

Report Meeting: JLD at the International Relations Committee of BusinessEurope 22 February 2013

Not relevant for the request

He started by debriefing the Committee on the HLWG Report and the next steps on the negotiations of a comprehensive agreement with the US in the context of the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP).

Not relevant for the request

A good number of questions referred to the EU-US trade negotiations and business congratulated JLD for what has been achieved already with the HLWG.

Not relevant for the request

JLD's 30 minutes intervention was followed by approximately one hour of questions:

On the **EU-US trade negotiations**, business congratulated JLD for what has been already achieved with the HLWG. They acknowledged that the negotiations will be difficult and expressed their support to the Commission in this process. Asked about the timeframe to complete the negotiations, JLD indicated that COM hoped to get a mandate from the Council in June and start negotiations before the summer break. if there is political will to find solutions, negotiations should not last longer than two years. In addition, US political cycle will also be a determining factor. ESF enquired about the involvement of regulators from both sides in the negotiations. JLD replied that even if there has already been significant progress during the preparatory work of the HLWG, the involvement of regulators will be very important. In April there will be a High Level Regulatory Forum that JLD will attend together with DG Calleja Crespo. The meeting will be important as it will be regulators the opportunity to hear from business. In reply to CEFIC's question, JLD also said that the regulatory chapter of the agreement should not be only procedural. The White House could give a serious impulse in this respect. BDI enquired about possible difficulties on public procurement negotiations given the involvement of individual states in the US. **[Not releasable]**. The EU should define its priorities in terms of sectors and states. BDI also asked about provisions on export restrictions and JLD indicated that, as both sides have similar views, the key issue would be how to push together for common principles to raise with third countries. General Electric and CEFIC enquired how existing or on-going legislative initiatives would impact the negotiations. JLD replied that both sides will not stop legislating, although at the same time an effort should be done to minimise adverse effects on trade. JLD also indicated that the idea is not to change basic legislation for instance on hormones or GMOs. General Electric referred to the possible risk that this Agreement follows the same path as ACTA as recently stated by Ambassador Kennard. JLD replied that the comparison is not pertinent as these are two different agreements that cannot be compared. The EU-US Agreement will be a comprehensive agreement which should facilitate its ratification at the European Parliament. **RELEASABLE** **NOT**
Finally, JLD said that what is also important is that the EU-US Agreement gets the business support which was lacking for ACTA.

Not relevant for the request.