The G7 Research Group at the Munk School of Global Affairs at Trinity College in the University of Toronto presents the

2016 Ise-Shima G7 Interim Compliance Report
29 May 2016 to 19 February 2017

Prepared by
Sarah Beard, Sophia Glisch, Humayun Ahmed, Katie Andrews and Sohaib Ahmed
with Brittaney Warren and Emily Scrivens
G7 Research Group, University of Toronto

15 April 2017
www.g7.utoronto.ca
g8@utoronto.ca
@g7_rg and @g8rg

“We have meanwhile set up a process and there are also independent institutions monitoring which objectives of our G7 meetings we actually achieve. When it comes to these goals we have a compliance rate of about 80%, according to the University of Toronto. Germany, with its 87%, comes off pretty well. That means that next year too, under the Japanese G7 presidency, we are going to check where we stand in comparison to what we have discussed with each other now. So a lot of what we have resolved to do here together is something that we are going to have to work very hard at over the next few months. But I think that it has become apparent that we, as the G7, want to assume responsibility far beyond the prosperity in our own countries. That’s why today’s outreach meetings, that is the meetings with our guests, were also of great importance.”

Chancellor Angela Merkel, Schloss Elmau, 8 June 2015
Contents

Preface ........................................................................................................................................... 3
Research Team ............................................................................................................................... 4
Lead Analysts ................................................................................................................................. 4
Compliance Analysts ...................................................................................................................... 4
Executive Summary ...................................................................................................................... 6
The Interim Compliance Score .................................................................................................... 6
Compliance by Member .................................................................................................................. 6
Compliance by Commitment ......................................................................................................... 6
The Compliance Gap Between Members ...................................................................................... 6
Future Research and Reports ....................................................................................................... 6
  Table A: 2016 Priority Commitments Selected for Assessment* .............................................. 7
  Table B: 2016 G7 Ise-Shima Interim Compliance Scores .......................................................... 9
  Table C: 2016 G7 Ise-Shima Interim Compliance Scores by Country ....................................... 10
  Table D: 2016 G7 Ise-Shima Interim Compliance Scores by Commitment .............................. 10
1. Trade: Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership .......................................................... 11
2. Development: Addis Tax Initiative ........................................................................................ 24
3. Food and Agriculture: G7 Vision for Action on Food Security and Nutrition ....................... 35
5. Terrorism: Combatting Terrorist Financing .......................................................................... 72
6. Syria: Refugees ......................................................................................................................... 89
7. Non-proliferation: Weapons of Mass Destruction ................................................................ 114
8. International Cyber Stability .................................................................................................. 133
9. Climate Change: Paris Agreement .......................................................................................... 147
10. Health: Global Health Security Agenda ............................................................................... 161
11. Ukraine: Corruption and Judicial Reform ........................................................................... 174
1. Trade: Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership

“We are committed to applying the necessary political will to reach a TTIP [Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership] agreement as early as this year, provided that it is ambitious, comprehensive, high standard and mutually beneficial, with a view to harnessing the full potential of the transatlantic economy as soon as possible.”

*G7 Ise-Shima Leaders’ Declaration*

### Assessment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Lack of Compliance</th>
<th>Work in Progress</th>
<th>Full Compliance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td></td>
<td>-1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td></td>
<td>+1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td></td>
<td>+1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
<td>+1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>European Union</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>+1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>+0.38</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Background

The Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) is a trade and investment agreement that is currently being negotiated between the European Union and the United States. The two G7 members launched negotiations on the agreement in 2013, for the purpose of adding “growth and jobs to both sides of the Atlantic by boosting trade and investment.” Representatives of the US government and the European Commission believe that TTIP will be a mutually beneficial free trade agreement that will expand market access for EU and US businesses and consumers.

According to the Office of the United States Trade Representative, TTIP will serve a range of purposes. First, it will further open markets and expand the USD465 billion in goods and services exported to the EU — the United States’ largest export market — which already supports an estimated 2.2 million American jobs. Secondly, it will strengthen rules-based investing to bolster the investment relationship between the US and the EU which represents the world’s largest investment relationship. The US and the EU currently maintain a total of nearly USD4 trillion in investment in each other’s economies, supporting nearly 7 million jobs. Third, TTIP will tackle costly “behind the border” non-tariff barriers that impede the flow of the goods and services trade. TTIP will also seek to significantly decrease the cost of differences in regulation and standards by promoting greater

---


compatibility, transparency, and cooperation. It will also enhance cooperation in the development of rules and principles on issues of global concern, including those concerned with developing market-based disciplines for state-owned enterprises, combating discriminatory localization barriers to trade, and promoting the global competitiveness of small- and medium-sized enterprises.

