



Government-to-government dispute settlement (GGDS) in TTIP

Setting up a fair, effective way to resolve disputes between EU and US governments arising from TTIP

In this chapter we want to:

- set up an effective way of sorting out differences between governments in the EU or US on TTIP
- base ourselves on a system already in place at the World Trade Organisation (WTO)
- ensure our system is fully transparent.

Reasons for negotiating dispute settlement

The way the WTO resolves disputes between its 160 member countries is very successful. But these rules only apply to WTO agreements.

We want to use the same method in TTIP to clarify and enforce the rights and rules we negotiate with the US.

Like this, we can:

- sort out any differences with the US when interpreting and implementing TTIP – and in a way which is predictable
- use clear procedures to solve disagreements before they develop into a full-blown dispute
- avoid negative spill-over effects on EU-US relations .

EU goals

In relation to the WTO dispute settlement, the important innovations include:

- the EU and the US decide in advance which arbitrators are eligible to sit on panels, rather than choosing them on a case-by-case basis. This will increase mutual trust in the arbitrators and their rulings
- our method for solving disputes under TTIP is even more transparent than the successful WTO method:
 - hearings to be held in public
 - interested parties, such as non-governmental organisations, to be able to give their views in writing
 - publishing all views submitted to the panel of arbitrators.

Sensitive or controversial issues

We're not currently aware of any issues which are especially sensitive or where people have raised specific concerns.