

**Sustainability Impact Assessment on the Negotiations for the Modernization of the Trade
Pillar of the EU – Mexico Global Agreement
Stakeholder Consultation**

Services Sector Roundtable

When: Tuesday November 28 // 11h -12h30

Where: Avenue de Cortenbergh 168, B-1000 Brussels, Belgium

Partnering Host Venue: European Services Forum (ESF)

The services sector roundtable started with an introduction by the sector lead researcher for services, Matthias Bauer. After a brief overview of the outreach process of the EU-Mexico SIA and a brief introduction to the SIA itself, Mr. Bauer provided a short overview of the state of play of EU Mexico negotiations. He stated that CETA could be used as a benchmark for the future update of the EU-Mexico agreement.

A discussion with stakeholders followed the introduction. A representative started off by making a number of remarks. He pointed out that his association is actively following and very interested in the ongoing negotiations between the EU and Mexico. He mentioned that TPP should be used as a benchmark for the negotiations. Also, NAFTA is of crucial importance for the negotiations between the EU and Mexico.

Regarding horizontal issues, the representative expressed disappointment about the hybrid approach chosen for the negotiations, instead of a negative list approach which would have been preferred. The participant is especially interested in pushing for more liberalization in the area of public procurement, on the federal, but also sub-federal and local level. Furthermore, it would be important to arrive at definite language on the issue of data flow. Also a chapter on SOEs, including Micro SMEs, should be included. Here, it would be important to conceive a tailored set of tools addressing issues of SMEs regarding services, rather than focusing on trade in goods. A SME portal or website for SMEs should be established and it should focus in detail on services. Finally, regulatory cooperation is a crucial issue. On the sectoral side, postal and courier, telecommunication, financial, maritime transport and energy services are important sectors for the representative.

The discussion was then continued by a second participant where he mentioned that de minimis as well as regulatory cooperation are two important issues for their work. Furthermore, EU companies should be granted national treatment in Mexico. Customs clearance procedures, especially physical inspection of packages, as well as license applications are important topics. Overall, an equal level playing field should be established between European companies and others.