



# OVERVIEW OF FTA AND OTHER TRADE NEGOTIATIONS

Updated November 2020

Updates in red

## FTA NEGOTIATIONS

Country	Negotiating Directives	Current Status	Next Steps
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### EUROPE

<b>UK</b>	Negotiating directives obtained in February 2020.	Intensified talks are taking place since the beginning of November alternately in Brussels and London with the aim of concluding the agreement. Divergence between both sides still persist on Level Playing Field, Governance and Fisheries.	The negotiations will end on 31 December 2020 at the latest. Internal ratification procedures will start in case the agreement is concluded.
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### NORTH AMERICA

<b>USA</b>	Negotiating directives obtained in April 2019	The Council of the EU approved two mandates on 15 April 2019 for an agreement on (1) the elimination of tariffs for industrial goods and on (2) conformity assessment.	Further steps to be determined.
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<b>CANADA</b>	Negotiating directives obtained in April 2009	The European Commission has adopted on 5 July 2016 draft proposals for Council Decisions on the signature, provisional application and conclusion of the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) and submitted this to the Council for adoption. The Council has adopted the CETA proposal on 28	CETA will enter into force fully and definitively when all EU Member States parliaments have ratified the Agreement.
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		October to allow the signature and the provisional application of CETA. The agreement was signed on 30 October 2016 during the EU Canada bilateral Summit. The European Parliament gave its consent to CETA on 15 February 2017. On 21 September 2017, the agreement has entered into force provisionally.	
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## ASIA

<b>ASEAN</b> <i>More on each particular country below</i>	Negotiating directives obtained in April 2007	Negotiations for a trade agreement with a regional grouping of 7 ASEAN Member States started in July 2007 and were suspended in December 2009. In March 2017, an EU-ASEAN Joint Working Group was created to discuss the parameters of a future ASEAN-EU region-to-region agreement. The Joint Working Group so far met three times.	Discussions are continuing.
SINGAPORE	Based on 2007 ASEAN negotiating directives (see above)	The Free Trade Agreement with Singapore entered into force on 21 November 2019.	The Investment Protection Agreement (IPA) will further need to be ratified by all EU Member States according to their own national procedures before it can enter into force.
MALAYSIA	Based on 2007 ASEAN negotiating directives (see above)	Trade and investment negotiations with Malaysia were launched in 2010 and, after seven rounds of negotiation, put on hold in April 2012 at the request of Malaysia.	The EU is looking for a comprehensive and ambitious agreement, equivalent to the ones it has reached with Singapore and Vietnam. A stocktaking exercise took place in 2016-2017 to assess prospects in this regard. The new Government in Malaysia has yet to take a position on the possible resumption of negotiations.
VIETNAM	Based on 2007 ASEAN negotiating directives (see above)	The Free Trade Agreement with Vietnam entered into force on 1 August 2020	The Investment Protection Agreement will further need to be ratified by all EU Member States according to their own national procedures before it can enter into force.
THAILAND	Based on 2007 ASEAN negotiating directives (see above)	Negotiations on a trade agreement with Thailand were launched in March 2013 and four rounds took place until April 2014. No further FTA negotiating rounds have been scheduled.	In the conclusions it adopted in October 2019, the Council stressed the importance of taking steps towards the resumption of negotiations on an ambitious and comprehensive trade agreement with Thailand. 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.

INDONESIA	Based on 2007 ASEAN negotiating directives (see above)	Negotiations for a trade agreement with Indonesia were launched in September 2016. The last round of negotiations took place in June 2020.	No date has been yet agreed for the next round of negotiations.
PHILIPPINES	Based on 2007 ASEAN negotiating directives (see above)	Trade and investment negotiations with the Philippines were launched in December 2015. Two negotiating rounds were held so far: in May 2016 and February 2017.	No date has been set yet for the next round of negotiations.
MYANMAR/BURMA	Negotiating directives for an investment protection agreement adopted in March 2014	The EU sent its text proposal in December 2014. Four rounds of negotiations have taken place so far: 9-12 February 2015, 25-29 May 2015, 21-23 September 2015, and 13-16 December 2016. Technical discussions were held on 26-27 April 2017, and good progress was made, but discussions will have to continue.	Negotiations are halted since 2017.

