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The U.S. Wine Industry and Selected Trade Issues with the European Union

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Summary

Global wine production totaled roughly 27 billion liters in 2012. The European Union (EU) dominates world production, accounting for nearly 60% of all wine produced each year. France, Italy, and Spain are among the principal EU wine-producing countries. The United States is the world's second-largest wine-producing region, accounting for 10% of global production. The value of world trade in wine totaled more than \$21 billion in 2013. The EU accounted for nearly 60% of the world's export market for wine, valued at \$12 billion in 2013. Other exporting nations include Australia, Chile, the United States, New Zealand, Argentina, and South Africa.

The United States is a major exporter of wine with about 7% of global exports in 2013. The U.S. wine industry has identified a range of international barriers to trade that may be limiting U.S. wine exports abroad. These include import tariffs; foreign wine producer subsidies and support; preferential market access, such as free trade agreements between the EU and other countries; incompatible foreign wine composition standards; and a range of miscellaneous non-tariff barriers, such as state or provincial government monopolies, import licensing and customs clearance requirements, and wine labeling regulations. An annual report compiled by the U.S. wine industry also highlights a range of concerns in several countries, including concerns regarding trade with several EU countries and other countries worldwide.

To address trade concerns with the EU, the United States and the EU signed the U.S.-EU Agreement on Trade in Wine ("2006 Agreement") in March 2006. The 2006 Agreement addressed a range of issues regarding wine production, labeling, and import requirements and was intended to establish predictable conditions for bilateral wine trade. Among the key provisions in the 2006 Agreement were measures regarding the U.S. industry's use of 16 "semi-generic" names of wine that originate in the EU (including Sherry, Chablis, and Chianti) as well as the use of certain traditional labeling terms (such as Chateau and Vintage). The EU also agreed to accept all current U.S. winemaking practices and to establish a process to approve new practices. Despite this agreement, ongoing trade concerns include geographical indications (GIs) and "semi-generic" terms; market access issues regarding "traditional" terms; new winemaking practices, and related technical issues; and issues related to "regulatory coherence" (especially testing and certification). GIs refer to geographical names that act to protect the quality and reputation of a distinctive product originating in a certain region. The term is most often applied to wines, spirits, and agricultural products.

Discussion of these and related trade issues continues to be an issue within ongoing U.S. trade negotiations in both the proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and the proposed Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP). One of the principal goals of the U.S. wine industry is to maintain the 2006 Agreement. The U.S. wine industry has become concerned given recent public comments by European trade groups indicating their desire to renegotiate some provisions, particularly those involving GIs and the use of "semi-generic" and "traditional" terms. Recently concluded trade agreements between the EU and other third countries, such as Canada and South Korea, also have raised concerns among U.S. winemakers because provisions in these agreements will provide full protection of GIs and not defer to a country's independent assessment of generic status for key product names. Such protections for GIs could restrict U.S. exports to these non-EU countries of some wine and food products that use certain "semi-generic" or "traditional" terms. These and other issues continue to influence discussion in both the TTIP and TPP negotiations.

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Overview

This report provides an overview of issues pertaining to the U.S. wine industry within ongoing U.S. trade negotiations in the proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and the proposed Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP). The report is organized in two parts. The first part provides an overview of global wine production and trade, focusing on the role of the United States within the industry. The second part provides an overview of reported barriers to trade for U.S. wine exporters, and describes some of the issues that are reportedly being discussed as part of the ongoing TPP and TTIP negotiations that could influence these wine trade trends.

A few introductory comments are worth noting. There is some disagreement among countries over what constitutes “wine.” For example, the EU defines wine as only those beverages made by fermenting grapes. In the United States, wine is defined more broadly to include beverages produced by fermentation of any fruit (grapes, peaches, pears, etc.). European table wine generally contains between 9% and 15% alcohol. In contrast, U.S. table wine generally contains between 7% and 14% alcohol.¹

Differences related to source material and alcohol contents are, for the most part, identified by their trade classification. The Harmonized Tariff Schedule (HTS) of the United States defines wine at the four-digit level, HTS 2204, as “wine of fresh grapes, including fortified wines; grape must”² rather than HTS 2009.³

Under HTS 2204, at the six-digit level, wine is broken into four principal groupings:

- HTS 2204.10 Sparkling wine;
- HTS 2204.21 Other wine, in containers holding 2 liters or less (bottled wine);
- HTS 2204.29 Other wine, in containers holding greater than 2 liters (bulk wine);
and
- HTS 2204.30 Other grape must.

In addition to wine as defined by HTS 2204, the United States also generally treats the HTS categories 2205 (vermouth)⁴ and 2206 (other fermented beverages)⁵ as wines. The European Union (EU)⁶—the world’s leading producer, consumer, and trader of wines—does not include 2205 and 2206 in its wine production and trade data. For the purposes of this report, trade data presented reflect HTS 2204 trade data only. Trade in the additional categories—HTS 2205 and

¹ CRS discussions with USDA Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) wine marketing experts.

² “Must” refers to the expressed juice of fruit (especially grapes) before and during fermentation, as well as the pulp and skins of the crushed grapes.

³ U.S. International Trade Commission (USITC), HTS Chapter 22, “Beverages, Spirits, and Vinegar.” HTS 2009 is defined as “Fruit juices (including grape must) and vegetable juices, not fortified with vitamins or minerals, unfermented and not containing added spirit, whether or not containing added sugar or other sweetening matter.”

⁴ Vermouth and other wine of fresh grapes flavored with plants or aromatic substances (HTS Chapter 22).

⁵ Other fermented beverages such as cider, perry (fermented pear beverage), and honey mead, including mixtures of fermented beverages or mixtures with non-alcoholic beverages, not elsewhere specified or included (HTS Chapter 22).

⁶ The EU was initially composed of six countries and called the European Community. To date, the number of EU countries has expanded to 28 members. For more information, see CRS Report RS21372, *The European Union: Questions and Answers*.

HTS 2206—represents a relatively small overall share (about 5%) of the value of the more broadly defined global wine trade encompassed by HTS codes 2204, 2205, and 2206.⁷

Finally, statistics related to wine volume are presented in metric units. Although the United States continues to measure wine volume in gallons, the EU (and most of the rest of the world) reports data in metric measurement. Because the EU dominates global wine production and trade, and because most international trade is reported in metric units, volume data are measured in liters.⁸

Global Production and Trade

Wine Production

Wine production worldwide ranged from 26 billion to 27 billion liters during the 2009 to 2012 period.⁹ Global production had reached a peak of 33.4 billion liters during the period of 1981-1985, followed by a low point of 25.9 billion liters in 2008 (mostly due to adverse weather conditions in Australia, Argentina, and parts of Europe).¹⁰

Roughly 70 countries report commercial wine production each year.¹¹ Worldwide vineyard acreage ranged from 17 million to 18 million acres during the 2009 to 2012 period, with the United States ranked sixth in terms of overall vineyard acreage with more than 900,000 acres over the same period.¹²

The EU dominates global wine production, accounting for nearly 60% of the world's wine produced in 2011 (**Figure 1**). France, Italy, and Spain are the three principal wine-producing countries in the EU, accounting for more than 70% of the EU's wine production.¹³

The United States is the world's second-largest wine-producing region, accounting for 10% of global production in 2011. Commercial wine production occurs throughout the United States.¹⁴ In 2012, there were 8,806 commercial wineries in the United States, with at least one bonded facility reported in every state.¹⁵ Compared to 10 years ago, there are now twice as many bonded wineries in the United States (there were 3,469 bonded wineries in 2002). California dominates

⁷ Global Trade Atlas data (2013).

