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Dear Elmar!

I am writing to you ahead of the important meeting you will host at the end of this week between the US delegation of the European Parliament and Janet Napolitano, the Secretary of the US Department of Homeland Security.

As Chair of the European delegation you are aware of the importance of the € 435.4 bn of trade flows between the EU and the US which are crucial for our economic relationship. Regrettably, this trade could be significantly hampered by misguided security measures. BUSINESSEUROPE sounds the alarm bell over the 100% cargo scanning rule which would require all US-bound cargo to be screened before entering the US. There is a far-reaching consensus among business and policy officials that security will be best served by a targeted risk-based approach to cargo security.

With the deadline for the implementation of the 100% scanning rule looming, it is high time that the EU and the US find a permanent solution to this problem. In that respect we are highly concerned that the US 100% scanning rule might lead to serious distortions and delays in our bilateral trade. Although we are advocates of secure trade, the 100% scanning rule would not serve this objective. There are strong doubts over its technological feasibility, a fact that has already been acknowledged publicly by Secretary Napolitano herself. Moreover, this rule ignores the risk-based approach, involves high costs (up to \$ 500 per container) and takes about 10 minutes to scan each container. With around 11 million containers exported to the US every year, the 100% scanning rule would strongly slow down trade between the EU and the US. These concerns are shared by Europe's trading partners worldwide as well as by US business partner organisations like the US Chamber of Commerce, as almost all members of the World Customs Organisation equally oppose 100% scanning.

We hope that you will raise this concern in your meeting with Secretary Napolitano and count on your support on this issue.

With my best regards

Prigler