



CHEESE IMPORTERS
ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

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European Dairy Association
22-28, avenue d'Auderghem, 1040 Brussel

January 27, 2015

Mr. Ignacio Garcia Bercero
Director, Neighboring Countries, USA and Canada
Directorate-General for Trade, European Commission
B-1049 Brussels
BELGIUM

Mr. L. Daniel Mullaney
Assistant United States Trade Representative for Europe and the Middle East
Office of the United States Trade Representative
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Messrs. Bercero and Mullaney:

The Cheese Importers Association of America (CIAA) and the European Dairy Association (EDA) commend both the European Union (EU) and United States of America (US) negotiators for your hard work and commitment to reach a Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) agreement. We know that the end product will represent a significant trade agreement. Our two associations firmly believe that a fully negotiated TTIP has the potential to lead to the greater integration of the world's two biggest economies, promoting increased trade and investment flows that will benefit both sides.

The EU and US are two of the most modern, developed economies in the world, and TTIP negotiations reflect this in the breadth of issues covered. However it is crucial not to lose sight of the most fundamental component of a trade agreement: the elimination of tariffs on goods traded between the partners. Such elimination can, and in our view will, benefit both parties.

While we recognize that tariffs on many products traded between the US and EU are already very low, cheese is an exception. Both the EU and US have tightly restricted import quotas for cheese, which limit the trade that can currently occur, especially for high quality cheese and cheese used as an ingredient in the food manufacturing sector. These quotas do not fairly demonstrate current demand, and are sorely outdated in this age of global marketing.

In order to facilitate increased trade in cheese between these two economies, CIAA and EDA strongly recommend that tariff and tariff rate quotas for cheese imports should be reviewed.

The EU and the US are two of the world's most efficient producers and exporters of dairy products. Removing non-tariff and tariff barriers between the EU and US will provide increased opportunities for EU and US dairy companies to work together collaboratively and to develop export opportunities in other markets. A free trade agreement that encompasses cheese needs to be balanced without support for actions like Cooperatives Working Together, export refunds or any other support granted by any other party.

We look forward to a TTIP agreement that meets these concerns and provides a positive step forward in improving cheese trade between the EU and US.

Sincerely,

Dominique Delugeau
CIAA President

Alexander Anton
EDA Secretary General