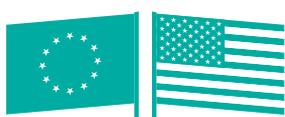


A framework for better regulatory cooperation

Cefic Mythbuster

The EU and US have very different regulatory regimes for chemicals – TSCA in the US and REACH in Europe – but each offers citizens the highest chemical safety standards. Including chemicals in TTIP won't affect these regulatory systems but would give a real opportunity to raise standards further, promoting scientific cooperation, saving costs and reducing unnecessary duplication. EU chemical companies, most of whom are SMEs, lose valuable resources relabeling and repackaging products and through the duplication of scientific work. Regulatory cooperation on chemicals in TTIP would help European companies compete better in an increasingly globalised chemicals market.



MYTH: That chemical companies want to harmonise European and American standards.

FACT: Chemicals regulations in the US and Europe are designed very differently. EU chemical companies are not asking for harmonisation or mutual recognition. In the EU, before a substance is allowed on the market the company must provide proof that it is safe. This precautionary approach is written into the EU Treaties. It cannot and will not be overridden by any free trade agreement – meaning the same high safety standards for EU consumers, and a better framework for EU-US trade.



MYTH: That the only benefit of regulatory cooperation on chemicals in TTIP would be for companies to save costs.

FACT: Regulatory cooperation will lead to reduced compliance costs for industry. But that is not the only benefit. Improving the exchange of information on scientific evaluation and risk assessment can speed up the process, making it more efficient and more effective. Aligning classification and labelling can reduce the risk of confusion: a win-win for producers and users.



MYTH: That consumer protection on chemicals would be weakened.

FACT: There is no suggestion that TTIP would, or should, require either side to change their existing regulatory framework, or to compromise their standards of consumer protection. The regulations in the EU and US achieve those standards in different ways and will continue to do so after TTIP. The proposal to include regulatory cooperation on chemicals in TTIP only concerns practical collaboration to reduce costs and increase efficiency.

MYTH: That consumers would not benefit at all.

FACT: Regulatory cooperation on chemicals will provide users with clearer product information, and help regulators and the industry to ensure greater choice of safe products.



Want to read how the EU and US can work together on chemicals? www.cefic.org