

27 JUNE 2023 | 9:00 - 17:00
ATELIER DES TANNEURS
Rue des Tanneurs 60A, 1000 Brussels, Belgium



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE? THE EU-U.S. COOPERATION & ITS IMPACT ON CONSUMERS



We are currently - and on both sides of the Atlantic - in the middle of an unprecedented scale of crisis: war in Europe, climate change, double-figure inflation and escalating energy and food prices causing worst fall in living standards since the post WWII, attacks on the rule of law and democracy.

The EU and the U.S. governments have joined forces in (voluntary) policy and regulatory dialogues to address and find joint solutions to many of these issues. Current discussions include workstreams on 'consumers' (which include sustainability, financial services, and the digital age), the broad Trade and Technology Council, as well as dedicated dialogues on agriculture, competition policy and public health. The transatlantic consumer movement has stated that such cooperation should make markets fairer and safer, and that regulators can improve decision-making about health, environmental and digital policies on both sides of the Atlantic, but without impacting each other's freedoms to regulate in the public interest.

Our public forum, the first in-person post pandemic, will examine what this bilateral cooperation has achieved since its launch, and what it should focus on going forward to deliver concrete outcomes, in each of the areas covered.

#TRANSATLANTICDISCUSSION





08.00

Registration and coffee

08.50

Opening remarks and welcome by **Monique Goyens**, *BEUC*
TACD European co-chair

09.00

Fireside discussion: EU-U.S. cooperation – is it delivering on its promises?

In conversation with EU and U.S. policy leaders, covering achievements of the cooperation so far, and issues that TACD would like to see as outcomes from the dialogues. Are they contributing to getting consumers out of the crisis? Are they addressing the right issues, in terms of consumer and human rights, as well as economic well-being? What should be on the table for (voluntary) regulatory cooperation going forward?

- **Didier Reynders**, *EU Commissioner for Justice and Consumers* | @dreynders
- **Prof. Olivier Sylvain**, *Federal Trade Commission, U.S.* | @oliviersylvain

Moderator: **Monique Goyens**, *BEUC*, and *TACD European co-chair* | @moniquegoyens





10.00

Reining-in big tech monopolies: how to develop a Transatlantic regulatory response?

With the adoption of the DMA and the DSA a new chapter opens in Europe regarding digital markets, with a strong focus on users' rights. Important discussions are taking place in the U.S. both at the level of enforcement and law-making. This first panel will take stock of the challenges and opportunities in controlling the excessive powers of big tech on both sides of the Atlantic, and whether we are doing enough to ensure digital markets remain open and competitive.

- **Sara Collins**, Public Knowledge, U.S. | @SNolanCollins
- **Thomas Kramler**, Directorate General for Competition, European Commission
- **Vanessa Turner**, BEUC, Europe

Moderator: **Robert Weissman**, Public Citizen, U.S. | @Rob_Weissman

11.15

Coffee Break

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Right to repair: A way to a more sustainable future

E-waste is one of the fastest growing waste streams globally, dumping toxic and hazardous materials into landfills with real consequences for the environment and human health. Many technology manufacturers make it hard for consumers to repair their devices, forcing electronics to have short life cycles and for consumers to have to spend more on new devices. By giving consumers the right to repair the devices they own, we can both advance consumer rights in the digital age, and work towards a more circular economy. What are the best solutions and the biggest stumbling blocks towards a more repairable future?

- **R.J. Cross**, U.S. PIRG, U.S. | @FrontierRJ
- **Cristina Ganapini**, The Restart Project, UK | @CGanapini
- DG Justice (invited)

Moderator: **Tomaso Falchetta**, Privacy International

Surveillance and manipulation for breakfast, lunch and dinner: Regulating the pervasive and persuasive impact of food and beverage marketing

Food and beverage companies, working with platforms and retailers, continue to unleash an array of cutting-edge digital tactics targeting young people. Despite public health concerns, marketers are successfully leveraging all the possibilities of contemporary advertising—including the use of data profiles, virtual reality, AI, influencers and geo-targeting. Youth of color, as well as those from low-income communities, are a key focus of these campaigns. This breakout session will provide an overview of the latest marketing tactics, their impact on Gen Z, the failure of self-regulation, regulatory and monitoring challenges and a discussion of ongoing and potential interventions on either side of the Atlantic.

- **Emma Calvert**, BEUC, Europe | @EmmaCalvert3
- **Jeff Chester**, Center for Digital Democracy, U.S. | @chesterj1
- **Guilherme Roschke**, Federal Trade Commission, U.S.
- **Dr. Mimi Tatlow-Golden**, The Open University, UK | @MimiTGolden

Moderator: **Isabelle Buscke**, vzbv, Germany | @ibuscke

12.45

Lunch

14.00

Are EU and U.S. trade policies compatible with the fight against climate change?

The EU and the U.S. are adopting policies to protect the environment and help consumers in the green transition. However, they both must comply with international trade rules which can limit their ability to adopt ambitious laws. Moreover, if foreign investors consider that environmental laws can undermine their investment, they can attack governments and claim damages through trade and investment agreements, like the Energy Charter Treaty. TACD will therefore gather government officials and transatlantic trade experts from consumer groups to discuss how to prevent trade and investment rules from creating barriers to the fight against climate change. The Q&A session will provide a platform for other civil society organisations to bring their views and concrete recommendations to better align trade and climate policies.

- USTR (invited)
- **Léa Auffret**, BEUC, Europe | @LeaAuffret
- **Melinda St Louis**, Public Citizen, U.S. | @MelindaPubCit
- **Madelaine Tuininga**, Directorate General for Trade, European Commission

Moderator: **Iana Dreyer**, Borderlex | @IanaDreyer



15.15

Coffee

15.30

New frontiers of digital regulation

Government policies and regulatory measures have been playing catch-up with race-track digital technologies advancements – some good, and in many domains, for helping people, but others simply aiding the pockets of corporations to the detriment of human and consumer rights, causing harm even. Consequently, laws have been developed to deal with the detrimental side, but that need to be enforced before discussing emerging challenges. This session will focus on issues central to the current EU and U.S. dialogues, including AI, manipulative design online (dark patterns), privacy and data protection. The discussion will pinpoint the areas of detriment where existing laws apply, and address outstanding issues, where such laws are insufficient, and we need new policies or regulations.

- **Christian D’Cunha**, Directorate General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology, European Commission | @BeterOpDeFiets
- **Claire Fernandez**, EDRI, Europe | @CFerKic
- **Calli Schroeder**, EPIC, U.S. | @Iwillleavenow
- **Prof. Olivier Sylvain**, Federal Trade Commission, U.S. | @oliviersylvain

Moderator: **Finn Myrstad**, Norwegian Consumer Council, Norway | @finnmyrstad

17.15

Closing keynote - Nils Behrndt, Directorate General for Justice and Consumers, European Commission | @NilsBehrndt

17.30

Networking drinks



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TACD Trans Atlantic Consumer Dialogue

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