



AUGUST 5, 2014

TTIP NEGOTIATIONS: A SUMMARY OF ROUND 6

BY KARA SUTTON

Making Progress Where Possible

Amidst a transition in EU government, negotiators met in Brussels July 14–18 for the sixth round of negotiations on a Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP). Negotiators continue to move forward in areas in which there is mutual agreement. In other areas progress has slowed as negotiators search for compromises.

Takeaways

- Negotiators are working on a final agreement text that will increase market access for goods. Discussion in this round included the possibility of specific clauses on agricultural products, such as wine.
- No second tariff offers were exchanged.
- Negotiators had previously exchanged offers on market access for services and investment. The offers were discussed during this round, and work in this area continues. The offers did not include provisions for investment protection. Talks on that issue are on hold while the EU undertakes a period of public consultation.
- The US and the EU are looking to exchange proposals on sanitary and phytosanitary measures (SPS) before the seventh round.
- Negotiators are considering the following sectors for inclusion in a final text that addresses regulatory coherence: textiles, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, medical devices, cars, ICT, engineering and pesticides.
- Negotiators are hard at work on increasing market access and reducing regulatory burden for small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). A text addressing US-EU information sharing and enhancing trans-Atlantic cooperation on these issues is expected in the coming months.

Potential Sticking Points

- On July 14, EU trade officials began [reviewing](#) more than 149,000 responses from citizens and stakeholders following a period of public consultation on an investor-state dispute settlement (ISDS). Discussions on including investor protections in a final text remain on hold until the results of the consultation period are examined. A report on the results is not expected before November 2014.
 - Many civil-society organizations and prominent European politicians, including [Bernd Lange](#), the new chairman of the European Parliament's Committee on International Trade (INTA), have called for ISDS to be removed from a TTIP.
- The EU is pushing hard for including a comprehensive chapter on energy in light of the Ukraine crisis and sanctions against Russia. The US does not typically include any specific sections on energy in its free-trade agreements (FTAs).
- This round ended with no agreement on procurement. The EU is keen to obtain greater access to procurement at the US-state level. As of now, US states have not been approached about opening their procurement markets to EU countries.
- Two large trade unions, the US-based AFL-CIO and the EU-based European Trade Union Confederation, released a joint statement on TTIP. Neither is adamantly opposed to a TTIP, but both listed issues they see as required for any final agreement. These include dropping ISDS and enhancing the right to online privacy.

On the Margins

- Several new EU officials who will play a role in TTIP negotiations and in the conclusion of an agreement were named:
 - Jean-Claude Juncker was selected as the new European Commission president. He has advocated for TTIP's successful conclusion.
 - The INTA committee was expanded by ten to forty-one members in response to increased interest by members of the European Parliament in joining the committee. Several new members support an agreement, but many, such as Marine Le Pen of France's National Front, are strongly opposed. Once negotiations conclude, the INTA committee will organize the TTIP report that leads to a vote by the entire parliament.
- The [Transatlantic Intellectual Property Rights \(IPR\) Working Group](#) met in Brussels July 17–18. About 90 participants attended a stakeholder meeting to discuss enhancing US-EU cooperation on IPR enforcement. The working group is a part of the Transatlantic Economic Council (TEC).

Next Steps

- The European Council meets August 30 to discuss candidates for numerous EU positions.
- The seventh round of TTIP negotiations is held the week of September 29 in Washington, DC.

Kara Sutton is project manager for legislative relations at the Washington, DC-based Bertelsmann Foundation.

kara.sutton@bfna.org