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- **US-EU Trade Issues**

- [State's Ries Says U.S., EU Must Move Forward on Trade, Growth \(Oct 7, 2003\)](#)
- [U.S. Welcomes EC Decision on Bilateral Investment Treaties \(Sep 3, 2003\)](#)
- [U.S. Remains Committed to Partnership with "United Europe" \(Jul 22, 2003\)](#)
- [U.S. EU Outline Plan to Improve Transatlantic Marketplace \(Jun 26, 2003\)](#)
- [Transatlantic Cooperation on Trade \(Jun 25, 2003\)](#)
- **[Foreign Trade Standards Often Ignore Science, U.S. Group Says \(May 6, 2003\)](#)**
- [U.S.-EU Economic Relationship More Partnership Than Conflict \(Dec 17, 2002\)](#)
- [U.S. Wants to Cooperate with EU on Threat to Economic Security \(Dec 17, 2002\)](#)

<http://useu.usmission.gov/Article.asp?ID=6A2B54FD-14B1-41F4-BC6E-02933BCB4DAF>



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[Back](#)

Foreign Trade Standards Often Ignore Science, U.S. Group Says

Burdensome national standards and technical regulations imposed by the European Union (EU) and other major U.S. trading partners are trade barriers that often ignore sound science, according to a new report by a leading U.S. trade association.

"I don't think there is a real appreciation for the breadth of the application of unjust trade restrictions across a multitude of industries," Bill Reinsch, president of the National Foreign Trade Council (NFTC), said in a May 6 press release announcing

the release of the report, "Looking Behind the Curtain: The Growth of Trade Barriers that Ignore Sound Science."

NFTC gathered evidence of regulations and standards not based on sound science or subject to balanced risk assessment, those that are not based on or do not adhere to internationally agreed standards, and cases in which U.S. and foreign exporters are effectively prevented from fully participating in the regulatory drafting and review process.

"We're also seeing more and more attempts to dictate not how products perform but rather how they are made," Reisch said. "Both these approaches are clearly violations of the WTO [World Trade Organization] rules-based system."

Affected products include beef and poultry, fresh and processed fruits and nuts, food additives, vitamins and nutrients, wines, foods derived from biotechnology, aeronautics, automobiles, consumer electronics, computers, chemicals. Downstream industries affected include textiles, plastics and finished consumer goods, toiletries and cosmetics and household and industrial biocidal products, according to the release.

The report was released at a panel discussion featuring speakers from the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, the European Community and Mexico.

The full report and an executive summary may be accessed at: www.nftc.org.

Following is the text of the report's executive summary:

http://useu.usmission.gov/Dossiers/Beef_Hormones/default.asp



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Beef Hormones

Latest News

[The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative \(USTR\) has welcomed a World Trade Organization \(WTO\) panel's decision to open to the public for the first time its meetings with parties to a dispute over hormone-treated beef.](#) In an August 3, 2005 statement, USTR spokeswoman Neena Moorjani expressed satisfaction with the decision sought by parties involved in the long-running dispute over the use of hormones for cattle growth promotion. She said that the United States has been advocating open panel meetings at the WTO for years as part of efforts to increase transparency in international trade forums.

- o [U.S. Hails WTO Decision to Open Meetings in Beef Dispute \(Aug 3, 2005\)](#)
- o [Senator Grassley Concerned at EU Actions on Trade Disputes \(Nov 19, 2004\)](#)

- o [**Foreign Trade Standards Often Ignore Science, U.S. Group Says \(May 6, 2003\)**](#)
- o [U.S. Targets Non-Tariff Barriers to Global Trade \(Apr 2, 2002\)](#)

U.S.-EU Highlights

2005: [U.S. Hails WTO Decision to Open Meetings in Beef Dispute \(Aug 5, 2005\)](#)

2004: [Foreign Agricultural Service Background on Hormone Issue \(Dec 2004\)](#) | [Senator Grassley Concerned at EU Actions on Trade Dispute \(Nov 19, 2004\)](#)

