



Customs and Trade Facilitation in TTIP

An introduction to the EU's new articles proposed in
Round 12

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The aim of the chapter is to create a transatlantic customs environment that makes it easier to export and import goods.

The new articles would:

- establish a work plan for cooperating with US customs to integrate and harmonise key customs procedures
- define the objectives of the Customs and Trade Facilitation chapter
- set up a committee to oversee the implementation of the chapter
- encourage the development of trusted trader programmes for compliant companies, including SMEs.

The chapter would include a set of rules, and in addition we propose that EU and US customs work together on some key issues to facilitate transatlantic trade.

Such work would include:

- **Harmonising the data** that EU and US customs collect
- Cooperating on so-called **Single Windows** – these offer one place online where an exporting or importing firm can provide information to allow customs and the relevant regulatory agencies to check its goods.
- Jointly setting up so-called Authorized Operator or **Trusted Trader schemes**

These simplify customs procedures for companies with a track record of complying with customs procedures in the past.

- Recognising each other's **advance rulings** – a ruling means that customs give certain useful information to an exporter or importer before they export or import their goods.

The information can be about:

- the classification of the goods – how they are categorized for customs purposes
- the origin of the goods – whether they qualify as coming from the EU or the US and hence benefit from lower customs duties.
- Coordinating better on **international standards**.

A set of objectives in the chapter would put the obligations in context and help both the EU and US to interpret it.

In addition, a committee of EU and US customs experts would oversee implementation of the chapter.