



30 April 2013

H.E. Philippe Etienne
Permanent Representative
PERMANENT REPRESENTATION OF FRANCE
place de Louvain 14
1000 Brussels
BELGIUM

Dear Ambassador Etienne,

We the undersigned associations believe that the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) agreement between the European Union and the United States could usher in a new era in transatlantic economic and political cooperation and play an important role in boosting the economies on both continents and worldwide. The TTIP agreement would lead to increased trade, greater growth and more importantly create new jobs.

We call on the EU Member States to adopt a negotiating mandate that provides the European Commission with the direction and authority it needs to effectively negotiate a comprehensive agreement with the United States. The mandate should be as broad, open and flexible as possible.

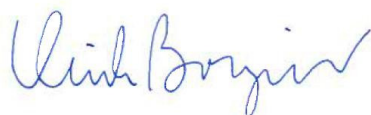
The economic benefits of a comprehensive and ambitious trade agreement would be significant. The elimination of tariffs between the EU and the US could boost the European economy by €107 billion and up to €71 billion in America. The elimination of non-tariff measures such as regulatory differences and trade restrictions could increase the EU's GDP annually by as much as €122 billion by 2018. SMEs would benefit from a cut in non-tariff barriers since they are particularly affected by complicated certification procedures, duplicate standards and safety requirements. In these difficult times, the added boost would create much-needed economic opportunity for American and European citizens as well as business. No other comprehensive trade agreement has such a potential. Conversely, failing to conclude an agreement could hamper prospects of economic growth and challenge our ability to produce innovative models to pursue trade and investment liberalization in the 21st century.

The EU and US remain each other's most important markets: American foreign direct investment (FDI) in Europe in 2012 amounted to about €158 billion. Successful negotiations of the TTIP would only strengthen this relationship and serve as a multiplier for FDI to the EU.

Though the benefits of concluding the TTIP are clear, the negotiations on certain issues are expected to be challenging. This agreement could go far beyond a traditional free trade agreement addressing a whole range of bilateral non-tariff barriers, including standards, regulatory issues, investment and investment protection, intellectual property rights, competition, and government procurement and fostering a uniform approach to these issues at the global level. These discussions will need to take into account the wide variety of interests within the EU Member States and the United States. We urge every government to spearhead this unparalleled opportunity to strengthen our economies, enhance the global competitiveness of our businesses, and, in so doing constitute a firm set of trade principles that reinforce our joint capacity to maintain and progressively strengthen the multilateral trading system and global rules.

We look forward to working with you and your colleagues to identify, document and eliminate trade, investment and regulatory barriers that penalise business on both sides of the Atlantic and to develop policies to expand economic growth and create jobs. We have long supported the launch of a comprehensive trade agreement between the EU and US and stand ready to assist negotiators in finding ways to increase trade and investment between the two regions.

Yours sincerely,



Hendrik Bourgeois
Chair
American Chamber of Commerce to the EU



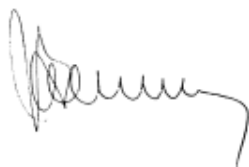
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