

# BRITISH-AMERICAN BUSINESS ASSOCIATION



## **BABA Trade Committee**

Securing a comprehensive Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) must be a top priority for both the government and business communities of the United States and the United Kingdom. The British-American Business Association (BABA) strongly believes that the long-standing bilateral relationship between our two nations can help guide the discussion towards a successful conclusion.

### **What is TTIP?**

- TTIP is a proposed comprehensive free trade agreement that the United States and European Union are currently negotiating.
- If the U.S. and EU can successfully conclude the negotiations, TTIP will boost trade and investment across the Atlantic by lowering barriers to trade.
- The U.S. and the EU already are each other's largest trading partners. However, both could realize significant economic benefits from lower non-tariff barriers to trade and a reduction or elimination of existing tariffs.
- BABA believes that TTIP should be sufficiently comprehensive so that it reduces the cost of doing business across the diversity of sectors that represent our membership without decreasing the robust regulatory standards that already exist within the U.S. and EU.

### **What are the benefits of a comprehensive TTIP?**

- With the current low tariffs and high volume of bilateral trade and investment, the bilateral economic relationship is already massive, with billions of dollars in goods and services traded on a daily basis.
- However, research suggests that a successful **TTIP could add \$117bn to the U.S. economy and \$169bn to the EU economy** simply by cutting the cost of doing business between the U.S. and EU.
- In addition, a comprehensive TTIP would also lower the burden of bureaucracy and regulation and simplify the exporting and investing process. This savings in time and money, combined with new trade encouraged by TTIP, could result in as many as **750,000 new jobs**.
- A successful TTIP will not only benefit the U.S. and EU, but could lead to \$100bn in economic benefits to third-party countries as well.

### **What do we risk if it is not done?**

- TTIP can set the precedent for global rules on trade and investment, leading the way for trade agreements of the future. While the U.S. and EU continue to represent just under half of total global trade and investment, emerging markets are pushing forward. Failure to enact a comprehensive TTIP could result in the U.S. and EU losing out on the opportunity to set global standards for international trade, bolster our trade relationship and cement our mark on the international economy.
- With the current momentum and excitement about TTIP, this is the best opportunity to successfully conclude the agreement. Allowing the negotiations to drag on with no conclusion would be detrimental to bilateral trade and investment.
- If politics in the U.S. slow down the TTIP negotiations, our European partners could grow impatient and pivot their focus to other regions, reducing the focus on U.S. goods and services. This could lead to diminished trade and a missed opportunity.

**About the British-American Business Association:**

The British American Business Association is the premier forum for British and American companies, organizations, and business professionals in the U.S. mid-Atlantic region. Our membership includes large U.S. and UK corporations with significant operations in the Washington metropolitan area, as well as active small and medium-sized enterprises.

BABA's diversity of membership reflects the importance of having a strong presence in Washington; it also represents the diverse economy of the mid-Atlantic region. BABA has a range of industry-focused committees specializing in such sectors as defense, aerospace, transportation, security, energy, environment, finance and healthcare.

BABA regularly hosts events that focus on topics of keen interest to the transatlantic business community. BABA's frequent "Business After Hours" briefings explore topics such as corporate tax policy and regulatory reform; energy policy and climate change; tax and wealth management; defense and security policy; immigration and banking issues; and healthcare policy.

BABA also hosts several annual social events including the Gala Christmas Luncheon, the Summer Drinks Party, the BABA Golf Tournament, and a range of special black-tie evenings.

**About BABA's Trade Committee:**

The BABA Trade and Policy Committee provides a forum for identifying, discussing, and promoting policy issues of importance to our member companies and to the US and UK more broadly. The newly formed committee plans to gather together interested companies and individuals to learn and exchange views with relevant experts at committee events on key topics. The current focus is on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP), given the enormous benefit to our two nations of reaching a successful conclusion.

