

Commissioner Cecilia Malmström

European Commission
Rue de la Loi, 200
1049 Brussels
Belgium

16 October 2014

**Request for a meeting with representatives of the
Transatlantic Consumer Dialogue (TACD)**

Dear Commissioner Malmström,

We are writing to you in our capacity as Co-Chairs of the Transatlantic Consumer Dialogue (TACD), a network of more than 75 consumer organisations from the EU and the US. The TACD was launched in 1998 at the request of the governments on both sides of the Atlantic. Our network's purpose is to provide a formal mechanism for EU and US consumer representatives to input to EU and US negotiations and agreements. In addition, the TACD contributes to the exchange of information, dissemination of knowledge and sharing of best-practices on consumer policies and legislation on both sides of the Atlantic. For more information on our network, we kindly refer you to our website: www.tacd.org.

As a matter of fact, the current trade negotiations between the EU and the US constitute the core of our current policy work, as it is our common objective to provide meaningful, well-informed and non-biased input from the consumer perspective to these negotiations.

TACD has been an appointed member of the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) Advisory Group set up by your services earlier this year. We are represented by Ms. Benedicte Federspiel, an experienced Danish consumer advocate.

As the soon to be Commissioner in charge of Trade, we would appreciate it if you could make the time available to meet a TACD-delegation in the coming weeks in order to enable a first exchange of views on our analysis of the current state of negotiations and to hear from you on your approach towards them, especially when it comes to transparency of the negotiations and engagement with civil society.

Mr. Robert Weissman, President of Public Citizen – one of the major and well-respected consumer rights advocacy groups in the US – will be in Brussels between 8 and 10 December 2014. He will in part be in Europe to attend a conference on Investor-State Dispute Settlement in TTIP, which will be organised by BEUC – the European Consumer Organisation – and Friends of the Earth Europe.

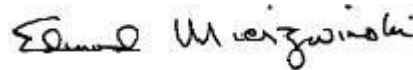
We would be delighted if you could dedicate 45 minutes on any of these days to meet us in order to also engage with US consumers on what they have to say about the TTIP negotiations. If you agree, we will contact your services for a suitable time in your schedule.

We look forward to this initiation of a dialogue between you and the transatlantic consumer representatives.

Yours sincerely,



Monique Goyens
Director General, BEUC
EU Co-Chair of TACD



Ed Mierzwinski
Consumer Programme Director, U.S. PIRG
US Co-Chair of TACD