



European
Commission

Management Plan 2021

Directorate-General for Trade

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INTRODUCTION

EU Trade policy is an exclusive EU competence allowing the EU to act with one voice on the global stage and effectively pursue its interests. The European Commission's Directorate-General for Trade (DG Trade) develops and implements the EU's trade policy in order to help secure prosperity, solidarity and security in Europe and around the globe. Trade policy must deliver sustainable growth and jobs, investment and innovation, and seek to improve conditions for citizens, consumers, workers and self-employed, small, medium and large businesses, and the poorest in developing countries. It does so in line with the principles and objectives of the Union's external action and with the external objectives of EU internal policies, while being consistent with the European social model and values, and the climate and environmental objectives.

The EU is one of the world's largest trading powers. EU trade policy opens up opportunities and access for EU companies to sell their goods and services around the world. It is essential for the European economy as it affects growth and employment. EU exports support more than 36 million jobs in the EU. But trade is more than simply the exchange of goods and services. It is also a strategic asset for Europe. It allows the EU to build partnerships, protect the EU market from unfair practices and ensure EU values and standards are respected. Ultimately, it is a critical part of the EU's efforts to pursue its top priorities - the green and digital transitions.

The international context in which trade policy is operating is particularly challenging, as it is affected by several trends such as the rise of geo-strategic rivalries between the United States and China, the increasing resort to unilateral measures and economic nationalism, and the crisis of the multilateral trading system and in particular of the World Trade Organization (WTO). These trends, already apparent in the recent past, are further being exacerbated by the Covid-19 crisis. Trade policy has played a role in managing the immediate health crisis and notably ensuring that supply chains are maintained to ramp up production. But trade policy will have an even more decisive role to play in the economic recovery coming out of the crisis, particularly in terms of generating economic growth and jobs. As such, trade policy will support the objective of building the EU's open strategic autonomy.

The EU is in the process of reviewing its trade policy. The public consultation, which was launched in June 2020 and ended in November 2020, sparked a broad debate among stakeholders on the future direction of the EU's trade policy and attracted more than 400 written submissions. Trade policy will need to respond to the expectations that have been expressed. The immediate focus of trade policy will be on sustaining rules-based trade and thereby creating an environment of stability and predictability which is needed for trade to thrive. Trade policy will equally pursue actively the EU's twin transitions: green and digital. Trade policy will further have to ensure that it continues to create opportunities for the EU's businesses and workers, paying particular attention to supporting SMEs. In doing so, trade policy will seek to create a fair trading environment both internally and abroad. Finally,

trade policy will help develop and manage the EU's key relationships. The EU's new trade policy will be set out in a Communication to be adopted in early 2021.

This management plan sets out how DG Trade will pursue an ambitious agenda in 2021. As set out in its Strategic Plan 2020-2024, DG Trade will pursue its DG specific objectives mainly under two of the Commission's general objectives, an economy that works for people and a stronger Europe in the world. These specific objectives, together with their link to the general objectives are set out in the figure below.

A stronger Europe in the world

Specific objective 1: Lead the reform of the World Trade Organization to preserve rules-based trade

Upholding a stable and predictable trading environment, and pursuing the reform and strengthening of the World Trade Organization

An economy that works for people

Specific objective 2: Creating opportunities for European businesses through new and existing negotiations and an additional effort to monitor and improve the implementation and compliance of existing trade agreements

Opening markets and creating opportunities for EU companies by implementing existing agreements, assertively pursuing our values and interests, enforcing our rights, and negotiating new deals when the conditions are right

Specific objective 3: Protecting EU companies and citizens from unfair trade and investment by making full use of existing Trade Defence Instruments, developing new tools and focusing on enforcement of existing commitments at an EU or international level

Ensuring fair and open trade by pursuing mutually beneficial trading conditions and combatting unfair competition internally and in third countries

Specific objective 4: Ensuring trade policy is sustainable by effectively contributing to a wider set of EU policy goals, such as the Green Deal, adherence to international commitments on labour and the environment, gender and sustainable supply chains

Deploying trade measures to contribute to sustainability, including the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030, the fight against climate change, biodiversity loss, deforestation and other relevant global environmental priorities outlined in the Commission's European Green Deal as well promoting internationally agreed labour standards and human rights

Specific objective 5: Improve the acceptance and understanding of EU trade policy, in particular, by ensuring that it is pursued in an open, inclusive and transparent manner

More engagement and better communication with the European Parliament, the Council and civil society ensuring that trade policy responds to citizens' concerns

PART 1. Delivering on the Commission's priorities: main outputs for the year

As reflected in the Commission Work Programme 2021, trade policy will contribute to delivering on many of the Commission's priorities in 2021:

- Contributing to *an economy that works for people*: global trade and its integrated value chains will remain a fundamental growth engine and a key driving force for a truly global recovery.
- Building *a stronger Europe in the world*: strengthening the rules-based global multilateral system as well as bilateral, regional and global partnerships.

DG Trade will also contribute to other Commission priorities in support of the green and digital transitions. The objectives of *the European Green Deal* can only be achieved with a greater use of trade policy to help spread green goods and services, and to encourage the adoption of climate-friendly policies by others. Multilateral, bilateral and autonomous trade tools will all be used for this purpose. Similarly, trade policy will support *a Europe fit for the digital age* with a particular focus on helping develop global rules for digital trade through WTO negotiations.

To achieve these contributions, DG Trade will seek to deliver in a number of key areas in 2021.

At the beginning of 2021, DG Trade will complete the review of the EU's trade and investment policy to ensure it effectively pursues the EU's interests. This process focuses on two key objectives.



First, to assess how trade policy can contribute to a swift and sustainable socio-economic recovery from the COVID crisis, reinforcing EU competitiveness in a challenging environment, contributing to the twin green and digital transitions and promoting EU values and standards.

Second, to see how trade policy can help build a stronger EU based on 'Open Strategic Autonomy'.

Specific objective 1: Lead the reform of the World Trade Organization to preserve rules-based trade

Upholding a stable and predictable trading environment, and pursuing the reform and strengthening of the World Trade Organization

As reflected in the Commission Work Programme 2021, the Commission intends to lead international efforts and work with partners to **reform the World Trade Organization (WTO)** to make it fit for new realities, strengthening the call for rules that are fair, effective, and enforceable and that create a level playing field for all trading parties. Consequently, every effort must be made to reform the WTO and re-establish it as an effective forum to develop new and appropriate trade rules, ensure their implementation and help to settle disputes. The reform of the WTO will need to not only support resilient economic recovery from the pandemic, but also have sustainability and the WTO's contribution to advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as a guiding principle. This specific objective is thus contributing to the Commission's general objective *A stronger Europe in the world*.

Leading the reform of the WTO will be a top priority for DG Trade. DG Trade will launch a broad initiative on WTO reform in the context of the overall review of the EU's trade policy. DG Trade will also contribute on the Joint communication on strengthening the EU's contribution to rules-based multilateralism. While the overall context for WTO action will remain challenging, MC12 will be a key opportunity for the WTO to show it can deliver results and to set a broader reform agenda, in line with the EU's vision.

President Ursula von der Leyen stated in her mission letter to the Executive Vice-President Dombrovskis, *"Europe's place is at the heart of the rules-based multilateral system. A top priority will be to lead the reform of the World Trade Organization, notably on the issues of subsidies, forced transfer of technologies and dispute settlement. Open and fair trade must be based on global rules that are effective, enforceable and create a level playing field for all."*

Without prejudice to the EU's final position, DG Trade will focus in 2021 on pursuing the reform of the WTO's three functions:

- rulemaking, through finalising the WTO's work on fisheries subsidies and plurilateral negotiations on e-commerce, domestic regulation in services and investment facilitation; and preparing the ground for a review of WTO institutional aspects and the development of new rules to level the playing field.
- dispute settlement – focusing on finding a solution to the current crisis around the blockage in the appointment of new members of the WTO's Appellate Body, which hears appeals in trade disputes taken before the WTO, whilst ensuring a temporary mechanism to preserve the two-tier system of adjudication;

regular WTO work, notably changes to strengthen transparency and to improve WTO committee procedures to make them more effective.

As a matter of urgency, a new Director-General will have to be appointed in 2021. Even though Dr Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala of Nigeria was recommended for appointment to the WTO General Council, following a thorough selection process, one Member blocked the necessary consensus. While regular WTO work can continue under the caretaking of the Deputy Directors-General, the organisation needs its Director-General in office to make meaningful progress in negotiations as well as reform initiatives.



Despite all efforts to avoid the blockage of the dispute settlement system, WTO Members failed to agree to appoint new members of its Appellate Body, making the dispute settlement system unable to function. In 2021, DG Trade will continue its efforts to resolve this situation, including, if appropriate, through engagement in a reform of the WTO dispute settlement system. Pending a resolution of the situation, the EU has put in place contingency measures as long as the appointments remain blocked – known as the 'Multi-Party Interim Appeal Arbitration Arrangement' (MPIA). The interim arrangements maintain two-tier dispute settlement through arbitration, preventing disputes from becoming blocked. In 2021, work will continue to ensure the success of the MPIA, as long as this interim arrangement is needed.

The Commission has **strengthened EU trade instruments**. The amended Enforcement Regulation was agreed by the Council and the EP at the end of 2020 and will formally enter into force in early 2021. This revised Regulation will be the EU's third line of defence to enable sanctions in cases of illegal measures and simultaneous blocking of WTO (or bilateral) dispute settlement.

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Specific objective 2: Creating opportunities for European businesses through new and existing negotiations and an additional effort to monitor and improve the implementation and compliance of existing trade agreements

Opening markets and creating opportunities for EU companies by implementing existing agreements, assertively pursuing our values and interests, enforcing our rights, and negotiating new deals when the conditions are right

The EU opens markets by making, implementing and enforcing trade deals with partner countries or regions. Building on the multilateral trading system and the EU's broad network of trade and investment agreements with countries outside the Union, the EU creates opportunities for EU businesses and workers, including for SMEs, and enhances the resilience and robustness of the EU's economy. Sales to the rest of the world have become increasingly important for jobs for Europeans, both skilled and unskilled workers. On

average, these jobs are better paid than jobs in rest of the economy. Moreover, when EU firms in one Member State export, workers in other Member States can also benefit: many firms provide goods and services along the supply chain and benefit indirectly when a final product is sold abroad. As a result, the benefits of trade and investment are spread much more widely than is often realised. The EU's openness and the attractiveness of the single market are the foundations of the EU's prosperity and competitiveness. This specific objective is thus contributing to the Commission's general objective *An economy that works for people*.

President Ursula von der Leyen stated in her speech on the State of the Union (SOTEU) 2020, *"We will continue to believe in open and fair trade across the world. Not as an end in itself – but as a way to deliver prosperity at home and promote our values and standards."*

The multilateral and plurilateral agenda

DG Trade will have to work intensely to get results at the 12th WTO Ministerial Conference in 2021.

The Covid-19 crisis has accelerated the digital transformation of the economy, highlighting the importance of digital trade, and its role in facilitating global value chains and developing innovative products and services. DG Trade will give impetus to the plurilateral negotiations on e-commerce in the WTO to facilitate electronic transactions, harness the full potential of data, tackle trade barriers, improve market access in goods and services and enhance consumer and business trust in the online environment, in full respect of the EU's personal data protection framework. The negotiations aim to agree on global rules on digital trade.

DG Trade will pursue progress in the plurilateral negotiations on **domestic regulation in services**. On 23 May 2019, in a new Joint Statement issued in Paris, a group of 60 WTO Members committed themselves to continue working on the outstanding issues with a view to incorporating the outcome of their work in their respective schedules of specific commitments by the 12th WTO Ministerial Conference. DG Trade will seek to conclude these negotiations as soon as possible.

Following the Council's adoption in October 2019 of the negotiation directives for an **Investment Facilitation** multilateral framework, and the following commitment by 90 WTO Members to work towards an outcome on investment facilitation by the 12th WTO Ministerial Conference, DG Trade will continue its efforts to achieve this objective.

Work on the **WTO negotiations on fisheries subsidies** will continue in 2021, hopefully coming to a successful conclusion before the 12th WTO Ministerial Conference. DG Trade will work on all parts of the negotiations, in cooperation with DG MARE, stressing the importance of delivering on the mandate. This means prohibiting subsidies which actually contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, as well as eliminating any subsidies to vessels engaged in illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.

