

Glossary

@EU_TTIP_team	Our Twitter account where we post news about TTIP	Buy American Act	1933 Act requiring all US federal government agencies to prefer US-made products when buying supplies and giving out contracts above a certain price
Arbitrator	A person who judges a disputed issue outside a court	Chief Negotiator	The person who leads the TTIP negotiations. The EU's is Ignacio Garcia Bercero; the US' is Dan Mullaney
Audiovisual services	Services with both a visual and a sound component, e.g. film, TV	Civil Society	Non-governmental organisations and institutions that represent citizens and not-for-profit interest groups
Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT)	Agreements on private sector investment between two countries	Civil society dialogue	The meetings and events we hold with civil society to keep them up to date with trade talks and to listen to their feedback and views
Buy America Act	1982 law that requires the US government to buy products made mostly or totally in the US when buying supplies and giving out contracts related to transport		

Co-decision	EU law making process that gives the European Parliament the same amount of power as the governments of EU countries
Concluding	Finally settling an agreement
Conformity Assessment Procedures	Ways of checking if a product meets legal standards
Consultation	Surveys that help us gather the public's input on matters that have an effect on them
Council of the European Union ('the Council')	The EU body where governments of EU countries meet to take decisions together
Customs and trade facilitation	Ways of cutting red tape and simplifying customs procedures to make it easier to export and import
Data protection	Rules ensuring that personal data is gathered or used legally, and with a legitimate purpose

Directorate-General for Trade	The European Commission's department that deals with the EU's common trade policy
Dispute settlement	Help governments sort out disagreements over the interpretation or implementation of an agreement
EU Trade Commissioner	Cecilia Malmström, the member of the European Commission responsible for the EU's common trade policy
European Commission ('the Commission')	The EU's executive body; it proposes new laws, implements new policies, and upholds the EU's treaties
European Globalisation Fund (EGF)	Fund that helps people that have lost their jobs as a result of globalisation
European Parliament	Directly elected institution of the EU, jointly responsible with the Council for law-making

Financial regulation The EU law setting out principles and procedures that manage EU funds

Geographical indications (GIs) Signs that help consumers identify products originating from a specific place and with characteristics linked to it e.g. Champagne or Parma ham

Impact assessment A study prepared for the European Commission that shows the potential economic, social and environmental advantages and disadvantages of alternative policy choices. It helps the EU to decide what action to take

Initial position A negotiating position at the beginning of trade talks. Usually, it is set out in a text presented to a negotiating partner

Initialling

After a trade agreement has been concluded (see 'concluding') and checked by the lawyers each side's chief negotiator initials every page of the agreement. This confirms they agree on the text.

Input

Contributions from governments, parliamentarians, stakeholders and interest groups setting out their points of view and ideas

[INTA Committee](#)

The European Parliament's International Trade Committee. Its members monitor and provide input to the EU's common commercial policy and its economic relations

Intermediate good

A good that is used for the production of another good, e.g. paper that is used for the production of books

Investment protection	Measures ensuring that investors don't lose their investment because they're discriminated against
Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS)	A form of dispute settlement where arbitrators judge if a government has discriminated against a foreign investor
Labour rights	Rights at work
Lead Negotiator	Negotiator responsible for a certain area of the negotiation
Legal certainty	Principle that laws must be clear and precise, so that people can foresee their consequences
Legal scrubbing	Process in which lawyers from the EU and the trade partner review negotiated texts to ensure legal accuracy
Lisbon Treaty	A 2009 treaty between EU countries that regulates how the EU is organised and how EU laws are made.

