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BREXIT TRADE HEALTH

#BREXITHEALTH

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Quotes

“We must focus on the public health implications of trade and investment policies not just in terms of a future UK-EU trading relationship but also UK and EU trade policy following the UK departure. With the Brexit debate and deliberations strongly focused on economic and legal consequences, our public health concerns are in jeopardy of falling by the wayside. We must bring health to forefront of our Brexit discussions.”

-MEP Marian Harkin, ALDE, Ireland

“Much of the debate concerning Brexit has focused on the more narrow economic and legal consequences of Britain’s departure from the European Union. From my perspective, the purpose of this event is to draw attention to the important public health consequences of disentangling the UK from the EU customs and regulatory unions – and to link this to the evolving shape of UK and EU trade and investment policy” **-Dr. Gabriel Siles-Brügge, Associate Professor in Public Policy, University of Warwick**

“The UK’s main focus in its Article 50 negotiations must be to establish quickly its position at the World Trade Organization (WTO) as it may take some time to establish Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) with key partners like the EU and the US. Expect it to adopt EU tariff rates and many of the EU services regulations under GATS. With regards to a FTA with the EU-27, the UK will need to secure, as close as possible, its existing rights for financial services under some form of passporting or equivalence, since these represent such a vital component of the UK’s economy. ‘Global Britain’ envisions FTA with many other countries and the Commonwealth will likely be the starting point here given that these should present somewhat less difficulty in terms of common goals, culture and language. Negotiations under regional arrangements like the Trade in Services Agreement (TiSA) will also be crucial. It is far from clear that the UK government has sufficient capacity to engage in trade deals on multiple fronts and we should expect that resolution on these matters will take several years.” **-Prof David Collins, City University London**

“Much of the debate concerning Brexit has focused on the more narrow economic and legal consequences of Britain’s departure from the European Union. From my perspective, the purpose of this event is to draw attention to the important public health consequences of disentangling the UK from the EU customs and regulatory unions – and to link this to the evolving shape of UK and EU trade and investment policy” **-Dr. Dimitrios Doukas Reader in Law, University of Manchester**

“Brexit will have extremely important implications for trade and investment law and policy in both the U.K. and the EU. In turn, trade and investment law and policy can and does have important implications for public health. Accordingly, public health should be prioritised as a key concern throughout the Brexit process and beyond.” **-Dr Nicolette Butler, Lecturer in Law, University of Manchester**



Quotes

The Law regulating parallel importation and exhaustion of rights will possibly change after the UK leaves the EEA. The question then is how the UK will shape this part of trade mark law. It is unlikely that the UK will continue to be part of the community exhaustion regime given that it will be outside the EEA and common market. So the UK will either go down the route of a national exhaustion regime which would give trade mark proprietors the power to prevent the resale within the UK of any trade-marked products which were not first marketed in the UK. This will greatly increase the potential for price discrimination, which will be popular with trade mark owners but will have a negative effect on British consumers’ welfare. Therefore, it is more likely that the UK will move in the opposite direction and adopt an international exhaustion regime that will allow “external” parallel importation with strict limitations in order to protect the legitimate interest of trade mark owners and safeguard consumer welfare. Determining such limitations is of great importance not only to consumers’ economic welfare but also to their health. Noting that one study estimated that 20% of branded pharmaceuticals sold in the UK are parallel imports. It is also estimated that just under 6% of prescriptions in the UK are now filled with pharmaceutical products acquired through parallel imports. **-Dr. Jasem Tarawneh, Lecturer in Intellectual Property and Commercial Law, University of Manchester**

“A hard, no holds barred Brexit has the potential to drastically reduce the UK’s health research budget, affect the regulation of health determinants such as food, alcohol and tobacco and increase medicine prices in the UK. Blocking the free movement of people will in addition, severely damage National Health Service and cause greater unemployment and poverty in EU Member States that currently enjoy the right to work there. Ideally, the Brexit process should be stopped, however as it is more likely now to go ahead, a healthy and sustainable agreement must be reached for the sake of everyone in the EU and the UK.” **-Emma Woodford, Director Health and Trade Network**

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