



## **TTIP – WHAT'S IN IT FOR THE SOCIAL PARTNERS?**

### **Concept:**

The event aims at gathering all main national social partners (business federations and trade unions from the 28 Member States) for a full-day debate on the opportunities and challenges of TTIP. Discussions will focus on a set of concrete key topics via plenary sessions and parallel panels.

The overall objective of the conference is to inform social partners at the national level about the various aspects of TTIP, to promote an informed exchange of views and to allow sharing of experiences between these different national groups with the aim of reaching a better common understanding of the potential impact of TTIP.

The event will be co-hosted by the Luxembourg Presidency of the Council of the EU, the European Parliament, the European Commission and the European Economic and Social Committee. Key speakers will be Mr Xavier Bettel, Prime Minister of Luxembourg, Mr Martin Schulz, President of the European Parliament, Ms Cecilia Malmström, European Commissioner for Trade, and Mr Georges Dassis, the President of the European Economic and Social Committee.

Key national stakeholders are invited to contribute to the debate by sharing their practical experience and expertise on the matters covered by the TTIP negotiations. On the business side, SMEs will be invited to share practical difficulties they may face in their trade relations with the US and opportunities they may see, and trade unions are invited to reflect on how TTIP interacts with labour rights.

**Participants:** approx. 200 participants from EU countries and EU main actors

**When:** 17 November 2015; starting at 10 a.m.

**Where:** Brussels (European Economic and Social Committee)  
Rue Belliard 99-101

## **TTIP – WHAT'S IN IT FOR THE SOCIAL PARTNERS?**

### **9.30 a.m. – Registration and welcome coffee**

**Opening plenary session (10 a.m. - 10.30 a.m.)  
meeting room JDE 62**

*Welcome address: Mr Xavier Bettel, Prime Minister of Luxembourg*

*Keynote speech: Mr Martin Schulz, President of the European Parliament*

*Opening remarks: Mr Georges Dassis, President of the European Economic and Social Committee*

**High Level Plenary Panel Discussion (10.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.; Q&A from 11.30 a.m.)  
meeting room JDE 62**

*Moderator: Mr Ryan Heath, Senior EU Correspondent, POLITICO (tbc)*

*Panellists: Mr Rudy De Leeuw, President of ETUC (tbc)*

*Ms Emma Marcegaglia, President of BUSINESSEUROPE (tbc)*

*Ms Cecilia Malmström, EU Trade Commissioner*

*Mr Bernd Lange, Chair of the European Parliament Trade Committee*

*Mr Jean Asselborn, Foreign Minister of Luxembourg*

**LUNCH BREAK (12.30 p.m. – 2 p.m.)**

**Atrium, 6th Floor**

## AFTERNOON SESSIONS

### Panels (in parallel) (2 p.m. – 3.10 p.m.)

Every parallel session will start with four short opening statements from the panellists, followed by a debate with participants.

#### **1/ Economic benefits for SMEs (*meeting room JDE 63 – tbc*)**

*Moderator: (tbc)*

*Panellists: Mr Jean-Pierre Soubieu, CNC Distribution (tbc)*

*Mr Ian Talbot, CEO Chambers Ireland*

*Mr Christofer Fjellner, EPP, European Parliament, INTA Committee*

*Ms Gabriele Bishoff, President of the EESC Workers' group*

#### **2/ Securing European social standards and labour rights (*meeting room JDE 53 – tbc*)**

*Moderator: (tbc)*

*Panellists: Ms Karen Curtis, Deputy Director, ILO International Labour Standards Department (tbc)*

*Mr Steve Turner, Trade Union Confederation, TUC, UK*

*Mr Jacek Krawczyk, President of the EESC employers group*

*Mr Thomas Händel, GUE/NGL, European Parliament, EMPL Chairman*

### Coffee break (3.10 p.m. - 3.20 p.m.)

**3/ Transparency, democracy, accountability (meeting room 63 - tbc)**

*Moderator: Prof. Dr. Burkhard Hess, Professor, Universität Heidelberg*

*Panellists: Mr Oliver Röpke, Head of European office of the Austrian trade unions*

*Mr Peter Zahradnik, Czech Chamber of commerce*

*Ms Dita Charanzova, ALDE, European Parliament, IMCO Committee*

**4/ Regulatory cooperation (meeting room JDE 53 – tbc)**

*Moderator: Ms Poppy Bullock, Senior Correspondent, MLex*

*Panellists: Mr Reinhard Quick, German Chemical Industry Association*

*Mr Guido Nelissen, IndustriALL*

*Ms Godelieve Quishoudt-Rowohl, EPP, European Parliament, INTA Committee*

*Ms Benedicte Federspiel, Member of the Various Interests group, EESC (tbc)*

**Closing plenary session (4.30 p.m. - 5.30 p.m.)**

*Presentation of a summary of panel sessions by the four moderators*

*Concluding remarks: Ms Mia Asenius, Head of Cabinet of Ms Cecilia Malmström*

*Mr Georges Dassis, President of the European Economic and Social Committee*