⁸ Data are also expressed in hectoliters (HL), which equal 100 liters; 10 HL is approximately 1 metric ton.

⁹ Statistics posted at the Wine Institute's website, at <http://www.wineinstitute.org/resources/statistics>. Limited data are available for 2012 across all countries. Totals for 2012 are from the Wine Institute, *International Trade Barriers Report for U.S. Wines*, 2012.

¹⁰ Wine Institute, *International Trade Barriers Report for U.S. Wines*, 2012.

¹¹ United Nations, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), FAOSTAT, <http://faostat.fao.org/>.

¹² Statistics posted at the Wine Institute's website, at <http://www.wineinstitute.org/resources/statistics>. Limited data are available for 2012 across all countries. Totals for 2012 are from the Wine Institute, *International Trade Barriers Report for U.S. Wines*, 2012.

¹³ USDA, "EU-28 Wine Annual Report and Statistics," *GAIN Report IT1414*, February 20, 2014.

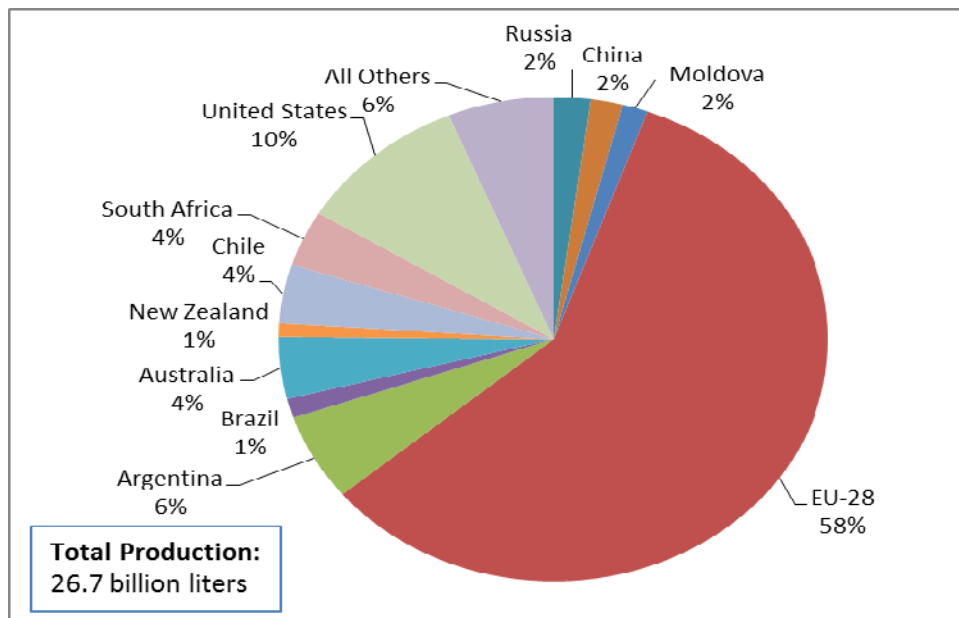
¹⁴ On an individual country basis, the United States ranks fourth in overall wine production, following France, Italy, and Spain.

¹⁵ Statistics posted at the Wine Institute's website, at <http://www.wineinstitute.org/resources/statistics>. Bonded winery licenses are issued by the U.S. Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB) within the U.S. Department of Treasury for the purposes of designating a tax-paid environment for wine.

the U.S. wine industry, accounting for about 85% of U.S. wine production, and with an estimated retail value of \$23 billion in 2013. Other major wine producing states include Washington, Oregon, New York, and Virginia. The total retail value of wine sales in the United States is estimated at \$36.3 billion, based on sales of 375 million 9-liter cases in 2013.¹⁶

The remaining roughly 30% of global wine production is from several nontraditional wine-producing countries, which have emerged as major producers following significant investment and growth in their wine sectors since the 1990s. Several Southern Hemisphere countries—Argentina (5.8% global production share), Australia (4.1%), Chile (3.9%), and South Africa (3.7%)—have emerged as important wine producers and exporters. Russia (2.2%) and China (1.9%) also figure among the world’s leading wine-producing countries. Moldova (1.5%), Brazil (1.3%), and New Zealand (0.9%) have also increased production in recent years (**Figure 1**).

Figure 1. Wine Production, Major Countries, 2011



Source: CRS from statistics posted at the Wine Institute’s website (<http://www.wineinstitute.org/resources/statistics>), adjusted for data from USDA, “EU-27 Wine Annual Report and Statistics,” *GAIN Report IT1307*, February 25, 2013.

Global Wine Trade

The value of world trade in wine averaged more than \$20 billion during 2011 to 2013 (**Table 1** and **Table 2**).¹⁷ In volume terms, nearly 10 billion liters, or about one-third of global wine production, entered international markets during that period, reflecting an increase of about 60% in traded wine volumes compared to 2000.¹⁸

¹⁶ Wine Institute, “California Wine Sales Grow by 3% by Volume and 5% by Value in the U.S. in 2013,” April 24, 2014.

¹⁷ Global Trade Atlas data by Harmonized System (HS) convention for HS 2204, Wine of Fresh Grapes.

¹⁸ J. Ferreira and G. Ferreira, “International Wine Trade between the U.S. and EU—An Overview,” April 2014.

Estimates of total exports and imports presented here are from data reported in the Global Trade Atlas, and totals may not match up precisely due to possible transshipments¹⁹ en route, and/or data inconsistencies by the reporting country. These estimates exclude intra-EU trade, and do not reflect trade among EU members and also possible transshipments to final destinations in neighboring or outside countries.

Exporting Countries

The EU accounts for nearly 60% of the world’s export market for wine, valued at \$12 billion in 2013 (excluding intra-EU trade). Australia and Chile each account for another roughly 8%-9% of annual exports (**Table 1**). The United States accounted for 7% of exports in 2013. Other wine-exporting nations include New Zealand, Argentina, and South Africa, each with another 4%-5% of annual global exports.