DG Trade will in 2021 continue to participate actively in ensuring the correct implementation of the **WTO Government Procurement Agreement (GPA)**, as well as supporting its expansion to new members. This agreement provides a higher level of clarity and transparency and guarantees equal footing to suppliers, supplies and services originating in GPA Parties in procurement procedures.

With the expansion of the Information Technology Agreement (ITA) on tariffs, which provides duty-free access to IT products now finalised, the focus in 2021 will be on encouraging other WTO members to join the **ITA-2**, ensuring the effective implementation of the agreement by other parties.

DG Trade will actively explore the possibilities for a **broader trade and health initiative** that would facilitate trade in essential pharmaceutical and medical goods, with the COVID-19 crisis having shown the importance of affordable access to healthcare products on a predictable and lasting basis. It will also reinforce its efforts to encourage other WTO Members to join **the Pharma Agreement**¹.

On 20 March 2018, the Council adopted the Commission's recommendation to open negotiations to set up a Multilateral Investment Court which would be a permanent body to decide investment disputes. This court would replace the Investment Court System (ICS) currently contained in the EU's bilateral agreements and the Investor-State Dispute Settlement arrangements that exist in more than 3000 current bilateral investment treaties to which our Member States are party. Discussions are taking place in the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) and the EU has made submissions which are now the basis for negotiations. Work on drafting the provisions of the convention establishing the Court will continue into 2021.

In 2019, the Commission played an active part in setting the agenda for the modernisation process of the **Energy Charter Treaty (ECT)**, a multilateral agreement covering several policy areas related to energy. The Commission is committed to using the modernisation process to bring the investment protection provisions in line with the standards developed under the new investment policy of the European Union since CETA. In addition, the Commission aims to reflect better sustainable energy objectives and to contribute to the objectives of the Paris Agreement. In 2021, work on ECT will increase and become more complex, due to need to prepare negotiation text of ECT modernisation and an increased outreach to other Contracting parties.

DG Trade intends to launch a **WTO Trade and Climate Initiative**, focusing on facilitating trade in goods and services that mitigate climate change and also includes other elements such as development, transparency of domestic measures and solidify the role of the WTO

¹ The Pharma Agreement eliminates tariffs and other duties and charges on a large number of pharmaceutical products and the substances used to produce them, permanently binding them at duty-free levels (https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/pharma_ag_e/pharma_agreement_e.htm)

Committee on Trade and Environment. DG Trade will also engage with like-minded countries a process intended to widen the group of supporters of the environmental agenda and prepare the ground for the next Ministerial. The overall objective is to secure a revitalisation of multilateral work on climate and environment issues in the WTO and a sufficiently broad participation in win-win liberalisation initiatives. The aim will be to have a multilateral statement with several components on environmental sustainability in the 12th WTO Ministerial Conference.

DG Trade will also be involved in **the process of the structured discussions on trade and environmental sustainability**² that had been launched in the context of the WTO trade and environment week. The structured discussions will bring together various stakeholders and WTO members to work on possible actions and deliverables of environmental sustainability in the WTO.

DG Trade will advance discussions on level playing field issues, aiming to launch a plurilateral initiative on industrial subsidies and State-owned enterprises at the 12th WTO Ministerial Conference.

Finalising concluded bilateral and regional negotiations

On the bilateral and regional front, in June 2019 the EU and **Vietnam** signed the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and the Investment Protection Agreement. The Free Trade Agreement entered into force on 1 August 2020, while the Investment Protection Agreement still needs to be ratified by EU Member States. The Investment Protection Agreement with **Singapore** also still needs to be ratified by Member States before it can enter into force, while the Free Trade Agreement with Singapore already entered into force on 21 November 2019.

The Economic Partnership Agreement between the EU and Japan entered into force in February 2019. The EU will continue negotiations in 2021 for an **Investment Protection Agreement with Japan**, provided that common ground on Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) procedures can be found.

Trade relations with **Mexico** are strong and currently governed by the Global Agreement (1997). The EU and Mexico reached a political agreement in April 2018 on the negotiations to update the bilateral trade and investment framework and bring it in line with the most ambitious and progressive EU agreements, including comprehensive provisions on labour and environmental protection, climate change, and civil society involvement. In April 2020, the chapter on public procurement was finalised with the incorporation of sub-central level commitments. The modernised Agreement will create new opportunities for sustainable growth and, for the first time, the agreement include provisions to prevent and combat

² <https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=q:WT/CTE/W249.pdf&Open=True>

corruption in trade and investment. An independent sustainability impact assessment (SIAs) was published in January 2020³. In 2021, DG Trade will continue to work to conclude the technical work and internal procedures leading to the signature and conclusion of the agreement.

In 2019, the European Union and **Mercosur states** – Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay – reached a political agreement on the negotiations for an ambitious, balanced and comprehensive trade agreement⁴. Current EU bilateral trade with Mercosur already totals €88 billion a year for goods and €34 billion for services. Under this new trade framework, EU companies will benefit from privileged access to a market of over 260 million consumers. EU exporters will gain from progressive tariff cuts that over time will bring European companies yearly savings of more than €4 billion. The agreement will create significant opportunities for sustainable growth in both regions, while promoting high labour and environmental standards and preserving the interests of EU consumers and sensitive economic sectors. The sustainability chapter is amongst the most progressive in any of the trade deals and contains explicit commitments on deforestation and implementation of the Paris agreement. However, it will be important that the EU engages with Mercosur states to address concerns about deforestation in the Amazon region. This will be a critical element on the path towards ratification of the agreement and the Commission will be working on an initiative to address such concerns in the course of 2021. In 2021, the EU and Mercosur states will continue the legal revision of the text, before it can be translated into all official EU languages and submitted to EU Member States and the European Parliament for approval.

On-going negotiations

Following the adoption by the Council on 13 November 2017 of the negotiation directives⁵, the EU launched negotiations with Chile to modernise the scope of the existing Association Agreement (2002)⁶, including ambitious, comprehensive and progressive trade provisions. The EU will continue negotiations with **Chile** with the objective to reach a political agreement in 2021. The SIA carried out by an independent contractor and the Commission position paper was published in June 2020⁷.

In May 2018, the Council authorised opening negotiations for FTAs between the EU and **Australia** and between the EU and **New Zealand**. These negotiations are ongoing and DG Trade will seek to make substantial progress in 2021. Final reports for the SIAs for both negotiations are expected to be published together with the accompanying Commission services position papers in the first quarter of 2021.

³ [Sustainability Impact Assessments](#)

⁴ [EU-Mercosur Agreement](#)

⁵ [EU-Chile - Negotiation Directives for Modernisation of the Agreement](#)

⁶ [EU-Chile trade](#)

⁷ <http://trade-sia-chile.eu/en/>

The Commission also launched negotiations for trade agreements with **Indonesia**⁸, **Malaysia**, the **Philippines**⁹ and **Thailand**. Only negotiations with Indonesia are being actively pursued for the moment; the other negotiations are paused or suspended for various reasons. An SIA for the negotiations with Indonesia was published in June 2020. Final reports for the Malaysia and the Philippines SIAs will be published together with the accompanying Commission services position papers in the first quarter of 2021.

In the EU's immediate neighbourhood, on the negotiations with **Tunisia**¹⁰ and **Morocco**, it is possible that despite the political uncertainties the negotiations for Deep and Comprehensive FTAs (DCFTA) could be resumed in 2021. In 2021, DG Trade will continue to work with other partners in the Southern Mediterranean region to build on the existing network of FTAs. The evaluation of the trade pillars of six EU Association Agreements with Euromed countries will be published early 2021 and will provide guidance on how to develop these trade relations further.

In 2021, DG Trade will continue working towards the conclusion of negotiations on the trade chapters of Enhanced Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (EPCA) with **Uzbekistan**¹¹ and on the new agreement with **Azerbaijan**.

On 1 January 2021 the Amendment of the Regulation granting autonomous EU trade measures for the six Western Balkan countries entered into force. The Amendment prolongs the preferential access to the EU for certain agricultural products from these countries until end of 2025.

In addition, bilateral and plurilateral negotiation rounds will continue in 2021 towards a new framework agreement with Andorra, San Marino and Monaco, ensuring, along with the Customs Union established with Andorra and San Marino, their integration in the single market and their alignment with the EU's trade policy.

The EU remains committed to strengthening the economic partnership with **India**¹² and to a comprehensive and mutually beneficial India-EU trade agreement once there is sufficient mutual understanding on the scope and level of ambition. The EU has also expressed its readiness to explore the possibility of launching negotiations for a stand-alone investment agreement. As a follow up to the 15th EU-India Summit held on 15 July 2020, both sides also agreed to set up a High-Level Dialogue on Trade and Investment. The first meeting is to be held early 2021.

⁸ [EU-Indonesia trade](#)

⁹ [EU-Philippines trade](#)

¹⁰ [EU-Tunisia trade](#)

¹¹ [EU-Uzbekistan trade](#)

¹² [EU-India trade](#)

Negotiations with **China**¹³ on the stand-alone bilateral investment agreement have been concluded in principle in December 2020. The priority in 2021 will be to prepare the agreement for adoption.

Africa is the continent with the highest growth potential in the world: by 2050, Africa will represent around 75% of the growth of the global workforce. DG Trade will work to reinforce the Economic Partnership Agreements with Africa, building resilient value chains and boosting sustainable public and private investment in sectors of mutual interest. These Economic Partnership Agreements continue to be the cornerstone of Africa-EU trade relations and contribute to the on-going African integration projects, including the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA).

In December 2019, the Council adopted **updated negotiating directives** for the negotiations of Economic Partnership Agreements (EPA) with African, Caribbean and Pacific (**ACP**) countries and regions. These updated negotiating directives will make it possible to deepen these agreements in the coming years to cover also services, investment, trade and sustainable development, intellectual property rights, competition policy and public procurement, among other issues, where not yet covered in the existing agreements.

Upgrading and expanding existing partnerships is part of this priority. Negotiations to deepen the existing EPA with five **Eastern and Southern African** countries (Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles and Zimbabwe), launched in 2019, will continue in 2021. An SIA on these negotiations is being carried out (the final report and accompanying Commission position paper are expected for the second half of 2021). By deepening the current trade relations, the EU also seeks to support regional integration within the continent and preparations for making the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) operational. Its implementation will be a step towards our long-term objective of a continent-to-continent free trade area between Africa and the EU.

The trend of expansion of the existing Economic Partnership Agreements both geographically and thematically will continue in 2021 following the accession of Samoa in 2019 and Solomon Islands in 2020, with on-going negotiations for the accession of Tonga and Timor-Leste in the Pacific EPA, the launch of accession negotiations with **Angola** into the SADC EPA.

The Commission is also exploring an initiative on sustainable investments in Africa, including possible future negotiations for investment arrangements with African partners either within existing EPAs or separately.

Africa-EU trade and investment relations are an integral part of inter-service work aiming at sharing the EU's integration experience with Africa.

¹³ [EU-China trade](#)

The proposal of new bilateral negotiations

Once the EU and **Switzerland** have made progress on adopting the Institutional Framework Agreement, the EU will start preparations for the prospective negotiations to modernise the current trade relationship between the two sides on the basis of a joint declaration annexed to the Institutional Framework Agreement. If the political situation allows the Council to adopt the draft negotiating directives submitted by the Commission, negotiations for modernising the Customs Union with **Turkey** could also start. In its conclusions adopted in June 2019 and reiterated in June 2020, the Council indicated that in the current political context it did not foresee progress in the modernisation of the Customs Union. The recommendation to open negotiations of an Enhanced Partnership and Cooperation Agreement with **Tajikistan** will be presented to the Council by the end of 2020 and the negotiations are expected to start in 2021.

The change of Administration in the **United States** should ensure that trade is part of a “New Transatlantic Agenda”. The Commission will continue the work towards a positive, balanced and mutually beneficial trade partnership with the United States and has identified opportunities to facilitate transatlantic trade between the EU and the United States in its communication *EU-US: A new transatlantic agenda for global change*, adopted on 2 December 2020. DG Trade will work closely with the US to solve bilateral trade irritants that continue to be an obstacle to a clear path forward on our trading relationship (e.g. Civil aircraft, Section 232 measures, etc.) through negotiated solutions, lead in the reform of the multilateral trading system encapsulated in the WTO, establish a new high-level EU-US Trade and Technology Council, facilitate trade in essential medical goods and healthcare products (by calling on the US to join the Trade and Health Initiative under the WTO), and work together for a green, circular, competitive and inclusive economy. The recent tariff reduction package is an example of the mutual benefit that a constructive EU-US engagement can bring.

