

Brussels, 29 May 2013

Orgalime position paper on the Negotiations of the comprehensive Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership

1. Introductory remarks

The EU and the US are soon to embark on negotiations of the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (“TTIP”).

On this occasion Orgalime would like to welcome the upcoming commencement of negotiations for the TTIP agreement. We believe that it is an important, positive step allowing both sides to further strengthen the most integrated commercial artery in the world. Despite the current difficult economic setting – the transatlantic trade and investment relationship continues to account for the largest economic relationship in the world and has an unexploited potential, which is why Orgalime strongly supports increased economic and political cooperation between the EU and the US.

We welcome the final report of the High Level Working Group on Jobs and Growth and its recommendations for the negotiations, as well as the engagement and commitment of the High Level Regulatory Cooperation Forum across the Atlantic.

Orgalime furthermore applauds the joint statement from U.S. President Barack Obama, President of the European Council Herman Van Rompuy and President of the European Commission José Manuel Barroso announcing the launch of the negotiations.

2. Points to be taken into account in the negotiations process

In September 2012 Orgalime submitted a contribution to the public consultation on the regulatory challenges for the upcoming EU-US negotiations, explaining in detail our priorities for the negotiations.

Orgalime, the European Engineering Industries Association, speaks for 38 trade federations representing some 130,000 companies in the mechanical, electrical, electronic, metalworking & metal articles industries of 23 European countries. The industry employs some 10.3 million people in the EU and in 2012 accounted for some €1,840 billion of annual output. The industry not only represents some 28% of the output of manufactured products but also a third of the manufactured exports of the European Union.

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In our submission we stressed that elimination of tariffs, expansion and protection of investment, protection of intellectual property rights, transparency in public procurement, elimination of technical barriers to trade (TBTs), promotion of regulatory cooperation including certification, as well as elimination of double formalities on export controls of dual-use items – are the key priorities for companies from our industry.

Regulatory cooperation and standardisation issues have to be an integral part of a transatlantic agreement, and ensuring a coordinated legislative and regulatory approach should be a priority during the negotiations process. The transatlantic partnership should equally tackle the issue of mutual recognition of results of conformity assessment procedures between the EU and the USA for engineering products, as well as regulatory cooperation in the field of energy efficiency requirements.

In Orgalime's view a Transatlantic Trade Agreement should also advance trade liberalisation and convince trade partners in both regions of the benefits of trade liberalisation.

The agreement should not lead to any new trade barriers against third countries since a transatlantic free trade zone shall enhance competitiveness of the whole transatlantic economic area. We further believe that the discussions about a possible TTIP are a good opportunity to establish an exchange about the US and EU "manufacturing initiatives" recently launched to support innovation of manufacturing companies.

3. Conclusion

In conclusion, Orgalime believes there is a great potential to strengthen further EU-US trade and investment relations to support mutually beneficial job creation, economic growth, and international competitiveness, and we stand ready to assist negotiators in finding ways to increase trade and investment between the two regions. In our view the transatlantic negotiations should commence with discussions on most complex issues, such as cooperation in the regulatory field (including conformity assessment procedures) which would show a strong will of both sides to finalise the agreement.

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