



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Directorate-General for Trade

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

Brussels,
USA and Canada

Meeting Report

VDA (German Association of the Automobile Industry) with Signe Ratso - 20 January 2015

Participants:

VDA: Kay Lindemann – VDA Managing Director; [Art. 4.1(b)] of VDA Brussels office; [Art. 4.1(b)] in Bxl office.

COM: S.Ratso; [Art. 4.1(b)]

- On TTIP: VDA strongly supports the negotiations, but pressure and emotions are high in Germany. VDA is organising an important press conference which will be attended by all CEOs of German manufacturers and 2 suppliers CEOs, which is an unprecedented event. BDI is also to start a campaign. The gvnt coalition (which gathers the sympathy of a lot of voters) is also generally supportive towards TTIP, which is helpful. Even if Minister Gabriel might be himself more critical of the deal, he is vice-chancellor, and should normally stick to the broad gvnt line. Trade unions still a problem, especially IG Metall - VDA tries to reach out to them. VDA also expressed concerns about the activities of NGOs. While the ISDS topic remains difficult, VDA still advocates in favour. Asked about the substance of a possible deal on cars, VDA remains cautious: important to achieve tariff dismantling and the perspective of future regulatory convergence; unlikely to obtain anything more. German companies with US business links are also engaged in supportive efforts. COM motivated VDA to act further through their channels, especially with US administration.

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