<b>INDIA</b>	Negotiating directives adopted in April 2007	Negotiations for a trade agreement with India were launched in June 2007 and brought to a <i>de facto</i> standstill in 2013 due to a serious gap in the levels of ambitions.	The EU remains committed to strengthening the economic partnership with India, and to ambitious, comprehensive and mutually beneficial trade and investment agreements. The two sides remain in regular contact.
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## OCEANIA

<b>AUSTRALIA</b>	Negotiating directives adopted in May 2018.	Eight negotiating rounds held since the launch in June 2018. The Commission tabled text proposals for all substantial areas of the negotiation. Initial market access offers for goods, services and investment, and public procurement have been exchanged. The 8 <sup>th</sup> round took place in September per video-conference.	The 9 <sup>th</sup> round is scheduled for the weeks of 30 November till 11 December, again per video-conference.
<b>NEW ZEALAND</b>	Negotiating directives adopted in May 2018	Eight negotiating rounds held since the launch in June 2018, the last one in June 2020. The Commission tabled text proposals for all substantial areas of the negotiation.	The 9 <sup>th</sup> negotiating round will be held from 23 till 27 November 2020.

## LATIN AMERICA

<b>MERCOSUR</b>	Negotiating Directives of 1999	An agreement in principle was reached on the trade part on 28 June 2019. The agreement will remove the majority of tariffs on EU exports to Mercosur, saving over €4 billion worth of duties per year. Mercosur countries will protect some 350 European	The texts of the trade part of the agreement have been published. Market access offers are currently being consolidated and will be published soon as well. Both sides are engaged in the legal revision of the agreement.
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		Geographical Indications from imitation. The agreement will create new opportunities by opening up services sectors and government procurement markets at central level. It sets the highest standards for food safety and consumer protection. It safeguards the Parties' right to regulate in the public interest and preserves the right to organise public services in the way they consider appropriate. The trade and sustainable development chapter includes strong provisions on labour rights and environmental protection, including a commitment to effectively implement the Paris Climate Agreement and explicit reference to the precautionary principle. Civil society organisations will have an active role to overview the implementation of the entire 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.
<b>MEXICO</b>	Negotiating Directives of 2016	An agreement in principle was reached on the trade part on 21 April 2018 and supplemented with the agreement on public procurement (sub-central) reached on 28 April 2020. The modernised EU-Mexico agreement will replace the EU-Mexico Global Agreement (1997) once in force. The modernised agreement is a landmark agreement. It not only updates the existing agreement and ensures mutually beneficial economic gains, but it also builds up our geostrategic alliance with a like-minded country, and set the rules for fair and open trade in line with EU values and interests.	The texts of the trade part of the agreement have been published. <b>Once the Commission procedures are finalised</b> , 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.
<b>CHILE</b>	Negotiating Directives of 2017	The EU and Chile started the negotiation process for the modernisation of the EU – Chile Association Agreement in 2017. <b>The eight round took place in September 2020 by videoconference.</b>	<b>The ninth round is slated to take place in January 2021 by videoconference.</b>

## CANDIDATE COUNTRIES

<b>TURKEY</b>	Draft Negotiating directives adopted by Commission on 21 December 2016.	Council started its deliberations on the Commission's proposal on 20 January 2017. During the first months of 2017, the proposal was under discussion in the Council Working Groups COELA and TPC, as well as in the European Parliament. It is up to the Council to conclude its work on the Negotiating Directives.	The General Affairs Council meeting of 26 June 2018 and repeated on 18 June 2019 noted: <i>"Turkey has been moving further away from the European Union. Turkey's accession negotiations have therefore effectively come to a standstill and no further chapters can be considered for opening or closing and no further work towards the modernisation of the EU-Turkey Customs Union is foreseen."</i>
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## SOUTH MEDITERRANEAN & MIDDLE EAST COUNTRIES

