

ADVOCACY PLAN

EU-US MRA on Conformity Assessment

What is the issue and why is it important? (max 200 words)

The US is the first export market for our industries and the second overall largest trading partner after China. Despite this, European technology companies still face several barriers in the US market.

Currently, EU exporters of products subject to mandatory third-party certification in the US (including several machinery and electrical equipment products) have access to a very limited amount of Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs) in the EU that can certify products as conform to US standards. Similarly, US exporters have to rely on CABs domiciled in the EU to get their products certified for export to the EU.

The low level of competition among CABs pushes up the costs and waiting times associated with conformity assessment procedures. Orgalim therefore supports the negotiation of a EU-US Mutual Recognition Agreement on Conformity Assessment for Machinery and Electrical Equipment. Such an MRA would be solely aimed at increasing the number of CABs available to exporters on both sides to certify products for export to the other market.

An MRA on Conformity Assessment would increase competition among CABs and hence push down the costs and waiting times associated with conformity assessment. Furthermore, exporters will be able to rely on one single CAB based in their own market for different products in their portfolio, regardless of whether they are intended for the domestic or export market.

Key Orgalim objectives (+ Link to [position paper](#))

1. Ensure the conclusion of an MRA on conformity assessment between the EU and the US, covering all machinery and electrical equipment products that require third party certification in the US
2. Ensure the EU and the US also agree on a tailored solution to ensure that certificates issued by EU CABs accredited under the future MRA are accepted across the entirety of the US

Institutional Process/Advocacy milestones

When	Development	Orgalim advocacy	Members' advocacy suggestion
5 December 2022	Meeting of the EU-US TTC	Orgalim letter sent to TRADE and GROW Cabinets, calling for the EU and the US to start negotiations on conformity assessment	
30-31 May 2023	Meeting of the EU-US TTC	Position paper supporting an MRA on conformity assessment finalised and shared with key Commission and member states stakeholders	Engagement with national governments
7 June 2023		Orgalim spoke at EFM event on EU-US trade relations, together with a USTR Representative, the relevant	

		HoU in the Commission and a representative from the US National Association of Manufacturers	
May 2023-ongoing		Ongoing engagement with Commission, Member States, selected MEPs as well as EU and US industry stakeholders	Engagement with national governments

Key decision-makers (10 max)

Name	Institution / Role	Rationale	Relationship w/ Orgalim
Elina Melngaile	Member of Cabinet of EVP Valdis Dombrovskis	Responsible for EU-US relations	Received position paper
Leopoldo Rubinacci	Deputy DG, DG TRADE	Responsible for EU-US trade relations	Participated in Orgalim Trade Policy WG on 20 September 2023; follow up meeting on 12 October 2023
Rupert Schlegelmilch	Director, DG TRADE	Responsible for EU-US trade relations	Shared position paper
Matthias Jorgensen	Head of Unit, USA and Canada, DG TRADE	Responsible for EU-US trade relations	Participated in Orgalim trade policy WG on 15 December 2022
Lucian Cernat	Head of Unit, Regulatory Cooperation and Public Procurement, DG TRADE	Responsible for negotiations of MRAs on conformity assessment	Met several times; in regular contact with Orgalim
Maurits-Jan Prinz	Member of Cabinet of Internal Market Commissioner Thierry Breton	Responsible for EU-US TTC	Met on 12 May 2023
Gwenole Cozigou	Director, DG GROW	Responsible for construction, machinery and standardisation	Met on 11 May 2023
Mehdi Hocine	Head of Unit, Machinery and Equipment, DG GROW	Responsible for machinery	Met several times

Orgalim Team

Lorenzo Livraghi, Senior Adviser – Trade and Industrial Policy (lead)

Lead Working Group and/or TF: Trade Policy WG, in collaboration with the Internal Market WG

Chair, Vice-Chair: Peter Bay Kirkegaard (DI), Alessandro Durante (Anima)