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THE HONORABLE TERRELL MCSWEENY, FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION, SPEAKS AT IFE MTR

On December 18, 2014, His Excellency Johan C. Verbeke, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Belgium to the United States and IFE Diplomatic Steward, graciously hosted the Institute for Education's [Media and Technology Roundtable \(MTR\)](#) with Commissioner of the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), The Honorable Terrell McSweeney.

The dinner, which took place at the Ambassador's historic residence overlooking the Potomac River, began with welcoming remarks by Ambassador Verbeke and Coach Kathy Kemper, IFE Founder and CEO. White House Senior Advisor Dr. R. David Edelman then introduced Commissioner Terrell McSweeney, touching upon her many distinguished achievements, from her childhood act as a ballerina to her recent appointment as the FTC Commissioner by Vice President Joe Biden.



McSweeney began her talk with the history of the FTC as the independent agency was celebrating its 100th anniversary this year. Discussing the growing importance of her main mission in protecting consumers especially with growing technology, McSweeney commented on recent issues the FTC was facing, such as the case against AT&T and T-Mobile and marketing through social media. Moreover, talking about this year's many security breach cases, she highlighted the importance of ensuring that products and services have security backgrounds to ensure consumer confidence.

After concluding her remarks and answering a few questions, guests conducted lively table discussions on McSweeney's many talking points with each guest bringing his/her own experience. During dessert, each table brought up their discussion points to the Commissioner during an interactive Q&A session. One guest brought up the possibility of a divergence in antitrust policies between European and American regulators, to which the Commissioner responded that antitrust policies between the EU and the USA are actually not very disparate, while privacy and security policies are deviating with the growing importance in the US of the seal programs.

Another issue brought up during the Q&A session was the increasing need for improved security procedures as a guest brought up the most recent security breach of Sony Pictures Entertainment. Outlining the steps companies need to take when addressing security issues, Commissioner McSweeney emphasized the necessity to address known security vulnerabilities and bringing someone experienced with security to the forefront.

As the evening was winding down, Commissioner McSweeney concluded the forum with her hopes for the future. Reiterating her main goal to protect consumers, she emphasized the need to strengthen the middle class. Because US's engine for its capitalist economy lies in the middle class, the US will need to work towards ensuring consumer protection and business competition.

Guests in attendance included Catherine Bohigian, Charter Communications; Chris Caine, Mercator XXI and IFE Steward; Marci Robinson, IFE Chairman of the Board of Stewards; Mark Schulte, Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting and IFE CTO; Steve Taylor, United Way Worldwide; and Joanne Ke, World Bank and IFE Fellow.

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