An overview of all on-going bilateral negotiations can be found in annex 2.

Effective implementation

The Commission attaches particular importance to proper implementation and enforcement of trade and investment agreements. It carefully monitors the behaviour of its trading partners to be able to move quickly to prevent or rectify discriminatory or disproportionate barriers to trade, such as difficulties in obtaining intellectual property rights, authorisations or licences, or where unfair or unjustified practices are identified. Likewise, through its trade instruments it monitors compliance with relevant international standards for labour rights, climate/environmental protection, and human rights. To that effect, the Commission will continue using and reinforce its implementation and enforcement tools and actions.

DG Trade will continue to focus on maximising the benefits of our trade instruments through proper implementation and enforcement of our trade and investment rights and building on the findings of the evaluation of FTAs already in place. In addition, the

Commission will continue to focus on the implementation and enforcement of Trade and Sustainable Development chapters in FTAs, in line with specific objective four.

Enforcement of the rights stemming from the preferential as well as multilateral trading rules may be achieved through technical, diplomatic and political contacts, negotiation, regulatory cooperation or dispute settlement, at the WTO or bilaterally. This includes comments and follow-up to WTO Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) and Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) notifications issued by trading partners.

The enforcement of the EU's multilateral and bilateral rights and obligations is done through dispute settlement in the WTO or through bilateral dispute settlement mechanisms. DG Trade will continue to monitor the compliance of WTO members' with their commitments under the WTO and under FTAs.

In the last quarter of 2021, the **Commission annual Report on the Implementation of EU Trade Agreements** and accompanying Staff Working Document will report on the implementation of the most significant preferential trade agreements applied between the EU and third countries in 2020.

The first half of 2021, the **Report on Trade and Investment Barriers**, will present the overall stock of obstacles affecting EU exports, as well as the main developments in 2020 concerning new and resolved barriers, providing an overview of the status of protectionism worldwide and the EU's efforts to tackle it.

The 2021 **Report on the protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights in third countries** will be published in the first half of 2021.

In 2021, DG Trade will continue to focus on awareness-raising, regular structured exchanges on FTA related activities, on market access and on the sustainable development side, and SME internationalisation. With regard to trade promotion activities, DG Trade will encourage Member States to strengthen their actions, share best practice and prioritise countries where we have recently concluded agreements or anticipate doing so in the next 12 to 18 months.

In October 2020 the Commission launched the **new web portal called Access2Markets**. It merged the two existing information sources– the Market Access Database and the Trade Helpdesk – and became the one-stop-shop, in all EU languages, to help SMEs navigate the world of international trade. To facilitate implementation of FTAs the new portal has a Rules of Origin Self Assessment Tool (ROSA). ROSA is a dynamic tool that helps companies to assess whether their products qualify for tariff preferences under EU Trade Agreements. In 2021 the tool will be continually expanded to cover more trade agreements, and adapted based on feedback from stakeholders.

For example, to help European companies identify new market access opportunities that EU FTAs offer in the area of public procurement, DG Trade will in 2021 develop a dedicated

Access2Procurement module, a user-friendly step-by-step online tool integrated in the Access2Markets portal. In 2021, DG Trade will organise a communication and information campaign to promote Access2Markets.

The Commission will continue to develop new and improved tools that provide practical information for European exporters to make full use of the potential of the agreements and to continue to reach out to stakeholders and the wider public to promote their use.

More specifically, in relation to individual bilateral agreements, DG Trade monitors the implementation of the various agreements that have entered into force or are provisionally applied. In 2021, the Commission will continue to focus on ensuring the smooth and effective implementation of the Free Trade Agreements with **South Korea, Canada, Japan, Singapore** and also **Vietnam**, which entered into force on 1 August 2020. This includes identifying and following-up on implementation issues, ensuring that committees meetings take place on a regular basis and that their outcomes are promptly followed-up. In 2021 and 2022 as part of the EU-Japan EPA implementation the list of protected Geographical Indications will be extended through decisions of the Joint Committee. These are important initiatives. DG AGRI is responsible for the subject and DG Trade is closely involved.

DG Trade will continue to pursue the effective implementation of the Agreements the EU has with **Mexico, Chile, Colombia/Peru/Ecuador** and **Central America**, including through the management of the respective Committee and specialised committees set up for this purpose, and to monitor and ensure compliance of trade obligations by these countries. DG Trade will continue to promote these Agreements, to conduct joint activities and projects to support these countries' implementation efforts and to continuously assess their impact in both regions.

During 2021, independent experts will conduct an **ex-post review of the impact** of the Agreements with Colombia, Peru and Ecuador and with Central America. In addition, DG Trade will continue to manage bilateral trade relations with Latin American countries, to develop trade and investment relations with the region and to ensure that WTO trade commitments are respected.

DG Trade will also continue to monitor the implementation of the DCFTAs with **Ukraine, Georgia and Moldova**. For each DCFTA, the overarching Association Agreements with these countries provide a dedicated configuration of the Association Committee and four specialised sub-committees to discuss trade issues. Annexes to the DCFTAs on services, Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS), customs and public procurement are regularly updated with relevant EU acquis as the need arises. Under the EU-Ukraine DCFTA either party may request five years after entry into force, i.e. as of 1 January 2021, a review related to "accelerating and broadening the scope of the elimination of customs duties" on bilateral trade. The interim independent review for the

ex-post evaluation of the trade pillar of these agreements (DCFTAs) with Georgia and Moldova are expected for 2021.

With **Southern Mediterranean countries**, efforts are ongoing to improve the efficiency of Sub-Committees under the Association Agreement and ensure annual Trade Sub-Committee meetings effectively tackle all trade-related issues. DG Trade will continue to press these partners to remove trade-related barriers, while also aiming to help them taking better advantage of the existing preferential market access, in particular through trade-related assistance and capacity building. A particular focus will be on Algeria with whom the Commission launched a bilateral Dispute Settlement procedure in June 2020 on which a decision is expected in 2021. DG Trade will also be working on the implementation of the Joint Declaration taken at the 11th Union of the Mediterranean Trade Ministerial meeting that took place in November 2020 and preparing the next meeting in 2022.

The Commission Staff Working Document on the ongoing evaluation of the trade pillar of six EU Association Agreements with Southern Mediterranean countries (Tunisia, Morocco, Egypt, Jordan, Algeria and Lebanon) is expected to be finalised in 2021. This exercise will help DG Trade to better understand the strengths and weaknesses of these first generation agreements and provide useful guidance on improving the effectiveness of their implementation, as well as feed into future DCFTAs with partner countries in the region.

Implementation work on the seven Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) with African, Caribbean and Pacific countries (**ACPs**) will continue in 2021, including EPAs with the Eastern and Southern African (ESA) sub-group, the Southern African Development Community (SADC) EPA group, Cameroon, Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire, Cariforum and Pacific EPA countries. This includes management of the relevant joint institutions, ensuring compliance with EPA commitments, as well as monitoring and evaluation, awareness raising, development cooperation and joint activities and dialogues with state and non-state actors on various aspects of the agreements, including trade and sustainable development, as well as raising awareness of the partnerships.

DG Trade will continue to implement the EU strategy on **China** adopted in June 2016¹⁴ with a particular focus on the comprehensive investment agreement (CAI) (mentioned above), and on intensifying bilateral discussions on trade and investment issues covering China's agenda for economic reforms. EU concerns related to overcapacity (particularly on steel), export controls, level-playing field issues, including the subsidisation of the Chinese economy, Chinese investments in the EU, market access, and intellectual property rights will remain the key priorities in the EU-China trade and investment-related discussions. In 2021, DG Trade will explore how best to resume the bilateral dialogue agenda with China (heavily

¹⁴[Joint Communication to the European Parliament and the Council - Elements for a New EU Strategy on China](#)

disrupted in 2020 due to COVID-19), with a view to making it more efficient and result oriented.

The Joint Communication of the Commission and the High Representative '*EU-China – A strategic outlook*', published in March 2019, proposed 10 concrete actions, reflecting a more assertive and multi-faceted EU approach to EU-China bilateral relations. In 2021, DG Trade will continue to be involved in implementing the various actions (e.g. working with the Council and the European Parliament towards adopting the International Procurement Instrument, implementing the recently agreed reforms to the EU's export control regime, implementing the EU Regulation on the screening of foreign investment, intensifying the bilateral investment negotiations, enhancing WTO reform efforts, addressing the distortions generated by foreign subsidies in the internal market, etc.).

Implementation of the strategy also entails following plurilateral and multilateral discussions at the level of G7, G20, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and the World Trade Organization, including on issues such as overcapacity as well as the International Working Group on export credits. In this context, the EU, along with 10 other members of the International Working Group on export credits, suspended their participation in technical negotiations, due to persistent divergence of positions on core questions, such as the transparency of the terms offered in export finance transactions.

Building on the new momentum created by the appointment of the Chief Trade Enforcement Officer, DG Trade – and the Commission as a whole – will increasingly focus on implementation and enforcement of the EU's trade agreements (bilateral and multilateral), on breaches of both market access and on trade and sustainable development commitments.

DG Trade will continue to work on removing trade barriers through our **Market Access Partnership** with Member States and industry. The removal of barriers in the period 2014 to 2018 created additional export opportunities of more than €8 billion in 2019 – equivalent to the benefits of many of our free trade agreements. In the wake of the rise in protectionism detected in the latest Report on Trade and Investment Barriers and in order to contribute in bringing the EU economy back on track as a result of Covid-19 outbreak, DG Trade remains committed to reinforce the Partnership, with enhanced prioritisation of actions to remove barriers, strengthened coordination with stakeholders, and wider communication and outreach. For example, DG Trade will continue to organise Market Access Days in Member States with trade experts and industry representatives to identify and overcome the barriers that our companies face in third countries. DG Trade will also use its sectorial dialogues with industry to help improve industry input to its implementation and enforcement work, including through ensuring efficient information flow.

DG Trade will continue to address multilaterally and bilaterally a growing number of regulatory barriers faced by EU exporters. For instance, in the WTO Committee on **Technical Barriers to Trade**, DG Trade will build on success stories to date and contribute to the withdrawal or modification of trading partners' trade restrictive measures that hamper EU exports.

DG Trade's activities in this area also include its work with the **Sanitary and Phytosanitary** (SPS) Market Access Working Group on identifying and agreeing on a mid- to long-term strategy to tackle SPS measures, the constant improvement of the SPS Market Access Database, including with the access now given to third countries, and the continued financial support to international standard setting organisations (Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)/International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), World Health Organization (WHO)/Codex Alimentarius Commission and World Organization for Animal Health (OIE)).

Well-functioning **intellectual property** (IP) systems are a key lever to promote investment in innovation and sustainable growth. Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) infringements worldwide cost European firms billions of euros in lost revenue and put thousands of jobs at risk. IPR infringements also endanger consumers, public health and the environment and contribute to organised crime. DG Trade will continue to use a range of bilateral and multilateral trade tools to promote solid intellectual property laws and effective enforcement worldwide. It will engage with key trading partners through IP Dialogues and IP Working Groups, as well as through the WTO TRIPS Council, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and other organisations. In 2021, DG Trade will publish the Report on the protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights in third countries. It will also continue its engagement in various technical cooperation programmes such as the IP Key cooperation programmes for China, Southeast Asia and Latin America or the four-year cooperation programme for Africa.

In the area of **public procurement**, DG Trade will continue to promote transparency, good governance and improved market access in third countries. In parallel with and in addition to the EU bilateral (FTAs) and plurilateral (WTO GPA) efforts, DG Trade will continue to pursue the establishment of an appropriate EU instrument to ensure openness of foreign procurement markets for EU companies, goods and services - the **International Procurement Instrument**. This instrument seeks a level playing field in procurement giving the EU leverage to negotiate better access for EU companies to procurement markets outside the EU. As an ultimate measure, intended to give partner countries an incentive to open their markets, it would allow the EU to restrict access of companies, goods and services to the EU procurement market if they are from a country that is proven to apply restrictive or discriminatory treatment against EU companies. Discussions in the Council and the European Parliament will continue in 2021.

In the area of export controls, in 2021 the Commission will start to work on the implementation of the provisions of the new Dual-Use regulation, and the new tasks

associated to this, such as the development of guidelines for best practices in the Dual-Use sector, including guidelines for due diligence. The Commission shall set up an Enforcement Coordination Mechanism and shall support an EU licensing and enforcement capacity-building programme.

