

# GMO and US Public Perception: Near Term Impacts

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## ...The Current Stance of the US Government (Page 16)

- The US has signed but not ratified the Convention on Biological Diversity
- The US has not signed or ratified the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety
- The US Department of Commerce initiative promoting industry-based standards to the World Trade Organization – March 2003

– In promoting the issue, Secretary Don Evans said that adoption of internationally accepted standards will ensure “we’re all playing by the same set rules”, and those rules should be industry-driven rather than government-driven. ( “Commerce’s New Standards Initiative”, Washington Trade Daily (March 20, 2003), at p. 7.)

**– There is also a view that the EU has used a strict precautionary principle to avoid both science-based risk assessment and the entry of GMO’s and other US products into the EU markets (The National Foreign Trade Council, “Looking Behind the Curtain: The Growth of Trade Barriers that Ignore Sound Science”, 2003)**

## The Current Stance of the US Government – continued (Page 17)

- The US Department of Agriculture has taken a position of strong support on behalf of US agribusiness GMO trade with the rest of the world
- More broadly in the last 3 years, the United States has taken a position with respect to environmental and economic regulation that relaxes existing constraints
- With respect to international frameworks, it has opted out of longstanding agreements, e.g. the Kyoto Accord on Climate Change, the Anti Ballistic Missile Treaty

***In the near future, it is unlikely that the US Government will engage in a collaborative way to resolve either domestic or international issues surrounding the commercial development and use of GMO’s.***