Table 1. Global Wine Exports (HS 2204), by Origin, 2011-2013

Exporting Country Grouping	2011	2012	2013	% Share 2013
	(\$ million)			
EU-28 (External Trade)	11,286.3	11,392.8	11,958.9	56.8%
Chile	1,696.0	1,797.9	1,890.2	9.0%
Australia	1,987.6	1,957.7	1,778.5	8.5%
United States	1,348.2	1,384.8	1,560.0	7.4%
New Zealand	900.8	986.8	1,028.5	4.9%
Argentina	848.2	913.6	874.1	4.2%
South Africa	755.2	727.9	829.9	3.9%
Singapore	359.0	428.9	409.0	1.9%
Other Europe	301.6	265.2	280.1	1.3%
China/Hong Kong	268.0	304.8	244.7	1.2%
Canada	22.3	76.8	38.6	0.2%
Malaysia	36.7	29.1	30.0	0.1%
Thailand	21.3	25.5	27.7	0.1%
Mexico	5.1	5.3	4.7	<0.1%
Japan	2.9	1.9	1.2	<0.1%
Peru	0.8	1.0	1.0	<0.1%
All Other	100.6	55.2	101.2	0.5%
Total	19,940.6	20,355.2	21,058.3	100.0%

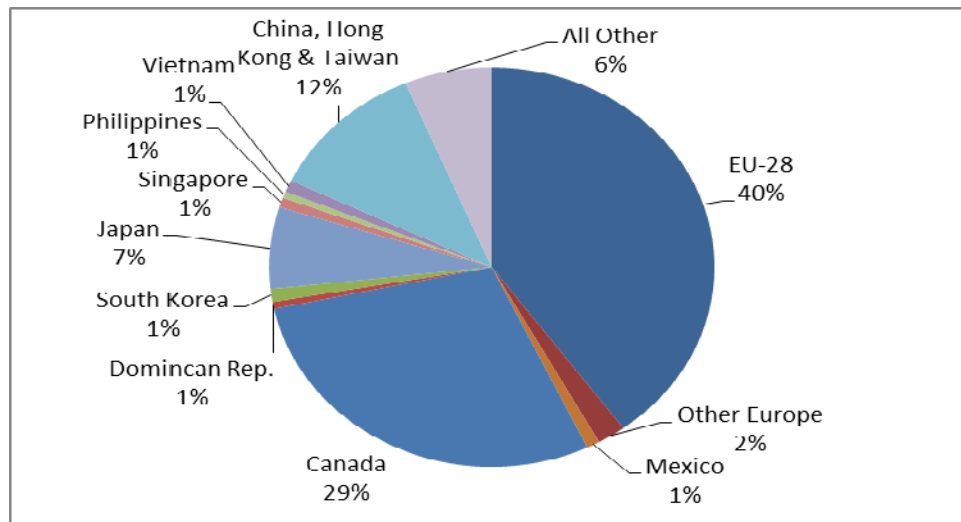
Source: CRS from Global Trade Atlas data by Harmonized System (HS) convention for HS 2204, Wine of Fresh Grapes, Including Fortified Wines; Grape Must (Having An Alcoholic Strength By Volume Exceeding 0.5% Vol.), not elsewhere specified or indicated. Excludes intra-EU trade.

¹⁹ “Transshipment” refers to the transfer of a shipment from one carrier/vessel to another for further transit and delivery of cargo to its final destination (and may sometimes be intended to hide the identity of the port or country of origin).

Major export destinations for EU wine include the United States (28%), Switzerland (10%), Canada (9%), Japan (9%), China (9%), Hong Kong (7%), Russia (6%), and Singapore (3%).²⁰

Wine exports from the United States were valued at \$1.6 billion in 2013, accounting for about 7% of the global wine trade. About 40% of U.S. wine exports in 2013 went to the EU, with another 2% to other European (non-EU) countries. Nearly 30% of U.S. wine exports were shipped to Canada, and another 12% combined total share went to China (5%), Hong Kong (6%), and Taiwan (1%). Japan accounted for about 7% of U.S. exports in 2013, with South Korea and Mexico accounting for about 1% each. The remaining roughly 10% of U.S. exports were to a range of countries throughout Asia, Latin America, the Middle East, and Africa (**Figure 2**).

Figure 2. U.S. Wine Exports (HTS 2204), by Destination, 2013



Source: Global Trade Atlas data by Harmonized System (HS) convention for HS 2204, Wine of Fresh Grapes.

Importing Countries

The United States is the largest importer of wine, accounting for 25% of global imports, valued at \$5.2 billion. Excluding intra-EU trade, the EU accounted for nearly 16% (\$3.3 billion in 2013) of the world's import market for wine (**Table 2**). Other European (non-EU) countries accounted for another 15% of global wine imports in 2013. Canada accounted for 10% of global wine imports in 2013, and a combined share of 13% of imports went to China and Hong Kong. Japan accounted for 8% and Singapore and Australia each accounted for about 3% of global wine imports that year. Other wine-importing nations include countries in Asia and Latin America.

The United States' status as the world's largest wine importer contributes to its status as a net wine importing country, as wine imports (valued at \$5.2 billion) outpaced exports (valued at \$1.6 billion) by more than three to one. In 2013 this resulted in an estimated U.S. trade deficit in wine of about \$3.7 billion. In contrast, the EU is a net wine exporter, as exports (valued at \$12 billion) outpaced imports (valued at \$3 billion), resulting in an estimated EU trade surplus in wine of about \$9.0 billion in 2013.

²⁰ USDA, "EU-28 Wine Annual Report and Statistics," *GAIN Report IT1414*, February 20, 2014. Market shares are based on 2012 data (excluding intra-EU trade).

The U.S. deficit in wine trade with the EU is even more pronounced. In 2013, the EU exported wine valued at \$3.6 billion to the United States, whereas U.S. wine exports to the EU were valued at \$0.6 billion, resulting in a U.S. deficit in wine trade with the EU of \$3 billion.²¹ This difference exists despite much lower per capita consumption of wine in the United States, reported at about 10.5 liters per person, compared to per capita consumption in most European countries of about 25-45 liters per person (depending on the country). In the United States, wine imports account for about one-third of annual consumption.²²

Table 2. Global Wine Imports (HS 2204), by Destination, 2011-2013

Importing Country Grouping	2011	2012	2013	% Share 2013
	(\$ million)			
United States	4,816.2	5,059.3	5,243.4	25.4%
EU-28 (External Trade)	3,341.2	3,204.1	3,265.0	15.8%
Other Europe	2,637.5	2,753.6	3,021.7	14.6%
China/Hong Kong	2,696.9	2,618.6	2,590.9	12.6%
Canada	1,911.0	1,975.7	2,024.5	9.8%
Japan	1,334.9	1,573.0	1,574.3	7.6%
Australia	529.7	596.3	628.5	3.0%
Singapore	480.6	473.9	527.4	2.6%
Brazil	294.7	300.4	290.2	1.4%
Mexico	186.4	190.6	218.6	1.1%
South Korea	132.1	147.3	171.8	0.8%
Taiwan	123.9	130.1	146.6	0.7%
New Zealand	111.1	121.8	126.4	0.6%
Thailand	44.4	47.8	51.9	0.3%
Malaysia	79.2	81.4	75.0	0.4%
Peru	31.9	34.6	34.1	0.2%
Chile	5.5	6.8	8.2	0.1%
All Other	574.3	614.5	647.8	3.1%
Total	19,331.5	29,929.8	20,646.3	100.0%

Source: CRS from Global Trade Atlas data by Harmonized System (HS) convention for HS 2204, Wine of Fresh Grapes, Including Fortified Wines; Grape Must (Having An Alcoholic Strength By Volume Exceeding 0.5% Vol.), not elsewhere specified or indicated. Excludes intra-EU trade.

