

Ambassador Michael Froman

United States Trade Representative
Office of the United States Trade Representative
600 17th Street NW
Washington, DC 20508
USA

Commissioner Cecilia Malmström

European Commission
Rue de la Loi, 200
1049 Brussels
Belgium

30 January 2015

**Transparency in
Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP)**

Dear Ambassador Froman and Commissioner Malmström,

The Transatlantic Consumer Dialogue (TACD) is a long-established forum of consumer organisations which develops joint consumer policy recommendations to the United States government and the European Union (EU), in order to promote the consumer interest in their policy making. We are supportive of close EU-U.S. economic and regulatory cooperation as a means to address common challenges and to deliver a fairer, safer and more vibrant marketplace for consumers.

In March 2013, we wrote to you raising a number of concerns about the then just-commencing negotiations for a Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP). We underscored the importance of a fully open process for negotiating the deal, so that the public and not just industry insiders are able to offer meaningful input. "Nothing is more important to an open process than publication of negotiating texts as they are developed," we wrote.

In this regard, we are very pleased with the recent decision by the European Commission to publish EU proposals for legal text for TTIP, and its operationalization of this commitment starting in January. This is a very important step forward for openness and democratic process.

It also should be a very important example for the United States. Publication of factsheets and broad policy is useful, but by far not enough.

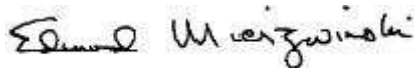
Ambassador Froman, we have noted in the past the many examples of trade and other international negotiations where negotiating texts have been made public. Now, in the TTIP negotiations, the U.S. negotiating partner is making public its textual proposals. We urge you immediately to follow suit and publish all U.S. formal negotiating proposals at the time they are presented to the European Union.

The publication of the EU negotiating proposals is a significant advance, and will enable citizens and organizations on both sides of the Atlantic to study and critique the actual proposals. This will enrich debate and can only lead to a stronger text more protective of consumers and public well-being.

However, while necessary, publication of initial proposals is not sufficient. The public must be able to analyze and comment not only on opening proposals, but on concepts actually under negotiation. Thus it is vital that the two sides commit to publish consolidated negotiating texts on an ongoing basis, and we urge the United States and European Union to agree to such publication. There are many possible protocols for publication of negotiating text; what is most important is that the updated texts be made publicly available on some regular basis.

Thank you for considering these proposals, and we look forward to your timely reply.

Yours sincerely,



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



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

On behalf of the TACD Steering Committee:

Rhoda Karpatkin, Consumers Union

Rob Weissman, Public Citizen

Susan Grant, Consumer Federation of America

Benedicte Federspiel, Danish Consumer Council

David Miguel Ortega, OCU

Gerjan Huis in 't Veld, Consumentenbond