

DRAFT PROGRAMME

(as of 02/02/2017)

A consumer agenda for transatlantic markets: safeguarding protections and making progress in times of political change

**Multi-stakeholder forum hosted by TACD
21 March 2017**

**Pew Charitable Trusts
901 E St NW, 10th floor
Washington, DC 20004, USA**

08.15 Registration and coffee

08.50 Welcome

09.15 Setting the scene

A 'fireside' moderated discussion between a TACD leader and a prominent thinker on the current realities under which people operate, and their possible impacts. Issues to be covered include threats to dismantling of consumer protections via two-for-one regulatory orders, and the dismantling of free trade agreements: what have the goals of trade agreements been, and what they should be now? How to insure that there are benefits in trading for everybody?

10.00 Regulators working together – the way forward

This highly participative plenary will address how regulatory agencies on both sides of the Atlantic can best cooperate, outside trade agreements, in order to safeguard and improve consumer rights and protections, including enforcement and redress. The format for this plenary will be 'rotating speakers': regulators, TACD members, academics, and business too, will state briefly their views, with a discussant drawing conclusions at the end.

11.00 Coffee break

11.15 Breakout sessions

1. Product safety, chemicals and emerging technologies – how to keep consumers safe and make progress in times of political change?

Protecting health and safety of consumers in a global market place is getting more complex. Production and consumption patterns are changing constantly including a stronger marketing through the internet. In addition, technological innovations such as nanomaterials and synthetic biology put new challenges to consumer safety.

2. Manipulating consumers and voters: the growing role of big data commercial practices in elections and issue campaigns

The evolving combination of ubiquitous tracking, “Big Data” analytics, predictive decision-making and millisecond targeting based on our profiles enables efficient delivery of information and services. However, it also facilitates the promotion of products that pose risks to consumers— from high-interest loans to fattening junk food offers for children, and increasingly used to “sell” countries about political ideas and choices. This session will discuss ways of proactively addressing the risks identified.

12:45 Lunch and networking

14.00 Breakout sessions (continued)

3. Food information, misinformation and disinformation: a consumer dilemma

Whether information about food and food related products is digital, scientific, label-based or regulatory, consumers are at the epicentre of an information storm. Presenters discuss how to navigate this storm with reference to current and developing TACD resolutions.

4. A positive intellectual property agenda for multilateral trade agreements

With the recent political changes in the US and Europe, questions arise about the future of trade policy. This panel will discuss how these political developments will affect the alignment of IP protection by means of trade agreements and the role of regional and international organisations. Could this be an opportunity for a citizen-focus approach to international IP?

5. The future of financial services and consumer protection in times of political change

This session will consider how the changing governments and government relationships are impacting financial services and consumer protection (in regulation and enforcement) and discuss strategies that consumer advocates can use to protect and expand our post financial crisis victories.

15.30 Coffee break

15.45 A consumer agenda for trade

This session will start with a presentation of the global context, then will address TACD’s member and forum audience vision on what future trade deals should be, what issues they should cover (and what they should not) in order to benefit all people, not just a few super-rich corporations. Panel of three consumer representatives will put forward their vision, with three others (business, academic, government) responding.

17.15 Closing, cocktail reception and networking