²¹ Global Trade Atlas data by Harmonized System (HS) convention for HS 2204, Wine of Fresh Grapes.

²² Wine Institute, *International Trade Barriers Report for U.S. Wines*, 2013.

Reported Barriers to Trade for U.S. Wine Exporters

General Barriers to Trade

As part of its annual assessment, the Wine Institute's²³ 2013 trade barriers report highlights some of the international barriers to trade that reportedly limit U.S. wine exports abroad.

General trade barriers to U.S. wine exports include:²⁴

- **import tariffs** in some countries (including China, Russia, Brazil, Vietnam, and India);
- **wine producer subsidies**, such as the EU's direct payments to grape growers and winemakers as well as the EU export refunds;
- **preferential market access**, such as free trade agreements between the EU and other countries including South Korea, Central America, and several Andean countries;
- **foreign wine composition standards** that are incompatible with those in the United States, such as testing and certification requirements in the EU, Canada, Russia, China, Korea, Brazil, Colombia, and Malaysia; and
- **miscellaneous non-tariff barriers**, including state or provincial government monopolies in some countries (including Canada, Finland, Norway, and Sweden); import licensing and port of entry customs requirements in most countries; wine labeling regulations and proposals (particularly in Thailand, Kenya, and Russia); and a range of other non-tariff barriers (including customs procedures, import quotas, bribery and corruption, product classifications, foreign currency controls, intellectual property laws, and inadequate infrastructure).

A report by the U.S. International Trade Commission (USITC) further notes some of the broader trade barriers to U.S. wine exports.²⁵ Domestic barriers to U.S. wine exports include lack of resources dedicated to relatively small-scale production and lack of focused support for small- and medium-sized wine producers in the U.S. market. Foreign barriers to U.S. wine exports include high tariffs and high levels of support provided by competitor nations, as well as various compliance issues, particularly regarding sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) requirements²⁶ and labeling regulations, and also the need for further marketing and promotion of U.S. wines in foreign markets and longer contract terms abroad.

The Wine Institute's 2013 trade barriers report also highlights a range of country-specific concerns in multiple countries, including several EU countries, Argentina, Australia, Barbados,

²³ The Wine Institute represents more than 1,000 wineries and affiliated businesses throughout California.

²⁴ Wine Institute, *International Trade Barriers Report for U.S. Wines*, 2013.

²⁵ USITC, *Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises: U.S. and EU Export Activities, and Barriers and Opportunities Experienced by U.S. Firms*, Investigation No. 332-509, USITC Publication 4169, July 2010.

²⁶ SPS measures are the laws, rules, standards, and procedures that governments employ to protect humans, animals, and plants from diseases, pests, toxins, and other contaminants. For additional information regarding SPS trade issues, see CRS Report R43450, *Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) and Related Non-Tariff Barriers to Agricultural Trade*.

Bermuda, Brazil, Canada, Cayman Islands, Chile, China, Colombia, Ghana, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Israel, Japan, Jordan, South Korea, Macau, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Russia, Singapore, South Korea, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, and Vietnam.

For example, tariffs and taxes charged on U.S. exports are among the cited trade concerns involving the EU wine market. The average EU common external tariff on wine ranges from €0.13 to €0.32 per liter of wine.²⁷ In U.S. dollars, this equates to about \$0.18 to \$0.43 per liter of wine. By comparison, U.S. wine imports range from about \$0.04 to \$0.22 per liter of wine.²⁸ The Wine Institute's 2013 annual report provides additional detailed discussion of trade barriers facing the U.S. wine industry in other markets.

Concerns Related to the U.S.-EU Agreement on Trade in Wine

In addition to concerns from general trade barriers reported by U.S. wine exporters, the U.S. wine industry is also concerned about the status of provisions under its existing bilateral agreement on wine in the U.S.-EU Agreement on Trade in Wine ("2006 Agreement"), which was signed in March 2006.

Following years of negotiations, the United States and EU concluded the 2006 Agreement, which addressed a range of issues regarding wine production, labeling, and import requirements and was intended to establish predictable conditions for bilateral wine trade. The 2006 Agreement replaced the temporary, short-term exemptions the EU had been renewing since 1983 to allow the importation of U.S. wine made using practices not recognized by EU regulations.²⁹

As outlined by the U.S. Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB) within the U.S. Department of the Treasury, the 2006 Agreement's major provisions include the following.³⁰

1. **Use of "Semi-Generic" Terms:** The United States agreed to seek legislative changes to limit the use of 16 "semi-generic" names of wine that originates in the EU, including Sherry, Chablis, and Chianti (see full listing in text box, and further discussion of "geographical indications" in the next section). The United States enacted such changes in December 2006.³¹ This amended the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (26 U.S.C. 5388[c]) and defined each semi-generic name as a name of geographic significance that is also a designation of class and type for wine. Existing uses of these names on non-EU wine were permitted to continue, allowing for the grandfathering of existing uses on a label that was

²⁷ Wine Institute, *International Trade Barriers Report for U.S. Wines*, 2013. The EU is a customs union with a common external tariff that is imposed by all member states.

²⁸ HTS Chapter 22, "Beverages, Spirits, and Vinegar." HTS 2204 is defined as "wine of fresh grapes, including fortified wines; grape must."

²⁹ The full 2006 Agreement is posted at TTB's website: <http://www.ttb.gov/agreements/eu-wine-agreement.pdf>. For more background, see TTB's website at http://www.ttb.gov/wine/itd_qas.shtml and TTB's Industry Circular#2006-1, March 10, 2006. Also see USDA's website at <http://www.usda-eu.org/trade-with-the-eu/eu-import-rules/eu-labeling-requirements/wine-labeling/>. For other information on conditions prior to the agreement, see CRS Report RL32028, *The International Wine Market: Description and Selected Issues*.

³⁰ TTB, Industry Circular#2006-1, March 10, 2006, http://www.ttb.gov/industry_circulars/archives/2006/06-01.html.

³¹ P.L. 109-432, §422(b). The legislative changes do not apply to wine containing less than 7% or more than 24% alcohol by volume, or to wine intended for sale outside the United States.

approved before March 10, 2006 (effective date of the Agreement), but new brands were prohibited from using these names on non-European wines.

Semi-Generic Names under the 2006 Agreement			
Burgundy (France)	Chablis (France)	Champagne (France)	Chianti (Italy)
Claret (France)	Haut Sauterne (France)	Hock (Germany)	Madeira (Portugal)
Malaga (Spain)	Marsala (Italy)	Moselle (France)	Port (Portugal)
Rhine (Germany)	Sauterne (France)	Sherry (Spain)	Tokay (Hungary)

Retsina (Greece) is a class of wine and is not a semi-generic name; however, under the terms of the 2006 Agreement, it is treated the same as the semi-generic names when the class designation is used on non-EU wine sold in the United States. Angelica is a semi-generic name for wine of U.S. origin, but the 2006 Agreement does not affect its use.

Source: TTB, Industry Circular#2006-1, March 10, 2006, http://www.ttb.gov/industry_circulars/archives/2006/06-01.html.

