

Beyond Tariffs—EU Trade Policy, Service Trade Regulations and TBT in the KOREU FTA

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Abstract

In light of multilateral and bilateral trade liberalization movements in recent decades, there has been a significant reduction in tariff barriers to trade between nations. Against this background, the EU's new trade policy is shifting from the traditional paradigm of tariff concessions to the reduction and elimination of non-tariff trade barriers. As the multilateral regime under the World Trade Organization provides inadequate instruments for the reduction of non-tariff barriers, bilateral Free Trade Agreements (FTA) have become the preferred platform for addressing such issues. This paper takes the recently enacted EU-Korea FTA as one such example to explore the EU's strategy for reducing non-tariff barriers. There is a wide spectrum of non-tariff barrier issues, and the focus of this paper is on the use of discipline measures to reduce barriers associated with domestic regulations of service trade and technical barriers to trade (TBT) measures.

Key Words: EU-Korea Free Trade Agreement, non-tariff barriers, service trade domestic regulations, technical barriers to trade, new generation FTA