

# Public consultation on the future of EU-US trade and economic relations

## *Introduction*

The US is a strategic partner of the EU. Both the EU and the US are strong promoters of free trade and investment and are among the most open economies in the world. The EU and the US are cooperating at the multilateral level and are engaged in numerous sector-specific bilateral dialogues aiming at increasing transatlantic economic relations. As a political body, the Transatlantic Economic Council (TEC) oversees and facilitates such cooperation with the aim of advancing economic integration between the EU and the US.

To further deepen the transatlantic economic relations, the 28 November 2011 EU-US Summit launched a High Level Working Group (HLWG) on Jobs and Growth tasked with looking at all options to further increase bilateral trade and investment. The Group produced an **interim report** in June. A final report with recommendations to leaders is due by the end of the year.

The creation of the High Level Working Group on Jobs and Growth is a significant event in transatlantic relations. It is currently injecting strong momentum into the transatlantic economic relationship. The objective is to identify policies and measures to increase EU-US trade and investment to support job creation, economic growth and international competitiveness of EU and US industry. The focus of the Working Group is on options where a common approach is likely to be beneficial for both economies and for the functioning of the global trade architecture. This encompasses, for instance, areas such as tariffs, non-tariff measures, services, investment, intellectual property rights and public procurement.

Building on the good existing relationship and cooperation between the EU and the US in fora such as the TEC and the High Level Regulatory Cooperation Forum (HLRCF), the trade policy initiative envisaged by the HLWG is aimed at shaping the future framework of the EU-US trade relationship. It is consistent with the Commission's view of trade policy as set out in the Communication Trade, Growth and World Affairs of 9 November 2010, which proposed to develop stronger relations with strategic partners such as the US.

This public consultation is intended to enable the gathering of detailed views relating to the future trade and economic relationship between the European Union and the United States. Taking into account the more general initial public consultation published February 2012, it aims at detailing and structuring the feedback of all relevant stakeholders. The results of both consultations will feed into the Impact Assessment DG TRADE is currently preparing. The Impact Assessment will help shaping the position of the Commission with regards to a potential bilateral initiative with the United States in the field of trade policy.

*For more on the bilateral trade relation, the objectives and possible options for increased cooperation between the European Union and the United States [please click here](#).*

**IMPORTANT:** *Please note that the system allows a time frame of **90 minutes** (= session time) to fill in the questionnaire. When the session time is exceeded, the connexion with the server is lost and your response is not recorded and cannot be retrieved. We therefore strongly recommend to print the questionnaire (button "download PDF version"), elaborate your reply off-line and then insert your replies in the time-limited session.*

### **Statement on the handling of personal data**

Questions marked with an asterisk \* require an answer to be given.

## **1. About you**

To ensure that our public consultation is open and transparent DG TRADE will publicise all contributions on its website, unless respondents indicate that they do not wish their contributions to be made public. The consolidated report will similarly include a list of the names of all the organisations from whom DG TRADE has received contributions to this process.

**1.1. Do you wish your contribution to be made public? \***

Yes

No

**1.2. Please state the name of your business/organisation/association? \*** (between 1 and 200 characters)

**1.3. What is your profile? \***

- Business
- Trade association representing business
- Trade union or organisation representing trade unions
- Consumer protection agency or representative
- Government institution or regulator authority
- Other non-governmental organisation
- Academic/research institution
- Citizen
- Other



**1.4. If "Other", please specify. \*** (between 1 and 1500 characters)



1.5. **If you are a business, what is your company size?**

- Large company (more than 5,000 employees)
- Medium Company ( $\geq 250$  employees  $\leq 5,000$ )
- Small company (less than 250 employees)

1.6. What is your main area/sector of activities/interest (up to 3 answers possible)?

\*

(between 1 and 3 answers)

- Food, beverages and other agricultural products
- Textiles, clothing, leather and footwear
- Wood and paper
- Chemicals, rubber and plastics (includes pharmaceuticals)
- Other non-metallic mineral products
- Metals and metal products
- Power machinery
- Industrial processing machinery
- Arms and ammunition
- Other Machinery and equipment (domestic appliances, agricultural machinery)
- Instrument engineering (medical equipment, optical equipment)
- Computers and office equipment
- Electrical machinery and equipment
- Radio, television and communication equipment
- Transport equipment (except railways)
- Railway equipment
- Furniture and other manufacturing activities
- Energy, mining and quarrying
- Recycling, waste management and water supply
- Construction
- Maintenance services
- Retail and wholesale trade, hotels and restaurants, real estate
- Air transport services
- Maritime transport services
- Other transport services
- Postal, telecommunication, publishing and printing services
- Financial services
- IT services
- Legal, accounting and management consulting services
- Architectural and engineering services
- Other business services (recruitment, advertising,...)
- Other



