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**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 forum 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**

**09.00 Opening addresses**

* Moderator: Jacki Davis, Journalist, Meade Davis Communications
* Speakers:
* Cecilia Malmström, EU Commissioner for Trade (Confirmed)
* Julie Brill, Commissioner, US Federal Trade Commission (Invited)
* Monique Goyens, BEUC and EU Chair of TACD (Confirmed)
* Discussion with the audience

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

*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
* Panellists:
* Alberto Alemanno, NYU School of Law and HEC Paris (Confirmed)
* Robert Weissman, Public Citizen and TACD Steering Committee
* Christel Schaldemose, MEP (Invited)
* Geert Dancet, Executive Director of European Chemicals Agency (Invited)

(or Xavier Prats Monne, DG SANTE, European Commission)

* Discussion with the audience

**11.15 Coffee break**

**11.30 Breakout sessions**

*Looking at precaution in priority areas for TACD*

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

*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.*

* + Moderator: Vito Buonsante, Client Earth

(or Dr Lisette Van Vliet, Health and Environment Alliance)

* + Panellists:
		- Sylvia Maurer, BEUC and EU Chair TACD Nanotechnology Policy Committee
		- Representative from US mission
		- Axel Singhofen, Advisor to Greens/EFA in European Parliament
		- Klaus Berend, DG GROW, European Commission

*(Note: in reserve or to be invited for the group discussion:*

* + - *David Gee or speaker from European Environment Agency*
		- *Erwin Annys, European Chemical Industry Council*
		- *Maybe representative from trade unions, e.g. Tony Musso, European Trade Union Confederation, or Aida Ponce, European Trade Union Institute)*
* Group discussion
1. **How to ensure online rights**

*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?*

* Moderator: Susan Grant, Consumer Federation of America and TACD Steering Committee
* Panellists:
* Julie Brill, Federal Trade Commission (Invited)
* Raphael Gellert, Vrije Universiteit Brussel
* Ignacio Iruarrizaga Diez, Head of Unit on Services, DG Trade, European Commission

(or Paul Nemitz, DG Justice, European Commission)

* Finn Myrstad, Norwegian Consumer Council and EU Chair TACD Information Society Policy Committee
* Group discussion

**13.00 Lunch and networking**

**14.30 Breakout sessions**

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

*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.*

* Moderator: Kate Trollop, Editor, EU Food Policy
* Panellists:
	+ Prof Andy Stirling, Sussex University
	+ Jean Halloran, Consumers Union and TACD Steering Committee
	+ Prof Lynn Frewer, Newcastle University
	+ Lorenzo Terzi, DG SANTE, European Commission, SPS chapter negotiator

*(Note: in reserve or to be invited for the group discussion:*

* + *Michael Flueh, DG SANTE, European Commission (GMOs)*
	+ *Bernard Van Goethem, DG SANTE, European Commission (veterinary/international affairs)*
	+ *US-EU delegation)*
* Group discussion
1. **TTIP and Access to Knowledge**

*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 regarding safety of medicines, environmental or food safety.*

* Moderator: TBC
* Panellists:
* Julia Reda, MEP
* Helen Wallace, Genewatch UK and TACD member
* DG Trade responsible for trade secrets file (TBC)
* James Love, Knowledge Ecology International and US Chair of TACD Intellectual Property Policy Committee

*(Note: in reserve or to be invited for the group discussion:*

* *Anne Friel, Client Earth*
* *Jeremy Malcolm, Electronic Frontier Foundation and TACD member*
* *Luxembourg perm rep (for the Council – check who?)*
* *Burcu Kilic or Peter Maybarduk, Public Citizen and TACD members*
* *Martin McKee, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine)*
* Group discussion

**16.00 Coffee break**

**16.15 Plenary: Precautionary principle in TTIP**

*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.*

* Moderator: Jacki Davis
* Introductory remarks from:
* Dan Mullaney, US Chief TTIP Negotiator, Office of the US Trade Representative
* Ignacio Garcia Bercero, EU Chief TTIP Negotiator, DG Trade, European Commission
* Followed by panel discussion between TTIP negotiators and TACD policy committee chairs (Chairs to decide who will represent the group; needs US-EU balance)
* Discussion with the audience

**17.30 Concluding remarks for the day**

* Ed Mierzwinski, US PIRG and US Chair of TACD

**17.45 Drinks reception and networking**