



Via email

June 10, 2016

Commissioner Cecilia Malmström  
Directorate-General Trade  
European Commission  
Rue de la Loi 170  
B-1049 Brussels, Belgium

Ambassador Michael Froman  
The United States Trade Representative  
Office of the United States Trade Representative  
600 17th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20508

Dear Commissioner Malmström and Ambassador Froman:

We are pleased by reports that you are both making every effort to conclude the TTIP agreement this year. TABC has previously submitted written comments on different topics on multiple occasions and is now working to update its recommendations prior to the next formal round of negotiations to share with your teams. We will also look to arrange meetings with each of you at an appropriate time to discuss these recommendations.

We appreciate the increased frequency of meetings between the two of you and your deputies in an effort to find solutions to the economically and politically sensitive issues which need to be addressed. We are confident that these stocktaking meetings are assisting the two sides in developing appropriate compromises as part of the natural process of moving this economically and strategically important exercise to a conclusion. We are encouraged by the observations made in Stockholm on May 31 that “it’s difficult, but perfectly possible” to conclude TTIP in 2016 and that the U.S. is “very much committed to getting TTIP done over the course of this year.”

We are fully aware of the substantial controversy surrounding a possible TTIP agreement. The level of misunderstanding of the agreement’s possible content and mistruths circulated by TTIP opponents regarding the likely impact of this agreement go far beyond anything we have experienced during our careers in the diplomatic and international trade arenas.

While we face troubling political challenges on both sides of the Atlantic to our long agreed-upon principles, we believe that TTIP will serve to reinforce our common shared values with respect to democracy and the benefits of market-oriented economies. We realize that even if the TTIP text is completed in 2016, a few years of legal review, language translation, economic impact studies, and legislative review and voting will be

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required. Nonetheless, successful conclusion of a high-standard TTIP agreement this year would demonstrate that progress can still be made between the transatlantic partners on difficult issues. We ask that you and your teams be guided in this final effort by a belief that obtaining a comprehensive and ambitious agreement is a shared mission with mutual benefits and not an adversarial, zero-sum exercise.

Respectfully,



Ambassador Hugo Paemen  
TABC Europe Board Chair



Ambassador Stuart Eizenstat  
TABC U.S. Board & TABD Chair



José Manuel González-Páramo  
TABD Europe Chair

Cc:

Director General Jean-Luc Demarty, DG Trade, European Commission  
Ambassador Michael Punke, Office of the U.S. Trade Representative  
Ignacio Garcia Bercero, DG Trade, European Commission  
Daniel Mullaney, Office of the U.S. Trade Representative  
Ambassador David O'Sullivan, Delegation of the European Union to the United States  
Ambassador Anthony Gardner, United States Mission to the European Union  
Tim Bennett, Trans-Atlantic Business Council

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