



EU-US co-operation to tackle Market Access Barriers in Third Countries

On 26 September the EU held its seventh videoconference with the US to discuss market access barriers faced by both EU and US companies in major third country markets. This co-operation targets important trade barriers of mutual concern focussing on restrictions to market access in key emerging world markets such as China, India, Russia and Brazil.

The co-operation targets issues where the potential economic benefit of resolution is high, where co-operation is likely to give added value and where other factors give optimism for a successful resolution of the case.

Joining together with the US increases our capacity for detailed analysis of the problems and allows for co-ordinated action to address the barriers either directly with the third country concerned or eventually through the Dispute Settlement process.

The co-operation procedure has now been operating for over a year. It is an increasingly important tool in the Market Access toolbox and has played a crucial role in the resolution of certain high profile cases such as prohibitive import duties applied by Russia on imports of combine harvesters and forage harvesters and discriminatory duties applied by India against imports of wines and spirits. In 2006 these export markets were worth €107 million (Russia) and €52 million (India) respectively, but with the dismantling of these barriers we anticipate a substantial increase in these exports in the coming years.

We are so pleased with the results being obtained through this initiative, that we anticipate increasing actions of this type in the future, so watch this space!

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