

Joint Press Release



Transatlantic Business Leaders Reaffirm Strong Support for TTIP

January 24, 2013, Davos— The leaders of several major transatlantic business organizations today met in Davos with EU Trade Commissioner Karel De Gucht and U.S. Trade Representative Michael Froman for an exchange of views on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) which is currently under negotiation. After a detailed exchange of views, the business leaders reiterated to the two top trade officials that their organizations fully support concluding “a comprehensive agreement that addresses a broad range of bilateral trade and investment issues.”

Hans Stråberg, European Chairman of the TransAtlantic Business Dialogue (TABD, An Executive Advisory Group within the Trans-Atlantic Business Council) and a Member of the Board of Directors of Investor AB, stated, “Today we urged the top EU and U.S. trade officials to maintain the current pace of negotiations so that European and U.S. businesses can benefit from the resultant trade liberalization and elimination of redundant costs as soon as possible. Pace should not, however, dictate content. Both the EU and U.S. economies need the incremental stimulus this ambitious trade agreement can provide, and the business community will be the key driver behind that growth once the completed agreement is successfully implemented.”

Dave Ricks, U.S. Chairman of the TABD, Senior Vice President of Lilly and President of Lilly Bio-Medicines, underlined the importance of some of the global issues under discussion, noting that “An important aspect of crafting an ambitious trade agreement applicable to the global trading system requires that certain issues be included in the TTIP, such as robust intellectual property protection, addressing non-tariff barriers to market access and measures to counter any unfair advantages enjoyed by state-owned enterprises.”

Tom Donohue, President and CEO of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, stated, “For the United States, Europe is our biggest trading and investment partner. It’s critical that we complete the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership as quickly as possible, since a strong, ambitious deal will deliver much-needed growth and jobs on both sides of the Atlantic.”

Emma Marcegaglia, President of BusinessEurope, said, “The expectations of business on both sides of the Atlantic are high. We expect TTIP to be an engine of economic growth and job creation, opening new markets and deepening investment ties. To make a success of these negotiations, the EU and U.S. business communities are collaborating on some of the most complex issues like Regulatory Cooperation, to enhance the ease of doing business for SMEs in particular. The negotiation process also offers a unique opportunity to eliminate barriers and reduce costs for both companies and consumers.”

Brian Ager, Secretary General of the European Round Table of Industrialists, added “An ambitious and comprehensive agreement has the potential to catalyse much needed growth and employment, and to strengthen the global competitiveness of economies and companies on both sides of the Atlantic. TTIP should mark a living agreement on regulatory cooperation, with the efficiency gains that this can bring.”

###

For further information, contact:

Trans-Atlantic Business Council
Hilary Sama, Events & Communications Director
hsama@transatlanticbusiness.org or +1 202 828 9102

United States Chamber of Commerce
Peter Chase, Vice President, Europe
pChase@USChamber.com or +32 2 218 3297

European Round Table of Industrialists
Roeland Van der Stappen, ERT Policy Adviser
r.vanderstappen@ert.eu or +32 2 543 10 53

BusinessEurope
Finola McDonnell, Director of Communications
f.mcdonnell@businessseurope.eu or
Tel : +32 (0) 2 237 65 62 ; Mob: +32 (0) 496 273 663