According to the European Commission, European firms will be able to export more goods and services to the United States, and secure government contracts with TTIP. They will also be able to import more of the goods and services they require to make an assortment of products. They will be able to determine when a product counts as being made in Europe and not in the US. Finally, they will be able to invest in the United States more readily.

The TTIP was first addressed by the G7 at the 2015 Schloss Elmau Summit, where G7 leaders pledged to “immediately accelerate work on all TTIP issues, ensuring progress in all the elements of the negotiations, with the goal of finalizing understandings on the outline of an agreement as soon as possible, preferably by the end of this year.” The G7 remains supportive of TTIP, as this commitment illustrates.

**Commitment Features**

There are two different aspects to this commitment. The first is the pledge to apply “the necessary political will to reach a TTIP agreement as early as this year.” This agreement is contingent on the second aspect of the commitment, which is that the TTIP must be an “ambitious, comprehensive, high-standard and mutually beneficial agreement.”

Political will is an abstract concept that is hard to quantify. However, the Oxford Living Dictionaries define it as a “political intention or desire … specifically the firm intention or commitment on the part of a government to carry through a policy.” Thus, the actions of member states demonstrating the application of the necessary political will could include, but are not limited to: scheduling or attending high-level meetings discussing TTIP; publishing up-to-date publicly-available information regarding advancements in the negotiation process; or pushing for the signature of TTIP both domestically and abroad. Signature of TTIP would also count towards compliance with this aspect of the commitment.

It is also difficult to define what it means for TTIP to be an “ambitious, comprehensive, high-standard, and mutually beneficial” agreement. However, the US and EU have used similar language since the initiation of TTIP negotiations, so it is possible to interpret the meaning of the phrase based on statements from the two G7 members. In their report recommending the launch of TTIP, the High Level Working Group on Jobs and Growth noted that a mutually beneficial agreement would

---


be “a comprehensive agreement that addresses a broad range of bilateral trade and investment issues, including regulatory issues, and contributes to the development of global rules.” 14 This “comprehensive agreement would include ambitious reciprocal market opening in goods, services, and investment, and would address the challenges and opportunities of modernizing trade rules and enhancing the compatibility of regulatory regimes.”15 In terms of increased market access, the two parties have suggested that “ambitious outcomes” would be committing to removing tariffs on industrial and agricultural products, “opening up access to government procurement markets at all levels of government without discrimination for European companies,” opening up services markets in new areas, and increasing “liberalisation and investment protection.16 Ambitious outcomes in addressing regulatory issues would involve greater regulatory harmonization and the reduction of non-tariff barriers.17 In this area, the European Commission has committed to maintaining its “high standards” on issues like food safety, environmental protection, and the precautionary principle.18 This commitment aims to allay the fears of advocacy groups that worry that regulatory harmonization will pressure the EU to downgrade its standards to those of the US. Finally, the two parties have committed to attaining “ambitious outcomes in … [developing] rules, principles, and new modes of cooperation to address shared global trade challenges and opportunities.”19 This includes issues of transparency, intellectual property rights, and sustainable development, amongst other concerns.20 Efforts to attain the parties’ goals in these areas will be interpreted as attempts to comply with their commitment to obtain a high-quality agreement.

Not all members of the G7 are party to TTIP. The EU, France, Italy, Germany, the United Kingdom, and the US must take direct action to comply with the commitment since they are involved. While Canada and Japan are not involved in TTIP negotiations, the G7 Research Group’s coding manual notes that the commitment has been issued collectively. As a result, the Group presumes that all members should comply, and suggests that they can comply by acting in a supportive way, and by taking actions that help or do not harm the TTIP agreement.