2. **Winemaking Practices:** The EU agreed to accept all current U.S. winemaking practices, including those that were not currently approved for use in the EU and those for which they had been granting temporary exemptions, once the legislative changes described in (1) were made. Some of the current U.S. practices and ingredients that were previously not accepted by the EU included lactic acid; malic acid; reverse osmosis for alcohol reduction; reverse osmosis for removal of off flavors; ion-exchange; spinning cone column; fluid milk; and Half and Half. The 2006 Agreement also established a process for both parties to approve new winemaking practices.

Under the 2006 Agreement, the EU also agreed to recognize all requested U.S. names of origin and to simplify EU import certification form (VII), including self-certification and electronic submission of the form (where possible). The United States was also granted the ability to export to the EU wines with over 15% alcohol. The 2006 Agreement further stipulated that U.S. wine sold in the EU may be labeled with certain terms referred to as “Traditional Expressions,” including Chateau and vintage (see the following text box for a full listing of these terms).³²

“Traditional Expressions” Labeling Terms				
Chateau	classic	clos	cream	crusted/crusting
late bottled vintage	fine	noble	ruby	superior
sur lie	tawny	vintage/vintage character		

Source: TTB, “US/EC Wine Agreement Q&A’s,” http://www.ttb.gov/wine/itd_qas.shtml.

The first phase of the 2006 Agreement provided for broad agreement on trade in wine between both parties and a framework for continued negotiations. The second phase of the 2006 Agreement was intended to address other issues such as the use of traditional terms and also the use of geographical indications (GIs). Since the signing of the Agreement in 2006 both the United

³² TTB, “US/EC Wine Agreement Q&A’s,” http://www.ttb.gov/wine/itd_qas.shtml.

States and the EU have continued to meet regularly and have continued negotiations, but have failed to reach agreement on a range of issues.³³

Trade concerns related to the 2006 Agreement, discussed in the following sections, include:³⁴

- geographical indications (GIs) and “semi-generic” terms;
- market access issues regarding “traditional” terms;
- new winemaking practices, and related technical issues; and
- issues related to “regulatory coherence” (especially testing and certification).

Some of these concerns—particularly those involving GIs and the ability of U.S. winemakers to use certain “semi-generic” or “traditional” terms—not only involve wine trade between the United States and the EU, but might also involve U.S. wine trade with some third countries. For example, Canada and South Korea recently concluded trade agreements with the EU, and certain provisions in those agreements have raised concerns among U.S. winemakers because they provide for the protection of GIs in these countries. A country’s independent assessment of generic status for key product names will not be accepted. Such protections could restrict U.S. exports to these non-EU countries of some wine and food products that use certain “semi-generic” or “traditional” terms.

Geographical Indications (GIs) and “Semi-Generic” Terms

GIs are geographical names that act to protect the quality and reputation of a distinctive product originating in a certain region. The term is most often, although not exclusively, applied to wines, spirits, and agricultural products.³⁵ Examples of GIs include Parmesan cheese and Parma ham from the Parma region of Italy, Tuscan olive oil, Roquefort cheese, Champagne from the region of the same name in France, and Irish whiskey. Other examples are Darjeeling tea, Ceylon tea, Florida oranges, Idaho potatoes, Vidalia onions, Washington State apples, and Napa Valley wines.

The use of GIs has become a contentious international trade issue, particularly for U.S. wine, cheese, and sausage makers. In general, some consider GIs to be protected intellectual property, while others consider them to be generic or semi-generic terms. Laws and regulations governing GIs differ between the United States and EU, which further complicates this issue. GIs are protected by agreements of the World Trade Organization (WTO). (See box below.)

The EU’s GI system for wine consists of two types: (1) Protected Denomination of Origin (PDO) regarding “quality wines produced in a specified region” and (2) Protected Geographical Indication (PGI) regarding “table wines with geographical indication.”³⁶ Both systems establish

³³ J. Grueff, *Achieving a Successful Outcome for Agriculture in the EU–U.S. Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership Agreement*, International Food & Agricultural Trade Policy Council Discussion Paper, February 2013.

³⁴ Comments submitted by JBC International on behalf of the Wine Institute, the California Association of Wine Grape Growers, and WineAmerica to the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) (Docket number USTR–2013–0019); and Wine Institute Remarks by Tom LaFaille, “TTIP Opportunities and Challenges for the U.S. Wine Sector,” TTIP Stakeholder Forum, May 21, 2014.

³⁵ For other general information, see CRS Report IF00016, *Geographical Indications in U.S.-EU Trade Negotiations (In Focus)*.

³⁶ L. Berlottier and L. Mercier, “Protected Designations of Origin and Protected Geographical Indications,” European Commission (EC), Agriculture and Rural Development presentation, November 16, 2010.

geographical names for certain products that originate in the region of which they bear the name. Both require a registration process, and both establish certain controls and intellectual property protections for GI products.³⁷ Differences between the two types pertain to particular product attributions, such as a product's reputation, its linkages to the geographical environment, number of production steps, and origin of raw materials used in production, among others. EU regulations addressing GIs in wine products are in Council Regulation (EC) No. 1234/2007, as amended.³⁸

Geographical Indications in the WTO, United States and the European Union

WTO's Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS)

The TRIPS Agreement defines GIs as "indications which identify a good as originating in the territory of a Member, or a region or locality in that territory, where a given quality, reputation or other characteristic of the good is essentially attributable to its geographical origin." (Article 22.1) Under the TRIPS Agreement, member countries have committed to providing a minimum standard of protection for GIs (i.e., protecting GI products to avoid misleading the public and to prevent unfair competition) and an "enhanced level of protection" to wines and spirits that carry a geographical indication, subject to certain exceptions.

U.S. Trademark Laws regarding GIs

In the United States, GIs are geared toward brands and trademarks, and protected under the U.S. Trademark Act (15 U.S.C. §1051 *et seq.*). Section 4 of the Trademark Act (15 U.S.C. §1054) provides for the registration of "certification marks including indications of regional origin." The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) defines GIs as "indications that identify a good as originating in the territory of a Member, or a region or locality in that territory, where a given quality, reputation or other characteristic of the good is essentially attributable to its geographic origin." According to the U.S. PTO, "geographical indications serve the same functions as trademarks, because like trademarks they are: source-identifiers, guarantees of quality, and valuable business interests." Establishing a product based on its geography can be complicated, either involving establishing a trademark or a brand name through an extensive advertising campaign. PTO does not have a special register for GIs in the United States. Its trademark register, the Trademark Electronic Search System (TESS), contains GIs registered as trademarks, certification marks, and collective marks. These register entries are not designated with any special field (such as "geographical indications") and cannot be readily compiled into a complete list of registered GIs.

