

# TACD

TRANS ATLANTIC  
CONSUMER DIALOGUE

DIALOGUE TRANSATLANTIQUE  
DES CONSOMMATEURS

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## PATENTS ON GENETIC DIAGNOSIS

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TACD asks the European governments to immediately apply for compulsory licenses or to use patent exceptions, permitted under the WTO Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property (the TRIPs agreement), to address technologies used for the screening of genetic diseases. Consumers and patients are harmed by unreasonable uses of patents that monopolize the screening for genetically determined diseases such as the BRCA1 and BRCA2 patents associated with breast cancer. Public health authorities and laboratories in Britain and Sweden say that unreasonable use of such patents presents a threat to the public health, and reduced access to screening procedures.

TACD asks DG SANCO to report on the public health and ethical consequences of patenting of genes and technologies for screening of genetic diseases.