



The Consumer Voice in Europe

*TTIP and consumer
welfare:*

*potential benefits and
real concerns*

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INTA public hearing

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TTIP: Opportunities & concerns

Increase consumer welfare & well-being. How?

- Wider choice, more competitive markets
- Raising standards
- Promote regulatory cooperation
 - Exchange of best practices
 - More fluid flow of sometimes life-saving information
 - Prevention of redundant administrative procedures

Civil society is concerned. Why?

- Lack of clarity around negotiation process
- Cornerstone regulatory principles at risk

Global standard?

- If to become global benchmark, make sure you get it right!

First step: increase transparency

Unfounded arguments in favour of secrecy

- Precedent of more transparency: WIPO, WHO, WTO, Codex alimentarius (FAO)

What we ask for?

- Access to documents
- More than information and debriefings: meaningful consultations and engagement with all stakeholders
 - EU industry consultation on public procurement: why only on this issue and why not all stakeholders??

We welcome first initiatives by Commission, to be further developed

Why we have reasons for concerns: some examples

Food: hygiene & safety standards

- EU statement: food safety rules will not be touched upon; they will be made less disruptive for trade

vs

- “the EU’s non-scientific notion of “precaution” has led to the adoption of many trade-restrictive measures” – Farm, poultry, meat industry letter to USTR, 20 May 2013

Data flows

- EU statement : data protection will not be in the mandate, but data flows will be covered

vs

- Ex-General Counsel US Dpt. of Commerce warned against making “regulation of privacy, regulation relating to the Internet, a new set of non-tariff barriers to trade” – 28 August 2013

Flawed Principles

- Regulatory convergence: risk regulation beyond the terms of TTIP difficult in future
- Mutual recognition: the hidden mismatch: one does indeed not lower its own standards, but has to accept those of the partner...
 - short term: accept products with standards which might not meet the domestic ones
 - long term effect: pressure from domestic producers to lower domestic standards
- « Science-based » vs. precautionary principle

Investor-State Dispute Settlement

- Empowerment of foreign investors to claim compensation
- EU – US: highly established legal systems
- Closed-door, unaccountable tribunals
- Conflict of interest
- Huge deterrent especially for smaller states
- Australia: no ISD in future trade agreements

Our benchmark

- Full transparency of the negotiations, including access to the negotiation texts & and consultation with civil society
- Existing standards should not be lowered and the right for both parties to maintain and adopt higher standards than what is agreed in the TTIP must be guaranteed, also towards products and services originating with the partner
- Exclusion of the investor-State Dispute Settlement mechanism from the agreement



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