

## Negotiations on WTO Special and Differential Clauses —EU Strategies and Impacts

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### Abstract

Developing countries once had high expectations of the negotiations on Special and Differential (S&D) treatment under the Doha Development Agenda (DDA) of the World Trade Organization (WTO). The achievements realized have turned out to be more limited than they had hoped. The European Union (EU), employing comprehensive and active strategies, has impacted S&D negotiations. The EU's overall negotiation strategy regarding S&D has been that of maximizing its interests under the WTO without challenging the WTO regime itself, particularly the regime's basic norms such as "development." Tactically, the EU has taken a step-by-step approach to consolidate its "ends/means" and "S&D differentiation" arguments, so that it can legitimately redefine and minimize its S&D obligations under the WTO regime. It seems that EU's strategic behavior on S&D has decelerated the progress of S&D negotiations under the DDA, and may establish a framework for future negotiations on related topics.

**Key Words:** World Trade Organization (WTO), European Union (EU), Special and Differential (S&D) treatment, Doha Development Agenda (DDA), developing countries