



Council of the
European Union

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AGRI 233
AGRIORG 33
WTO 118
COTRA 11
USA 25

NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Council

Subject: TTIP 13th round of negotiations
- Requested by the Austrian delegation

Delegations will find in Annex a note from the Austrian delegation on the above subject to be presented under "Any other business" at the Council ("Agriculture and Fisheries") on 17 May 2016.

TTIP 13th round of negotiations

The thirteenth round of EU-US negotiations on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) agreement took place in New York from April 25-29. The next TTIP round is scheduled before the summer break in July. The Commission has the clear objective to make as much progress as possible before the changes in the US administration in 2017. The Commission intends to fulfil continuous high-level political commitments to conclude the negotiations by the end of 2016. However, the ongoing negotiations are characterised by a continuous reluctance of the US to make concessions in many sectors, especially concerning agriculture and sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures. The 13th round of negotiations took place in a period of intense public protest and growing concerns in many EU countries. Leaked TTIP documents cause public doubts on the substance of a possible EU-US trade deal.

Furthermore, CETA and TTIP will be on the agenda of the Foreign Affairs Council/Trade (FAC on May 13).

Referring to the request of many Member States for an amendment of the draft market access offer to the Mercosur trade bloc, it became apparent that the Commission is considering the removal of Tariff Rate Quotas (TRQs) for sensitive agricultural products from its draft offer. In the context of the ongoing dynamic public discussion, a debrief from the Commission on the results of the FAC as well as on the state of play regarding CETA, TTIP and the negotiations with Mercosur would be appreciated.