



U.S. Federal States in Transatlantic Trade and Investment Policy Making: Actors, Access, Aspirations

Summary

Questions

- Research on U.S. states as actors in transatlantic trade policy, with specific focus on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP)
 - So far: Lack of attention to states' transatlantic trade policy preferences (mostly on trade promotional activities) and how they are represented in U.S., EU
- Goal: Discover means and motivations of states' interest representation; analyze variation among states (trade policy vs. trade promotion) and conflicts with federal government

Findings

- States use various means to represent their trade policy interests, e.g. consultations in the Intergovernmental Policy Advisory Committee on Trade (IGPAC), letters, personal contacts to U.S. federal and EU actors
- States' trade promotion efforts: Dominating driver of engagement with EU actors (businesses); largely in harmony with U.S. federal government
- States' trade policy efforts: Some efforts on issues encroaching on state regulation such as investor-state dispute settlement mechanism, procurement; conflicts with U.S. federal actors over competencies in U.S. federalism
- Key drivers for states focusing either on trade policy interests or trade promotion interests
 1. States' economic structures: Small but vocal group of state executives emphasizing economic benefits of the TTIP based on need for agricultural export markets
 2. Ideological preferences: Small but vocal group of progressive state legislators warning of negative deregulatory effects of the TTIP concerning state regulatory powers
 3. Personal backgrounds: Individual-level motivation to work in international trade

Methodology

- 60 qualitative semi-structured interviews, most of them personal
 - Respondents: State officials in the states, Washington, D.C., and trade offices in Europe (56%); state association officials (17%); academia/think tanks (11%); federal officials in Washington, D.C., and Europe (8%); business (5%); EU officials (3%)
 - Respondents from 19 states and 17 organizations covering half of U.S. population, state exports to EU and jobs from EU foreign direct investment
- Selection bias by focusing only on states actively engaged on TTIP: Alleviated by triangulating interview data with data from official state documents, trade statistics and media output
- Combination of literatures from international relations, federalism and paradiplomacy used