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Sent: Friday, March 21, 2014 11:03 PM
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Subject: bto - minutes of meeting with European and American Seed Associations at USTR on 21 March 2014 - subject: their joint TTIP submission

Dear colleagues,

Thank you very much to all of you for your input to the meeting with the European and the American Seed Trade Associations and the European Seed Association at USTR on Friday, 21 March. Pls find below the report from and me.

Participants: US: USTR, APHIS, USDA-FAS
EU DEL:
Industry: American Seed Trade Association, European Seed Association, national seed associations of Germany, the Netherlands and France

The Meeting was chaired by from USTR, EU DEL participated in a more or less listening mode.

The Associations very shortly outlined the three points they had identified as their joint TTIP submission (phytosanitary issues, new plant breeding techniques, presence of GMOs in conventional seed). The European Seed Association stressed these three points are not controversial between the industries on both sides of the Atlantic and that they would not touch upon the policy goals of the EU or the US but concentrate on areas of common acceptance.

Both emphasized new breeding techniques would have the potential to disrupt trade if there was a patchwork of different regulatory approaches and therefore the best approach was not to regulate them. OECD discussions on whether to regulate them were ongoing. A first test would be with the

new organic agriculture proposal which included these techniques so far.
There is however a fear that the EP will ask for their exclusion from organic
production .

They also launched the idea of mutual recognition of accreditation of
companies for testing, a point that cannot be found in their common paper.

Best regards
and