---


Scoring Guidelines

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>-1</td>
<td>Member does not apply the necessary political will to reach an agreement on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) by 2016 AND does not work towards achieving an ambitious, comprehensive, high standard and mutually beneficial agreement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>Member applies the necessary political will to reach a TTIP agreement by 2016 OR works towards achieving an ambitious, comprehensive, high standard and mutually beneficial agreement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+1</td>
<td>Member applies the necessary political will to reach a TTIP agreement by 2016 AND works towards achieving an ambitious, comprehensive, high standard and mutually beneficial TTIP agreement.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Canada: 0

Canada has partially complied with its commitment to bring about the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP). It has applied the necessary political will to achieve an ambitious, comprehensive, high standard and mutually beneficial agreement that harnesses the potential of the transatlantic economy. Although the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) and TTIP are not explicitly linked, both trade agreements reflect a commitment to fostering free trade relations in the transatlantic economy.

On 22 August 2016, Canada committed to CETA’s implementation as soon as possible, and put in place strategies to ensure that it can deliver a broad range of promotion and advocacy initiatives to support timely ratification.21

On 30 October 2016, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau signed CETA at the European Union-Canada Leaders’ Summit.22 Minister of International Trade Chrystia Freeland tabled the treaty and introduced implementing legislation in the House of Commons in the same month, with the expected implementation of the treaty to take place in 2017.23

On 5 December 2016, Freeland announced that the federal government will spend CAD218 million over the next five years to create a new agency that will serve as a one-window international hub to attract investment to Canada.24 Freeland said that “there is real economic opportunity in the fact that we have broad support in Canada for our open society … It’s a tremendous moment to go out and promote Canada as the most attractive destination for foreign direct investment in a very turbulent world.”25

---

Canada has shown no explicit support for the TTIP, but its commitment to trade initiatives in support of a transatlantic partnership has demonstrated a political will that echoes the TTIP agreement; thus, Canada has been awarded a score of 0.

*Analyst: Bethlehem Solomon*

**France: −1**

France has not complied with its commitment to bring about the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP). The state has not worked towards achieving an ambitious, comprehensive, high-standard and mutually beneficial agreement, nor has it applied the necessary political will to reach an agreement by 2016.

On 26 June 2016, Prime Minister Valls stated that “the agreement on the table is unacceptable on these terms. France has defined its demands since the beginning. No progress has been made.”

Points of disagreement with the United States that have caused France to oppose negotiations include food and agriculture, energy, health, public procurement, and cultural goods.

On 5 July 2016, Matthias Fekl, the Minister of State for Foreign Trade, the Promotion of Tourism, and French Nationals Abroad, said that it will be impossible for the European Union and the United States to conclude the TTIP negotiations by the end of 2016. Fekl said that the statements made by EU Trade Commissioner Cecilia Malmström — that all EU members support the TTIP — are out of touch with what is happening in Europe.

On 30 August 2016, Fekl announced that his government demanded negotiations on TTIP to cease. Fekl stated that “there is no more political support in France for these negotiations” and that negotiations had reached a stalemate because of the United States’ systematic refusal to make concessions to the European Union. He said “we need a clear and definitive halt to these negotiations in order to restart on a good foundation.”

On 30 August 2016, French President François Hollande stated that the TTIP talks were “bogged down” and “too unbalanced,” making an agreement by the end of 2016 “impossible.”

---


Thus, France has not worked towards achieving an ambitious, comprehensive, high-standard, and mutually beneficial agreement, and it has not applied the necessary political will to reach a TTIP agreement by 2016. For these reasons, France has been awarded a score of −1.

Analyst: Nicolas Jonathan

Germany: +1

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to applying the necessary political will to reach a Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) agreement as early as this year, as well as to ensuring that the agreement is comprehensive and mutually beneficial to both the European Union and the United States.

On 30 May 2016, the Government of Germany hosted an event in Bad Staffelstein with the Association of the Bavarian Economy. The event was titled Opportunities and Potential of the Free Trade Agreement with the United States. This was documented as a TTIP event by the Directorate for Trade of the European Commission.34

On 28 August 2016, Sigmar Gabriel, Germany’s Vice-Chancellor and Minister of the Economy, stated that the TTIP negotiations have “de-facto” failed any prospect of a conclusive deal. In his remarks during a public Q&A session with ZDF, the German public service television broadcaster, Gabriel stated that “Europeans … must not succumb to American demands.”35

However, on 1 September 2016, German Chancellor Angela Merkel stressed her continued support for an EU-US trade agreement. She stated her confidence in TTIP to provide valuable job opportunities and to ensure that the European economy does not fall behind the economy of Asia.36

On 9 September 2016, the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWi) published a press release regarding the TTIP advisory group’s meeting on investment protection. The Government of Germany urged the advisory group to provide information to public stakeholders in society, and suggested that improved transparency of the process was necessary.37

On 8 October 2016, the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWi) published a press release on the fifteenth round of TTIP negotiations, which took place on 3-7 October 2016 in New York City.38 The press release stated that the negotiations addressed the key TTIP pillar of regulatory co-operation. It also outlined two high-level meetings involving TTIP: the Council of Trade Ministers on 11 November, and the European Council on 20 and 21 October.

