



## ***Research Project « LawTTIP »***

### ***Legal Ambiguities Withstanding Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership***

#### ***Presentation of the research axis on “Institutional and procedural aspects of the TTIP”***

Since July 2013, the EU is negotiating a Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) agreement with the USA and aims to conclude a very ambitious, comprehensive and balanced agreement, consistent with WTO rules. Once concluded, the agreement is supposed to have four main components: establishment of a deep and comprehensive free trade area, market access, regulatory convergence, liberalization and protection of foreign investments. The expectations are huge in terms of economic growth for both sides of the Atlantic Ocean and in terms of world trade.

The objective of our Jean Monnet Network is to analyze the ongoing negotiations of the TTIP, the forthcoming agreement and its legal impacts for the EU. The institutional and procedural aspects of the TTIP will be more specifically studied in University of Rennes 1 under the scientific supervision of Pr. Isabelle Bosse-Platière and Pr. Cécile Rapoport.

The negotiation of an international agreement has barely led to such an intense debate within the European Union.

This can be explained by the very sensitive issues which are at stake in this agreement (such as the risks for European standards in social, environmental, sanitary, data or investment protection). This situation has a very important impact on the way the European Commission is currently conducting the negotiations. Indeed, in many aspects the negotiation methods for instance in terms of transparency and democracy may have consequences for upcoming negotiations. Many legal issues have still to be resolved such as competences of the EU and its Member States, (legal basis and mixity), the probably provisional application of the agreement or, at least, of some of its provisions.

The question of the impact of the TTIP on external relations of the EU is also a challenge. This aspect of the project hasn't really been considered so far although it is quite important. Indeed, the agreement will have huge repercussions on international trade and will affect the relations of the EU with its present or future partners. Our ambition is therefore, with the help of our academic partners in Europe, in Canada, in Central and South America and Africa, is to put into perspective the TTIP with the rest of External Action of the EU (development policy, other agreements, namely Association agreements, Partnership agreements, European Economic Area, UE-Turkey Custom Union...).

