

## ESF Policy Committee, 17 October 2013.

### Resume:

*The main purpose of the ESF Policy Committee meeting was to go through the state-of- play of on-going trade in services negotiations. The discussion underlined a keen interest of ESF members to exchange views on the negotiations:*

- [ NOT RELEVANT ]
- *On TTIP several ESF members voiced concerns over how services appeared to have had limited visibility in the talks so far. Some also feared how specific sectoral difficulties (eg in transport) seemed to result in partial coverage of the current barriers to be addressed. Members clearly underlined the importance of – and their commitment to assist in – progressing the negotiations in a manner reflecting the value-added created by the services industry. Some also noted how expanded regulatory work would be a potential driver that could set important new standards.*

- [ NOT RELEVANT ]

### Details:

- The Policy Committee meeting was chaired by [ ART. 4.1b ] from BT, and broad ESF participation from committee members. [ ART. 4.1b ] of the European Services Forum also attended. Ignacio Iruarrizaga Diez (HoU Services) and Soeren Jakobsen participated from DG Trade. The main purpose of the meeting was to go through the state of play of ongoing trade in services negotiations.

[ NOT RELEVANT ]

### TTIP:

- COM gave a brief recap to the current state of the negotiations. EU's offensive interests are related to maritime and air transport, professional services, ICT, mode 4 and financial services. COM also repeated the invitation to the ESF members to provide information on the barriers they face related to state-level measures, as this is one of the biggest challenges for service providers in the US.
- Several ESF members voiced concerns over how services appeared to have had limited exposure in the talks so far. They say a risk that services would not be fully "visible" in a manner commensurate with the importance in the trans-atlantic trade volumes.
- The representative from the express delivery sector underlined the importance to include air transport. Others echoed how specific sectoral difficulties (eg in transport) risked resulting in partial coverage of the current barriers to be addressed. Other representatives mentioned the importance of settling on data transfer rules. Both telecom and the financial services representatives mentioned how they saw a need to explore further how regulatory cooperation could better directly linked between their conditional for doing business and the trade negotiations.

- Members clearly underlined the importance of – and their commitment to - progressing in a manner that reflected the value added of the services industry, and raised, as an example how expanded regulatory work would be a potential driver that could set important new standards for the global negotiations as well.
- COM confirmed that services was a key element of TTIP, and underlined how the talks with the US were different due to both volume and "the high degree of sophistication" in the regulation of the sectors on both sides. This should be considered an opportunity to set new standards to be used in other negotiations.

[ NOT RELEVANT ]