On 11 November 2016, Germany participated in the meeting of the Foreign Affairs Council, which reviewed developments in the TTIP negotiations and bilateral trade in light of the US elections.39

On 16 November 2016, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and United States President Barack Obama made a public appeal for continued cooperation between the US and the European Union on the transatlantic trade deal.\(^{40}\)

Germany has applied the necessary political will to reach a TTIP agreement by 2016 and has worked towards achieving an ambitious, comprehensive, high-standard and mutually beneficial agreement. Thus, Germany has been awarded a score of +1.

*Analyst: Angela Min Yi Hou*

**Italy: +1**

Italy has fully complied with its commitment to applying the necessary political will to reach an agreement on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) as early as this year, as well as ensuring that the agreement is comprehensive and mutually beneficial to both the European Union and the United States.

On 18 October 2016, Italian President Sergio Mattarella attended a bilateral meeting with United States President Barack Obama in Washington DC. President Mattarella stated that reaching an economic partnership between the United States and the member countries of the European Union, including Italy, could help both sides “reduce the loss in the future economic crises.”\(^{41}\) He urged all parties to finalize the negotiation between the two sides and to reach an agreement. President Mattarella said that Italy has tried to bring the TTIP topic back to the table for further negotiation in order to reach a final deal. After the bilateral meeting, President Barack Obama publicly said that both United States and Italy strongly support the TTIP, which can bring both countries investment benefits and improve both job security and economic growth.\(^{42}\)

On 31 August 2016, Italy attended the European meeting hosted by the European Commission, and participated in discussions regarding TTIP. The Italian Minister of Economic Development, Carlo Calenda, said that TTIP has reached a difficult negotiation and the outcome needs to be approved.\(^{43}\) He stated that Italy will provide the “maximum supports to the European Commission” to help to finalize the negotiation and reach the agreements.\(^{44}\)

On 22 February 2016, Italy attended the 12th TTIP meeting in Brussels and participated in discussions regarding how to push the agreement further forward.\(^{45}\) The negotiation focused on the initial public procurement offer, market access, and investment. It aimed to reach an agreement on

---


controversial issues, including the importing tariff and over-sea investment between two-sides. The member countries of the European Union, including Italy, also had a discussion on investment protection, transparency of communication, and their concerns about the possible impact of the TTIP on their domestic policies in areas such as environmental and food safety standards.\textsuperscript{46}

On 22 June 2015, in a speech to the European Commission, Trade Commissioner Cecilia Malmström stated that Italy worked hard to ensure that the TTIP would improve the Italian economy and create multiple opportunities for business by applying crucial policies, including: (1) “eliminating tariffs” for importing goods from both sides; (2) “reducing regulatory barriers”; (3) “enabling Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)”; (4) providing better protection for unique Italian products.\textsuperscript{47}

Italy has applied the necessary political will to reach a TTIP agreement by 2016, although no agreement was reached. It has also worked towards achieving an ambitious, comprehensive, high-standard, and mutually beneficial agreement. Thus, Italy has been awarded a score of +1.

\textit{Analyst: Yujing (Carina) Chen}

**Japan: 0**

Japan has partially complied with its commitment to apply the necessary political will towards achieving an ambitious, comprehensive, high-standard, and mutually beneficial agreement that harnesses the potential of the transatlantic economy. Although the free trade agreement Japan is currently negotiating with the European Union is not explicitly linked to the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP), both agreements reflect a commitment to fostering relations in the transatlantic economy.