1.7. If "Other", please specify. (between 1 and 1500 characters)

1.8. In which country are your headquarters located? \*

- A Member State of the European Union
- The United States
- Other



1.9. Please specify which country? \* (between 1 and 1500 characters)

## 2. Priorities for a forward-looking trade relationship with the United States

2.1. What should be the priorities of the future EU-US trade and economic relationship? \*

(between 1 and 4000 characters)

2.2. How should the European Union pursue these priorities? \* (between 1 and 4000 characters)

### 3. EU-US bilateral economic, trade and regulatory dialogues (e.g. Transatlantic Economic Council – TEC, High Level Regulatory Cooperation Forum – HLRCF)

3.1. Did the TEC, the HLRCF or other sector specific cooperation between the European Union and the United States bring satisfying results for your business in the past?

\*

Yes

No

Do not know / Not applicable



3.2. If the TEC, the HLRCF or other sector specific cooperation between the European Union and the United States has not brought satisfying results for you in the past, please explain why this has, in your opinion, not been the case.

\*

(between 1 and 1500 characters)

3.3. Are there any priority sectors on which economic cooperation should focus?

\*

Yes

No

Do not know / Not applicable



3.4. If there are priority sectors, please explain, including specific areas or issues to be addressed.

(between 1 and 1500 characters)

## 4. Tariffs

4.1. Are you concerned by tariffs in your field of activity?

\*

Yes

No

Do not know / Not applicable



4.2. If you are concerned by tariffs, do these tariffs affect your ability to export/import or to do business in the US?

\*

Yes

No

Do not know / Not applicable



4.3. If tariffs affect your ability to export/import or to do business in the US, please explain. \*

(between 1 and 1500 characters)



4.4. If you are concerned by tariffs, what is the average tariff on your exports/imports?

\*

(between 1 and 1500 characters)

## 5. Non-tariff measures for industrial products

5.1. Are you concerned by unnecessary regulatory barriers for industrial goods in your field of activity in the European Union or the United States?

\*

Yes

No

Do not know / Not applicable



5.2. If you are concerned by regulatory barriers, please specify whether they arise from (multiple answers possible):

\*

- Technical regulations
- Standards
- Conformity assessment procedures
- Other



5.3. If "Other", please specify. \* (between 1 and 1500 characters)



5.4. Describe the barriers of regulatory nature you are concerned about with as much detail as possible.

\*

(between 1 and 4000 characters)



5.5. Indicate how and how much it impacts your business/activity. If possible, provide an estimate/quantification of the costs of the barriers. \*

(between 1 and 1500 characters)



5.6. Indicate what would be the benefits of its removal.

\*

(between 1 and 1500 characters)



5.7. Please indicate to which level of government the regulatory obstacles relate (multiple answers possible)? \*

- US Federal / EU level regulation     US States / EU Member State regulation     Do not know / Not applicable

 5.8.

What should be the European Union priorities to address the reported barriers? For instance, if the reported barriers are related to divergent regulatory or standardisation approaches in the EU and the US, could you please indicate how, in your opinion, greater compatibility/convergence of the EU and US regulations and standards in your field of activity could be achieved?

(between 1 and 4000 characters)

## 6. Sanitary and phytosanitary obstacles

6.1. Are you concerned by unnecessary sanitary and phytosanitary regulatory obstacles? \*

Yes

No

Do not know / Not applicable



6.2. If you are concerned by sanitary and phytosanitary regulatory obstacles, please specify from where they arise (multiple answers possible):

\*

Non-processed animal products

Non-processed plant products

Processed products



6.3. For non-processed animal products (multiple answers possible): \*

Insufficient or lack of transparency of import requirements

Divergences of Federal standards compared to EU standards

Divergences of State/local standards within the US

Setting up procedure of import requirements

Approval facilities

Inspections and controls at border inspections post

Other



**6.4. For non-processed plant products (multiple answers possible):**

\*

(at least 1 answers)

- Insufficient or lack of transparency of import requirements and of which Federal competent authority is responsible.
- Divergences of Federal standards compared to EU standards
- Divergences of State/local standards within the US
- Setting up of import requirements
- Approval facilities
- Inspections and controls at border inspections post
- Other



