

TRADE

German economy minister: EU trade talks with U.S. failed

By Frank Jordans  
Associated Press

BERLIN — Free trade talks between the European Union and the United States have failed, Germany's economy minister said Sunday, citing a lack of progress on any of the major sections of the long-running negotiations. Washington and Brussels have pushed for a deal by the end of the year, despite strong misgivings among some EU member states over the Trans-Atlantic Trade and Investment Partnership, or TTIP.

Sigmar Gabriel, who is also Germany's vice chancellor, compared the TTIP negotiations unfavorably with a free trade deal forged between the 28-nation EU and Can-

ada, which he said was fairer for both sides.

"In my opinion, the negotiations with the United States have de facto failed, even though nobody is really admitting it," Gabriel said during a question-and-answer session in Berlin.

He noted that in 14 rounds of talks, the two sides haven't agreed on a single common item out of 27 chapters being discussed.

Gabriel accused Washington of being "angry" about the deal that the EU struck with Canada, known as CETA, because it contains elements the U.S. doesn't want to see in the TTIP.

"We mustn't submit to the American proposals," said Gabriel, who is also the head of Germany's center-left

Social Democratic Party.

In Washington, there was no immediate comment from the office of the U.S. trade representative.

Christian Wigand, a spokesman for the European Commission, the EU's executive arm and which is leading the TTIP negotiations, said Sunday that the institution had no comment or reaction at this time.

Gabriel's ministry isn't directly involved in the negotiations with Washington because trade agreements are negotiated at the EU level. But such a damning verdict from a leading official in Europe's biggest economy is likely to make further talks between the EU and the Obama administration harder.

CONSERVATION

Recordings of tiger sounds attempt to help preserve wild population

By Carrie Antlfinger  
Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — Tigers use a grunt-like snort called chuffing as a greeting, short roars for intimidation and long roars to find mates.

Researchers are now trying to use those and other sounds tigers make to help protect and boost their population in the wild.

The effort, called The Prusten Project, is the idea of Courtney Dunn, who currently works at the Dallas World Aquarium as a senior mammal keeper and has a master's degree in biology. Prusten is another word for chuffing.

"What we have discovered with our research is that tiger voices can be used like a fingerprint for individuals, like a vocal fingerprint as unique as you and I," Dunn said.

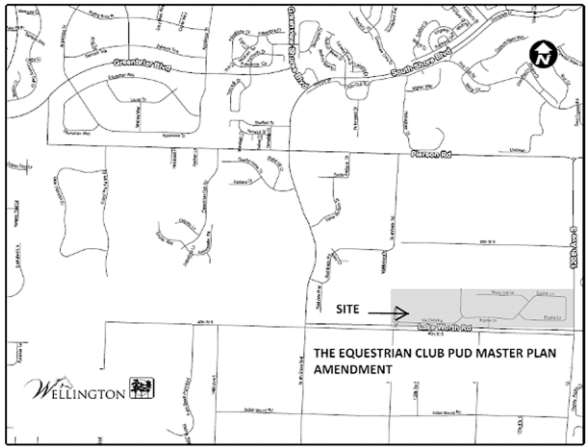


A tiger roars in the nonpublic area at the Milwaukee County Zoo, which is one of at least 20 nationally that are helping The Prusten Project capture audio of tigers.

CARRIE ANTLFINGER / ASSOCIATED PRESS

The first part of the project involves using digital devices to record Bengal, Malayan, Sumatran and Amur tigers at zoos across the nation. Ten zoos have already recorded tigers, with at least another 10 planning to do so.

Project officials are using those recordings to build a computer program to help identify specific tigers and determine more accurate population numbers so that organizations know where to focus their protection efforts.



WELLINGTON  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that public hearing will be held on the Resolution described below:

**A RESOLUTION OF WELLINGTON, FLORIDA'S COUNCIL, APPROVING A MASTER PLAN AMENDMENT (PETITION NUMBER 16 – 64 / 2016 – 26 MPA 7) FOR CERTAIN PROPERTY KNOWN AS THE EQUESTRIAN CLUB PUD; CONSISTING OF APPROXIMATELY 149.79 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, LOCATED ON THE WEST SIDE OF 120TH AVENUE AND ON THE NORTH SIDE OF LAKE WORTH ROAD, AS MORE SPECIFICALLY DESCRIBED HEREIN; TO MODIFY THE DESIGNATION OF THE 5.1 ACRE PARCEL KNOWN AS TRACT J-1 FROM A COMMUNITY EQUESTRIAN WORKOUT AREA TO ONE (1) SINGLE FAMILY DWELLING UNIT AND EQUESTRIAN USES, KNOWN AS LOT 11A; INCREASING THE RESIDENTIAL UNITS FROM 148 DWELLING UNITS TO A TOTAL OF 149 DWELLING UNITS AND TO AMEND CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL; PROVIDING A CONFLICTS CLAUSE; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

Said public hearing will be held as follows:

**WELLINGTON COUNCIL**

Location: Village Hall, 12300 Forest Hill Boulevard, Wellington, Florida.