Mandate	In the case of TTIP: the guidelines that the governments of EU countries gave the European Commission for the TTIP negotiations
Market access	Openness of one country's market to other countries' exports. It generally covers areas such as customs duties, services and public procurement
MEP	One of the 751 directly elected Members of the European Parliament
MEP question	An official question of a MEP to the European Commission (EC) that the EC has to answer within a time limit
Monopoly	Where one firm is the only supplier of a good or service

Mutual recognition	Rule saying goods or services that are lawfully produced or supplied in one country can be allowed for sale in another country	Precautionary principle	The basis for preventative action where there is an alleged or possible risk to the environment, human, animal or plant health or food safety
National treatment	A government treating foreign and domestic firms the same way	Public interest	Relevance to or well-being of the general public
Negotiating round	Time when negotiators meet to negotiate. For TTIP, there is usually a round every 2-3 months	Public procurement	Buying of goods and services by public authorities
Negotiating text	A text tabled by one of the parties during trade talks setting out its approach to a trade issue or proposing specific text to go in a trade agreement	Public services	Services provided by public authorities, e.g. police, fire brigade, refuse collection, state-run schools
Non-governmental organisation (NGO)	Organisation that is not a business or part of the government	Race to the bottom	Lowering of standards and/or level of protection
Offer	Specification of how much a negotiating party will open up its markets	Ratchet clause	A ratchet clause in a trade agreement means a country cannot reintroduce a particular trade barrier that it had previously and unilaterally removed in an area where it had made a commitment.

Reading room

 The room where government officials from EU countries,, members of the European Parliament and the Advisory Group can read TTIP-related EU negotiating documents which have not been published

Regulatory coherence/
 Regulatory cooperation

 Agreeing ways to make it easier for EU and US regulators to cooperate when developing new rules

Research and development (R&D)

 Activities creating new technologies, products or ideas

Right to regulate

 Governments' ability to decide what laws to pass, including if and how they provide public services

Rule of law

 Principle that law should govern a country not arbitrary decisions

Rules of origin

 The criteria used to define where a product is produced. They are a key part of trade rules because things like rates of customs duties depend on a product's 'origin'. Globalization and the way a product can be processed in several countries makes this more complicated.

Sanitary & phytosanitary (SPS) measures

 Measures ensuring food safety and animal and plant health

Services

 Economic commodities that cannot be touched, such as insurance

Signing

 Expressing approval of an agreement by signing it

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) In the EU, a company with less than 250 employees that has

- a turnover of less than €50 million **or**
- a balance sheet of less than €43 million

SME committee A joint body that the Commission plans to set up. It will monitor the extent to which SMEs benefit from TTIP.

Stakeholder An individual / organisation that is affected by a given action or policy

Stakeholder event The meetings and events we hold with stakeholders to keep them up to date with trade talks and to listen to their feedback and views

State-owned enterprise (SOE) A firm that wholly or partially belongs to the state

State-to-state dispute settlement (SSDS) A way to resolve disputes between EU and US governments outside of national or international courts.

Sustainability impact assessment (SIA) A study assessing the potential economic, social and environmental effects of a trade negotiation

Sustainable development Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Sustainable development provisions Provisions (usually on labour and environmental protection standards) in trade agreements to help trade support sustainable development in the EU, in our partner countries, and globally

Tariffs Customs duties on imports

Tariff schedule

A list of products with the tariffs that apply to each one.

Technical barriers to trade (TBTs)

Technical regulations and product standards that can hinder trade

Textual proposals

Texts that a negotiating party shows its counterpart. They contain actual language and binding commitments the party would like to see in an agreement.

Trade in goods

Selling goods to or buying them from another country

Trade in services

Selling services to or buying them from another country

Trade Promotion Authority (TPA)

Power granted by the US Congress to the US President to negotiate international agreements

Trade remedies

Action taken by governments against imports which are distorting trade and adversely affect a domestic industry because they are based on unfair low pricing or subsidies. Remedies include anti-dumping actions, countervailing duty measures; and safeguard action.

Transparency

Openness of policies, practices and decision making to scrutiny by the public

TTIP

Transatlantic trade and investment partnership – the trade deal we are currently negotiating with the US

TTIP Advisory Group 16 independent experts representing environmental, health, consumers, workers and different business sectors who advise the EU during our TTIP negotiations

World Trade Organisation (WTO) International organisation that deals with global rules of trade between its 160 member countries

Unfair treatment When a government treats foreign companies differently from domestic ones even though it has promised not to

US Congress The legislature of the federal government of the United States. It consists of two houses: the Senate and the House of Representatives.

[US Trade Representative](#) (USTR) America's chief trade negotiator and principal advisor on trade to the US president