The Commission will develop a methodology and related IT tools to support enhanced transparency and the publication of vastly expanded export controls annual reports, and will adopt the periodical update of the EU Dual-Use Control List.

In addition The Commission will continue to develop the EU export control network to ensure an effective implementation of controls, e.g. through the further development of electronic licensing systems in Member States and the finalisation and publication of EU guidelines for the compliance standards addressed to of academia and research institutions.

DG Trade will continue to enforce the EU's multilateral and bilateral rights and obligations through the **WTO's dispute settlement and through bilateral dispute settlement mechanisms** throughout 2021. Of course, with regard to the WTO, the current blockage of the appeal mechanism means that the ability to enforce EU's WTO rights through dispute settlement is undermined, except with respect to those WTO Members that participate in the Multi-party interim appeal arbitration arrangement (MPIA). In addition, following the amendment of the Enforcement Regulation expected to enter into force in the beginning of 2021, the Commission will have the power to adopt trade sanctions against those Members who would seek to benefit from the blockage of the appeal mechanism in order to prevent a final adjudication of a dispute initiated by the EU. It will do this through continued activities in the WTO and in bilateral dispute settlement, already initiated with Korea, Ukraine, the South African Customs Union (SACU) and Algeria. It will do so on the basis of the inputs received via the Single Entry Point system, which went live in November 2020, and the outcome, where appropriate, of Trade Barriers Regulation investigations. The Commission may also open investigations itself when it senses that information cannot be provided where firms are unwilling to provide information for fear of reprisal, or where information is not available because of a lack of transparency.

DG Trade will continue the focus on maximising the benefits of the EU's trade instruments through proper implementation and enforcement of the trade and investment obligations and building on the findings of the evaluation of FTAs already in place.

Specific objective 3: Protecting EU companies and citizens from unfair trade and investment by making full use of existing Trade Defence Instruments, developing new tools and focusing on enforcement of existing commitments at an EU or international level

Ensuring fair and open trade by pursuing mutually beneficial trading conditions and combatting unfair competition internally and in third countries.

The **Chief Trade Enforcement Officer** will further increase the efficiency of DG Trade's work on enforcement by streamlining internal processes, strengthening coordination within the Commission and enhancing consistency and identifying leverage to address breaches with trading partners. Stakeholders and civil society can bring their complaints concerning market access, trade and sustainable development or Generalised Scheme of Preferences directly to the new-established Single Entry Point (SEP). The SEP is the first point of contact in the new complaint system for anyone who wishes to report a barrier or lack of compliance. This specific objective thus contributes to the Commission's general objective *An economy that works for people*.

At the same time, the Chief Trade Enforcement Officer is the public face of enforcement and implementation, reporting regularly to the European Parliament, the Council, Member States and stakeholders.

Executive Vice-President Dombrovskis stated during his hearing in the EP, *"The Chief Trade Enforcement Officer will have an essential role in defending European companies, workers and consumers, whenever our trade partners do not play by the rules."*

DG Trade will continue to address steel excess capacity internationally. It will participate and drive the discussions in the G20 mandated Global Forum for Steel Excess Capacity (GFSEC) and in the OECD Steel Committee for tackling trade distorting subsidies and other government support contributing to excess capacity. DG Trade will support the Italian G20 Presidency to promote the GFSEC process within the G20. DG Trade will represent the Commission in the Council Trade Policy Committee (Steel, Textiles and other Industrial Sectors – STIS) and strengthen policy coordination with Member States.

To strengthen the EU's hand in defending itself against the unfair practices of others, DG Trade will bring forward a proposal in 2021 for a new instrument to deter and counteract coercive actions by third countries. DG Trade will carry out an impact assessment which will support the legislative proposal. The impact assessment will include a public consultation with a wide range of stakeholders. The initiative was announced in the Letter of Intent of the President of the Commission to the President of the Parliament and President in office of the Council of 16 September 2020 and is included in the CWP 2021.

In line with WTO rules, the EU has its own system of Trade Defence Instruments (TDI) to combat unfair trade practices in international trade. The EU is an efficient user of these instruments and applies a number of conditions in addition to WTO rules to ensure their use is measured. The instruments are carefully designed to ensure a level playing field and reintroduce balance in place of distortion. The EU uses trade defence instruments to re-establish a competitive environment for the EU industry when harmed by unfair imports. In 2020, the European Court of Auditors (ECA) concluded that the Commission successfully enforces Europe's trade defence policy. At the same time, ECA made a number of recommendations to help make certain aspects of trade defence investigations even more

robust. In 2021, DG Trade will focus on implementing these recommendations including stronger support to SMEs and raising awareness among stakeholders of the TDI.

The Commission stands firm against unfair trade practices through anti-dumping and anti-subsidy measures. The Commission may also adopt safeguard measures where warranted (as it did in 2018 in response to, among other things, US measures affecting steel and aluminium). This is necessary to uphold the EU's commitment for a Union that protects, empowers and defends.

DG Trade will continue to maintain and improve a transparent, efficient and effective system to combat distortions and unfair trade practices. DG Trade will ensure that procedures are followed rigorously and considers all the relevant Union's interests. Open trade is a recognised engine for growth and job-creation but it requires that fair competition, without distortions, is maintained between domestic and foreign producers. We will continue to complete investigations, which are subject to the scrutiny of the European Court of Justice and the WTO's Dispute Settlement Body, within the mandatory deadlines and endeavour to do so even sooner. DG Trade also actively participates in trade defence investigations by non-EU countries against EU Member States with the aim of minimising the cost for EU exporters.

Executive Vice-President Dombrovskis stated during his hearing in the EP, *"To reinforce our commitment to free and fair trade, we must engage with our partners. While at the same time, we must strengthen our defence and enforcement. Europe needs to become more assertive. By protecting our companies, securing our strategic interests, strengthening reciprocity and levelling the playing field."*

DG Trade will also intensify its efforts to deal with level-playing field issues such as subsidies and the role of State-Owned Enterprises across all sectors, by working closely with other trading partners, as well as in the WTO, the OECD and the G7/G20.

To make sure the EU remains one of the world's most open investment environments and thereby a source of growth and jobs while protecting its security and public order, the EU adopted the screening of foreign direct investment into the EU, in force since October 2020. It enables Member States and the European Commission to identify and address security concerns related to specific investments from outside the EU. This becomes all the more important in the economic context flowing from the COVID-19 crisis, where there is a growing need for investment including in sectors which could give rise to security concerns. DG Trade is responsible for both (1) overseeing the cooperation mechanism between all Member States and the Commission on FDI transactions that may pose a risk to security or public order in the EU and (2) analysing notifications relating to FDI transactions received from Member States pursuant to the FDI Screening Regulation 2019/452. This work is done with the new network of contact points in all relevant DGs which provide expertise from a legal, sector and/or specific policy perspective. DG trade is responsible for proposing decisions on all cases, taking into account the views expressed in the inter-service

consultations. DG Trade will also continue contributing to the work led by the Executive Vice-President for a Europe fit for the Digital Age to design a new instrument to address the distortive effects of foreign subsidies in the internal market.

Specific objective 4: Ensuring trade policy is sustainable by effectively contributing to a wider set of EU policy goals, such as the Green Deal, adherence to international commitments on labour and the environment, gender and sustainable supply chains

Deploying trade measures to contribute to sustainability, including the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030, the fight against climate change, biodiversity loss, deforestation and other relevant global environmental priorities outlined in the Commission's European Green Deal as well promoting internationally agreed labour standards and human rights.

In 2021, EU trade policy will continue to contribute to the Treaty objective of **sustainable development in its economic, social and environmental dimensions** both in Europe and in our partner countries, and to boost inclusive and sustainable growth and reduce poverty in developing countries. This specific objective is thus contributing to the Commission's general objectives *A stronger Europe in the world* and *An economy that works for people*.

Where necessary, actions will duly reflect the impact of COVID-19, and possible adjustments to working methods as well as the sustainable elements or accompanying actions key for recovery.

EU trade policy aims to ensure that economic development goes hand in hand with social justice, respect for human rights, high labour standards, and high environmental standards. The EU and its Member States are fully committed to implementing Agenda 2030 and its Sustainable Development Goals through EU policies.

DG Trade will use trade tools to **support sustainable development**. Every new comprehensive trade agreement concluded will have a dedicated chapter on trade and sustainable development to help promote respect of **labour rights** and protect the **environment and climate** in line with the international commitments. The dedicated chapter on Energy and Raw Materials will help to ensure environmentally sustainable investments into mining and energy production, including offshore, while at the same time ensuring the **right regulatory framework for integrating renewable energy** and avoiding subsidising fossil fuels by prohibiting dual pricing. This approach reflects the central role of sustainable energy and raw materials (e.g. for batteries and generators) to meet the broader Green Deal objective. DG Trade will continue to work with FTA partners to ensure the effective implementation and enforcement of relevant trade and sustainable development and Energy and Raw Material provisions, thereby supporting decent work and conservation, sustainable management of the environment and the promotion of renewable energy. DG Trade will develop actions that promote the uptake of these provisions.

Joint monitoring actions with other trade partners will continue. Building on the successful pre-implementation initiative for new FTAs, such as Vietnam and Japan, the Commission will pursue such efforts for upcoming ones, to ensure a promising start of the trade and sustainable development chapter at entry into force. The Commission will also pay close attention to core labour standards and in particular to the elimination of child labour in its trading partner countries¹⁵ in line with the zero-tolerance approach outlined the political guidelines of President Ursula von der Leyen and as part of an overall effort pulling together the different policy areas.

The Commission will bring forward a proposal for **reforming the Generalised Scheme of Preferences** (GSP) Regulation, in addition to continuing to monitor the implementation of the current scheme. This proposal will represent the continuation of actions to implement the findings of the GSP mid-term evaluation that was finalised in 2018. A project to this end started in 2020 including increasing engagement, awareness and analysis of GSP-related issues. Building on the findings of the evaluation, DG Trade will finalise its ex-ante impact assessment in the beginning of 2021, with a view to have the proposal for a new regulation adopted by the College in 2021. This initiative is included in the CWP 2021. The new regulation replaces the existing one that expires in 2023.

With regard to the current scheme, this includes the **GSP+** arrangement, which offers additional preferences to developing countries that commit themselves to implementing core international conventions on human rights, labour rights, environmental protection and good governance, and the **Everything But Arms** (EBA) arrangement, which provides duty and quota free access for all goods from Least Developed Countries (LDCs) except arms and ammunition. Through missions and high level dialogue, DG Trade will continue its enhanced monitoring of a number of EBA countries in 2021.

In 2021, the Commission will update the list of beneficiaries and graduated partners as foreseen in the GSP Regulation.

After a debate involving EU institutions, EU Member States and civil society organisations, on 26 February 2018 the Commission services published a *15-Point* trade and sustainable development *Action Plan*¹⁶ to make the implementation of trade and sustainable development chapters more effective and to improve their enforcement.

DG Trade will **bring forward the review** of the 15-point trade and sustainable development Action Plan to 2021, which was originally foreseen for 2023.

¹⁵ Africa component on the Trade for Decent Work project will focus on activities towards the elimination of child labour in Ivory Coast, Ghana, Madagascar, Mozambique and Cabo Verde in 2021.

¹⁶ [Non-Paper on improving implementation and enforcement of Trade and Sustainable Development chapters in FTAs](#)

Feeding into this review, DG Trade will conduct a **comparative study** looking at how third countries have approached the **implementation and enforcement of trade and sustainable development** provisions in trade agreements.

The trade and sustainable development implementation efforts will continue to be guided by the priorities established for each partner and will rely on an enhanced partnership with Member States, the European Parliament, international organisations and civil society. Since November 2018, a €3 million Partnership Instrument-funded project is available for three years to support civil society involvement in the implementation and monitoring of EU trade agreements.

The Commission will pursue a stronger link between trade policy instruments (e.g. Generalised Scheme of Preferences, sustainable development chapters in FTAs) and cooperation with the aim of promoting labour rights and environmental protection, including actions on climate. Under the *Trade For Decent Work* project, dedicated funding will continue to be provided to the International Labour Organization for capacity building on labour rights in key trading partners, including Myanmar and Vietnam.

