

## TACD BULLETIN ▪ December 2015

In the last issue of the TACD Bulletin of 2015, we focus on the conclusion of the EU data protection reform agreed between the European Council, Parliament and Commission on 15 December.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all our members for your valuable insights, dedication and continued engagement over the course of 2015!

We look forward to an exciting 2016, starting with the 16th TACD Annual Meeting! We have extended the deadline for registrations until **Friday, 8 January 2016**, so do not forget to [register](#) and secure your place!

Best wishes for a happy holiday season and a great year ahead!

With regards,

*The TACD Secretariat*

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### INSIDE TACD

#### EU institutions reach agreement on data protection package

After close to four years of negotiations, the EU data protection reform was concluded on 15 December 2015. The European Commission, Parliament and Council reached an agreement on a legislative package consisting of two legislative instruments: the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and a Directive which applies to law enforcement (police and the judiciary). These laws will have an impact on the EU-US data transfers and the safe harbour negotiations and, most likely, on the “data flows” provisions in TTIP.

EU and US TACD members alike reacted to the new EU data protection package. [EDRI](#) described it as “lacking ambition but saving the basics” and [BEUC](#) highlighted that “although imperfect”, the package will strengthen the fundamental right to personal data protection. In a blog post, [Privacy International](#) pointed out that key concerns remain, like the “effective supervisory role of the data protection authorities, or potentially allowing for transfers of highly sensitive data to authorities in third countries without serious safeguards”. In its statement, US member [EPIC](#) calls on the US to

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- Access to all confidential TTIP documents granted to all MEPs
- 16th TACD Annual Meeting

TACD is supported by:



modernise privacy laws to “safeguard U.S. consumers and maintain trade relations with Europe”.

Data protection reform is a legislative package proposed by the EU Commission in 2012 to modernise data protection laws and harmonise privacy rules across the EU.

The final vote by the European Parliament in full plenary is due in January 2016. The regulation will take effect two years after its entry into force.

## **Access to all confidential TTIP documents granted to all MEPs**

The European Commission will allow all European Parliament members to access all confidential documents related to TTIP. This includes consolidated texts, which present both EU and U.S. negotiating positions. Access to the texts will be granted in a secure reading room at the European Parliament and MEPs will be allowed to take handwritten notes.

## **16<sup>th</sup> TACD Annual Meeting**

We have a bit over a month to go until the 16<sup>th</sup> TACD Annual Meeting in Brussels! We have extended the deadline for registrations until **Friday, 8 January 2016** and we invite you to sign up [here](#).

### **Programmes**

We have released programmes for both the internal meetings and the public facing events:

- **Monday, 25 January – Internal meetings of the TACD Policy Committees**  
See draft programme [here](#).
- **Tuesday, 26 January - Multi-stakeholder Forum**  
See [event page](#) for updated programme and other information.
- **Wednesday, 27 January - Financial services side event**  
Please register **separately** for this event at: <http://bit.ly/1MbXvIX>  
See [event page](#) for updated programme and other information.

We look forward to meeting you in Brussels next year!



*The decision to grant all MEPs access to confidential TTIP documents was made after extensive negotiations led by International Trade Committee Chairman Bernd Lange.*



*Ignacio Garcia Bercero, EU Chief TTIP negotiator, will engage in a discussion with EU and US consumer leaders on the implications of the precautionary principle for the TTIP negotiations at the Multi-stakeholder Forum on 26 January 2016.*

## UPCOMING EVENTS AND DEADLINES

- **8 January 2016** – Registration deadline for the 16<sup>th</sup> TACD Annual Meeting at <http://goo.gl/forms/zW3By5XLYh>.
- **8 January 2016** – Registration deadline for the Financial Services side event on 27 January 2016 at: <http://bit.ly/1MbXvIX>.
- **8 January 2016** – Deadline for the Food Policy Group members to comment on red draft resolutions on: 1) the proposed SPS chapter in TTIP, 2) anti-microbial resistance and 3) nutrition, obesity and diet-related disease.
- **12 January 2016** – Meeting of the European Commission's expert advisory group on TTIP.
- **24-27 January 2016** – 16<sup>th</sup> TACD Annual Meeting in Brussels.
- **27 January 2016** – “[The Future of Creativity in the Online Environment – Authors and Consumers in Dialogue](#)”, organised by BEUC and authors associations at the European Parliament in Brussels.
- **27-28 January 2016** – Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF) Strategy Meeting on “[Catalyzing Reform of Trade Negotiation](#)” in Brussels.
- **Late February 2016** – 12th TTIP negotiating round will likely take place in Brussels.

## MEMBERS CORNER

- **BEUC** and **Consumentenbond** published their joint [Memorandum to the Dutch Presidency of the European Union](#), highlighting a list of the most pressing consumer expectations for the EU and making concrete proposals on how the Dutch Presidency can work towards successful consumer policies. The memorandum was presented to the Dutch Government on 16 December 2015.
- **Consumer Federation of America (CFA)** successfully held the Annual Financial Services Conference in Washington D.C. on 3-4 December 2015.
- James Love and Manon Röss of **Knowledge Ecology International (KEI)** were among the 2015 recipients of Joe A. Callaway Award for Civic Justice for their work on *Breaking Big Pharma's Grip to Make Drugs Affordable for Poorer Countries* and *Revolutionizing Intellectual Property Rights*.

If you have not yet done so, follow [@TACD\\_Consumers](#) on Twitter for updates from US and EU consumer organisations and live reports from the 2016 TACD Multi-Stakeholder Forum!



- **BEUC** launched a [new position paper](#) on access to medicines and a [new blog](#) on fighting antimicrobial resistance in TTIP.
- **BEUC**, together with a number of authors associations, will organise an event on “The Future of Creativity in the Online Environment”, at the European Parliament, on 27 January 2016. The event is hosted by the chair of the Legal Affairs committee, MEP Pavel Sovodoba. More information available [here](#).

## TACD and members in the News

- Jaydee Hanson (CFS) and Michael Hansen (Consumer Reports) featured in New York Times GMO debate: [“Are Genetically Engineered Salmon Too Fishy? - Room for Debate”](#)

## RECOMMENDED READING ON TTIP & TISA

**New York Times Technology:** [“Europe’s Justice Commissioner Prepares for a Difficult 2016”](#)

**European Commission:** [“Joint Statement by Commissioner Malmström and Ambassador Froman on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership Negotiations”](#)

**Politico:** [“Froman: Window closing for TTIP deal before next administration”](#)

**The Guardian:** [“Secret trade talks could weaken climate targets set in Paris, warn campaigners”](#)

**European Commission:** [“All MEPs to have access to all confidential TTIP documents”](#)

## ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

This newsletter from the TACD Secretariat is circulated every month to current TACD members. Email [ineagoe@consint.org](mailto:ineagoe@consint.org) with your ideas and suggestions for the next edition of the newsletter by 13 January 2016.

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