

Committee on International Trade
European Parliament
Bât. Altiero Spinelli
15G206
60, rue Wiertz
B-1047 Bruxelles

Brussels, 17 March 2015
CEEP.2015/24

Dear XX,

You may find enclosed to this letter CEEP proposals for amendments to the Recommendations to the European Commission on the negotiations for the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP). Our objective is to make sure that the general will expressed by the EU negotiators of safeguarding EU principles governing the provision of public services is truly reflected in TTIP. We welcome the draft recommendations presented by Mr Lange in this regard and would like to draw your attention on five points to strengthen it further:

1. **Use the concept of Services of General (Economic) Interest (SG(E)I) when speaking about public services**, as it is referenced in EU primary law (article 14 TFEU and protocol 26 TFEU) and all-encompassing.
2. **Ensure an effective carve-out of SG(E)Is from market access provisions** by using the legal and comprehensive concept of SG(E)I and making the exclusion explicit in the TTIP.
3. **Call for a positive-list approach in market access and national treatment for services:** Given the changing nature of public services and the varieties in organizing them across Europe, a full listing (in the case of a negative list) would be practically impossible.
4. **Ensure the safeguard of SGEIs when applying competition rules:** therefore EU text proposals should explicitly mention EU primary law (article 106 TFEU) which states that undertakings providing SGEIs are exempted from competition rules if their performance in delivering a SGEI task is obstructed.
5. **Ensure the respect of EU Public Procurement rules**, notably with regard to local self-government, "in-house", public-public cooperation and the possibility to include social and environmental award criteria.

We hope you will take those proposals into consideration and remain at your disposal should you need further details on CEEP's position. We will be glad to support you in making sure that TTIP will be an ambitious trade agreement which preserves the quality of European public services.

Yours sincerely,



Valeria Ronzitti
General Secretary

The European Center of Employers and Enterprises providing Public Services (CEEP) represents the interests of employers and providers of Services of General (Economic) Interest (SG(E)I) in Europe. We represent 30% of the European workforce and more than 26% of the EU GDP.