

 <b>Council of the EU General Secretariat</b>	
<b>Trade Policy Committee</b>	
<b>m.d. :</b>	<b>100/10</b>
<b>source :</b>	<b>Friends of Transparency (AT,CZ,EE,FI,FR,DE,HU,IE,IT, LV,PL,NL,SE,UK delegations)</b>
<b>for :</b>	<b>Information</b>
<b>date :</b>	<b>23 - 02 - 2010</b>

### **ACTA**

#### **Submission by the Friends of Transparency :**

**Austria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Poland, Netherlands, Sweden and the United Kingdom**

As parties of the ACTA-negotiations and of an eventual agreement, we urge the European Commission – the negotiator on behalf of the European Union, along with the Presidency – to strongly pursue the position that the consolidated draft negotiating text should be made public as soon as possible.

While the text can clearly only be made public once all ACTA-parties agree to it, we believe that the EU should add its voice and lend unequivocal support to those ACTA-partners that already support the disclosure of the draft text. In doing so, the EU and its Member States should seek to persuade the few remaining ACTA-partners about the benefits of full transparency at this stage, in light of the fact that a consolidated draft text is on the table and considering that all ACTA-partners have agreed to try to conclude the negotiations in 2010.

Given the importance that we attach to the ACTA-negotiations and our belief that such an agreement can be of great benefit for the European Union, its industries and its citizens, we consider that the release of the draft text – combined with increased efforts to communicate and explain the content of the negotiations – is essential to dispel any remaining misperceptions, or misrepresentations, of what is being negotiated and of what the final agreement may contain.

It is our view that, in this context and considering the specificities of this negotiation, the disclosure of the consolidated draft negotiating text would be fully justified. Therefore, it would also be entirely without prejudice to, and should create no precedent for, existing practices in other negotiations by the EU and by other trading partners. In addition, the release of the draft text can and should be done without revealing the positions of individual ACTA-parties.

For all these reasons, we think it is imperative that the EU arrives at a uniform position in line with above as soon as possible and no later than before the next ACTA negotiating round.

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