TTIP negotiating texts

A reader's guide

I. Access, co-operation, rules – the 3 pillars we're negotiating in TTIP

The TTIP talks are in 3 parts:

1. Market access

This includes things like:

- cutting or scrapping customs tariffs or duties on goods we in the EU export to the US (or which the US exports to us)
- being able to sell a wider range of services in the US
- enabling EU companies to bid for public contracts (public procurement)
- agreeing rules that we use to determine where a product is from.

2. Regulatory co-operation

In this pillar we're breaking **new ground** for an EU trade agreement. We want final results that make a **real difference** to firms in Europe – especially smaller ones.

Our goal is to get regulators in Europe and the US to **work more closely** together than they do now. So we want to agree new measures for regulators to cooperate:

- in **general** (horizontally)
- in a number of specific sectors, from cars to chemicals.

3. Trade rules

Trade rules do things like:

- promote sustainable development through trade, by protecting:
 - people's rights at work (labour rights)
 - o the environment
- simplify customs and facilitate trade
- help small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to get the most out of TTIP
- promote free and fair competition between private firms and ones that a government owns or controls
- recognise geographical indications – names that show consumers that a food product comes from a particular place
- set up a dispute settlement system for resolving disputes between governments.

II. Now online - TTIP negotiating texts and other documents

We want to do all we can to make the TTIP negotiations **transparent**.

That's why in TTIP we've now gone further than in talks in any previous bilateral EU trade negotiation - by publishing EU negotiating texts.

These are **documents** we give our US counterparts during week-long rounds of face-to-face talks. Our texts and theirs are the basis of our discussions.

There are two types:

- textual proposals these are the European Union's proposals for legal text on topics in TTIP. They are tabled for discussion with the US in negotiating rounds. The actual text in the final agreement will be a result of negotiations between the EU and US.
- position papers these set out and describe the European Union's general approach on topics in the TTIP negotiations. They are tabled for discussion with the US in negotiating rounds.

For the 3 pillars of the negotiations this means the following:

1. Market access -

For this pillar, we'll keep negotiating documents confidential.

We want to reach the best possible final deal for everyone in the EU. To do that we need to strike the right balance between what each side wants. And that means:

- offering concessions to each other at different stages in the talks
- being able to do so in confidence

Market access has been the main part of all the EU's previous trade agreements.

So our discussions in TTIP are mostly based on what we've discussed with other countries with which we've already struck deals.

One example is the Comprehensive **Economic and Trade Agreement** (CETA) where we recently concluded negotiations with Canada. It gives a fair idea of what we're negotiating on market access in TTIP – even if the outcome may well be different.

2. Regulatory co-operation

Closer co-operation in general...

You'll now also find our detailed proposals for 2 more areas:

- tackling so-called **technical barriers to trade** (TBTs)
- ensuring food safety and the health of animals and plants - sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures in trade negotiators' jargon.

Why?

 We are preparing a textual proposal on regulatory coherence and will make it public after we have table it with the US.

...and in specific industries

At this stage no textual proposals have been presented.

That's because in their talks so far, EU and US regulators have focused on agreeing overall goals for each industry. They haven't yet made detailed proposals showing how these goals could be reached in a final agreement could read.

In July 2013 and then in May 2014, we published the **position papers** that we gave US negotiators, setting out our goals for all nine industries. These are still our latest proposals. Additional papers are now being published on engineering and cars, as well as papers on chemicals that were published December 2014.

3. Trade rules

For this pillar, you'll also find all the textual proposals prepared so far, as well as a number of position papers for various chapters.

Negotiations on each are still taking place.

In the meantime, we'll:

 regularly update the information we've provided publish more EU documents when we can, after we've discussed them with US negotiators. In parallel, we expect to be in a position to present a regulatory text on sustainable development in April.

III. Providing updates on TTIP more broadly

We'll also continue to publish updates on the **state of play** in the negotiations after each round, as well as the reports of the meetings with the Advisory Group.

And information on meetings which:

- we convene with groups or individuals with a direct stake in the talks
- are requested and arranged with:
 - the EU's **TradeCommissioner**
 - the **Director-General** in charge of the
 Commission
 department negotiating
 TTIP (known as DG
 Trade).