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# **Time to Rethink Export Controls for Strengthened US-EU Cooperation and Global Trade Rules**

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**Brussels, 11 April 2024** - The recent surge in broad export controls by the United States, formally aimed at safeguarding national security and curbing technological transfers to potential adversaries, signals a new era of bureaucratic oversight. These measures challenge the principles of free trade and risk undermining Western technology leadership. The semiconductor sector, in particular, faces mounting pressures, as unilateral export controls compel non-US companies to seek alternatives, fostering a global response and catalysing protective measures worldwide.

With the US Chips Act and the Inflation Reduction Act, EU's concerns over "Buy America" provisions illustrate that such protectionist policies can cause significant disruptions in global trade. The need for a collaborative approach to export controls becomes paramount in response. The ongoing dialogue between the US and the EU underscores the importance of aligning strategies to bolster supply chain resilience and mitigate economic coercion. However, achieving consensus amidst divergent geopolitical ambitions remains a complex challenge, with implications extending beyond trade restrictions to heavily impact EU technology companies reliant on global markets.

***"It is imperative for the EU and the US to collaborate diligently to ensure that measures taken for national security do not inadvertently impede global technology diffusion or disrupt the international rules-based trading system,"*** says Matthias Bauer, co-author of the study. Embracing dialogue and cooperation is essential for fostering a stable global technological ecosystem, reflecting shared values of minimal trade barriers and the free exchange of knowledge and technology for advancing societies worldwide.

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