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Dear John,

UPDATE ON THE TRANSATLANTIC TRADE AND INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP

I am writing to update you on the progress made on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP).

The fourth round of negotiations took place in Brussels 10-14 March. A wide range of subjects were discussed covering nearly all aspects of the TTIP agenda, including market access, regulations and rules. Steady progress was made in many technical sessions, such as automotive and regulatory coherence, and groundwork was laid for initial services offers. Two well received stakeholder events took place. The first event was an opportunity for 90 organisations, representing a broad cross section of interests from the EU and US, to present directly to the lead negotiators of both sides issues of concern in their respective areas. This was followed by a debriefing by the chief negotiators to over 300 stakeholders followed by a Q&A session. Two more negotiating rounds are expected before the summer.

I gave evidence to the Lords' Inquiry into the TTIP on 20 March. My session is available to view in full online at

<http://www.parliamentlive.tv/Main/Player.aspx?meetingId=15149> and the transcript should be available shortly. This was the Committee's final evidence session and they will now produce their report which I understand is likely to be made public after Easter.

The EU-US Summit took place in Brussels on 26 March. In the joint statement and press conference following the summit, President Obama, European Council President Van Rompuy, and European Commission President Barroso reaffirmed their strong support for an ambitious TTIP agreement that provides a more integrated transatlantic marketplace. They emphasised the need for negotiations to be rapid while remaining ambitious in scope, covering: market access, trade rules, and regulatory coherence. The three leaders also confirmed that TTIP would maintain high levels of health, safety, labour and environmental protections. The joint statement has been published, and the press conference is available to view, on the European Council website at <http://www.european-council.europa.eu/eu-us-summit-2014>

A transcript of the press conference is available on the White House website at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2014/03/26/press-conference-president-obama-european-council-president-van-rompuy-a>

Regards



**LORD LIVINGSTON
OF PARKHEAD**