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A Transatlantic Free Trade Deal: Implications for Food and Agricultural Policy

Abstract

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In July 2013 the EU and the United States announced negotiations for a Trans-Atlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (T-TIP). The economic incentives for both the EU and the United States to seek such an agreement at this time are outlined. The T-TIP's relationship with the Doha Round of multilateral negotiations is explained. The major areas of liberalization interest are explored. The focus of the negotiations in the agriculture and food sectors is discussed. Four likely difficult issues in the agriculture negotiations are identified: the use of hormones in beef production, pathogen reduction techniques, the use of genetic modification and geographical indications. The article concludes with some observations on the likely course and timespan of the negotiations.

Keywords: agriculture, EU, liberalization, regulatory barriers, T-TIP, United States