<b>GENERAL OVERVIEW</b> (see below for information on particular countries)		<p>The EU has established a network of Association Agreements, which include reciprocal FTAs essentially limited to trade in goods, with 8 countries of the region (all except Libya and Syria). In order to promote broader regional integration, the EU also encourages the countries of the region to agree FTAs between themselves and has promoted wide participation in the Pan-Euro Mediterranean system of cumulation for rules of origin (in which EFTA and Western Balkans countries also participate).</p> <p>Under the framework of the Association Agreements, a series of bilateral negotiations have been launched with individual partners to complement and expand these agreements in areas such as agriculture, industrial standards, dispute settlement and services and establishment. A number of these free-standing negotiations have been successfully concluded, while others are continuing and, where appropriate, may be absorbed into DCFTA negotiations.</p> <p>On 14<sup>th</sup> December 2011, the Council authorised the Commission to open bilateral negotiations to establish Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Areas with Egypt, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia. Individual scoping exercises to prepare these negotiations were launched with Morocco, Tunisia and Jordan in March 2012 and with Egypt in June 2013. Negotiations with Morocco were launched in March 2013 and with Tunisia in October 2015.</p>	
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COUNTRY OVERVIEW			
MOROCCO	Negotiating directives for a DCFTA adopted by the Council on 14 <sup>th</sup> December 2011	<p>The EU-Morocco Association Agreement was signed in February 1996 and entered into force in March 2000. The two sides subsequently negotiated an additional protocol setting up a dispute settlement mechanism, which entered into force in November 2012, and an agreement on further liberalisation of trade in agricultural products which entered into force in October 2012.</p> <p>In March 2013, the EU and Morocco launched negotiations for a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA).</p>	The latest round took place in April 2014. The Negotiations were then put on hold to accommodate the plan of Morocco to carry out additional studies before continuing the negotiations. The Joint Declaration of the Association Council of June 2019 calls for the relaunch of DCFTA negotiations, which has not yet happened.

		Four rounds have taken place and texts for all chapters have been put on the table.	
TUNISIA	Negotiating directives for a DCFTA adopted by the Council on 14 <sup>th</sup> December 2011	<p>The EU signed an Association Agreement with Tunisia in July 1995. The Agreement entered into force in March 1998. Negotiations on a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTAs) were launched in October 2015 and so far, four rounds took place.</p> <p>The fourth round took place in 28-30 April/1-2 May 2019 in Tunis. After the fourth round good progress was made in several areas. Some texts have been practically closed at technical level (GIs and most of the IP text), in other texts more than 60% of provisions have been agreed (this is the case for sustainable development, competition, digital trade). In other areas, progress is slower, (e.g. TBT, SPS, public procurement). Issues related to market access, notably on agriculture and services, are clearly among the remaining sensitive areas. Tunisia also tabled some alternative texts and has put a lot of emphasis on trade related assistance and the need to receive differential treatment. To be noted that negotiations for a Visa Facilitation Agreement (VFA) are also on-going and the objective is to ensure utmost synergy between the two processes so to facilitate as much as possible the visa process for service providers in the VFA that we aim to liberalize in the DCFTA.</p> <p>However negotiations have been effectively brought to a standstill due to a change of government in Tunisia as well as to strong civil society protest. Their critics focused essentially on the potential risks regarding the removal of tariff barriers for agricultural goods and the supposedly opacity of the negotiations.</p>	The potential relaunching of the negotiations is occurring during a delicate political period as the country is just managing to install a new government. The new executive power in Tunis has not yet spoken on the issue of the DCFTA, but the EU is ready and willing to relaunch the negotiations in a real intention to reach a mutually benefiting agreement, provided the new government demonstrate a real ownership on the process. If these conditions are met, negotiations could be resumed before the end of the year and a political stocktaking exercise could also be envisaged.

