

Preface

This volume is a collection of the revised papers that were originally presented at a conference entitled “Systemic Implications of Transatlantic Regulatory Cooperation and Competition” that was held at the University of Michigan’s Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy on May 8–9, 2008. The motivation for the conference stemmed from the observations that regulations and enforcement decisions that may at first appear to have only a domestic impact can have substantial spillover effects on other nations’ economies. Experience has shown time and again that there is no reason to expect that these effects are always confined to jurisdictions at the same level of development. Governments on both sides of the Atlantic recognize this, yet their responses in many policies are not aligned — sometimes deliberately so. This creates a complex regulatory landscape that appears to be the product of both cooperation and competition, and which can often only be fully understood by looking through a number of disciplinary lenses.

The presentations of the papers at the conference were shorter than the academic norm so as to facilitate discussion among the participants that included the authors as well as a number of practitioners with policy-making and business expertise. We are particularly grateful to James Sanford, former Deputy Assistant Secretary for European Affairs, in the Office of the US Trade Representative, who attended the conference and provided many useful comments and insights on the issues being addressed.

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