

*This **TEXTUAL PROPOSAL** is the European Union's initial proposal for legal text for "an SME Committee" in the SME chapter of TTIP. It was tabled for discussion with the US in the negotiating round of 19 - 23 October 2015 and made public on 6 November 2015. The actual text in the final agreement will be a result of negotiations between the EU and US.*

TEXTUAL PROPOSAL

FOR AN SME COMMITTEE IN THE SME CHAPTER

Preamble

[add a reference to micro-enterprises as being part of SMEs]

Article X.4: Committee on SME Issues

1. The Parties hereby establish a Committee on SME Issues, comprising officials of each Party.
2. The Committee on SME Issues shall:
 - (a) ensure that SME needs are taken into account in the implementation of the Agreement and consider ways to increase trade and investment opportunities for SMEs by strengthening cooperation on SME issues between the Parties;
 - (b) discuss the matters described in paragraph 2 of Article X.1 (Cooperation to Increase Trade and Investment Opportunities for SMEs), and build on those for an effective implementation of the agreement while avoiding duplication of work with other EU-U.S. cooperative activities on SMEs;
 - (c) monitor the implementation of the provisions on information sharing of Article X.2 (Information Sharing) to ensure that the information provided by the Parties is up-to-date and relevant for SMEs. The Committee may recommend additional information that the Parties may include in the websites or webpages to be maintained in accordance with Article X.2;
 - (d) discuss any other matter arising from the implementation of the Agreement of interest to SMEs. This includes:
 - discussing the monitoring and implementation of the Agreement as it relates to SMEs;
 - be informed of the work of other committees and working groups established by the Agreement, including the Regulatory Cooperation Body, and present to these committees and working groups specific issue of particular interest to SMEs in their areas, while avoiding duplication of work programs; and
 - identifying appropriate possible solutions to improve the ability of SMEs to engage in trade and investment among the Parties;

[note: appropriate provisions for contacts with the SME committee shall be placed in the other committees]

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- (e) develop a close interaction with relevant SME stakeholders, at least once a year, by meeting in conjunction with an EU-U.S. SME Dialogue to provide information and receive and discuss feedback on the implementation of the Agreement and its impact on SMEs, on the basis of input from stakeholders;
- (f) submit a regular report of its activities and make appropriate recommendations to the {*overarching institution of the T-TIP*} for its consideration; and

[Note: to be aligned with practice of other committees]

- (g) consider any other matter pertaining to SMEs as the Committee on SME Issues may decide.

3. The Committee on SME Issues shall convene within one year after the Agreement enters into force and thereafter meet as necessary, and shall carry out its work through the communication channels decided by the Parties, which may include electronic mail, videoconferencing, or other means.

4. The Committee on SME Issues shall coordinate its work with the cooperative activities undertaken by each Party pursuant to the U.S.-EU SME Dialogue and the administrative arrangements on SME cooperation. The Committee on SME Issues shall endeavor to meet in conjunction with meetings of the U.S.-EU SME Dialogue and of the administrative arrangements on SME cooperation.