#### ACP (African, Caribbean and Pacific Countries)

[See Overview of Economic Partnership Agreements \(EPAs\)](#)

## OTHER TRADE NEGOTIATIONS

Country	Negotiating Directives	Current Status	Next Steps
<b>ARMENIA</b>	Directives for the negotiation of a Framework Agreement between the EU and Armenia were adopted by the Council on 12 October 2015.	No mandate/negotiations for an FTA.  Negotiations to enhance and replace the current Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA) in force, including its trade related provisions were concluded on 27th February and initialled on 21 March 2017. The Agreement was signed on 24 November 2017 in the margins of the Eastern Partnership summit.	The Agreement applies provisionally since 1 June 2018.
<b>AZERBAIJAN</b>	Directives for the negotiation of a Comprehensive Agreement between the EU and Azerbaijan were adopted by the Council on 7 November 2016.	No mandate/negotiations for an FTA.  Negotiations to enhance and replace the current Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA) in force, including its trade related provisions, were launched in February 2017. The seventh round of trade negotiations took place in Baku on 23-25 April 2019. Restructuring in the Azeri Ministry of Economy and COVID-19 have delayed the negotiations.  Negotiations of the WTO accession of Azerbaijan are ongoing.	Depending on Azerbaijan's feedback on an EU compromise proposal, the eighth (and possibly final) round is to be scheduled as soon as COVID-19 subsides.
<b>KYRGYZSTAN</b>	College adopted joint recommendations to the Council on 2 June 2017	College authorised the Commission and the HRVP to negotiate a new agreement (Enhanced Partnership Cooperation Agreement) with the Kyrgyz Republic, building on the provisions of the existing PCA which dates from 1995. The Council has approved the negotiations directives on 9 October 2017. Negotiations have started on 19 December 2017 and were concluded during the 7 <sup>th</sup> round which took place in Bishkek on June 2019. The new Agreement concluded with the Kyrgyz Republic was initialed in Bishkek on 6 July 2019 in the margins of the EU-Central Asia Ministerial meeting.	The text is presently undergoing legal scrubbing.