**6.5. For processed products (multiple answers possible):**

\*

- Insufficient or lack of transparency of import requirements and of which Federal competent authority is responsible.
- Divergences of Federal standards compared to EU standards
- Divergences of State/local standards within the US
- Setting up of import requirements
- Approval facilities
- Inspections and controls at border inspections post
- Other



**6.6. If "Other", please specify.** (between 1 and 1500 characters)



6.7. Please explain the sanitary or phytosanitary obstacles in detail. \* (between 1 and 4000 characters)



6.8. How should the European Union address the specific obstacles? \* (between 1 and 4000 characters)



6.9. What are the priority agri-food sectors on which food safety/animal health/plant health regulatory dialogue should focus?

\*

(between 1 and 1500 characters)

## 7. Customs procedures, border enforcement and trade facilitation

7.1. Are you concerned by current practices in customs procedures and border enforcement? \*

Yes

No

Do not know / Not applicable



**7.2. If you are concerned by current practices, please specify which practices? \***

(between 1 and 4000 characters)



**7.3. If you are concerned by customs procedures and border enforcement, what are the estimated additional costs for your business (in percentage of the exports/imports) resulting from of customs procedures and border enforcement? \***

(between 1 and 1500 characters)



**7.4. If you are concerned by customs procedures and border enforcement, what should be the European Union priorities to address the issue? \***

(between 1 and 1500 characters)

## 8. Protection of Intellectual Property Rights

**8.1. Are you concerned by problems of protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights in your field of activity? \***

Yes

No

Do not know / Not applicable



8.2. If you are concerned by problems of protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights, please explain the problems you encounter. \* (between 1 and 1500 characters)

8.3. Are you concerned by problems of protection for Geographical Indications or trademarks in your field of activity?

\*

Yes

No

Do not know / Not applicable



8.4. If you are concerned by problems of protection for Geographical Indications or trademarks, please explain the problems you encounter. \* (between 1 and 4000 characters)



8.5. If you are concerned by problems of protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights, including Geographical Indications and trademarks, what should be the European Union priorities to address the issues?

\*

(between 1 and 4000 characters)

## 9. Trade in services

9.1. Are you concerned by barriers to trade in services in your field of activity? \*

Yes

No

Do not know / Not applicable



9.2. If you are concerned by barriers to trade in services, which ones are the most important ones (multiple answers possible)? Please clarify whether:

\*

(between 1 and 5 answers)

- They derive from local regulation being applied differently to you compared to domestic firms?
- They discriminate against cross-border service provision
- They affect your ability to establish physical outlets in the country and supply services through these outlets
- They affect the price of the services you provide
- They have other restrictive impacts



9.3. If "Other", please specify. (between 1 and 1500 characters)



9.4. Please describe the barriers in detail. \* (between 1 and 4000 characters)



9.5. If you are concerned by barriers to trade in services, please indicate to which level of government the obstacles relate (multiple answers possible)?

\*

- US Federal / EU level regulation     US States / EU Member State     Do not know / Not applicable regulation



9.6. If you are concerned by barriers to trade in services, what are the estimated additional costs (in percentage of the exports/imports) for your business resulting from the barriers to trade in services?

\*

(between 1 and 1500 characters)



9.7. If you are concerned by barriers to trade in services, how should the European Union address these restrictions to trade in services?

\*

(between 1 and 4000 characters)

## 10. Investment

10.1. Are you concerned by barriers to direct investments in your field of activity? \*

- Yes                                       No                                       Do not know / Not applicable



10.2. If you are concerned by barriers to investment, please describe the barriers in detail. \*

(between 1 and 4000 characters)



10.3. If you are concerned by barriers to investment, please indicate to which level of government the regulatory obstacles relate (multiple answers possible)?

\*

- US Federal / EU level regulation     US States / EU Member State regulation     Do not know / Not applicable.



10.4. If you are concerned by barriers to investment, what are the estimated additional costs for your business (in percentage of the investment) resulting from the barriers?

\*

(between 1 and 1500 characters)



10.5. If you are concerned by barriers to investment, how should the European Union address the issue? \*

(between 1 and 4000 characters)

## 11. Public Procurement

11.1. Are you concerned by restrictions in public procurement in your field of activity? \*

Yes

No

Do not know / Not applicable



11.2. If you are concerned by restrictions in public procurement, please explain the restrictions.

\*

(between 1 and 4000 characters)



11.3. If you are concerned by restrictions in public procurement, please indicate to which level of government the obstacles relate (multiple answers possible)?

