



Customs and trade facilitation in TTIP

Streamlining customs rules and controls to make exporting easier

In this chapter we want to:

- make it easier for companies trading goods between the EU and the US to get their goods through customs
- continue to ensure firms can only export goods which meet our rules
- in that way, protect people and the environment.

Reasons for negotiating customs and trade facilitation

When a firm in Europe exports its products to America, customs officers at the US border check the products to make sure they meet US rules and regulations.

The same applies to exports from the US to the EU.

These customs checks:

- stop harmful or illegal goods from finding their way into our shops
- make sure:

- companies pay any customs duties and taxes that are due for their kind of product
- governments get the money they count on to pay for their budgets.

We want to help boost EU-US trade by agreeing new rules for our customs procedures.

These rules would:

- streamline the procedures, to make them more efficient
- save time, money and hassle for all companies.

EU goals

In this part of TTIP, we want to set up new customs rules that:

- make it easier for firms to export between the EU and the US
- allow customs officers to carry out the checks they need to make to ensure:
 - goods coming into the country are safe
 - companies pay any duties or taxes due at customs.

Some of the ways we could do this include:

- agreeing simple, effective rules that are easy to understand and follow
- using one set of forms for companies to fill in, at either the EU or US border

- ensuring that customs procedures are transparent, for example by making them available online;
- getting customs in the EU and US to work more closely together in future.

The World Trade Organization (WTO) is the body that sets the rules for global trade.

And its members - most of the world's countries, including the US and EU - have already agreed on an international Agreement on Trade Facilitation (TFA).

The agreement:

- sets out procedures that a country's customs authorities should apply when a foreign company or individual wants to export goods to that country
- helps make it easier for that company or individual to get their goods through customs.

We want to make sure we and others put the TFA into practice. And in TTIP we want to go even further, whenever we can.