



Information and communication technologies (ICT) in TTIP

Working together to enforce 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

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 providing product information to consumers in electronic format, where this replaces labels and stickers for items with an integrated electronic display e.g. smart watches

- e-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 especially sensitive or controversial.

Here's a summary of the main ones, and what we're doing to address each:

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