<b>UZBEKISTAN</b>	College adopted joint recommendations to the Council on 14 May 2018	The Council issued negotiating directives in July 2018 and the negotiations on the Trade title of the agreement were launched in February 2019. The sixth round of negotiations took place on 14-18 September 2020 by videoconference.	Videoconferences on individual chapters are continuing. A next round (also by VC) is pending input from Uzbekistan. Uzbekistan buy-in now needs to be proven through appropriate commitments in order to be able conclude an agreement in the near future.
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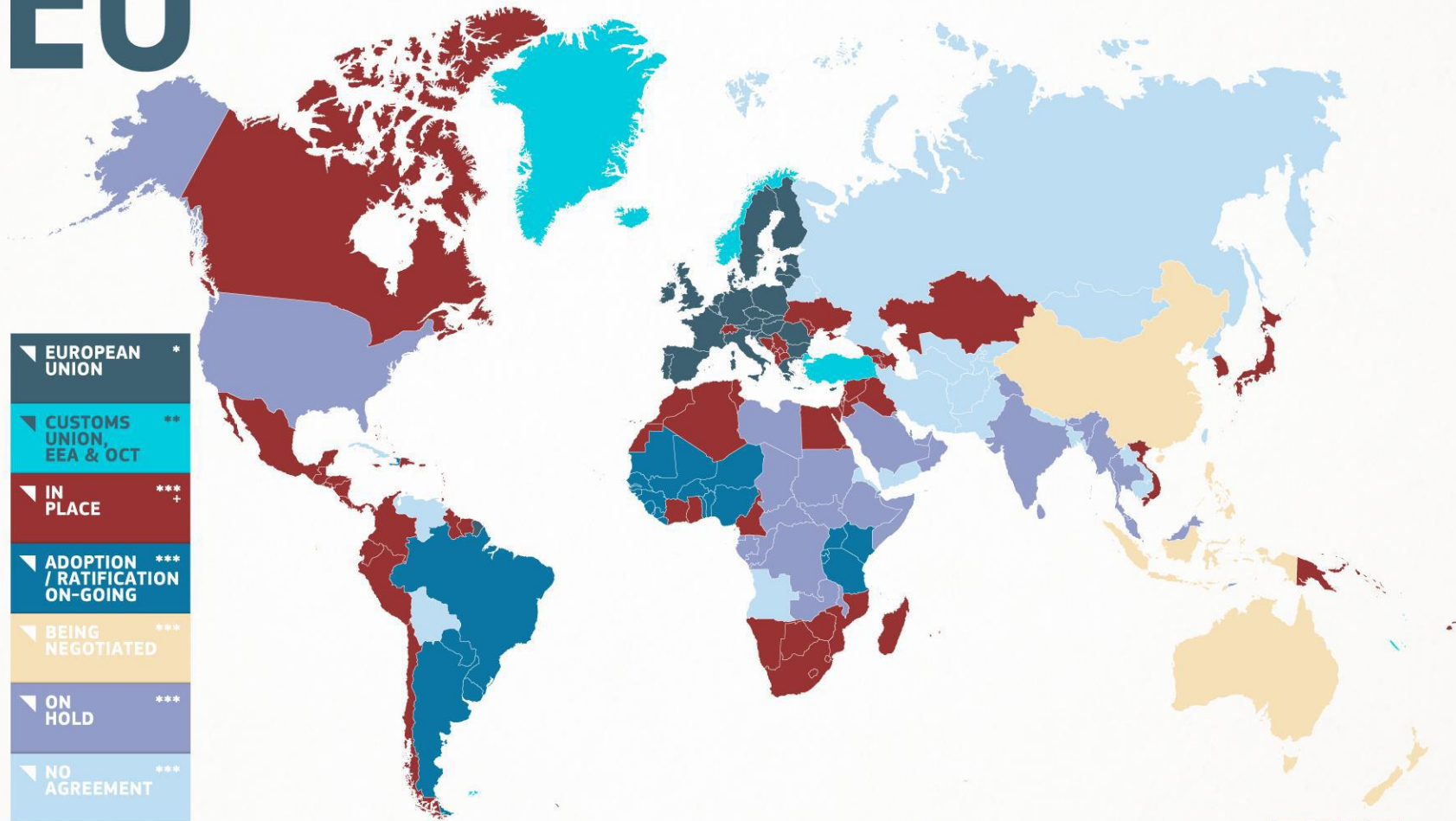
<b>CHINA – Investment</b>	<p>The Council authorised the Commission to initiate negotiations for a comprehensive EU-China investment agreement on 18 October 2013.</p> <p>The mandate to launch negotiations on a new Partnership and Cooperation Agreement with China was approved by the Council in December 2005.</p>	<p>Negotiations of a comprehensive EU-China investment agreement were formally launched at the EU-China Summit of 21 November 2013 in Beijing. With this agreement, the EU seeks to create new investment opportunities for European companies by opening China's market and eliminating discriminatory laws and practices. Provisions on investment protection should ensure a high level of protection for European companies, while preserving governments' right to regulate. It will replace the 26 existing Bilateral Investment Treaties between 27 individual EU Member States and China by one single comprehensive investment Agreement.</p> <p>In 2016 the EU and China negotiators reached clear conclusions on an ambitious and comprehensive scope for the EU-China investment agreement and established a joint negotiating text.</p> <p>Separate negotiations with China for an upgrade of the 1985 Trade and Economic Cooperation Agreement were launched in 2007 but have been stalled since 2011 due to divergences between the mandates and expectations of the parties.</p> <p>The 34th round took place on the week of 16 November 2020 via videoconference.</p>	The next round will take place on the week of 7 December 2020.
<b>JAPAN - Investment</b>	Negotiating Directives adopted on 29 November 2012	The EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement came into force on 1 February 2019. Negotiations continue separately for an Investment Protection Agreement (IPA) with Japan. While the substantive provisions have been agreed, the procedural ones (ICS) are still not accepted by	For the time being, no further discussions are foreseen.

