

[All redactions are made under art. 4(1)(b)]

From: [REDACTED] (TRADE)
Sent: 06 September 2016 09:55
To: [REDACTED] (TRADE); [REDACTED] (TRADE); [REDACTED] (TRADE); [REDACTED] (TRADE);
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[REDACTED] (TRADE); [REDACTED] (TRADE)
Cc: [REDACTED] (TRADE); [REDACTED] (TRADE); MUNGENGOVA Jolana (CAB-MALMSTROM)
Subject: CM meeting Eurocities, 5 September 2016

Dear all,

Please find below a readout of yesterday's meeting between the Commissioner and Eurocities. Thanks for all contributions to the briefing.

Summary: Cordial meeting between Commissioner Malmström and Daniel Termont, Mayor of Ghent and Vice-President of Eurocities. He presented the group's recent policy statement on TTIP as a request for a "smart TTIP", not anti-TTIP. The Commissioner gave the usual responses on topics including public services, procurement and ICS. She pushed back against the suggestion that the Commission could undertake city-level impact assessments, and mentioned that such impact(s) are best reflected in the Impact Assessments conducted by individual EU Member States. EU Member States are thus encouraged to conduct such assessments on all aspects and levels of governments of interest to them.

Detail:

- Mr Termont was careful to explain that Eurocities' position is informed by all its members, some of which are "TTIP free zones" but others are pro free trade. He asked for a "**smart TTIP**", and noted the city of Ghent's particular interest – they are planning to hold a TTIP conference in June 2017. He invited the Commissioner to attend this event, and promised to follow-up with a formal invitation.
- He expressed his appreciation for the Commissioner's **transparency** initiative.
- He raised concerns about TTIP's impacts on 3rd countries, in particular African countries; right to run public services and cooperate with other cities; the role of ICS and expertise of its judges. The Commissioner responded along usual lines. She emphasised in particular that TTIP must be a "smart" deal in order to meet the negotiating directives of the EU Member States and get through the EU's ratification process. She also noted that there is no deal yet – nothing is agreed until everything is agreed.
- On the **right to regulate**, it was clearly confirmed to Eurocities that TTIP will not impact the EU Member States' right to regulate at any level of government. Moreover, TTIP will not force any EU Member State to privatise its **public services** or prevent the renationalisation of those previously privatised. (cf. Online Political Statement made by EU Trade Commissioner Cecilia Malmström and USTR Michael Froman from March 2015).
- Regarding TTIP's **impact assessments**, Eurocities felt that they should be conducted as well at city level (at least on some major cities) to ensure the debate is about facts, not myths. The Commissioner agreed, but explained that this is for Member States to do: they have the competence and the relevant information (data). She added that the TTIP SIA (cf. dedicated TTIP website) already contains analysis on the concerns raised by Eurocities, and the conclusions thereof apply to all levels of government. Eurocities wondered if the Committee of the Regions could help, and asked if further analysis could be done after TTIP is in place. The Commissioner noted her contacts with the CoR, and accepted to look into work that could be done on local impacts as part of **ex-post analysis**.

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Follow-up (E1): Share key public documents including latest SIA, latest round report, and other relevant studies, information on public services, and Eurobarometer survey results with Eurocities. Invite Eurocities to any next TTIP debriefing as part of future TTIP rounds.



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