

## Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP)

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### Background

The Trans-Atlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) is envisaged as a free trade agreement between the European Union and the United States. TTIP is intended to address a broad range of bilateral trade and investment policies, as well as global issues of common interest. While there are tariffs and quotas between the two countries, a more significant undertaking concerns addressing non-tariff barriers, such as differing regulatory systems. The negotiations began in July 2013 and negotiators attempt to meet in person each month until completed. The agreement will be subject to review by the EU Parliament and U.S. Congress.

### IFAH Supports Negotiations

The International Federation for Animal Health (IFAH) supports efforts to further reduce international barriers to trade for animal health products and foods produced from animals, as well as create an environment that values the intellectual property. Food and companion animal owners, the innovation sectors, and economies on both sides of the Atlantic would benefit from a meaningful elimination of barriers through a successful TTIP.

**Regulatory convergence:** The most important principle that IFAH views as a priority objective is to define specific ways to cooperate closer on existing and future regulations. EU and U.S. regulators should establish open channels and discussion platforms when working on regulations that will affect transatlantic trade, in order to abolish unnecessary trade barriers. It is therefore recommended to use already established mechanisms that bring together heads and experts of relevant EU and U.S. regulatory agencies in order to monitor, exchange and implement measures in existing and upcoming regulations with the objective to converge regulatory requirements whenever possible. The gains from greater regulatory compatibility could be significant.

**International Standards:** Increased acceptance of internationally recognized standards for safety, efficacy and quality for veterinary medicines is critical for the long-term sustainability of the animal health industry. Most international standards developed or under development should provide for efficacious products with a high level of safety for consumers, animals, users and the environment. Increased recognition of existing international standards by all countries would help reduce duplication of work, increase product availability and contribute to enhancing animal health. IFAH is aware that there are areas where differences exist in regulations and where it may be challenging to come to common positions. In such cases, it is appropriate to take a case-by-case approach without affecting regulatory standards.

**Encouraging Innovation:** IFAH supports seeking the highest standards in policies that support innovation, the knowledge economies, and to address some of the most difficult animal health challenges that impact our society. This will include recognition of the importance of basic data protection provisions for new animal drug products and for extensions of label claims on approved products. It also includes meaningful common consideration of the positive contribution that innovation plays in addressing animal health challenges.

IFAH looks forward to working with negotiators and stakeholders on these three areas and providing specific ideas and information and consultation to the parties to help advance a comprehensive and meaningful agreement.