



## Information and communication technology (ICT) in TTIP

Working together to enforce ICT standards and protect consumers

In this chapter we want to:

- improve the way we enforce regulations and protect consumers
- make it easier for EU firms to export to the US...
- ...and cut unnecessary costs which they face.

### Reasons for negotiating ICT

Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) already benefit from global standards and technical specifications.

But the EU and US could cooperate in other ways that would benefit consumers, businesses and government authorities.

### EU goals

In ICT, we want to:

- set up ways of working together to better enforce regulations in the EU and US
- increase cooperation between regulators on things like:
  - e-labelling – setting standards for electronic

instructions, where these replace paper ones

- accessibility - making ICT easy to use for people with disabilities
- interoperability – enabling users to exchange data easily between different products

This would help us avoid unnecessary differences in our rules and guarantee a high level of consumer protection.

- set common principles for certifying ICT products, especially for encoding and decoding information ('cryptography' in the jargon).

### Sensitive or controversial issues

In this area, some issues are sensitive or controversial. Here's a summary of the main ones, and what we're doing to address each.

Sensitivity/concern	EU response
<b>1. Standards</b>	
TTIP negotiations will result in a race to the bottom for safety standards	The EU won't compromise on safety. We want to align technical requirements where possible, while keeping high safety levels. And to foster the use of global standards.
<b>2. Security</b>	
TTIP will result in lower security levels for commercial ICT products.	The EU won't accept lower security levels. We want common principles for assessing how products comply with regulations.

#### 1. Standards

#### 2. Security