

**DRAFT PROGRAMME**

# **The precautionary principle in TTIP: Trade barrier or essential for consumer protection?**

**Multi-stakeholder forum hosted by TACD  
26 January 2016  
Renaissance Hotel, Brussels**

*A third stakeholder dialogue meeting addressing in depth the most important issues for consumers that are being discussed as part of negotiations for a proposed EU-US free trade agreement, known as the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP).*

## **08.15 Registration and coffee**

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## **09.00 Opening addresses**

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- Moderator: Jacki Davis, Journalist, Meade Davis Communications
- Speakers:
  - Cecilia Malmström, EU Commissioner for Trade
  - Julie Brill, Commissioner, US Federal Trade Commission
  - Monique Goyens, BEUC and EU co-chair of TACD
- Discussion with the audience

## **10.00 Plenary: Precautionary principle in the EU and the US**

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*The precautionary principle is about taking preventative policy measures when there is reasonable suspicion of harm, even if scientific evidence is lacking. The EU is widely considered more precautionary in several key policy areas, including consumer policy as well as food and health, and therefore there is wide-spread concern regarding the impact of the TTIP on its ability to regulate in the societal interest. Others argue that regulations in the US frequently apply precaution, but for different areas and policies. The discussion in this plenary will give an overview of the precautionary principle in trade agreements, and how it is used in the EU and the US.*

- Moderator: Jacki Davis
- Will feature prominent invited panellists from academia, TACD and governments
- Discussion with the audience

## **11.15 Coffee break**

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## 11.30 Breakout sessions

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### *Looking at precaution in priority areas for TACD*

**1. Chemicals and precaution: Trade barrier or essential for consumer protection?**

*An interactive round table session that will discuss differing approaches to nano-chemical safety and precaution in the US and the EU; REACH vs US revisions of Toxic Substance Control Act; and precautionary approaches in pesticide/biocide regulation.*

**2. How to ensure online rights**

*The round-table discussion will consider connections between data protection, precaution and risk-based approach and discuss possible solutions to maintaining consumer digital and privacy rights, while allowing for trade in services and products; how can trust in e-commerce be ensured and developed in an international trade framework?*

## 13.00 Lunch and networking

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## 14.30 Breakout sessions (continued)

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**3. Food: Science and precaution in the trading system**

*The interactive session will discuss how can the precautionary principle be best applied in the food sector; understanding and debating the differences in approach between the US and the EU, including BSE, GMO, hormones, GRAS (Generally Recognised as Safe) and no data, no market principles.*

**4. TTIP and Access to Knowledge**

*Participants will look at, and discuss the TTIP provisions on trade secrets, confidential business information, transparency and access to information; and their potential impacts on access to public interest information, such as data re safety of medicines, environmental or food safety data.*

## 16.00 Coffee break

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## 16.15 Plenary: Precautionary principle in TTIP

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*Following the break-out session, this plenary will look more specifically at the implications of the precautionary principle for the TTIP negotiations in the priority areas of TACD's work, covering food, novel technologies and chemicals, digital rights and intellectual property. Journalist Jacki Davis will moderate what promises to be a lively discussion between the EU and the US TTIP Chief Negotiators (invited) and TACD consumer organisations leaders from both sides of the Atlantic.*

## 17.45 Closing, followed by cocktail reception and networking

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