

Martin Schulz
President of the European Parliament
European Parliament
60, rue Wiertz
B - 1047 – Brussels

Brussels, 5 June 2015

Dear President,

I am writing to you with regard to the European Parliament Draft Recommendations to the Commission on the negotiations for the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP).

The European Services Forum (ESF) represents the European services companies that are doing business outside the EU via trade and investment and are strong supporters of the TTIP. As a reminder, the European Union is by far the world's largest source and destination of FDI measured by both stocks and flows. The European services sectors are the biggest investors in the world. Services made by far the largest contribution to both EU outward (59 %) and inward (57 %) stocks.

In view of next week's plenary vote on the proposed TTIP resolution scheduled for 10th June, we would like to urge you and all members of the Parliament to support the compromise reached by the INTA Committee on 28 May. We would like in particular to highlight the importance of not touching the delicate balance achieved in the text related to investment protection.

The European Commission has worked over the last month with the members of the INTA Committee to elaborate a negotiating position that takes into consideration all the various legitimate concerns. The Commission's Concept Paper on this issue also received strong support from EU Member States. The political compromise reached last week on that matter under the strong leadership of INTA Chairman Bernd Lange is a good and balanced text which will allow the European Union to be in strong position to negotiate with American counterparts a reform for foreign direct investment protection.

On the other hand, amending the compromise as suggested by parts of the S&D Group and others would, in our view, seriously endanger the credibility of the European Union to negotiate strong and meaningful investment agreements in the future.

We would like therefore to call upon the European Parliament to reject any amendments that would diminish the compromise reached within the INTA Committee last week on this particular matter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Harris', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the left.

Sir Thomas Harris
ESF Chairman