2003: [Senator Grassley on EU Hormone-Treated Beef Announcement \(Oct 15, 2003\)](#) |

[**Foreign Trade Standards Often Ignore Science, U.S. Group Says \(May 6, 2003\)**](#)

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Hushkits


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- [U.S., EU See "Substantial Progress" in Air Services Negotiations \(Nov 1, 2005\)](#)
- [**Foreign Trade Standards Often Ignore Science, U.S. Group Says \(May 6, 2003\)**](#)
- [U.S. Withdraws Aviation Complaint Against E.U. \(Jun 13, 2002\)](#)
- [U.S. Pleased by EU Decision to Repeal "Hushkit" Regulation \(Mar 27, 2002\)](#)
- [U.S. Representative to the EU Morningstar Farewell Speech \(Sep 20, 2001\)](#)
- [Commerce Under Secretary Aldonas Testifies on U.S. Aircraft Industry \(Jul 27, 2001\)](#)
- [USTR Barshefsky on Transatlantic Economic Relationship Jan. 17 \(Jan 17, 2001\)](#)

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Biotechnology

Listings

- [Asia Seen as Next Focus of Agricultural Biotech Production \(Feb 16, 2007\)](#) 
- [U.S. Challenging EU Biotech Moratorium in WTO Dispute Panel \(Aug 7, 2003\)](#)
- [U.S. Remains Committed to Partnership with "United Europe" \(Jul 22, 2003\)](#)
- [USTR's Zoellick Says Spreading Fear Forced WTO Biotech Challenge \(May 13, 2003\)](#)
- [U.S., Others Filing WTO Challenge to EU Ban on Biotech \(May 13, 2003\)](#)
- [**Foreign Trade Standards Often Ignore Science, U.S. Group Says \(May 6, 2003\)**](#)
- [U.S. Considering Action Against EU on Biotech Imports \(Feb 21, 2003\)](#)
- [U.S. Continues to Seek Changes in EU Biotech Policy \(Feb 13, 2003\)](#)
- [U.S. Wants to Cooperate with EU on Threat to Economic Security \(Dec 17, 2002\)](#)

Energy

Listings

- [Carbon Dioxide Controls, Clean Coal Can Help Curb Global Warming \(Mar 14, 2007\)](#)
- [United States, Brazil Expand Energy Cooperation \(Mar 9, 2007\)](#)
- [U.S. Energy Secretary Bodman Calls Natural Gas Cartel a Bad Idea \(Feb 15, 2007\)](#) (Fr)
- [New Fuels Have Huge Potential To Reduce Gasoline Use \(Feb 12, 2007\)](#)
- [State's Volker on U.S. Efforts To Cut Greenhouse Gases \(Feb 12, 2007\)](#)
- [Bush Wants \\$2.7 Billion in 2008 Budget for Energy Research \(Feb 10, 2007\)](#)
- [Vehicle Fuel Economy Plan Could Benefit Environment \(Feb 8, 2007\)](#) (Fr)
- [Bush Seeks Funding To Improve U.S. Energy Security, Environment \(Feb 5, 2007\)](#) (Fr) (NI)
- [Carbon Capture Technologies Critical, Dobriansky Says \(May 9, 2003\)](#)
- [U.S. Agency Supports Energy Efficiency in Central Europe \(May 7, 2003\)](#)
- **[Foreign Trade Standards Often Ignore Science, U.S. Group Says \(May 6, 2003\)](#)**
- [U.S. to Help Hungary Develop Wind Energy \(Mar 14, 2003\)](#)
- [U.S. Industry Initiatives Aim to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions \(Feb 13, 2003\)](#)
- [U.S. to Join Negotiations on International Fusion Energy Project \(Feb 6, 2003\)](#)
- [U.S. Wants to Cooperate with EU on Threat to Economic Security \(Dec 17, 2002\)](#)