EU Regulations regarding GIs

In the EU, protection of GIs is geared toward location and tradition. A series of regulations governing GIs was initiated in the early 1990s covering agricultural and food products, as well as wine and spirits. The regulations protect product names from misuse and imitation of agricultural products for which an intrinsic link exists between the product or foodstuff's characteristics and geographical origin. Under EU regulations, producers qualify for either a "protected geographical indication" (PGI); a "protected designation of origin" (PDO); or "Traditional Specialties Guaranteed" (TSG). Product registration markers for these three quality schemes are intended to help protect product names from misuse and imitation. PDOs cover "agricultural products and foodstuffs which are produced, processed and prepared in a given geographical area using recognized know-how." PGIs are similar with the exception that "at least one of the stages of production, processing or preparation takes place in the area." TSGs differ in that they highlight "traditional character, either in the composition or means of production." EU regulations include Council Regulation (EC) No. 1151/2012 and 510/2006 (agricultural products and foodstuffs); Council Regulation (EC) No. Regulation 1234/2007 and 479/2008 (wine); and Council Regulation (EC) No. 110/2008 (spirits).

Source: Text of the TRIPS agreement is at WTO's website: http://www.wto.org/english/docs_e/legal_e/27-trips_04b_e.htm. For more information, see CRS *In Focus*, "Geographical Indications in U.S.-EU Trade Negotiations."

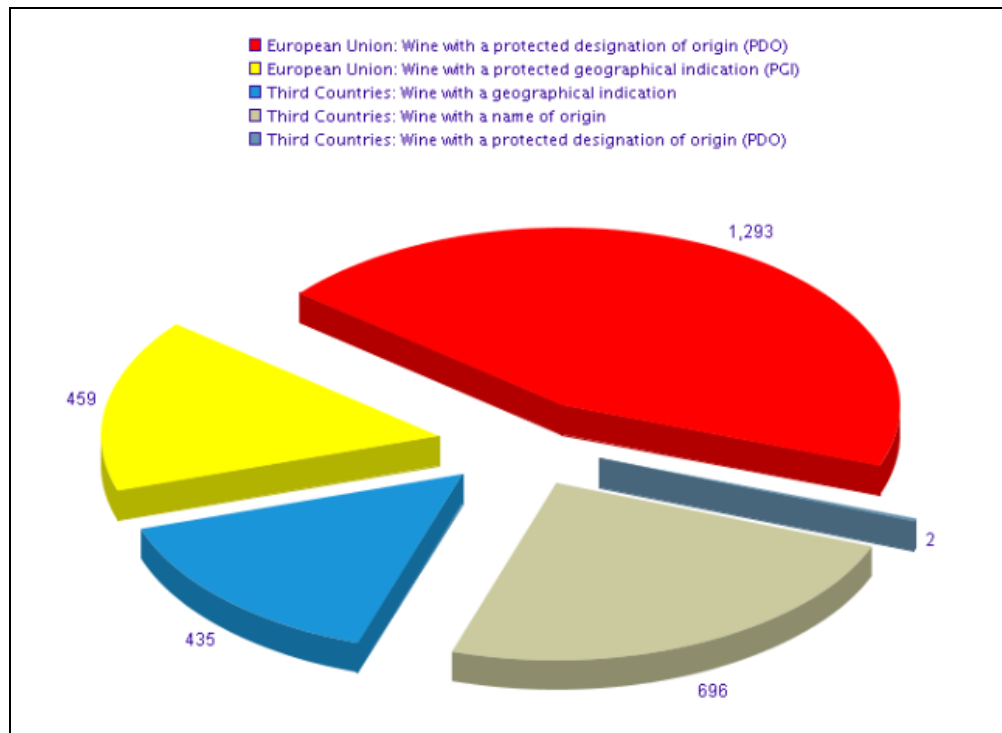
³⁷ EC, "EU System for Geographical Indications for Agricultural Products and Foodstuffs."

³⁸ EC, Agriculture and Rural Development: http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/markets/wine/index_en.htm.

In the case of wine, the GI registration process is conducted via the EU’s “E-Bacchus” system. E-Bacchus is a database which consists of the “Register of designations of origin and geographical indications protected in the EU” in accordance with EU’s GI regulations for wine.³⁹ E-Bacchus also lists GIs and names of origin for products from non-EU countries that are protected in the EU in accordance with bilateral agreements on trade in wine between the EU and other non-EU countries (including the United States), and lists the traditional terms protected in the EU under its GI regulations for wine.

E-Bacchus also tracks statistics on the total number of GIs for wine. As of July 2014, E-Bacchus reports a total of 2,885 names of geographical indication (**Figure 3**). Of these, about 1,752 (60%) are EU wine PDO/PGIs and the remaining 1,133 (40%) are “third country” GIs originating in other non-EU countries. The majority of EU wine PDO/PGIs (about 75%) originate in Italy and France.⁴⁰ Examples of French and Italian wines with a protected geographical indication (PGI) include names such as Alpes-de-Haute-Provence and Pompeiano. Wines with a protected designation of origin (PDO) include Montagne-Saint-Emilion and Terre di Pisa, among many others. Examples of wines from “Third Countries,” such as the United States, include wines with a name of origin, including Napa Valley, Calaveras County and Humboldt County, and others.

Figure 3. Names of Geographical Indications for Wine
EU Wine PDO/PGI and Third Country GIs (as of July 2014)



Source: European Commission, Agriculture and Rural Development, E-Bacchus database (accessed July 18, 2014), <http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/markets/wine/e-bacchus/index.cfm?event=pwelcome&language=EN>.

Notes: Based on a total number of 2,885 names of geographical indications.

³⁹ E-Bacchus website: <http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/markets/wine/e-bacchus/index.cfm?language=EN>.

⁴⁰ EC presentation, “EU System for Geographical Indications for Agricultural Products and Foodstuffs.”

The U.S. wine industry has concerns regarding GIs and their implications for the use of “semi-generic” terms. The industry claims the EU’s GI system has evolved into a system that establishes “inappropriate GIs” (e.g., “Prosecco”), restricts competition and consumer choice, and confiscates private property rights for the benefit of a few EU producers.⁴¹ They also claim EU producers continue to advocate that U.S. winemakers should be prohibited from using “semi-generic” terms for U.S. wines, even though this was provided for in the 2006 Agreement. They further claim that actions by the EU indicate they want to make U.S. winemakers follow the EU’s GI scheme, which would also result in U.S. wines no longer being able to use certain semi-generic terms. In addition, other U.S. agriculture groups have noted that the EU’s GI registration process lacks transparency, often results in substantial bureaucratic delays, and is perceived as discriminating against non-EU products.⁴² Industry representatives note that the WTO TRIPS Agreement grandfathered the use of GIs in existence before 1994 and the 2006 Agreement grandfathered the use of GIs in existence prior to 2005.⁴³

In the United States, many food manufacturers view the use of such common or traditional names as generic terms, and view the EU’s protection of its registered GIs as a way to monopolize the use of certain wine and food terms, and as a form of trade protectionism. The United States does not protect a geographic term that is considered “generic,” being “so widely used that consumers view it as designating a category of all of the goods/services of the same type, rather than as a geographic origin.”⁴⁴

Many U.S. food producers are also members of the Consortium for Common Food Names (CCFN), along with producers in other countries including Canada, Mexico, Argentina, Chile, and Costa Rica. This group aims to protect the right to use common food names as well as protect legitimate food-related GIs.⁴⁵ Among the U.S. agricultural groups that are supporting these efforts are the Wine Institute, the American Farm Bureau Federation, Agri-Mark, the International Dairy Foods Association, the American Cheese Society, American Meat Institute, and the Northwest Horticultural Council.⁴⁶

However, some U.S. agricultural industry groups are trying to create a system similar to the EU GI system for U.S. agricultural producers. Specifically, the American Origin Products Association (AOPA) is seeking to protect American Origin Products (AOPs) in the marketplace from fraud and deceptive labeling; increase the value-added for all AOPs as a distinct food category, and create a national system to recognize AOPs through certification, among other goals.⁴⁷ Members include Napa Valley Vintners Association, California Dried Plum Board, Cuatro Puertas/New Mexico native chile peppers, Ginseng Board of Wisconsin, Idaho Potato Commission, International Maple Syrup Institute, Kona Coffee Farmers Association, Maine Lobstermen’s Association, Missouri Northern Pecan Growers, and Vermont Maple Sugar Makers.⁴⁸

⁴¹ Wine Institute’s Tom LaFaille, “TTIP Opportunities and Challenges for the U.S. Wine Sector,” May 21, 2014.

