

Press Release

## IT Security Association Germany warns of decrease in IT security level due to TTIP

**Berlin, 2015, March 9th: The Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership negotiation (TTIP) is being justifiably criticized in public discussion. The IT Security Association Germany (TeleTrusT) warns of a possible decrease of the German and European standards in data protection and IT security due to TTIP.**

TeleTrusT is seriously concerned about the loss of high European quality standards in conjunction with TTIP. This involves the fields of data protection and IT security as well as the IT standardization deriving from TTIP. TTIP includes the approach that the negotiators will agree to standards by which a market access for products and services, also in IT fields, will be granted. This would result in important impulses for the national standards of IT security products.

The issue IT security, especially the central element cryptographic algorithms, should be closely monitored with regard to TTIP. Considering the fact that national institutions – for example the German Federal Office of Security in Information Technology (BSI) - as trustees of high standards are not directly involved in the negotiations, but have at first to convince the negotiators of the European Commission of their concept in order to prevent TTIP in this context to be influenced by American NIST standards. If this would no more be possible to negotiate, the entire German IT security industry would be affected.

TeleTrusT starts from the following premises and understands them as a call for action to political decision makers and TTIP negotiators:

1. The ITC industry benefits from global standards and global technical specifications, but the TTIP negotiations shall not by means of political concessions result in a downward spiral of IT security standards.
2. In relation to IT security TTIP shall not lead to a lower security level of commercial IT products, especially not to weaker cryptographic algorithms.
3. Basically a trade agreement between the USA and the EU is to be welcomed. But the Snowden affair has clearly proved that Europe should not share the fundamentally different conception of 'Privacy' of the USA.
4. In creating a common economic space a considerably higher data flow is to be expected, especially personal data, between the EU and the USA. This shall not happen without the concerted appreciation of data protection. The lack of homogenous standards would otherwise lead to different, competition-distorting requirements of enterprises on both sides of the Atlantic.
5. The liberalized access to public procurement shall not jeopardize the national digital sovereignty.

### TeleTrusT – IT Security Association Germany

TeleTrusT is a widespread competence network for IT security comprising members from industry, administration, research as well as national and international partner organizations with similar objectives. With a broad range of members and partner organizations TeleTrusT embodies the largest competence network for IT security in Germany and Europe. TeleTrusT provides interdisciplinary fora for IT security experts and facilitates information exchange between vendors, users and authorities. TeleTrusT comments on technical, political and legal issues related to IT security and is organizer of events and conferences. TeleTrusT is a non-profit association, whose objective is to promote information security professionalism, raising awareness and best practices in all domains of information security. TeleTrusT is carrier of the "European Bridge CA" (EBCA; PKI network of trust), the quality seal "IT Security made in Germany" and runs the IT expert certification programs "TeleTrusT Information Security Professional" (T.I.S.P.) and "TeleTrusT Engineer for System Security" (T.E.S.S.). TeleTrusT is a member of the European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI). The association is headquartered in Berlin, Germany.