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Exporting Europe's Protectionism

Kogan, Lawrence A

National Interest, Fall 2004, no. 77, pp. 91-99

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Regulation

B13 - Exporting Europe's Protectionism

Kogan, Lawrence A

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"The basic rules of international trade are simple. The United States and the European Union, the two major trading blocs, have each sought to curb serious health and environmental risks before they cause substantial harm. Both have promoted industrial policies to enhance the competitiveness of their industries and the global economy along with them." Trade restrictions have not generally been tolerated unless clearly legitimate objectives--such as human, animal and plant health, environmental protection, or national security--were seriously threatened and no alternative means of protecting them were available. The author presents an alternative model to evaluate potentially serious but unknown risks that would essentially transform the area of risk regulation into a contentious political and legal minefield. This model redefines both risk and risk regulation in terms of cultural values. Lawrence A. Kogan is an international business, environment and trade attorney who has advised the National Foreign Trade Council on WTO trade and environmental issues. Full text