The EU will continue to promote pro-actively **due-diligence** practices for responsible global value chains. DG Trade will contribute to the various strands of work within the EU, including the study concerning due diligence issued in February 2020 under the leadership of DG Justice and the review of the 2014 Non-Financial Disclosure Directive. The Directive requires companies with more than 500 employees to disclose information on policies, results and risks concerning environmental aspects, social and employee-related matters, respect for human rights, anti-corruption and bribery issues. When it comes to trade policy, the EU is negotiating dedicated Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)/Responsible Business Conduct (RBC) provisions in our trade and investment agreements. Where FTAs are in force, the implementation of RBC provisions are amongst the EU priorities for nearly every FTA. DG Trade is also working very closely with the OECD and the International Labour Organization on due diligence guidelines and following their implementation. DG Trade's priority for 2021 continues to be the implementation of FTA provisions and these guidelines.

The Commission will actively promote gender equality through its trade policy in 2021. It will continue its active engagement on the issue in the World Trade Organization, including on the implementation of Buenos Aires Declaration. It will gather gender-disaggregated data to ensure that trade-related aspects of gender are adequately addressed in trade agreements and will consider gender impact in trade initiatives.

In 2021, DG Trade will also continue its bilateral work with key trade partners on the negotiation and implementation of trade and gender provisions (e.g. continuing negotiations of gender provisions under the modernised EU-Chile Association Agreement; implementing the work plan for 2020-2021 under the CETA Joint Recommendation on Trade and Gender).

DG Trade will also ensure that trade and sustainable development is covered in multilateral work in key international bodies and fora, notably in the WTO – the Committee on Trade and Environment¹⁷, the Committee on Trade and Development, the 12th WTO Ministerial Conference actions and statements, and through Aid for Trade. DG Trade will also provide support and inputs to the UN notably involving the ILO and UNCTAD, the OECD, the World Bank, the G20, etc.

In 2017, the EU adopted a Regulation to ensure responsible **sourcing of tin, tantalum, tungsten and gold** (sometimes referred to as ‘conflict minerals’) to ensure that EU imports do not indirectly contribute to violent conflict and associated human rights abuses along the supply chain but instead improve the livelihood of local communities. The requirements on EU importers will apply as of 1 January 2021. In the course of 2021, DG Trade will focus on the monitoring and implementation of the conflict minerals initiative.

In terms of the **European Green Deal initiatives** and trade, the Commission will deploy measures and actions to ensure that all relevant EU policies, including its trade policies, should live up to a green commitment to ‘do no harm’. DG Trade will contribute to deliver undistorted trade and investment in all sustainable energy goods and raw materials as well as in associated, green energy technologies, including renewable energy and clean hydrogen. At the same time, the Commission will ensure that all green deal initiatives are compatible with the EU’s international obligations, including WTO rules, and that they achieve their objectives in the most effective and least burdensome and trade distortive way. Under the EU’s Farm to Fork Initiative and in support of the global transition to sustainable agri-food systems, the Commission will work on addressing animal welfare, the use of pesticides and the fight against antimicrobial resistance within its trade relations with third countries.

DG Trade will contribute to international climate and environment actions by promoting ratification and implementation of relevant international conventions through its FTAs and GSP instrument. In respect of internal climate measures, DG Trade will contribute to the design of the **Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM)** to ensure that it will fulfil its objectives in a manner that fully complies with WTO rules.

In the area of **deforestation**, the Commission will propose regulatory measures to avoid or minimise the placing on the EU market of products associated with deforestation or forest degradation. Any measure proposed will also aim to facilitate imports of products and the operation of value chains that are ‘forest-friendly’. Bilaterally, we will continue to prioritise the implementation of TSD sustainable forest management measures with key FTA partners such as Ukraine.

¹⁷ including work on possible Trade and Climate initiative in the WTO and Communication on Trade and Environmental sustainability establishing structured discussions, see.

Specific objective 5: Improve the acceptance and understanding of EU trade policy, in particular, by ensuring that it is pursued in an open, inclusive and transparent manner

More engagement and better communication with the European Parliament, the Council and civil society ensuring that trade policy responds to citizen's concerns.

To enhance legitimacy and public trust, DG Trade will continue with its commitment to ensuring trade policy is transparent and inclusive. This specific objective is thus contributing to the Commission's general objectives *A stronger Europe in the world* and *An economy that works for people*.

DG Trade will maintain the highest levels of transparency and communication with the European Parliament, the Council, stakeholders and the public. It will publish up-to-date information about trade policy on its website in easy-to-understand language, publish press releases, news items and factsheets, and engage actively on Twitter where it has over 50,000 followers. DG Trade's Twitter account is an increasingly important medium for communication and for engaging with stakeholders, especially for extending its reach beyond those based in Brussels. The growing use of audio-visual material on its Twitter account also makes it easier to explain sometimes complex technical issues in a way that is accessible to a broader audience. DG Trade will hold regular meetings of its Civil Society Dialogue on a range of trade policy issues, including through online meetings. These enable more people to take part than is the case in physical meetings, including from beyond Brussels, and with a smaller environmental footprint.

President Ursula von der Leyen made strong commitments in her political guidelines on transparency where she stated *"I will ensure the highest level of transparency, communication and cooperation with the European Parliament and civil society throughout the process."*

DG Trade's communication work will increasingly focus on the implementation, enforcement and legislative aspects of EU trade policy, reflecting the growing importance of these elements. Particular emphasis will also be placed on informing stakeholders of the details of the 2021 Communication on EU Trade Policy, including key issues such as WTO reform and trade policy's role in the post-pandemic recovery plan and the Green and Digital Transformations.

As regards the EU's trade agreements, DG Trade will provide information throughout the negotiating life-cycle, engagement with civil society and stakeholders; publication of documents at the different stages and ensuring easy-to-understand information is available on its website.

Throughout 2021, more engagement and better communication will remain an important asset in debunking myths and ensuring that our trade policy responds to citizens' concerns. DG Trade will inform broad public and specialised audiences, engaging in relevant outreach and communication activities and informing and explaining EU Trade policy to the media.

In 2021, DG Trade will also finalise the review of its Civil Society Dialogue process to assess whether its strategy and purposes remain adequate. The study will identify priority countries and intervention areas, recommending how to improve DG Trade's outreach in the EU.

These measures will further strengthen EU global leadership position in relation to shaping a transparent and inclusive trade and investment policy.

PART 2. Modernising the administration: main outputs for the year

The internal control framework¹⁸ supports sound management and decision-making. It notably ensures that risks to the achievement of objectives are taken into account and reduced to acceptable levels through cost-effective controls. This year the COVID-19 crisis has posed particular challenges to the way in which we operate.

DG Trade has established an internal control system tailored to its particular characteristics and circumstances. The effective functioning of the service's internal control system will be assessed on an ongoing basis throughout the year and be subject to a specific annual assessment covering all internal control principles. In 2021, DG Trade will ensure an efficient and effective use of its financial and human resources allowing the DG to fulfill its objectives and priorities with the necessary flexibility.

A. Human resource management

DG Trade's specific objective is to motivate and retain a highly qualified and flexible pool of staff in order to maintain effective and efficient operation of DG Trade.

The delivery of DG Trade's mission and objectives are closely linked to the resources available and therefore strategic HR planning is imperative. This is why, in addition to our continuous monitoring and analysis, we will revise in early 2021 our multiannual DG Trade HR strategy. The recent change of portfolio Commissioner responsible for trade and investment policy, the ongoing revision of the corporate HR Strategy and the finalisation of the Trade Policy Review will allow us to bring together a number of forward looking policy elements and view them together with our resource situation in order to further improve synergies and efficiencies in the DG.

DG Trade's revised HR strategy, and building on the six pillars identified in the corporate HR Strategy, will aim at maintaining a knowledgeable, flexible, motivated and healthy workforce while at the same time offer opportunities to all categories of staff, in different grades and functions at different stages in their career both in Headquarters and in EU Delegations. In this context we are following up and delivering on specific actions to respond to the results of the staff opinion survey 2018 in the form of dedicated working groups in the area of communication and collaboration and career development. The results of the working groups will also feed into more concrete actions in the revised local HR strategy in 2021.

¹⁸ [Communication C\(2017\)2373 - Revision of the Internal Control Framework](#)

Given the continued high workload in DG Trade, the current particular working environment in the Covid context, and the political sensitivity of DG Trade's agenda, further actions seeking to improve work-life balance, health and well-being will become an even more pertinent priority for the coming year.

More specifically, in our efforts to support the corporate gender targets, DG Trade will continue to support its commitment to promote gender equality at DG level. While we have already fulfilled our target of first appointments of female middle management, we continue our efforts to ensure a balanced pool of AD staff in 2021 and to work towards our new target set for end of 2023. In addition, we will closely monitor the situation at senior management level and will closely follow-up on the corporate initiative adopted by the Commission end of October 2020.

Furthermore, as part of its HR strategy, DG Trade will continue its efforts in ensuring efficient and effective planning of its human resources. DG Trade will continue to carry out spring and autumn reviews, where, together with senior management, the human resource and mobility situation in the DG are assessed in both the short- and long-term. This process helps DG Trade's senior management to identify any needs in terms of reinforcement or internal redeployments of staff. This ensures a continuous redistribution of human resources within the DG so that DG Trade can meet its priorities while at the same time balancing insufficient staff levels and also staff turnover.

Close collaboration and continuous discussions with senior and middle managers enable the forward planning and optimisation of human resources needed for implementing DG Trade's policy objectives while at the same time ensuring staff engagement through learning and development, well-being and diversity actions in line with the Commission's talent management, diversity and fit@work policy. In 2021, and in addition to organising trade policy related training events, a particular emphasis will be put on management development and well-being.

The impact of the COVID-19 crisis on the way we work and the subsequent shift to teleworking for most staff for a long period highlighted even further the need for effective and innovative internal coordination at all levels with the DG, reflected for example, in a weekly blog shared with all staff by our Director-General during the first phase of the crisis up to summer 2020, or the increased use of vlogs to keep staff informed.

Objective: DG Trade employs a competent and engaged workforce and contributes to gender equality at all levels of management to effectively deliver on the Commission's priorities and core business

Main outputs in 2021:

Output	Indicator	Target
Organisation of suitable training courses to ensure that the DG has the skilled, knowledgeable and competent staff required to meet	Number of trade policy related training courses/lunch time sessions organised in 2021	10 trade policy related training courses/lunch time sessions

its present and future needs within all categories of staff	Average number of participants in the WTO Law courses	On average 15 participants per WTO Law course
Contribute to gender equality at all levels of management	Number and percentage of first female appointments to middle management positions	1 first female appointment
Employ a competent and engaged workforce	DG Trade staff engagement index Baseline 2018, 74%	Maintain/above baseline
Increase the pool of AD women, who could potentially be interested in a managerial position, to ensure gender diversity primarily at middle management level through organisation of pre-management training sessions	Percentage of AD female staff in DG Trade in 2016 19.09%. [source: Clikview -01/01/2016 - % of total staff]	>19.09 %
	Percentage of women in middle management (baseline 1 December 2019, 32%, 10 female middle managers) [source: DG Trade HR Dashboard]	≥30 %
	Number of pre-management training sessions organised	2 training sessions with an average of 10 participants
The organisation of health or well-being events for all DG Trade staff in line with the DG TRADE's Action Plan	Number of health or well-being events organised in 2020	2 events
	Average number of participants in the workshops organised during these events	An average of 10 participants in each workshop
Preparation of draft HR Strategy and Action plan for 2021-2024	Approval of draft HR Strategy and action plan by Director-General	2021
Internal communication: regular debriefings for staff on major policy initiatives to ensure staff are well informed of the latest developments in trade policy and major Commission initiatives	The number of debriefings for staff on trade policy developments	4 debriefings
Issue an accessible Daily Trade Press Review to inform staff of how trade issues are reported in the media and what DG trade staff in HQ and delegations are working on with a view to reinforcing the team spirit and motivation within the DG and with staff in delegations	Number of working days on which the Daily Trade Press Review is issued	All working days except during the summer break

B. Sound financial management

DG Trade's specific objective in financial management is to plan, perform, monitor and report on the spending of financial resources with a view to ensure a sound, legal and regular financial management for the DG's activities.

Although DG Trade manages a relatively small budget, it does acquire services for economic and impact assessment studies, for organising conferences and negotiation rounds, for IT support, and for legal and other services. These services are generally provided by specialised consultants or service providers through public procurement. In addition, DG Trade also executes part of its operational budget by concluding Pillar Assessed Contribution and Grant Agreements with international organisations.

