



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Cabinet of Commissioner Dacian Cioloș
Head of Cabinet

Brussels, 28. 06. 2013

/2013)1658032

Dear Mr [REDACTED]

Thank you for your letter of 14 May 2013 where you present the preliminary views of your organisation on the agricultural aspects of the upcoming Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) negotiations.

I welcome very much both the call for an offensive EU approach in agricultural issues as well as the concrete and specific character of your contribution, addressing a large set of areas of key importance for the negotiations.

The U.S. is a key agricultural trading partner for the EU both in terms of exports and imports. TTIP negotiations should aim at improving bilateral trade in a balanced way, and address a number of tariffs and non-tariffs barriers. As it is acknowledged also in the Final Report of the High Level Working Group for Jobs and Growth, specific sensitivities will have to be recognised and treated appropriately.

Enhanced protection for EU Geographical Indications in the U.S. is a key objective in TTIP. EU PDO/PGI do not currently benefit from effective protection in the U.S. market and the specific shortcomings of the U.S. system will have to be addressed in the negotiations.

TTIP negotiations will pay a particular attention to a large range of non-tariffs measures. The negotiations will also focus on Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures, where the two sides should aim at greater coherence and compatibility. This, however, will not mean negotiating changes of the basic rules that we do not want on either side, such as for example on hormones, antimicrobial treatment or GMOs. Other important aspects, such environmental or animal welfare standards, will also be discussed in TTIP.

There will be opportunities in the coming months of contacts between the Commission services and the main stakeholders in order to further analyse all issues relevant for the negotiations with the United States.

Yours sincerely,

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Cc.: Commissioners De Gucht and Borg