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[Insight Volume 6 Num 6 September 2003](#) Global standards policy and strategic developments.

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Standards Matters at WTO

[According to a September 4 press release of the National Foreign Trade Council](#) *there is compelling evidence of a deliberate strategy to protect ailing EU industries through the EU's attempt to define and employ the precautionary principle globally.* NFTC President Bill Reinsch states: [EU Regulations, Standardization and the Precautionary Principle: The Art of Crafting a Three-Dimensional Trade Strategy That Ignores Sound Science](#) *details the EU's attempts to elevate the status of the precautionary principle from a limited WTO exception to a norm of international law.* A paper released by NFTC in May, [Looking Behind the Curtain](#), identified regulations and standards not based on sound science or subject to rational and balanced risk assessment; regulations and standards not based on, adhering to internationally agreed upon standards; and where U.S. and other foreign exporters are effectively prevented from participating fully in the regulatory drafting and review processes. According to NFTC the EU has sought to inject the precautionary principle within:

- ◆ [The WTO system through creative interpretation of the SPS and TBT Agreements and through obligations assumed under multilateral environmental agreements;](#)
- ◆ [International standards through participation in the standards development process;](#)
- ◆ [Bilateral and regional free trade and aid agreements.](#)