The budget is mainly implemented through direct management, while the contributions to international organisations are usually implemented through contribution agreements, i.e. indirect management. DG Trade is expected to continue to operate a decentralised financial circuit with counter-weight. All transactions are therefore subject to an independent, ex-ante financial verification. No ex-post function is set up. In addition, a combination of preventive, detective and corrective controls are embedded into the programming and planning, verification, execution and monitoring, management and reporting and communication processes so as to ensure effective mitigation of the financial and management risks.

These include:

- An annual programming exercise and two mid-term reviews of budget implementation and human resource management;
- An up-to-date Finance Manual, complemented by hands-on guidance, local training and references to central guidance;
- An annual assessment of the functioning of the Internal Control Framework in DG Trade.
- Financial circuits designed to ensure compliance with the Financial Regulation;
- Regular accounting controls;
- Formal reporting requirements and hand-over procedures for Authorising Officers by Sub Delegation;
- Detailed management reporting on key human and financial resource related indicators (Resources report and spring and autumn reviews);
- Weekly bulletins on payment delays sent to Administrative Coordination Assistants and Heads of Unit;
- An Administrative Coordination Assistant's network.

Objective: The authorising officer by delegation has reasonable assurance that resources have been used in accordance with the principles of sound financial management and that cost-effective controls are in place which give the necessary guarantees concerning the legality and regularity of underlying transactions

Main outputs in 2021:

Output	Indicator	Target
Effective controls: Legal and regular transactions	Risk at payment	remains < 2 % of relevant expenditure
	Estimated risk at closure	remains < 2 % of relevant expenditure
Effectiveness of controls carried out	Number of exceptions and non-compliance events	Keep stable / reduce
	Number of decisions overriding of controls Source: DG Trade internal Registry	Zero
	No of legal cases following complaints in procurement procedures Source: DG Trade	Zero
Efficient controls	Budget execution and time-to-pay	remains 100% of payment appropriations and remains 95% of payments (in number) on time
Economical controls	Overall estimated cost of controls	remains below 10% of funds managed
Functioning of the internal control system	Conclusion reached on the assessment of the internal control system	The internal control system is present and functioning well
Quality of the internal training sessions on financial procedures	Overall evaluation in the surveys of the internal training sessions on financial procedures	Above 8

C. Fraud risk management

A combination of preventive, detective and corrective controls are embedded into the programming and planning, verification, execution and monitoring, management and reporting and communication processes so as to ensure effective mitigation of the financial and management risks. These include a DG Trade-specific ethics framework including an anti-fraud strategy, in line with the new Commission Anti-Fraud Strategy, and on which DG Trade intends to increase the level of staff awareness.

DG Trade will continue to raise awareness about fraud, ethics and integrity and internal procedures through information events, internal communication and trainings. Furthermore, DG Trade will participate in the Fraud Prevention and Detection Network (FPDNet) and will monitor the implementation of the actions planned for 2021 in the anti-fraud strategy.

Objective: The risk of fraud is minimised through the application of effective anti-fraud measures and the implementation of the Commission Anti-Fraud Strategy (CAFS)¹⁹ aimed at the prevention, detection and correction²⁰ of fraud

Main outputs in 2021:

Output	Indicator	Target
Raising awareness about fraud and internal procedures	Events to inform about the financial rules and potential areas of fraud	At least once per year
	In TDI context: Organise regular training courses, in particular for newcomers, exchange of experience and best practices	At least once per year
Integrity and compliance	Internal communication and training on ethics, with and special emphasis on conflict of interest, relations with lobbyist, duty of discretion and whistleblowing	At least once per year
Implementation of the anti-fraud strategy as planned for 2021	% of implementation of actions planned for 2021 in the anti-fraud strategy	100%

¹⁹ Communication from the Commission 'Commission Anti-Fraud Strategy: enhanced action to protect the EU budget', COM(2019) 176 of 29 April 2019 – 'the CAFS Communication' – and the accompanying action plan, SWD(2019) 170 – 'the CAFS Action Plan'.

²⁰ Correction of fraud is an umbrella term, which notably refers to the recovery of amounts unduly spent and to administrative sanctions.

D. Digital transformation and information management

DG Trade's specific objective in the area of data protection is based on the Commission's action plan and on the accountability principle which calls for a higher degree of ownership for data protection by Commission's top managers and a more intense engagement of all Commission staff in ensuring and demonstrating compliance with data protection rules in their daily tasks. The awareness raising aims to embed data protection principles in the daily routine of DG Trade staff. DG Trade continues systematically to ensure that all the IT tools and IT systems developed in house incorporate the currently applicable data protection rules and principles, such as privacy by design and privacy by default and security obligations. DG Trade participates also in multi-DG initiatives notably contributing in kind to the CASE@EC corporate project. To raise awareness on data protection, DG Trade's Data Protection Coordinator (DPC) continues to give hands-on specific trainings to all new delegated controllers. Additionally, the DPC provides tailored data protection sessions upon request, individually, or as a part of unit meetings. Data protection is also a part of DG Trade's induction course for newcomers, which is organised at least twice a year.

Digital Transformation: Information is a major asset for DG Trade. There is a need to move away from managing documents in a registry-like fashion to managing the whole lifecycle of the information. Sherlock, Sherpa and Tron contribute to this objective. For that purpose, we also need to support collaboration with efficient tools and user support. The goal is to put in place a one-stop shop for collaboration spaces (output 4), making available an integrated trade statistical information system (output 2) and supporting the use of policy applications by means of a comprehensive service desk (output 3). DG Trade intends to extend the use of current and future corporate tools for information and knowledge management, taking into account its specific security needs. DG Trade is therefore developing a more strategic approach to encourage knowledge sharing and collaborative working, in line with the corporate framework, such as developing a share-by-default approach combined with a need-to-know confidentiality scheme. The objective will be, among others, to identify the information assets of corporate interest that could be shared with other services, notably for transparency obligations.

DG Trade has presented the following four contributions to the Digital Transformation initiative, which is part of the European Commission Digital Strategy (ECDS):

1	Access2Markets FTA implementation (contributes to output 1, sharing information and knowledge with third parties)	Communication and knowledge management
2	Case Management TRON Sherlock Sherpa GSP monitoring	Electronic workflows and communication between the Commission and businesses
3	eLicensing platform	Paperless and cross-border cooperation
4	FDI screening	Electronic transmission and management of classified information

The contributions and the associated projects aim to contribute to modernising the Commission and in particular DG Trade. To achieve this goal, these activities will abide by the EC Digital Strategy principles that include Digital by Default, ensuring security and privacy, guaranteeing Openness, Transparency and Interoperability, while being user centric and data driven.

Document Management: Concerning document management, systematic filing of documents in Ares is a prerequisite for the effective and efficient sharing and reuse of the information managed in the Commission’s records management system Hermes-Ares-NomCom (HAN). It is also important for ensuring a transparent approach to policy making. DG Trade will pursue its strategy of awareness raising and promoting the active use of Ares by all staff and management, together with a systematic monitoring of the use made by all DG Trade departments. A particular focus will be on increasing the registration of financial documentation within Ares based on an analysis of the established document management practices for financial files.

The integration of Trade IT systems with HAN is another essential area to achieve efficient sharing and reuse of information. After BASIS (corporate briefing tool) and EMT (recording and reporting meetings with external stakeholders), other applications such as the Public Procurement and Management Tool (PPMT) follow the same scheme.

These initiatives should generate efficiency gains, make processes faster and facilitate a more comprehensive use of the HAN tools.

Objective: DG Trade is using innovative, trusted digital solutions for better policy-shaping, information management and administrative processes to forge a truly digitally transformed, user-focused and data-driven Commission

Main outputs in 2021:

Output	Indicator	Target
(1) Sharing information and knowledge with third parties	Publish an information system aggregating information supporting imports and exports to the EU with special attention to SMEs	Q1 2021
(2) Managing information and knowledge within DG Trade	Operate a Data Warehouse integrating the statistical data supporting negotiations and trade defence cases	Q1 2021
(3) Managing information and knowledge within DG Trade	Operate a Service Desk supporting DG Trade’s information systems	Q1 2021
(4) Managing information and knowledge within DG Trade	Operate a One-stop Shop for collaboration spaces	Q1 2021
Using innovative, trusted digital solutions	Degree of implementation of the digital strategy principles by the	50%

	most important IT solutions	
Managing information and knowledge within DG Trade	Percentage of DG Trade's key data assets for which corporate principles for data governance have been implemented	40%
Handling email registration in Ares	Number of emails registered with AresLook	Maintaining the proportion of one-third of the total documents registered in Ares
Better use of electronic workflows, with the reduction of errors caused by the double circulation and the reduction of paper storage	Number of Ares registered documents with a fully approved e-signatory (no paper circulation in parallel).	=/> 90% of registered documents approved in full electronic mode (without paper signatories circulation)
Awareness raising activities on data protection	Percentage of staff attending awareness raising activities on data protection compliance	75% Senior and middle management 50 % staff

E. Sound environmental management

DG Trade will promote the EMAS corporate campaigns at local level and set local environmental actions to support the Commission to reach its environmental targets in line with the EMAS Global Action Plan 2021. DG Trade will actively participate and promote campaigns focused on efficient use of resources and will raise awareness in the field of smart mobility. And as conducting an important number and often long distance missions DG Trade will also actively contribute to Commission's ongoing reflection as regard to missions and the reduction of its carbon footprint. In this regard, DG Trade is already updating its video conference facilities with a view to increasing the number of virtual meetings that could replace certain missions. DG Trade commits itself to review its day-to-day activities in order to identify critical areas and, if detected, to adjust the practice to mitigate or eliminate possible negative impact on the environment.

Objective: DG Trade takes full account of its environmental impact in all its actions and actively promotes measures to reduce the related day-to-day impact of the administration and its work

Main results and outputs in 2021:

Output	Indicator	Target
Promoting corporate EMAS actions and campaigns	Number of campaigns	100%
Awareness raising on waste generation and resources consumption per building and on observed trends, based on verified data from the Commission's	Number of staff informed	100%

Environmental Statement		
Awareness raising about the EU Mobility week (September) and VeloMai corporate events (May)	Number of staff informed	100%
Introduce a DG-specific office supplies' catalogue, including only 100% 'green items'	Rate of green supplies ordered by the DG	100%
Gradual upgrade and increased use of VC meeting rooms in DG TRADE, in collaboration with DG SCIC	Number of DG Trade VC rooms	50% of DG Trade's meeting rooms
Participation in the end of the year energy saving action, by closing down DG/service's buildings during the Christmas and New Year's holiday period.	Number of staff present in the offices	No staff present in the offices
Report on DG Trade's EMAS activities	Presentation of the report to DG Trade's senior management	4Q 2021

F. Examples of initiatives to improve economy and efficiency of financial and non-financial activities

DG Trade is continuously fine-tuning its internal arrangements in order to improve the efficiency and economy of its operations. The following two initiatives show how these principles are implemented in DG Trade:

Example 1 - HR management

DG Trade, in its efforts to respond to the external economic and geopolitical challenges, with limited human resources coupled with increased workload, has as part of its restructuring which entered into force in July 2020 introduced new flexible ways of working by creating cross-DG project teams. A recent example is the project team set up in response to the Covid-19 situation where DG Trade, among other services, was forced to react rapidly with cross-DG competences. Additional project teams covering core trade policy matters are in the pipeline and will be set up in 2021 in a further attempt to absorb the effects of this highly sensitive political environment in which DG Trade is operating. At the same time, the set up of project teams will also assist in maintaining a high level of staff engagement as it responds to concerns expressed by staff in the latest staff survey.

Example 2 – streamlining financial management

DG Trade continues to follow-up closely the development of the eProcurement project and pursues the deployment of the ensuing applications as the main driver of efficiency gains in financial management. In response to Covid-19 situation, in 2020 DG Trade introduced a fully electronic circuit for all payment files. This way of working is expected to continue in 2021 and beyond. Moreover for the year 2021, DG Trade plans to replace, whenever legally and technically possible, the physical 'blue ink' signature by the EQS (Electronic Qualified Signature) for all contracts and contribution agreements.

