

Meeting of Commissioner Malmström with U.S. Chamber of Commerce

On 7 February 2017, Trade Commissioner Cecilia Malmström, met with Myron Brilliant, Executive Vice President and Head of International Affairs, U.S. Chamber of Commerce to discuss future trade relations between the United States and Europe. Mr Brilliant was accompanied by Marjorie Chorlins, Vice President, European Affairs, U.S. Chamber of Commerce and Garret Workman, Director of European Affairs, U.S. Chamber of Commerce. On the EU side, the meeting was attended by Christian Burgsmüller, Member of Cabinet Malmström, and [Art. 4(1)(b)] in Cabinet Malmström.

Mr. Brilliant emphasised that the logic behind TTIP was still valid and stressed the importance of the transatlantic relationship. Even if TTIP was for now in the "freezer", he called for future cooperation on regulatory and sectoral issues. He stated that he expected the new administration to first focus on domestic reform, which would also benefit EU companies. Mr. Brilliant explained that the planned border adjustable tax was part of a comprehensive tax reform. At this stage, details of the design of the border adjustability were not clear yet, as it was still discussed in Congress. Thus, the question of WTO consistency was open. Yet, in the US it was widely regarded as an "equalization tax".

Commissioner Malmström agreed that the rationale behind TTIP remains strong. Due to the change of the US administration the negotiations had reached a natural pause. She supported the idea of technical cooperation; however, conclusions on possibilities for future cooperation could only be drawn once the members of the new administration responsible for trade are confirmed by the US Senate and US positions on future trade relations with the EU become clearer. She gave a brief overview of the current state of play of the EU trade agenda, in particular of negotiations with Mexico, Mercosur, Japan, and China.