⁴² Comments made by U.S. industry groups at a briefing for U.S. House of Representatives staff, February 6, 2014.

⁴³ Comments submitted by JBC International on behalf of the Wine Institute, the California Association of Wine Grape Growers, and WineAmerica to USTR (Docket number USTR–2013–0019).

⁴⁴ U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (PTO), “Geographical Indication Protection in the United States,” http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/dcom/olia/globalip/pdf/gi_system.pdf.

⁴⁵ CCFN, Our Mission, <http://www.commonfoodnames.com/the-issue/our-mission/>.

⁴⁶ CCFN, Supporters, <http://www.commonfoodnames.com/about-us/supporters/>.

⁴⁷ AOPA, What We Stand For, <http://www.aop-us.org/what-we-stand-for.html>.

⁴⁸ AOPA, Current Members, <http://www.aop-us.org/current-members.html>.

Market Access Regarding “Traditional” Terms

As previously noted, the 2006 Agreement provided for U.S. wine sold in the EU to be labeled with certain labeling terms referred to as “Traditional Expressions,” including Chateau, classic, and vintage, among other terms. The U.S. wine industry claims that the EU is seeking to expand its GI system to also cover “quality” production or “traditional” terms that are common descriptors, such as Chateau and vintage. They further note that the United States has applied to the EU for recognition of 13 terms, but only 2 have been approved to date (“classic” and “cream”) and that no action on the U.S. request for the other 11 terms has occurred in the past two years. They further claim the EU application process is “complicated, time consuming, and costly and provides no apparent value to the consumer.”⁴⁹ Industry representatives claim the EU’s delay in approving the U.S. request indicates protectionism on the part of the EU.⁵⁰ They also claim that unless the EU can demonstrate harm to consumers in allowing the U.S. winemakers to use such descriptive terms, any attempt by the EU to prohibit the United States from using such terms would violate the EU’s obligations under the WTO.

Winemaking Practices and Other Technical Issues

Although the 2006 Agreement requires prior notice when changing or adopting new winemaking practices, the U.S. wine industry claims that the EU has “repeatedly adopted new winemaking practices without advance notice.”⁵¹ Industry representatives further support mutual recognition of winemaking practices among the wine producing countries, as established within the World Wine Trade Group and its Agreement on Mutual Acceptance of Oenological Practices.

Regulatory Coherence

Regulatory coherence broadly refers to efforts among countries to enhance regulatory cooperation (e.g., regarding regulations, best practices, and common acceptable standards) while also ensuring each country’s right to develop and maintain policies and measures ensuring a high level of environmental, health, safety, consumer, and labor protection.

Among the U.S. wine industry’s primary goals regarding regulatory coherence are eliminating testing and certification requirements beyond those already in place in the United States.⁵² Other issues include relevant electronic commerce and cross-border data flow issues; relevant transparency and anticorruption issues; customs measures; customs cooperation between the United States and the EU; and other various tariffs and non-tariff barriers. Other types of related trade industry issues involve Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs) regarding the application of agrochemicals in grape production, among other concerns.

⁴⁹ Comments submitted by JBC International on behalf of the Wine Institute, the California Association of Wine Grape Growers, and WineAmerica to USTR (Docket number USTR–2013–0019).

⁵⁰ Wine Institute’s Tom LaFaille, “TTIP Opportunities and Challenges for the U.S. Wine Sector,” May 21, 2014.

⁵¹ Ibid.

⁵² Comments submitted by JBC International on behalf of the Wine Institute, the California Association of Wine Grape Growers, and WineAmerica to USTR (Docket number USTR–2013–0019).

The U.S. wine industry also supports efforts to “go beyond” current WTO rules on Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) and Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT)⁵³ matters and to address certain perceived concerns regarding science-based decision-making in trade disputes.⁵⁴ These goals were outlined in a final report submitted by U.S. and EU trade officials as part of the so-called U.S.-EU High Level Working Group on Jobs and Growth (HLWG), which recommended the United States and EU negotiate both an “‘SPS-plus’ chapter” and a “‘TBT-plus’ chapter” under TTIP. (See the following text box.)

U.S. agriculture and food groups continue to express concern that ongoing trade negotiations might not adequately address SPS concerns and cover all significant barriers in a single comprehensive agreement. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce has also expressed the need for “the inclusion of ambitious regulatory provisions” covering “a complete package of all three areas— TBT, SPS, and regulatory cooperation” as part of any agreement.⁵⁵ Additionally, several Members of Congress have called for “effective rules and enforceable rules to strengthen the role of science in the marketplace” to resolve international trade differences in the proposed TPP and TTIP.⁵⁶

Concluding Remarks

The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) continues to consult with the U.S. Congress on a range of issues within both the TTIP⁵⁷ and TPP⁵⁸ negotiations. Both USTR and Congress have conducted public hearings on these negotiations, and have consulted with key constituents. Members of Congress also continue to weigh in on a range of issues pertaining to these negotiations, including some of the issues addressed in this report.

In particular, GIs and SPS/TBT issues continue to be addressed as part of the ongoing TPP and TTIP negotiations, but under different trade chapters. GIs may likely be included in a discussion of intellectual property rights (IPR), whereas SPS and related regulatory issues may likely be included as part of either an Agriculture chapter or a chapter on Regulatory Coherence issues. These discussions are ongoing.

⁵³ Technical barriers to trade (TBT) cover technical regulations, product standards, environmental regulations, and voluntary procedures relating to human health and animal welfare. For additional information regarding SPS and TBT trade issues, see CRS Report R43450, *Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) and Related Non-Tariff Barriers to Agricultural Trade*.

⁵⁴ Comments submitted by JBC International on behalf of the Wine Institute, the California Association of Wine Grape Growers, and WineAmerica to USTR (Docket number USTR–2013–0019).

⁵⁵ See U.S. Chamber of Commerce’s website, <http://www.uschamber.com/issues/regulatory/precautionary-principle>.

⁵⁶ Letter to USTR Michael Froman from Members of the House Agriculture Committee and House Ways and Means Committee, August 7, 2013. See also: “Ways & Means, Ag Committee Members Demand SPS Enforceability,” *Inside U.S. Trade*, September 5, 2013.