ANNEX 1: Performance tables

General objective: A stronger Europe in the world		
Specific objective 1: Lead the reform of the World Trade Organization to preserve rules-based trade		
Main outputs in 2021:		
New policy initiatives		
Output	Indicator	Target
Trade policy review, including WTO reform initiative ²¹ <i>PLAN/2020/7987</i>	College adoption	Q1 2021
 Proposal for a Regulation amending Regulation (EU) No 654/2014 of the EP and of the Council concerning the exercise of the Union's rights for the application and enforcement of international trade rules	Adoption by the EP and Council	2021
Other important outputs		
Output	Indicator	Target
Proposal for a Council Decision on Union position on International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) reform <i>PLAN/2020/7534</i>	Commission proposal for a Council Decision	Q1 2021
Proposal for a Council Decision on the Appointment of the Members of the Investment Court System's Tribunal under CETA <i>PLAN/2019/5359</i>	Commission proposal for a Council Decision	Q2 2021
WTO reform across the three pillars: rulemaking, dispute settlement and regular work	Advancing ongoing negotiations in Geneva	Throughout 2021
Proposals on e-commerce and domestic regulation	Negotiating rounds	Throughout 2021
Investment facilitation	Negotiation rounds	Throughout 2021

²¹ Initiative included in 2020 Adjusted Commission Work Programme, adoption originally envisaged for Q4 2020

Proposal for a Council Decision on the accession of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the WTO <i>2012/TRADE/028</i>	Commission proposal for a Council Decision	Q1 2021
Proposal for a Council Decision on the accession of Serbia to the WTO <i>2012/TRADE/029</i>	Commission proposal for a Council Decision	Q2 2021
Proposal for a Council Decision on the accession of Comoros to the WTO <i>PLAN/2018/2912</i>	Commission proposal for a Council Decision	Q2 2021
Proposal for a Council Decisions on MC 12 decision <i>PLAN/2019/5962</i> <i>PLAN/2019/5963</i>	Commission proposal for a Council Decision	Q2 2021

General objective: An economy that works for people

Specific objective 2: Creating opportunities for European businesses through new and existing negotiations and an additional effort to monitor and improve the implementation and compliance of existing trade agreements

Main outputs in 2021:

New policy initiatives

Output	Indicator	Target
 Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council setting up a Union regime for the control of exports, transfer, brokering, technical assistance and transit of dual-use items (recast) <i>COM(2016)616 final</i>	Adoption by the EP and the Council	Q2 2021
 Amended proposal for a Regulation on the access of third-country goods and services to the Union's internal market in public procurement and procedures supporting negotiations on access of Union goods and services to the public procurement markets of third countries <i>COM(2016) 34 final</i>	Adoption by the EP and the Council	Q4 2021
Progress in the trade negotiations with Indonesia	Adoption of negotiating directives by the Council Launch of negotiations Negotiating rounds	2016 July 2016 2021
Progress in the trade negotiations with Australia and New Zealand	Adoption of negotiating directives by the Council Launch of negotiations Negotiating rounds: NZ Negotiating rounds: Australia	May 2018 June 2018 2021 2021
Progress in the negotiations of the Modernisation of the trade part of the EU-Chile Association Agreement	Negotiating rounds	2021
Council decisions on signature, and conclusion of the modernised EU-Mexico Agreement	Commission proposal for Council Decisions	Q3 2021
Council Decisions on signature and conclusion of the EU-MERCOSUR	Commission proposal for Council Decisions	Q4 2021- to be confirmed

Agreement		
Evaluations and fitness checks		
Output	Indicator	Target
Evaluation of the CARIFORUM Economic Partnership Agreement ²² <i>PLAN/2017/2308</i>	Interim report	Q2 2020
	Final report	Q4 2020
	Staff Working Document	Q1 2021
Evaluation of the trade pillar of six EU Association Agreements with Euromed countries (Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia) ²³ <i>PLAN/2017/1317</i>	Interim report	Q2 2020
	Final report	Q4 2020
	Staff Working Document	Q2 2021
Ex post evaluation of the EU-Colombia/Ecuador/Peru Trade Agreement <i>PLAN/2018/2807</i>	Interim report	Q4 2020
	Final report	Q2 2021
	Staff Working Document	Q3 2021
Evaluation of the Trade Part of the EU-Central America Association Agreement <i>PLAN/2018/4639</i>	Interim report	Q4 2021
	Final report	Q2 2022
	Staff Working Document	Q3 2022
Ex post evaluation of the EU-Georgia and the EU-Moldova DCFTA Agreements <i>PLAN/2019/6099</i>	Interim report	Q3 2021
	Final report	Q1 2022
	Staff Working Document	Q2 2022
Public consultations		
Output	Indicator	Target
Sustainability Impact Assessment (SIA) for FTAs with Malaysia and the Philippines	Inception Report	Q2 2018
	Interim Report	Q4 2018
	Final Report	Q1 2021
	Commission Position Paper	Q1 2021
SIA for Agreement with Mercosur	Inception Report	Q1 2018
	Interim Report	Q1 2020
	Final Report	Q3 2020
	Commission Position Paper	Q1 2021
SIA for the FTA negotiations with Australia and New Zealand	Inception Report	Q2 2019
	Interim report	Q2 2019
	Final report	Q1 2021
	Commission Position Paper	Q1 2021
SIA for deepening of EU-ESA EPA combined with ex post evaluation	Inception Report	Q1 2021
	Interim report	Q2 2021

²² Initiative included in 2020 Adjusted Commission Work Programme

²³ Initiative included in 2020 Adjusted Commission Work Programme

	Final report	Q3 2021
	Commission Position Paper	Q4 2021
Other important outputs		
Output	Indicator	Target
EU-China Investment Agreement	Commission proposal for a Council Decision	Q3 2021 –if the conditions are met
Council Decision on the amendment of Annex 2-C of the Korea-EU Free Trade Agreement <i>PLAN/2020/9583</i>	Commission proposal for a Council Decision	Q4 2021
Council Decision on adopting the rules of procedure of the Trade Committee under the EU-Singapore FTA	Commission proposal for a Council Decision	Q1 2021
Council Decision regarding the establishment of a list of arbitrators, under the EU-Singapore FTA <i>PLAN/2020/7531</i>	Commission proposal for a Council Decision	Q1 2021
Council Decision on establishing the rules of procedure for the Panel of Experts on trade and sustainable development under the EU-Singapore FTA	Commission proposal for a Council Decision	Q1 2021
Council Decision on establishing the list of experts on trade and sustainable development under the EU-Singapore FTA	Commission proposal for a Council Decision	Q1 2021
Council Decision on adopting the rules of procedure of the Trade Committee under the EU-Vietnam FTA <i>PLAN/2020/9863</i>	Commission proposal for a Council Decision	Q1 2021
Council Decision regarding the establishment of a list of arbitrators, under the EU-Vietnam FTA <i>PLAN/2020/8274</i>	Commission proposal for a Council Decision	Q2 2021
Council Decision on establishing the list of experts on trade and sustainable development under the EU-Vietnam FTA <i>PLAN/2020/9866</i>	Commission proposal for a Council Decision	Q1 2021
Council Decision on establishing the rules of procedure for the Panel of Experts on trade and sustainable development under the EU-Vietnam FTA <i>PLAN/2020/9864</i>	Commission proposal for a Council Decision	Q1 2021

Council decision regarding the modification of Trade Committee Decisions of EU-Colombia-Ecuador-Peru Trade Agreement to update the arbitrators and TSD experts lists <i>PLAN/2020/7976</i>	Commission proposal for a Council Decision	Q1 2021
Council decision regarding the amendment of Section A to Appendix 1 of Annex XII ('Government Procurement') to the EU-Colombia-Ecuador-Peru Trade Agreement <i>PLAN/2020/7973</i>	Commission proposal for a Council Decision	Q1 2021
Energy Charter Treaty modernisation: update of the substantive investment protection rules <i>PLAN/2018/4770</i>	Adoption of negotiating directives by the Council Negotiations rounds	July 2019 2021
Enhancement of the EU Turkey bilateral trade relations and the modernisation of the Custom Union	Launch of negotiations	When conditions are right
Council Decision on amending the Customs Annex of the EU-Ukraine AA/DCFTA <i>PLAN/2018/3014</i>	Commission proposal for a Council Decision	Q1 2021
Council Decision on establishing the list of experts on trade and sustainable development under the EU-Ukraine AA/DCFTA <i>PLAN/2018/3015</i>	Commission proposal for a Council Decision	Q1 2021
Council Decision on amending the Services' Annex of the EU-Ukraine AA/DCFTA <i>PLAN/2018/3017</i>	Commission proposal for a Council Decision	Q1 2021
Council Decision on Phase 1 on public procurement of the EU-Ukraine AA <i>PLAN/2020/6764</i>	Commission proposal for a Council Decision	Q1 2021
Council Decision on amending the Services' Annex of the EU-Moldova AA/DCFTA <i>PLAN/2018/4624</i>	Commission proposal for a Council Decision	Q2 2021
Council Decision as regards the amendment of Annexes XVI and XXVIII-B of the EU-Moldova Association Agreement. <i>PLAN/2020/8055</i>	Commission proposal for a Council Decision	Q1 2021
Council Decision as regards the	Commission proposal for a Council	Q4 2021

establishment list of arbitrators for the EU-Moldova DCFTA <i>PLAN/2020/8056</i>	Decision	
Council Decision as regards the recognition of partial implementation by Moldova of the roadmap in Annex XXIX-B to Chapter 8 on public procurement <i>PLAN/2020/8057</i>	Commission proposal for a Council Decision	Q1 2021
Council Decision on amending the Services' Annex of the EU-Georgia <i>PLAN/2018/4621</i>	Commission proposal for a Council Decision	Q2 2021
Council Decision on updating the Annex on telecommunication services of the EU-Georgia Association Agreement <i>PLAN/2019/4974</i>	Commission proposal for a Council Decision	Q1 2021
Council Decision on updating the Annex on postal & courier services of the EU-Georgia Association Agreement <i>PLAN/2019/4975</i>	Commission proposal for a Council Decision	Q1 2021
Council Decision regarding the adoption of Georgia's roadmap for implementation of the public procurement chapter and the completion of phase 1 of Annex XVI-B to Chapter 8 on public procurement <i>PLAN/2020/8060</i>	Commission proposal for a Council Decision	Q1 2021
Trade part of AA with the Micro States	Completion of negotiations	Q2 2021
Trade part of Association Agreement with Azerbaijan	Completion of negotiations	Q1 2021
Trade Title of the Comprehensive Agreement with Kyrgyz Republic	Entry into force of the trade part of the Agreement	Q4 2021
Trade Title of the Comprehensive Agreement with Uzbekistan	Completion of negotiations	Q4 2021
Adoption of the list of arbitrators and chairpersons as foreseen by the Chapter on Dispute Settlement, Title III (Trade and Business) of the EU-Kazakhstan Enhanced Partnership and Cooperation Agreement <i>PLAN/2018/4712</i>	Commission proposal for a Council Decision	Q1 2021
Council Decision on Rules of Procedure, Code of Conduct and Mediation Mechanism for the	Commission proposal for a Council Decision	Q2 2021

implementation of the EU-Armenia CEPA Agreement <i>PLAN/2018/3385</i>		
Technical and financial assistance package on the phasing out of the use of Cognac complementing the Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement with Armenia, concerning implementation of commitments on Geographical Indications <i>PLAN/2018/4627</i>	Conclusion of the technical and financial assistance package	Q2 2021
2021 Commission Annual Report on Implementation of EU Free Trade Agreements	College adoption	Q4 2021
2020 Report from the Commission to the Parliament and the Council on Trade and Investment Barriers <i>PLAN/2020/9684</i>	College adoption	Q2 2021
Third Country Report on intellectual property rights <i>PLAN/2020/8183</i>	Commission Staff Working Document	Q2 2021
Council Decision on the new set of OECD guidelines regarding the minimum Commercial Interest Reference Rates (CIRR) <i>PLAN/2019/5765</i>	Commission proposal for a Council Decision	Q1 2021
Council Decision on the revised guidelines regarding local cost support in the OECD Arrangement <i>PLAN/2019/5766</i>	Commission proposal for a Council Decision	Q1 2021
Annual Report on negotiations in the field of Export Credits in 2017 <i>PLAN/2019/5427</i>	College adoption	Q1 2021
2019 Annual Review of Member States' Annual Activity Reports on Export Credits <i>PLAN/2020/9584</i>	College adoption	Q2 2021
2020 Annual Report on Implementation of Regulation (EC) No 428/2009 <i>PLAN/2020/8078</i>	College adoption	Q1 2021
Commission Recommendation on internal compliance programmes for research activities involving dual-use items <i>PLAN/2020/8150</i>	College adoption	Q1 2021
Council Decision regarding Mutual	Commission proposals for a	Q1 2021


