

TACD

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IMPACT OF THE WTO AGREEMENT ON TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADE (TBT) AND THE WTO AGREEMENT ON SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY STANDARDS (SPS)

Resolved:

The EU and the US should announce they will not make any formal challenges at the World Trade Organization (WTO) to each other's food labeling and safety requirements during which time the TBT Agreement and the SPS Agreements should be subjected to a public and transparent review, with the full involvement of all stakeholders including consumer non-governmental organizations. The WTO SPS and TBT Committees' process should be open to participation by observers from non-governmental organizations.

During such review, the EU and the US should support the specific recommendations for reform of the SPS and TBT Agreements as previously recommended by the TACD.

The review should seek to clarify the approach that should be adopted for risk assessment within the context of the agreements and how the Precautionary Principle as described in Article 5.7 of the SPS Agreement should be applied in practice; in particular, the word "provisional" in Article 5.7 should be stricken.