

TACD

TRANS ATLANTIC DIALOGUE TRANSATLANTIQUE
CONSUMER DIALOGUE DES CONSOMMATEURS

October 18, 2012

H.E. William Kennard
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Diplomatic Mission of the US to
the EU
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Vice-President
European Commission
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Mr. Karel De Gucht
Commissioner
European Commission
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Dear Ambassador Kennard, Vice-President Šefčovič and Commissioner De Gucht,

EU-US Interim Agreement: Discussions related to food, animal and plant standards and the need to involve consumer stakeholders

A member of TACD was recently briefed in Washington on the Interim Agreement that is a precursor to trade negotiations between the U.S. and EU. In that briefing a high-level member of the U.S. Office the Trade Representative (USTR) reported that SPS (food, animal, plant) standards were potentially on the table for discussion and ultimately inclusion in a trade agreement between the U.S. and the EU.

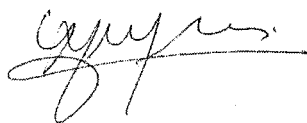
Please be aware that the TransAtlantic Consumer Dialogue and its member organizations have been working on the issues of food safety, nutrition, and food labelling standards (including the use of drugs in animal agriculture systems) for over a decade, and we would like to be consulted for any consideration of these standards within the context of the HLRCF and the TEC.

While harmonization of standards can be valuable, it can only be done in a manner that is fully inclusive of all stakeholders, and that considers the public health consequences of changes in SPS standards. As trade negotiations are often driven by economic factors, it is critically important that public health considerations be given a "seat at the table" in these negotiations.

Therefore, we kindly ask you to inform us at your earliest convenience of the mechanisms that you plan to use to ensure that any SPS standards that come under discussion at the High Level Working Group on Jobs and Growth, or any subsequent trade agreements, can be fully discussed with consumer and public health stakeholders on both sides of the Atlantic.

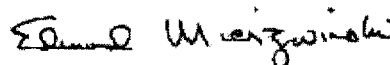
We are looking forward to your feedback and remain at the entire disposal of your services for any further discussion.

Yours sincerely,



Monique GOYENS

EU-co Chair



Ed Mierzwinski

US-co Chair