Recognition Agreement between the EU and Canada on the recognition of professional qualifications of Architects <i>PLAN/2020/8169</i>	Council Decision	
Council Decision on rules of origin under the EU-Central Africa EPA <i>PLAN/2017/2222</i>	Commission proposals for a Council Decision	Q2 2021
Council Decision concerning the list of arbitrators under the EU-Pacific EPA <i>PLAN/2017/2243</i>	Commission proposals for a Council Decision	Q3 2021
Council Decision concerning the Rules of Procedure for Dispute Settlement and Code of Conduct for Arbitrators and Mediators under the EU-Pacific States EPA <i>PLAN/2017/2246</i>	Commission proposal for a Council Decision	Q3 2021
Council Decision concerning the accession of Tonga to the EU-Pacific States EPA <i>PLAN/2018/4710</i>	Commission proposal for a Council Decision	Q3 2021
Council Decision on the accession of Croatia - Cariforum EU EPA <i>PLAN/2017/2305</i>	Commission proposal for a Council Decision	Q2 2021
Commission Decision on Joint Declaration between the European Union and the Pacific States on trade and sustainable development <i>PLAN/2020/6944</i>	Commission Decision	Q3 2021

General objective: An economy that works for people

Specific objective 3: Protecting EU companies and citizens from unfair trade and investment by making full use of existing Trade Defence Instruments, developing new tools and focusing on enforcement of existing commitments at an EU or international level

Main outputs in 2021:

New policy initiatives

Output	Indicator	Target
 Instrument to deter and counteract coercive actions by third countries <i>PLAN/2020/9688</i>	College adoption	Q4 2021

Other important outputs

Output	Indicator	Target
Tackling and preventing overcapacity and its trade distortions	Implementation of the G20 commitments in the Global Forum for Steel Excess Capacity. Enhance actionable information and policy response regarding overcapacity in the steel sector.	In 2021 to continue work in coordination with Member States in the GFSEC and in the OECD Steel Committee to address steel excess capacity, including in the G20.
TDI investigations conducted in an effective and efficient manner	Completion of investigations within statutory deadlines or, whenever possible, a month earlier. Timeliness of conclusion of investigations	Conclude all the investigations within the statutory deadlines.
Changes in the EU's trade defence investigations by documenting reviews of confidential data received and improving guidance on dealing with relevant competition issues in Union Interest test; increasing awareness of TDI in EU industry, including SMEs; identifying measures where risk of circumvention exists and prioritising third country cases for follow-up.	Implementation of five of the European Court of Auditors recommendations in the Report 17/2020	Q4 2021
Commission Delegated Regulation amending the Annex to Regulation (EU) 2019/287 of the European Parliament and of the Council implementing bilateral safeguard clauses and other mechanisms	College Adoption	Q2 2021


allowing for the temporary withdrawal of preferences in certain trade agreements concluded between the European Union and third countries <i>PLAN/2020/9334</i>		
Commission Implementing Regulation amending certain Regulations imposing anti-dumping or anti-subsidy measures on certain steel products subject to safeguard measures	College Adoption	Q2 2021

**General objective: A stronger Europe in the world
An economy that works for people**

Specific objective 4: Ensuring trade policy is sustainable by effectively contributing to a wider set of EU policy goals, such as the Green Deal, adherence to international commitments on labour and the environment, gender and sustainable supply chains

Main outputs in 2021:

New policy initiatives

Output	Indicator	Target
 Proposal for a regulation towards the future Generalised Scheme of Preferences legal framework granting trade advantages to developing countries <i>PLAN/2019/4979</i>	College adoption	Q2 2021

Public consultations

Output	Indicator	Target
Impact assessment for the review of GSP Regulation	Inception Report for the support study Interim Report Final Report	Q1 2020 Q3 2020 Q1 2021

Other important outputs

Output	Indicator	Target
List of experts under Trade and Sustainable Development Chapter of the EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement <i>PLAN/2019/5971</i>	Commission proposal for a Council Decision	Q1 2021
Commission Regulation amending Commission Regulation 1418/2007 on non-hazardous waste exports to non-OECD countries <i>2015/Trade/037</i>	College adoption	Q1 2021

**General objective: A stronger Europe in the world
An economy that works for people**

Specific objective 5: Improve the acceptance and understanding of EU trade policy, in particular, by ensuring that it is pursued in an open, inclusive and transparent manner

Main outputs in 2021:

External communication actions

Output/ Result	Indicator	Target
Engagement with civil society and stakeholders	Civil Society Dialogue meetings to update on ongoing individual negotiations, discuss draft reports of SIAs or to discuss the overall trade agenda	12 - 16 meetings – (taking into account the Covid-19 impact)
	Meetings of Domestic Advisory Groups (DAGs) as well as Civil Society Forums in framework of existing Trade Agreements	35 meetings (23 DAG and 12 Civil Society Fora)
Social Media (Twitter)	Engagement rate Engagements Total impressions Total video views	1% per year 1000 per month 8 million per year 500k per year
Engagement by stakeholders and the public	Public consultations (including on Trade Policy Review)	4
Access2Markets Information and Communication campaign		
Training events (1 per target country)	Number of participants, overall satisfaction	325 participants engaged and invited. High satisfaction rate of all attendees
Representation at existing events with stand or speaker (one of each per target country)	Number of participants (registration data), indirect audience reach	1300 participants engaged and invited. Increased level of awareness of attendees High satisfaction rate of all attendees
Press & media relations 13 countries (10% in 2020; 90% in 2021)	Earned clippings in online, print, AV media featuring campaign mentionings and campaign stories / testimonials and campaign events Additional local/regional media partnerships with online, print, AV media Placement of campaign content on partners channels (e.g. websites, newsletters, social	Averages of 2-20 clippings per month estimated reach 29,000,000

<p>Paid Media (print and online) 13 countries; 25/1/21-21/3/21</p>	<p>media, etc.)</p> <p>LinkedIn - Number of sent direct emails on LinkedIn</p> <p>Social Media - Number of impressions</p> <p>Display Advertising - Number of impressions</p>	<p>Estimated impressions per channel (~27M)</p> <p>Print 17,071,138</p> <p>Online 5,870,615</p> <p>Social Media 4,152,334</p>
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ANNEX 2: Overview of on-going bilateral negotiations

Time line Negotiations	Impact assessment completed	Scoping	Recommendations to negotiate adopted by Commission	Recommendations to negotiate adopted by Council	Negotiations launched	Technical conclusion/ Political agreement	Legal scrubbing completed	Initialling	Translation done	Proposal to sign and conclude adopted by COM	Proposals adopted by Council	Consent by EP
Finalisation												
West Africa	-		April 2002	June 2002	October 2003	February 2014	June 2014	June 2014	September 2014	September 2014	December 2014	[²⁴]
East African Community (EAC)	-		April 2002	June 2002	February 2004	October 2014	September 2015	Oct 2014	February 2016	February 2016	June 2016	[²⁵]
Modernisation of the trade part of the EU-Mexico Global Agreement	September 2014	√	December 2015	May 2016	June 2016	April 2020	ongoing	<i>The texts of the trade part of the agreement have been published. Once the Commission procedures are finalised, the texts and offers will need to undergo translation into all EU languages, before the Commission can start the necessary internal procedures for the transmission of the agreement to the Council and European Parliament.</i>				
Mercosur	-	√	1999	-	Re-launch May 2010	June 2020	ongoing	<i>Both sides are engaged in the legal revision of the agreement. Once finalised, the texts and offers will need to undergo translation into all EU languages, before the Commission can start the necessary internal procedures for the transmission of the agreement to the Council and European Parliament.</i>				
China investment agreement	May 2013	√	May 2013	October 2013	November 2013	December 2020	To prepare the agreement for adoption in 2021 (if the conditions are met).					

²⁴ Pending completion of signature process

²⁵ Pending completion of signature process

Time line Negotiations	Impact assessment completed	Scoping	Recommendations to negotiate adopted by Commission	Recommendations to negotiate adopted by Council	Negotiations launched	Technical conclusion/ Political agreement	Legal scrubbing completed	Initialling	Translation done	Proposal to sign and conclude adopted by COM	Proposals adopted by Council	Consent by EP
On-going						<i>Expected outputs in 2021</i>						
Modernisation of the trade part of the EU-Chile Association Agreement	February 2017	√	24 May 2017	November 2017	November 2017	<i>Eight negotiating rounds took place since the launch in November 2017, and negotiations will continue in 2021.</i>						
Thailand FTA	-	√	April 2007	February 2013	March 2013	<i>Before resuming negotiations, it is important to ensure that the EU and Thailand see eye-to-eye on the level of ambition of a future deal. The Commission has engaged in a mapping exercise with Thailand in this respect.</i>						
Malaysia FTA	-	√	April 2007	October 2010	November 2010	<i>Contacts continue to examine the basis for a possible resumption of negotiations.</i>						
Indonesia FTA	-	√	April 2007	October 2010	July 2016	<i>Negotiations with Indonesia are being actively pursued.</i>						
Philippines FTA	-	√	April 2007	October 2010	December 2015	<i>Two negotiating rounds took place in 2017, but no new round currently scheduled.</i>						
India FTA	-	√	April 2007	April 2007	June 2007	<i>Contacts continue to examine the basis for a possible resumption of negotiations. The EU has also expressed readiness to explore the possibility of launching negotiations for a stand-alone investment agreement.</i>						
Morocco DCFTA	-	√	October 2011	December 2011	March 2013	<i>The Joint Declaration of the Association Council of June 2019 calls for the relaunch of DCFTA negotiations, which has not yet happened.</i>						
Tunisia DCFTA	NA	√	October 2011	December 2011	October 2015	<i>The negotiators met in Tunis in October 2015 for a first round of negotiations. Discussions remained preliminary but were also open and constructive based on the already existing good cooperation on many of the areas to be covered by the future DCFTA. A first full round of negotiations took place in Tunis in April 2016. After a pause, the negotiations continued in 2018 with the second round in May and third round in December. Negotiations are expected to restart in 2021.</i>						
GCC	-	NA	-	December 1989	October 1990	<i>Negotiations were suspended in 2008.</i>						
Libya	NA	NA	February 2008	July 2008	November 2008	<i>Negotiations were suspended in February 2011. Resumption will depend on the security situation in the country.</i>						

Russia New Agreement	-	-	-	2008	-	<i>The negotiations for a New Agreement have been suspended by the European Council on 6 March 2014.</i>
Azerbaijan PCA	-	March 2016	July 2016	November 2016	February 2017	<i>Advance of the negotiations with potential conclusion in 2021.</i>
Micro States (Andorra, Monaco, San Marino)	NA	2013	April 2014	December 2014	March 2016	<i>Potential conclusion of negotiations in 2021.</i>
Kyrgyzstan	NA		2 June 2017	9 October 2017	March 2018	<i>The text is undergoing legal scrubbing.</i>
Japan BIA	July 2012	√	July 2012	November 2012	March 2013	<i>While the substantive provisions have been agreed, the procedural ones (ICS) are still not accepted by Japan. The last discussions on the IPA took place on 20-22 March 2019 in Tokyo. For the time being, no further discussions are foreseen.</i>
Myanmar investment agreement	Nov 2013	√	February 2014	March 2014	March 2014	<i>The EU made good progress in negotiations but no conclusion expected soon given the Rohingya refugee crisis in Myanmar.</i>
Australia FTA	September 2017		13 September 2017	June 2018	June 2018	<i>Negotiations will continue in 2021.</i>
New Zealand FTA	September 2017		13 September 2017	June 2018	June 2018	<i>Negotiations will continue in 2021.</i>
Enhanced PCA with Uzbekistan	-	-	May 2018	16 July 2018	February 2019	<i>In 2021, DG Trade will continue working towards the conclusion of negotiations on the Enhanced Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (EPCA) with Uzbekistan.</i>
In the pipeline						
Jordan DCFTA Egypt DCFTA	NA	√	Oct 2011	Dec 2011		<i>Negotiation guidelines have been adopted by the European Council which provides the Commission with the legal basis for starting negotiations with the Southern Mediterranean countries when the conditions are deemed appropriate</i>
Convention establishing a multilateral investment court	September 2017	√	13 September 2017	20 March 2018		<i>Discussions are taking place in the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) and the EU has made submissions, which are now the basis for negotiations.</i>