

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
Rue de Parnasse 19
1050, 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 (Foyer 1)

09.00 Opening session (Ballroom)

- Moderator: Jacki Davis, Journalist, Meade Davis Communications
- Speakers:
 - Cecilia Malmström, EU Trade Commissioner
 - Julie Brill, Commissioner, US Federal Trade Commission
 - Monique Goyens, Director General, BEUC and EU Co-Chair of TACD
- Questions from the audience
- Discussion with Commissioner Malmström regarding EU's proposal for an International Court System in TTIP

10.10 Plenary: Precautionary principle in the EU and the US (Ballroom)

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:
 - Ladislav Miko, Deputy Director General, DG Health and Food Safety (SANTE), European Commission
 - Alberto Alemanno, Professor of Law, HEC Paris and Global Clinical Professor, NYU School of Law
 - Jean Halloran, Director of Food Policy Initiatives, Consumers Union and member of TACD Steering Committee

- Mary Bottari, Deputy Director, Center for Media and Democracy
- Discussion with the audience

11.15 Coffee break (Foyer 1)

11.30 Breakout sessions

Looking at precaution in priority areas for TACD

1. Chemicals and precaution: Trade barrier or essential for consumer protection? (Madrid room)

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, Law and Policy Advisor, Health and Environment, Client Earth
- Panellists:
 - Axel Singhofen, Advisor on Health and Environment Policy to the Greens/European Free Alliance, European Parliament
 - Klaus Berend, Head of Unit for REACH, DG Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs (GROW), European Commission
 - Sylvia Maurer, Head of Sustainability and Safety, BEUC and EU Co-Chair of TACD Nanotechnology Policy Committee
 - Peter Chase, Vice President for Europe, U.S. Chamber of Commerce
- Group discussion

2. How to ensure online rights (Ballroom)

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, Director of Consumer Protection and Privacy, Consumer Federation of America and member of TACD Steering Committee
- Panellists:
 - Julie Brill, Commissioner, US Federal Trade Commission
 - Rupert Schlegelmilch, Director, Directorate Services and Investment, Intellectual Property and Public Procurement, DG Trade, European Commission
 - Raphael Gellert, Vrije Universiteit Brussel
 - Finn Myrstad, Head of Digital Policy Section, Norwegian Consumer Council and EU Co-Chair TACD Information Society Policy Committee
- Group discussion

13:00 Lunch and networking (Restaurant)

14:00 Plenary session with Ambassador Michael Punke (Ballroom)

- Moderator: Jacki Davis
- Speaker: Michael Punke, Deputy U.S. Trade Representative and U.S. Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the World Trade Organization
- Discussion with the audience

14.30 Breakout sessions

3. Food: Science and precaution in the trading system (Madrid room)

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 Trollope, Editor, EU Food Policy
- Panellists:
 - Brian Kilgallen, Policy Officer, Bilateral International Relations, DG Health and Food Safety (SANTE), European Commission
 - Andrew Stirling, Professor of Science and Technology Policy, Sussex University
 - Jean Halloran, Director of Food Policy Initiatives, Consumers Union and member of TACD Steering Committee
- Group discussion

4. TTIP and Access to Knowledge (Ballroom)

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: Agustín Reyna, Senior Legal Officer, BEUC and EU Co-Chair of the TACD Intellectual Property Policy Committee
- Panellists:
 - Pedro Velasco Martins, Deputy Head of Unit, Intellectual Property and Public Procurement, DG Trade, European Commission
 - Julia Reda, Member of the European Parliament, Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance
 - Jeremy Malcolm, Senior Global Policy Analyst, Electronic Frontier Foundation
 - James Love, Knowledge Ecology International and US Co-Chair of TACD Intellectual Property Policy Committee
- Group discussion

16.00 Coffee break (Foyer 1)

16.15 Plenary: Precautionary principle in TTIP (Ballroom)

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 Ignacio Garcia Bercero, EU Chief TTIP Negotiator, DG Trade, European Commission

Followed by panel discussion between the EU Chief TTIP negotiator and:

- Klaus Müller, Executive Director, the Federation of German Consumer Organisations
 - Ed Mierzwinski, Consumer Program Director U.S. Public Interest Research Groups, Board Member, Consumer Reports and US Co-Chair of TACD
 - Magda Stoczkiewicz, Director, Friends of the Earth Europe
 - Tim Bennett, Director General/CEO, Transatlantic Business Council
- Discussion with the audience

17.30 Closing, cocktail reception and networking