Date: September 13, 2016 at 7:00 P.M. or as soon thereafter as may be heard in the orderly course of business. The hearing of the request may be continued from time to time as may be found necessary.

All interested parties are invited to attend and be heard with respect to the proposed Resolution. Copies of all documents pertaining to the proposed Resolution is available in the Planning and Zoning Division at the address listed below and can be reviewed by the public, Monday through Thursday between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

**Planning & Zoning Division  
12300 Forest Hill Boulevard  
Wellington, Florida, 33414  
(561) 791-4000**

Appeals: If a person decides to appeal any decision with respect to any matter considered at such hearing, he/she will need a record of the proceedings and for such purpose may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. All appeals must be filed in accordance with the applicable provisions of the Wellington Land Development Regulations.

Pursuant to the provisions of the Americans With Disabilities Act, any person requiring special accommodations to participate in this hearing, because of a disability or physical impairment, should contact the Wellington Manager's Office at (561) 791-4000 at least five calendar days prior to the Hearing.

Dated: August 22, 2016  
Publish: The Palm Beach Post August 29, 2016

WELLINGTON  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS  
ON COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AMENDMENT

In accordance with the requirements of Chapter 163, Part II, Florida Statutes, the Wellington Council will hold public hearings on the Comprehensive Plan Amendment.

**AN ORDINANCE OF WELLINGTON, FLORIDA'S COUNCIL, UPDATING THE WELLINGTON COMPREHENSIVE PLAN BY INCORPORATING THE ANNUAL REVIEW AND REVISIONS TO THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS ELEMENT TO REFLECT THE 2016/2017 THROUGH 2021/2022 FIVE YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN FOR LEVEL OF SERVICE PROJECTS; AND UPDATING THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PALM BEACH COUNTY CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEDULE; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICT AND SEVERABILITY; AUTHORIZING THE MANAGER TO UPDATE THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

Said public hearing will be held as follows:

**WELLINGTON COUNCIL**

Location: Village Hall, 12300 Forest Hill Blvd, Wellington, Florida.

Date: Tuesday, September 13, 2015 at 7:00 P.M. (First Reading)

Tuesday, September 27, 2016 at 7:00 P.M. (Second Reading)

Or as soon thereafter as may be heard in the orderly course of business. The hearing of the request may be continued from time to time as may be found necessary.

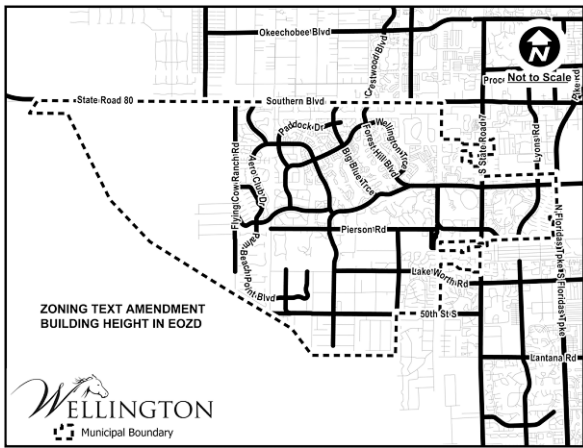
All interested parties are invited to attend and be heard with respect to the proposed ordinance. Copies of all documents pertaining to the proposed ordinance are available in the Planning and Zoning Division at the address listed below and can be reviewed by the public, Monday through Thursday between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

**Planning & Zoning Division  
12300 West Forest Hill Boulevard  
Wellington, Florida, 33414  
(561) 753-2430**

Appeals: If a person decides to appeal any decision with respect to any matter considered at such hearing, he/she will need a record of the proceedings and for such purpose may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made which includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. All appeals must be filed in accordance with the applicable provisions of the Wellington Land Development Regulations.

Pursuant to the provisions of the Americans With Disabilities Act, any person requiring special accommodations to participate in this hearing, because of a disability or physical impairment, should contact the Wellington Manager's Office at (561) 791-4000 at least five calendar days prior to the Hearing.

Dated: August 22, 2016  
Publish: The Palm Beach Post August 29, 2016



VILLAGE OF WELLINGTON  
WELLINGTON COUNCIL  
PUBLIC HEARING  
ZONING TEXT AMENDMENT

In accordance with the requirements of Chapter 163, Part II, Florida Statutes, the Wellington Council will hold a public hearing on the adoption of the following Ordinance.

**AN ORDINANCE OF WELLINGTON, FLORIDA'S COUNCIL AMENDING SECTION 6.10.6-TABLE B OF THE WELLINGTON LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS RELATED TO THE DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS (BUILDING HEIGHT) IN THE EQUESTRIAN OVERLAY ZONING DISTRICT; PROVIDING A CONFLICTS CAUSE; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

Said public hearing will be held as follows:

**WELLINGTON COUNCIL**

Location: Village Hall, 12300 Forest Hill Blvd, Wellington, Florida.