\*

US Federal / EU level regulation

US States / EU Member State /  
local level regulation

Do not know / Not applicable



11.4. If you are concerned by restrictions in public procurement, what are the estimated additional costs/forgone revenue for your business resulting from these restrictions?

\*

(between 1 and 1500 characters)



11.5. If you are concerned by restrictions in public procurement, what should be the European Union priorities to address the issue?

\*

(between 1 and 4000 characters)

## 12. Competition issues

12.1. Are there fields where the European Union should seek to increase cooperation with the United States? \*

Yes

No

Do not know / Not applicable



12.2. If there are there fields where the European Union should seek to increase cooperation with the United States, which fields (multiple answers possible)?

12.2.1. Anti-trust \*

Yes

No

Do not know / Not applicable

12.2.2. Mergers \*

12.2.3. Liberalisation \*

12.2.4. State Aid \*



12.3. What should be the European Union priorities? \* (between 1 and 4000 characters)

### 13. Facilitating the participation of small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) in the transatlantic market place

13.1. In your view/experience, which of the sections in this questionnaire are of particular importance to SMEs? Please explain why?

\* (between 1 and 4000 characters)

13.2. In your view/experience, how could SMEs better benefit from economic opportunities in transatlantic trade and investment relationships? \* (between 1 and 4000 characters)

### 14. Impact on Consumers

14.1. In your view, would the elimination of barriers to trade and investment between the EU and the US have an effect on Consumers?

\*

Yes

No

Do not know / Not applicable

 14.2. If yes, what impact do you expect?

	Yes	No	Do not know / Not applicable
14.2.1. Lower Prices *	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
14.2.2. Higher prices *	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
14.2.3. Larger choice of products *	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
14.2.4. Smaller choice of products *	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
14.2.5. Other	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

 14.3. If "Other", please specify. (between 1 and 1500 characters)

## 15. Environmental Impact

15.1. Do you expect impacts on the environment in the context of an enhanced EU-US trade cooperation? \*

Yes

No

Do not know / Not applicable

 **15.2. What impacts on the environment in the context of an enhanced EU-US trade cooperation do you expect ?**

	Positive	Negative	Do not not / Not applicable
15.2.1. Air pollution *	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
15.2.2. Water pollution *	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
15.2.3. Ground pollution *	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
15.2.4. CO <sub>2</sub> emissions *	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
15.2.5. Impact on bio-diversity *	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
15.2.6. Other	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

 **15.3. If "Other", please specify.** (between 1 and 1500 characters)

**15.4. Given the importance of commitments on environmental protection as underlying elements for international economic relations, how could the European Union and United States cooperate to further promote the adherence to and the strengthening of international principles, rights and agreements on environmental protection? \*** (between 1 and 1500 characters)

## 16. Social Impact

16.1. Are you concerned by (trade-related) problems of protection or enforcement of labour and social rights in the United States or the EU in your field of activity?

\*

Yes

No

Do not know / Not applicable

 16.2. Please explain\* (between 1 and 1500 characters)

16.3. Do you think that the level of employment in the European Union or United States respectively could be affected, positively or negatively in the context of an enhanced EU-US trade cooperation?

	Positively	Negatively	No change	Do not know / Not applicable
16.3.1. In the EU: *	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
16.3.2. In the US: *	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

16.4. Do you think that wage levels in the European Union or United States respectively could be affected, positively or negatively in the context of an enhanced EU-US trade cooperation?

	Positively	Negatively	No change	Do not know / Not applicable
16.4.1. In the EU: *	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
16.4.2. In the US: *	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**16.5. Do you think that labour standards in the European Union or United States respectively could be affected, positively or negatively in the context of an enhanced EU-US trade cooperation?**

	Positively	Negatively	No change	Do not know / Not applicable
16.5.1. In the EU: *	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
16.5.2. In the US: *	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**16.6. Given the importance of commitments on labour rights and decent work as underlying elements for international economic relations, how could the European Union and United States cooperate to further promote the adherence to and the strengthening of international recognised principles, rights and agreements on labour and decent work? \*** (between 1 and 1500 characters)

## 17. Other issues

**17.1. If there are any other issues that are not mentioned in this questionnaire that you would like to address, please use the space below to set them out.**

(between 1 and 4000 characters)

17.2. **Your comments ...** (between 1 and 1500 characters)

## Background documents

Statement on the handling of personal data: <http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/html/149599.htm>