On 13 June 2016, Japan and the EU hosted their fifth sector-to-sector meeting in Tokyo.\textsuperscript{48} The Japanese State Minister of Economy, Trade, and Industry Junji Suzuki engaged in dialogue with ambassadors from EU member states. All parties emphasized “the need for accelerating the negotiations in order to ensure that the agreement is both comprehensive and ambitious in scope.”\textsuperscript{49}

On 26 September 2016, Japan and the EU engaged in the 17th round of negotiations on a free trade agreement (FTA) in Brussels.\textsuperscript{50} The Japanese government referred to the Japan-EU Economic Partnership Agreement as one of the “mega FTAs” along with the Trans-Pacific Partnership and TTIP.\textsuperscript{51} The Japan-EU negotiations centered on areas such as market access, non-tariff measures and technical barriers to trade, procurement, intellectual property, and general and regulatory cooperation.\textsuperscript{52}


“Section 5 — Initiative to Create New Rules,” the report declares Japan’s support for “alleviating non-tariff measures” and increasing global cooperation between corporations and governments to form international standards and regulations which are part of the TTIP.53

Japan has made no explicit declaration of support for the TTIP, but its commitment to trade initiatives in support of a transatlantic partnership has demonstrated a political will that echoes that of the TTIP agreement, and thus, Japan has been awarded a score of 0.

*Analyst: Angela Min Yi Hou*

**United Kingdom: 0**

The United Kingdom has partially complied with its commitment to apply the necessary political will to reach a Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) agreement as early as this year, but has not actively worked to achieve a comprehensive agreement.

On 25 April 2016, the UK Department of Business, Innovation and Skills commented on TTIP negotiations, dispelling the arguments publicized by critics of the agreement.54

On 13 September 2016, the Prime Minister’s Office published a press release in support of the TTIP. This release stated that “on trade, the Prime Minister reiterated that we would continue to support EU free trade negotiations, including TTIP, while we remained full members of the EU.”55

In September 2016, Prime Minister Theresa May was quoted as saying that the UK was “open for business” and supports free trade.56

On 27 October 2016, the UK trade minister signed a letter in favour of continued TTIP talks.57 However, due to the outcome of the Brexit vote, a decision to exit the EU bloc, any future TTIP agreement would no longer include the UK.58

On 24 April 2016, UK Trade and Investment, the primary government body aimed at regulating international trade for British firms, expressed explicit support for TTIP. The department was quoted as saying, “Negotiations between the US and EU for the TTIP should generate even more opportunities for the UK. This will remove trade barriers by lowering tariffs and making regulations similar.”59

The UK has applied the necessary political will to reach a TTIP agreement by 2016, although no agreement was reached. However, it has not worked toward achieving an ambitious, comprehensive, high standard and mutually beneficial agreement. Thus, the UK has been awarded a score of 0.

**Analyst: Kevin Lass**

**United States: +1**

The United States has fully complying with its commitment to applying the necessary political will to reach an agreement on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) as early as this year, as well as ensuring that the agreement is comprehensive and mutually beneficial to both the European Union and the United States.

On 11-15 July 2016, the 14th round of TTIP negotiations took place in Brussels, Belgium. United States (US) Trade Representative Dan Mullaney stated that the US and the EU had agreed on cross-cutting and sector-specific regulatory elements. More specifically, the US put forward proposals on trade defense, financial services, sectors, textiles, state-owned enterprises, good regulatory practices, and legal and institutional provisions.60

On 15 July 2016, Dan Mullaney, Chief Negotiation for the United States, stated that the US fundamentally believes “that an ambitious T-TIP agreement is achievable in 2016, and that remains the goal of the United States.”61

On 31 August 2016, US Trade Representative Michael Froman was interviewed by the German newspaper *Spiegel* and said that the US and the EU had made good progress in TTIP negotiations, with both parties agreeing to eliminate 97 per cent of tariffs and make regulatory approaches more transparent and collaborative. He said that both parties also identified potential actions in specific sectors to enhance consumer welfare, and agreed that the TTIP will contain strong labour and environmental obligations so that the TTIP can “raise global standards while improving people’s lives through increased growth and job opportunities.”62

On 15 September 2016, EU Trade Commissioner Malmström met with US Trade Representative Michael Froman in Brussels and released a joint statement after the meeting: “We had a good meeting where we reviewed the substantial progress being made and discussed next steps for moving forward. We have directed our teams to make as much progress as possible during the next round, scheduled for the week of 3 October 2016 in New York.”63

On 3-7 October 2016, the 15th round of negotiations took place in New York City, New York. EU Chief Negotiator Ignacio Garcia Bercero stated that the United States and EU discussed regulatory coherence, technical barriers to trade, and plant and animal health (SPS). The United States agreed to

---


cooperate in the following nine sectors: cars, pharmaceuticals, chemicals, cosmetics, ICT, pesticide, engineering, medical devices, and textiles.  

