

Background note from DG AGRI
TRANSATLANTIC TRADE AND INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP

Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP)

- **Parties :** The EU and the U.S
- **Dates of negotiation:**

The negotiations were launched in July 2013. Since then, 7 Rounds took place, alternatively in the EU and the U.S. The most recent 7th Round of negotiations took place in September, 2014 in Washington D.C. The next round is expected to be held in Brussels, early next year. The report of the 7th Round can be found [here](#).

- **Particular issues in negotiation**

The United States is the EU's top partner in agricultural trade. It is a major destination for the EU's high value products, such as wines and spirits, beer, cheeses or chocolate. The EU is an important market for the U.S. for major commodities, such as soybeans, wheat, as well as nuts.

Recognizing the need to boost growth, trade and jobs, the two partners have launched the [Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership \(TTIP\)](#), an agreement aimed at addressing trade barriers (such as tariffs, non-tariff issues and restrictions on investment) and at ensuring an increased regulatory coherence between the EU and the U.S.

Agriculture is one of the key areas under negotiations where the EU has a number of offensive priorities to pursue. The EU is seeking an enhanced access to the U.S. market for products such as dairy, processed meat products, sugar confectionery, chocolate or olive oil. The U.S. is also seeking better market access for a number of agricultural products, including in the meat sectors (poultry, beef and pork).

Market access, however, is not only about tariffs as on average, U.S. tariffs are already low. Non-tariff barriers of a regulatory nature, also in the area of sanitary and phytosanitary requirements, may substantially hinder commercial exchange.

Of key importance for the EU is a better protection of Geographical Indications e.g. Grana Padano and Queso Manchego in the U.S., which would mean that only products originating in the place of origin and respecting appropriate technical specifications may be sold on the U.S. market using those EU names.