also start thinking to what extent they could accept stringiest requirements for the sake of reaching an agreement.

CLEPA took note of the comments and requests [NOT RELEASABLE]. CLEPA also note the difficulties in getting industry input as most of its members are not thinking at present about common requirements given the market structured. CLEPA also noted that in some instances conformity costs are small compared to the volumes produced. Also, CLEPA members are very sceptical about the negotiations and do not see the benefits it could bring them. To overcome the difficulties in getting input CLEPA has started to work with customers such as ACEA and its members. CLEPA also recognised that it may be more easy to start discussions regarding safety rather than on other product lines.

CLEPA indicated that there is data showing a cost of 10 billion Euros to adapt to the US and Japanese requirements. TRADE encouraged CLEPA to provide those figures and/or a range of figures regarding the costs for adapting; identifying if possible in which product lines those costs are the highest. This will help negotiators defined the priorities.

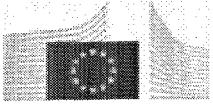
[NOT RELEASABLE]

TRADE also enquired about how to respond to the US regulators when they ask what they have to gain from the negotiation with the EU. CLEPA signalled that in their view the increase of trade flows by increasing the competitiveness of industries across the Atlantic should be put forward. The role of regulators would be to support that provided that the protection standards are not reduced and that the cost effectiveness is not impacted either.

[NOT RELEASABLE]

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