Date: September 13, 2016 at 7:00 P.M. or as soon thereafter as may be heard in the orderly course of business. The hearings of the request may be continued from time to time as may be found necessary.

All interested parties are invited to attend and be heard with respect to the proposed ordinance. Copies of all documents pertaining to the proposed ordinance are available in the Planning and Zoning Division at the address listed below and can be reviewed by the public Monday through Thursday between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

**Planning & Zoning Division  
12300 West Forest Hill Boulevard  
Wellington, Florida, 33414  
(561) 753-2430**

Appeals: If a person decides to appeal any decision with respect to any matter considered at such hearing, he/she will need a record of the proceedings and for such purpose may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made which includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. All appeals must be filed in accordance with the applicable provisions of the Wellington Land Development Regulations.

Pursuant to the provisions of the Americans With Disabilities Act, any person requiring special accommodations to participate in this hearing, because of a disability or physical impairment, should contact the Wellington Manager's Office at (561) 791-4000 at least five calendar days prior to the Hearing.

Dated: August 24, 2016  
Publish: The Post August 29, 2016

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

Exchange sign-ups fall far short of forecasts

More people need to sign up for insurers to profit.

By Carolyn Y. Johnson  
Washington Post

Enrollment in the insurance exchanges for President Barack Obama's signature health care law is at less than half the initial forecast, pushing several major insurance companies to stop offering health plans in certain markets because of significant financial losses.

As a result, the administration's promise of a menu of health plan choices has been replaced by a grim, though preliminary, forecast: Next year, more than 1 in 4 counties are at risk of having a single insurer on its exchange, said Cynthia Cox, who studies health reform for the Kaiser Family Foundation.

Debate over how perilous the predicament is for the Affordable Care Act, commonly called Obamacare, is nearly as partisan as the divide over the law itself. But at the root of the problem is this: The success of the law depends fundamentally on the exchanges being profitable for insurers – and that requires more people to sign up.

In February 2013, the Congressional Budget Office predicted that 24 million people would buy health coverage through the federally and state-operated online exchanges by this year. Just 11.1 million people were signed up as of late March.

Exchanges are marketplaces where people who do not receive health benefits through a job can buy private insurance, often with government subsidies.

"Enrollment is key, first and foremost," said Sara Collins, a vice president at the Commonwealth Fund, a nonpartisan foundation that funds health care research.

"They have to have this critical mass of people so that, by the law of averages, you're going to get a mix of healthy and less healthy people."

A big reason the CBO projections were so far off is that the agency overestimated how many people would lose insurance through their employers, which would force them into the exchanges. But there have been challenges getting the uninsured to sign up, too.

The law requires every American to get health coverage or pay a penalty, but the penalty hasn't been high enough to persuade many Americans to buy into the health plans. Even those who qualify for subsidized premiums sometimes balk at the high deductibles on some plans.

And people who do outreach to the uninsured say the enrollment process itself has been more complex and confusing than Obama's initial comparison to buying a plane ticket.

"This exchange will allow you to one-stop shop for a health care plan, compare benefits and prices, and choose a plan that's best for you and your family," Obama said in a speech in 2009. "You will have your choice of a number of plans that offer a few different packages, but every plan would offer an affordable, basic package."

In some markets, a shortfall in enrollment is testing insurers' ability to balance the medical claims they pay out with income from premiums. In an announcement curtailing its involvement in the exchanges this month, Aetna cited financial losses traced to too many sick people signing up for care and not enough healthy ones.

The health care law has been a political lightning rod from the beginning, and Republican legislators have used insurance companies' withdrawals from the

exchanges to reignite calls for the law's repeal.

Kaiser tracks public data on insurer participation in the exchanges to project how many options counties will have, but the numbers are not final. This year, exchanges in about 7 percent of counties had just one insurer. Earlier this month, Aetna announced that it will pull out of 11 of the 15 states where it offers coverage on the health care exchanges.

Obama has used the health care law's challenges to issue a new call for a public insurance option.

"Congress should revisit a public plan to compete alongside private insurers in areas of the country where competition is limited," he wrote in an essay published in the Journal of the American Medical Association. "Adding a public plan in such areas would strengthen the Marketplace approach, giving consumers more affordable options while also creating savings for the federal government."

The penalty for not signing up is increasing. Still, some policy experts insist it is not enough motivation.

"It was basically no stick at all. This is the classic case of where Johnny marked crayon on the wall, his mother said, 'Don't do that,' and then slapped his hand a day later," said Joseph Antos, a resident fellow at the American Enterprise Institute. "The connection between the offense and the penalty is a little remote."

The health care law has had unequivocal successes. In some areas, lots of insurers compete on the exchanges, which helps keep premiums low. In Cleveland and Los Angeles, the average premium for a benchmark health plan actually declined in 2016. The number of uninsured Americans continues to shrink, hitting 9.1 percent last year – the lowest level ever.