

ECIPE Press Release, July 20, 2011

New ECIPE and GMF working paper for the Transatlantic Task Force on Trade

Public opinion data suggests that people on both sides of the Atlantic are committed to free trade in principle, but advocate protection from international competition in practise. In a new ECIPE/GMF working paper, produced for the Transatlantic Task Force on Trade, Bruce Stokes goes beyond generalisations and demystifies the complexities and contradictions of the public opinion in the US and the EU.

Intense international competition fuelled by growing trade, especially after the entrance of China into the world economy, has generated scepticism and sometimes fears among people with respect to unemployment, outsourcing and unfair competition. Both Americans and Europeans accept the benefits of trade openness for the economy as a whole, but are doubtful as to whether the benefits accrue to them as individuals.

There is however a solid public support on both sides of the Atlantic for deeper commercial ties between Europe and the US, including the removal of barriers to trade and investment. It is up to policy makers to device trade policies compatible with these public sentiments.

This working paper was prepared to serve as a basis for discussion at a meeting of the Transatlantic Task Force on Trade (TATF). The TATF is a joint initiative by the European Centre for International Political Economy (ECIPE) and the German Marshall Fund of the United States (GMF) – set up to spur greater leadership on future trade policy in Europe and the United States.

Co-chaired by Ewa Björling, the Swedish Minister for trade, and Jim Kolbe, former member of the U.S. Congress and Senior Transatlantic Fellow with the German Marshall Fund of the United States, the TATF consists of a high-level group of recognised international scholars and practitioners from academia, business, civil society and public policy will regularly convene during the year.

The overall question the Task Force will seek to answer is: what role is there for transatlantic leadership for trade policy in the near-to-medium term future? The policy recommendations of the Task Force will be published in a final report in the beginning of 2012.

Publications:

Public Support for Trade Policy, by Bruce Stokes
Working Paper, Transatlantic Task Force on Trade

The Multilateralism Conundrum: International Economic Relations in the Post-hegemonic Era,
by Guy de Jonquières.
Working Paper, Transatlantic Task Force on Trade

Transatlantic Task Force Members:

Ewa Björling (co-chair), Minister of Trade, Sweden

Jim Kolbe (co-chair), Former Member of U.S. Congress, Senior Transatlantic Fellow with the German Marshall Fund of the United States

Dan Drezner, Professor of international politics at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University

Thomas Harris, Vice Chairman of Standard & Chartered

Jennifer Hillman, Member of the WTO Appellate Body and Senior Transatlantic Fellow at the GMF

Charles S. Levy, Lawyer International Trade, Cassidy Levy Kent, former senior partner in Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP

Erika Mann, Executive Vice President of CCIA, Board Member of ICANN; Former Member of European Parliament and its Committee on International Trade

Patrick Messerlin, Professor of Economics at Sciences Po and Director of GEM; Co-Chairman of the Millennium Development Goals Task Force

Hugo Paemen, Former EU Ambassador to the US, Senior Advisor for Hogan and Hartson L.L.P.; and Special Advisor to the President of the EU Commission

Ana Palacio, former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Spain; former Senior Vice President of the World Bank

James H. Quigley, Chief Executive Officer, Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu

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