

On the Plate

The NCC Food Group's weekly update on food policy

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...Trade

Trade barriers survive in new form, says new report

A new report by the National Foreign Trade Council, an industry sponsored organization, criticizes as trade barriers the use of standards and technical regulations not based on scientific evidence. **The authors of the report "Looking Behind the Curtain: The Growth of Trade Barriers that Ignore Sound Science," in particular point toward the use of bad science to justify new trade barriers relating to agriculture and other areas.** The authors decry the lack of sound science underlying many regulations on animal welfare, environmental and human health protection.

The adoption of the precautionary principle by the EU is one of the examples in the report that has wide-ranging effects on trade. The authors conclude that the different approaches to scientific innovation and technologies between the U.S. and the EU ave to be reconciled to avoid further disruption of transatlantic and other trade liberalization.

Link:

<http://www.nftc.org/default/white%20paper/Exec%20SummaryII.pdf>