

KEY STUDIES

TRANSATLANTIC TRADE AND INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP (TTIP)

BACKGROUND

Negotiations on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) were launched politically on 17 June 2013. By reducing tariffs, dismantling non-tariff barriers, both to trade in goods and services, and seeking to overcome the existing regulatory divide, the TTIP will define the legal framework for the world's largest free trade and investment area. By expanding bilateral trade and investment, the TTIP should spark sustainable growth and create additional jobs. Parliament will have to give its consent to the TTIP once the negotiations are completed, as stipulated by the Lisbon Treaty. The EP largely supported the opening of negotiations. However, Members expressed caution with regard to several sensitive issues, including the need for high level of protection of personal data, US restrictions on maritime and air transport services, agricultural sector, i.e. differing perceptions towards Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) and cloning and the EU's precautionary principle with regard to safety standards.

INSIDE

This leaflet provides a compilation of papers prepared by the European Parliament's Policy Departments in relation to the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership.

Scan the QR code or just click on the title of the publication to access it directly.

FORTHCOMING PUBLICATIONS

The following publications will be available as from July 2014:

- Investor-state dispute settlement provisions in the EU's international investment agreements such as TTIP
- Market opportunities for the EU agri-food sector within TTIP



PUBLICATIONS

The HLWG report on a future EU-US trade and investment agreement – February 2013



The final report of the High-Level Working Group on Jobs and Growth (HLWG), which was set up as to define the scope of the future agreement, recommended taking up negotiations on an ambitious and comprehensive agreement that should tackle market access obstacles relating to tariffs on goods, barriers to services, investment and procurement. Although the recommendation starting negotiations were widely welcomed by political leaders and legislators on both sides, there were also sceptics right from the start, amongst which we have the farming sector on both sides. Organisations that represent the interests of European consumers fear that the future TTIP might lower safety standards for foodstuffs. **(Available in EN)**



The Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership and the parliamentary dimension of regulatory cooperation – April 2014



The TTIP has the potential to remake political and legal relationships between the EU and the US and pave the way to a new form of global economic governance based on international regulatory cooperation. In these newly created circumstances, it is crucial to foresee parliamentary input into the operation of the agreement. This makes take three possible levels of involvement of the EP and the US Congress: (i) the negotiations and conclusion of the agreement; (ii) the individual contribution of each legislator in the daily operation of TTIP; and (iii) the joint contribution that both legislators may provide to the objectives pursued by the agreement through the existing parliamentary cooperation.

(Available in EN, FR and DE)





Legal implications of the EU-US trade and investment partnership (TTIP) for the Acquis Communautaire and the ENVI relevant sectors – October 2013

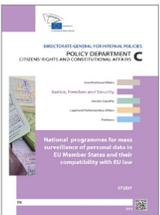


This study discusses the potential impact of the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership agreement on the EU acquis in the areas of the environment and food safety. It recommends, in particular, that the European Parliament pay very close attention to the precise wording of provisions regarding the environment, food safety, and investment set out in the final text to ensure that both parties are able to maintain the environmental and consumer protection standards they deem appropriate, as provided for in the European Commission's negotiating mandate.



(Available in EN)

National programmes for mass surveillance of personal data in EU Member States and their compatibility with EU law – October 2013



In the wake of the disclosures surrounding PRISM and other US surveillance programmes, this study makes an assessment of the large-scale surveillance practices by a selection of EU member states, namely France, Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden and the UK. Given the large-scale nature of surveillance practices at stake, representing a reconfiguration of traditional intelligence gathering, the study contends that an analysis of European surveillance programmes cannot be reduced to a question of balance between data protection versus national security, but has to be framed in terms of collective freedoms and democracy. It finds that four of the five EU member states selected for in-depth examination are engaging in some form of large-scale interception and surveillance of communication data, and identifies parallels and discrepancies between these programmes and the NSA-run operations. (Available in EN)



The US surveillance programmes and their impact on EU citizens' fundamental rights – September 2013



In light of the recent PRISM-related revelations, this briefing note analyses the impact of US surveillance programmes on European citizens' fundamental rights, including privacy and data protection. Prior to the PRISM scandal, European media underestimated this aspect, apparently oblivious to the fact that the surveillance activity was primarily directed at the 'rest-of-the-world', and was not targeted at US citizens. The note explores the scope of surveillance that can be carried out under the 2008 Amendments Act of US Foreign Intelligence Surveillance (FISA) and related practices of the US authorities, which have very strong implications for EU data sovereignty and the protection of European citizens' rights. The authors also develop some strategic options for the European Parliament and provide suggestions to improve future EU regulation and to provide effective safeguards for protection for EU citizens' rights. (Available in EN)



Workshop on "Transatlantic economic relations - 'Two heads are better than one!'" – June 2012



This workshop has emphasized the importance of establishing a comprehensive transatlantic economic partnership in which the European Parliament and the United States Congress would play important roles. The reason we need a comprehensive economic partnership between the European Union and the United States is manifest. It was made clear that such a partnership represents a vital opportunity to promote jobs and growth on both sides of the Atlantic. Given the depth of the economic recession we have experienced and the resulting high levels of unemployment - particularly among the youth of our societies - such an opportunity should not be ignored.



(Available in EN)

POLICY DEPARTMENTS

Policy departments consist of five units responsible for providing - both in-house and external - high-level independent expertise, analysis and policy advice at the request of committees and other parliamentary bodies (delegations, President, Bureau, Secretary-General). Their expertise covers all areas of activity of the European Parliament. Therefore they are closely involved in the work of committees which they support in shaping legislation on and exercising democratic scrutiny over EU policies.

Policy departments deliver policy analysis in a wide variety of formats, ranging from studies and in-depth analyses to briefings and the Fact Sheets on the EU. This written output serves a variety of purposes by feeding directly into the legislative work of a specific committee or serving as a briefing for delegations of Members. Apart from a few confidential documents, all texts produced by policy departments are available on the Parliament's website for the benefit of all Members and the wider public.

Policy departments also organise events, including workshops and expert panels, that enhance Parliament's analytical capacity and develop common approaches to current political issues.

All studies: www.europarl.europa.eu/studies

Fact Sheets: www.europarl.europa.eu/factsheets

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