

## Euro-Ombudsman

**From:** Marie Van Steen <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** 07 November 2014 17:48  
**To:** Euro-Ombudsman  
**Subject:** [EOWEB] Copa-Cogeca's contribution to the Ombudsman's consultation on the transparency of the TTIP negotiations  
**Attachments:** BILAT(14)8345EN[1].pdf

## Expéditeur

**Expéditeur** Marie Van Steen <[REDACTED]>  
**Date** Friday, November 7, 2014 5:47:34 PM CET

## Vos informations

### Partie 1 - Information sur l'expéditeur

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<b>Langue de réponse souhaitée</b>	en - English
<b>Autre langue dans laquelle vous accepteriez une réponse (le cas échéant)</b>	fr - français

### Partie 2 - Contenu

**Sujet** Copa-Cogeca's contribution to the Ombudsman's consultation on the transparency of the TTIP negotiations  
Dear Madam,

Please find enclosed "Copa-Cogeca's contribution to the Ombudsman's consultation on the transparency of the TTIP negotiations".

Kind Regards,

On behalf of Pekka Pesonen, Secretary General

**Marie Van Steen**

Team Assistant at Copa-Cogeca

#### Contenu

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Copa - European farmers

Cogeca - European agri-cooperatives

BILAT(14)8345:1 – AP/mvs

## **COPA-COGECA'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE OMBUDSMAN'S CONSULTATION ON THE TRANSPARENCY OF THE TTIP NEGOTIATIONS**

The European Union has launched a whole host of bilateral agreements, whilst open negotiations are still ongoing at the multilateral organisation, the WTO. The Bali Ministerial Declaration in December 2014 stressed that members' political objective was to conclude negotiations by 2018.

WTO negotiations would therefore appear to represent the greatest interest and have the most significant impact on the EU's economy and civil society. The Commission's services have provided valuable assistance to civil society by organising a daily briefing on the negotiations and scheduling a meeting with representatives of the members of the European Parliament.

Concerning the Transatlantic Economic Partnership, the European Commission has taken the initiative to foster communication with economic and non-economic operators by organising a stakeholder event for each round of negotiations taking place in Brussels, as well as extensive civil society meetings where the negotiators are strongly represented. Furthermore, DG TRADE has set up an advisory group for the trade negotiators. This advisory group has access to a specific reading room, where the Commission's working documents can be found.

The request for greater transparency vis-à-vis documents on the negotiations must be mutually respected, with the aim of accessing better information from the US negotiators. EU civil society has received no information on the USA's position and no working documents, contrary to what is available in the EU. The work of the advisory group is now linked to the flexibility of the US negotiators and whether they would allow the Commission's services to disclose their position papers and carry out a comparative analysis. Furthermore, we would advocate not jeopardising the position of the EU negotiators during the process.

The issue of regulatory convergence between the EU and the USA crops up regularly. We believe that this process will take a long time and it is essential to focus our attention on bringing trade agreements into force, such as those that exist already with South Korea, Peru-Colombia, etc.

We would like to underscore that there is a lack of information, not only on the impact of the TTIP, but also on the cumulative impact of bilateral and multilateral agreements on society and the economic sector in the EU. The Council's mandates focus on separate trade negotiations and there are no overarching guidelines for EU negotiators. We believe that the Commission's services should pay more attention to this situation and develop studies, such as the study carried out by the JRC on the cumulative impact of the Mercosur agreement and the DDA on the agricultural sector.