⁵⁷ The Obama Administration formally notified Congress in March 2013 that it was entering into negotiations with the EU, launching the U.S.-EU trade talks. For more general information on TTIP, see CRS Report R43387, *Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) Negotiations*.

⁵⁸ Former President Bush notified Congress of his intention to negotiate with members of the Trans-Pacific Strategic Economic Partnership (Singapore, New Zealand, Chile, and Brunei) in September 2008, and with other countries, Australia, Peru, and Vietnam, on December 2008. For more general information on TPP, see CRS Report R42694, *The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) Negotiations and Issues for Congress*.

The U.S. wine industry generally supports the TPP negotiation, with the following objectives: (1) retain provisions in existing agreements related to wine and grape juice concentrate; (2) obtain the longest phase-out possible for U.S. tariffs on wine from New Zealand; and (3) obtain immediate tariff elimination for wine and grape juice concentrate in Vietnam and Brunei.⁵⁹

Regarding TTIP, perhaps the principal concern of the U.S. wine industry is simply maintaining the 2006 *U.S.-EU Agreement on Trade in Wine*.⁶⁰ The industry has become concerned given recent public comments by European trade association groups, such as the European Wine Companies (CEEV)—one of the leading trade promotion and advocacy groups of the EU wine industry.⁶¹ As part of the TTIP negotiations, CEEV is advocating for an “ambitious” wine chapter to “eliminate tariffs, simplify certifications and administrative procedures, improve regulatory convergence, tackle discriminatory measures, pragmatically address other emerging opportunities and fix pending unsolved issues, including of course the *full protection of all wine GIs from both countries*” (italics added).⁶² CEEV is also calling for a TTIP wine chapter that “consolidates the 2006 Wine Agreement into the TTIP.”⁶³ Full protection of GIs could undermine some of the key provisions provided for in the 2006 Agreement, including the U.S. industry’s use of some “semi-generic” terms as well as some “traditional expressions,” and might require some provisions be renegotiated.

In addition, recently concluded trade agreements between the EU and other third countries, such as Canada and South Korea, have raised concerns in the U.S. wine sector because of provisions in these bilateral agreements, which are intended to provide full protection of GIs in these countries. A country’s independent assessment of generic status for key product names will not be accepted. Such protections of GIs could restrict U.S. exports to these non-EU countries of some wine and food products that use certain “semi-generic” or “traditional” terms.

Many in the U.S. wine industry believe that actions that might provide full protection for GI and limit imports to third countries will grant the EU a monopoly on certain wine and food terms that have been used by U.S. wine and food makers for generations.⁶⁴ These and other issues continue to influence the U.S. wine industry’s demands regarding both the TTIP and TPP negotiations.

⁵⁹ U.S. Wine Industry Submission to USTR and Public Hearing Concerning Proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership Free Trade Agreement, from Jim Clawson, JBClawson International, March 10, 2009.

⁶⁰ Comments submitted by JBC International on behalf of the Wine Institute, the California Association of Wine Grape Growers, and WineAmerica to USTR (Docket number USTR–2013–0019); and Wine Institute Remarks by Tom LaFaille, “TTIP Opportunities and Challenges for the U.S. Wine Sector,” TTIP Stakeholder Forum, May 21, 2014.

⁶¹ CEEV is known by its French abbreviation, CEEV (*Comité Européen des Entreprises Vins*); <http://www.ceev.be>.

⁶² CEEV, “The European Wine Companies (CEEV) ask for an ambitious TTIP deal improving the wine trade with the U.S.,” July 16, 2014.

⁶³ CEEV, “The European Wine Companies Committee (CEEV) supports in Washington an ambitious wine chapter in the EU/USA TTIP negotiations,” May 21, 2014.

⁶⁴ Letter to Michael Froman, Deputy National Security Advisor for International Economic Affairs, from several U.S. Members of Congress and U.S. agricultural groups, December 20, 2012. See also CCFN, “CCFN and Allies Urge U.S. White House to Handle EU GI Discussions with Care,” January 9, 2013.

U.S.-EU High Level Working Group (HLWG) Regarding “SPS-Plus” and “TBT-Plus”

Sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures are laws, regulations, standards, and procedures that governments employ as "necessary to protect human, animal or plant life or health" from the risks associated with the spread of pests, diseases, or disease-carrying and causing organisms, or from additives, toxins, or contaminants in food, beverages, or feedstuffs. Technical barriers to trade (TBTs) cover both food and non-food traded products. TBTs in agriculture include SPS measures, but also include other types of measures related to health and quality standards, testing, registration, and certification requirements, as well as packaging and labeling regulations.

Both SPS and TBT measures regarding food safety and related public health protection are addressed in various multilateral trade agreements and are regularly notified to and debated within the World Trade Organization (WTO). International trade rules recognize the rights and obligations of governments to adopt and enforce such requirements. These rules are spelled out primarily in two WTO agreements:

- **Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures** ("SPS Agreement"), which resulted from the Uruguay Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT); and
- **Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade** ("TBT Agreement"), which also resulted from the Uruguay Round of GATT negotiations as a revision of the agreement of the same name that emerged from negotiations during the Tokyo Round that concluded in 1979.

As part of ongoing trade negotiations, a final report submitted by U.S. and EU trade officials as part of the so-called U.S.-EU High Level Working Group on Jobs and Growth (HLWG) to advise the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) negotiations recommended that the United States and EU seek to negotiate both an “ambitious ‘SPS-plus’ chapter” and an “ambitious ‘TBT-plus’ chapter”.

The HLWG recommendations call for:

1. an **“ambitious ‘SPS-plus’ chapter**, including establishing an on-going mechanism for improved dialogue and cooperation” to address bilateral SPS issues by building on key principles of WTO SPS Agreement, including “requirements that each side’s SPS measures be based on science and on international standards or scientific risk assessments, applied only to the extent necessary to protect human, animal, or plant life or health, and developed in a transparent manner, without undue delay.”
2. an **“ambitious ‘TBT-plus’ chapter**, building on horizontal disciplines in the WTO [TBT Agreement], including establishing an ongoing mechanism for improved dialogue and cooperation for addressing bilateral TBT issues,” including the goals of “greater openness, transparency, and convergence in regulatory approaches and requirements and related standards-development processes ... , to reduce redundant and burdensome testing and certification requirements, promote confidence in our respective conformity assessment bodies, and enhance cooperation on conformity assessment and standardization issues globally.”

The “SPS Plus” and “TBT Plus” concept generally means building on and going beyond the rights and obligations of all WTO members through the WTO’s SPS and TBT Agreements. For example, this could mean that the EU and United States would provide for greater transparency and more timely SPS and TBT notifications than required by the WTO, along with—albeit more challenging—some form of “rapid response mechanism” for resolving stoppages of agricultural products at the border and adopting enforcement mechanisms or a dispute settlement process.

Source: HLWG, “Final Report of the U.S.-EU High Level Working Group on Jobs and Growth,” February 11, 2013. These recommendations were submitted to the Presidents of the United States, European Council, and European Commission. See also CRS Report R43450, *Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) and Related Non-Tariff Barriers to Agricultural Trade*.

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