On 7 October 2016, Dan Mullaney, Chief Negotiation for the United States, stated that the US is “committed as ever” to the success of the TTIP negotiations and is “ready to move forward on an agreement that is in our mutual economic interest.” Mullaney also called the TTIP “vital to strengthening our transatlantic relationship in a time of significant geopolitical uncertainty and uneven economic growth internationally. It will also give the US and the EU an opportunity to work together to raise global standards based on shared values.”  

On 18 October 2016, US President Barack Obama met with Italian President Sergio Mattarella. President Obama publicly said that both the United States and Italy strongly support the TTIP, which can bring benefit to investments and improve both job security and economic growth.  

In November 2016, President Obama visited Europe, where he met with several leading EU officials, including Chancellor Merkel of Germany. Both Obama and Merkel made public appeals for continued cooperation between the US and the European Union on the transatlantic trade deal.  

The US has applied the necessary political will to reach a TTIP agreement by 2016 and has worked towards achieving an ambitious, comprehensive, high-standard, and mutually beneficial agreement. Thus, the US has been awarded a score of +1.  

**European Union: +1**

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to applying the necessary political will to reach an agreement on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) as early as this year, as well as ensuring that the agreement is comprehensive and mutually beneficial to both the European Union and the United States.

On 28 June 2016, President of the European Commission Jean-Claude Juncker urged European leaders to publicly support trade talks with the US. A spokesperson detailed that “Juncker felt the EU leaders needed to now establish what they wanted from the TTIP talks.” Juncker further

---

encouraged European leaders “to reconfirm the Commission’s mandate” in regards to a detailed trade agreement.\textsuperscript{71}

On 11-15 July 2016, the 14th round of negotiations took place in Brussels, Belgium. EU Chief TTIP negotiator Ignacio Garcia Bercero stated that during the negotiations, the EU made a record number of ten new textual proposals. He also stated that following the negotiations, the US and the EU agreed on the outline of the future TTIP agreement.\textsuperscript{72}

On 6 September 2016, the TTIP Advisory Group set up by the EU held an assembly. After the assembly, the TTIP Advisory Group released a report outlining the discussion that took place during their meeting. The Chair explained that the current and second offers on tariff dismantlement now cover 97% of all tariffs on EU goods.\textsuperscript{73} He followed up by stating that “the EU is in favour of an ambitious approach for non-agricultural tariffs, eliminating all within 7 years as long as this is reciprocal,” demonstrating that the EU is continuing to work towards a highly ambitious agreement with the United States.\textsuperscript{74}

On 15 September 2016, EU Trade Commissioner Malmström met with US Trade Representative Michael Froman in Brussels and released a joint statement after the meeting: “We had a good meeting where we reviewed the substantial progress being made and discussed next steps for moving forward. We have directed our teams to make as much progress as possible during the next round, scheduled for the week of 3 October 2016 in New York.”\textsuperscript{75}

On 7 October 2016, following the 15th round of negotiations, EU Chief TTIP Negotiator Ignacio Garcia Bercero was quoted in his opening remarks as saying, “in this round [of negotiations] we focused on consolidating texts and removing the differences we had in the existing proposals; or what we call in our trade jargon ‘removing brackets’.\textsuperscript{76}” He continued by explaining the process and details of the negotiations, saying that members “have spent a lot of time discussing the regulatory area, including regulatory coherence, technical barriers to trade, plants and animals health (SPS) and the nine specific sectors identified for cooperation before the talks has begun.”\textsuperscript{77}

On 16 November 2016, United States President Barack Obama and German Chancellor Angela Merkel made a public appeal for continued cooperation between the US and the European Union on the transatlantic trade deal.\textsuperscript{78}

The EU has fulfilled its commitment to advocate for the urgent completion of the TTIP by applying the necessary political will to create a mutually beneficial agreement through public backing from EU leaders such as Chancellor Merkel, Ignacio Garcia Bercero, and European Commission President Juncker, and through the TTIP Advisory Group, which continues to work in detail on the language of the agreement, ensuring that the EU’s interests are maintained.

The EU has applied the necessary political will to reach a TTIP agreement by 2016 and has worked towards achieving an ambitious, comprehensive, high-standard, and mutually beneficial agreement. Thus, the EU has been awarded a score of +1.

\textit{Analyst: Michael Johnston}