



Presidenza Italiana
del Consiglio
dell'Unione Europea



Ministero dello Sviluppo Economico
Uffici di diretta collaborazione del Ministro
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REGISTRO UFFICIALE
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Brussels, 20. 08. 2014
EP/kr Ares S(14)3021133

Dear Minister,

As a result of growing opposition within EU Member States to the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP), we need to deepen our respective efforts to make clear to the public the goals and boundaries of our bilateral talks with the US, alongside the concrete benefits the EU can expect from the future agreement. Successful and coordinated outreach now would help to stimulate more favourable public opinion, and to sustain stronger action within the Council of the European Union and in the transatlantic dialogue.

As with other trade negotiations, the Commission is working hard to inform the public about progress in the TTIP talks. However, given the scale of trade relations with the US and the scope of the negotiations, this task is especially resource-intensive. The Commission's dedicated TTIP website is a rich source of information, for example regular reports about the state of play following each negotiating round, impact assessments and position papers, and details of TTIP-related events. The Commission recognises that more can still be done to raise public awareness, both via the website and through events. The Commission intends to enhance its outreach activities to be able to meet further public requests for more information.

Mr Reinhold MITTERLEHNER

Minister of Science, Research and Economy

Austria

A highly significant contribution to these ongoing efforts would be the disclosure of the TTIP mandate. It is clear that current communication activities have not provided adequate reassurance to the public. Were the TTIP mandate to be officially released, the public would be able to see for itself that the information received so far has been genuine. To achieve this, we would be grateful if your government would contribute to a positive consensus on the declassification of the mandate.

Yours sincerely,



Carlo Calenda

Vice Minister for Economic Development of Italy



Karen De Gucht

Member of the European Commission