



Food safety and animal and plant health in TTIP

Working together to boost food exports while protecting the EU's strict standards

In this chapter we want to:

- cut the time it takes the US to approve food imports from the EU
- help EU and US regulators work more closely together in future on issues like animal welfare
- uphold the EU's strict food safety standards.

Reasons for negotiating this

Imports of animals, plant materials and food products may pose a risk to our livestock, plants and human population.

In the jargon, these are known as sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) issues.

Regulations in this field can have a big impact on trade. EU and US laws ensure a high level of protection, but sometimes use different means. This can lead to costly duplication of checks on products that have already been proved to be safe.

Overall, this chapter in TTIP will aim to:

- minimise effects of regulations on trade by encouraging EU and US regulators to work together
- respect legitimate goals to protect human, animal and plant health
- remove unnecessary trade barriers

- improve transparency and provide clear timelines for approving imports or new products.

EU goals

In this part of TTIP, we want to create a privileged partnership with the US with:

- pragmatic and speedy procedures and decisions on regulations related to trade
- a single approval process for exports from all EU countries, just like there is a single approval process for US exports to the EU
- clear and transparent processes and time lines that reflect the fact that we're each other's most important trading partner
- a basis for working together on regulations – including on animal welfare – to avoid differences that hinder trade
- strong mechanisms for resolving trade issues.

Sensitive or controversial issues

In this area, some issues are sensitive or controversial. Here's a summary of the main ones, and what we're doing to address each.

Sensitivity/concern	EU response
1. Food safety	
TTIP will lower EU food safety rules, which are higher than those in the US. TTIP will open a race to the bottom.	It's not true that EU rules are always stricter. Both the US and the EU have made it equally clear that TTIP will not change existing food safety rules. The EU will keep its restrictions on hormones or growth promoters in

livestock farming just as the US will keep its rules on microbial contaminants.

2. GMOs

TTIP will force the EU to allow the growing of genetically modified plants.

Growing genetically modified organisms is subject to an authorisation process in line with EU law. TTIP will not change this law. EU countries must also agree to any growing of GM plants. This will not change through TTIP.

3. Animal welfare

TTIP will force the EU to adopt lower animal welfare standards.

TTIP will not affect EU animal welfare laws. The EU wants to set up a formal dialogue on animal welfare with US government regulators. We aim to do this in all our bilateral trade agreements so as to promote the highest standards of animal welfare possible.