		Japan. The last discussions on the IPA took place on 20-22 March 2019 in Tokyo.	
<b>Services (TiSA)</b>	In February 2013, the European Commission received from the Council its green light for negotiations on a new international agreement on trade in services. The negotiations cover all services sectors, including information and communication technology (ICT) services, logistics and transport, financial services and services for businesses.	The talks started formally in March 2013. 23 WTO members (including EU representing its 28 Member States) have taken part in the negotiations. By the end of 2016, most participants had indicated which of their services markets they were prepared to open and to what extent. 21 negotiation rounds took place.	Negotiations are paused since the US Presidential elections in November 2016, pending clarity in the US trade policy.
<b>E-Commerce</b>		Plurilateral WTO negotiations on e-commerce were launched in Davos in January 2019 after a year of exploratory talks. The negotiations cover both goods and services and their aim is to agree on global rules on digital trade. Since the launch of the negotiations, seven negotiating rounds have taken place on the basis of text proposals submitted by WTO Members. <b>So far 86 WTO Members have formally joined the talks. By end-2020 a consolidated text will be drawn up that will reflect the results of streamlining work that has been carried out so far.</b> The last round took place in February. The March and April rounds have been cancelled.	<b>The negotiations now take place online, in small groups and at plenary sessions. The final plenary of this year will take place on 10 December.</b>
<b>Investment facilitation</b>	The Directives for the negotiation of Investment Facilitation multilateral framework were adopted by the Council on 7 <sup>th</sup> of October 2019.	During the WTO Ministerial Conference in Buenos Aires in December 2017, 70 Members called for developing a multilateral framework on investment facilitation. The objective is to increase worldwide investment flows and contribute to sustainable development by making investment conditions and opportunities more transparent and streamlining administrative procedures. A special focus is on developing countries and LDCs. Since the beginning of 2018, the structured discussions on investment facilitation are taking place in the WTO on a	Technical meetings take place in October and November 2019, to be followed by a stock-taking meeting on 12 December.

		regular basis. They are currently coordinated by the Chilean Ambassador to the WTO. On 5 November, 92 WTO Members issued a joint ministerial statement, stating their support for this initiative and committing to working towards an outcome on investment facilitation at the next WTO ministerial conference in June 2020.	
<b>Domestic regulation</b>		WTO Members have been negotiating horizontal disciplines for domestic regulation in services for many years, based on a mandate included in article VI.4 of the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS). Following a Joint Statement issued at the 11 <sup>th</sup> WTO Ministerial Conference in Buenos Aires, a large group of WTO Members has had several rounds of negotiations in an open-ended format. On 23 May 2019, a group of 60 WTO Members committed in a new Joint Statement issued in Paris, 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 12 <sup>th</sup> WTO Ministerial Conference. The last round of negotiations took place on 11 November 2020.	The next round will take place on 10 December 2020.
<b>Fisheries</b>	This is part of the Doha Development Agenda mandate in 2002.	Negotiations on fisheries subsidies re-started in the WTO at the end of 2016. They aim at eliminating subsidies to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and at prohibiting subsidies that contribute overcapacity and overfishing. The negotiations have been stuck during the pandemic but are about to restart as the Rules Negotiating Group (RNG) Chair presented his text that will serve as a basis for negotiations.	The negotiations should have been concluded in June 2020 at the 12 <sup>th</sup> WTO Ministerial conference. However, this Ministerial Conference has been postponed. The EU is pushing hard to comply with the mandate of SDG 14.6 and therefore to conclude the negotiations by 2020, ideally at a dedicated General Council meeting towards the end of the year.
<b>Green Goods</b>		Since July 2014 the EU and 16 other members (see below) of the World Trade Organization (WTO) have been negotiating an Environmental Goods Agreement (EGA) to remove barriers to trade in environmental or "green" goods that are crucial for environmental protection and climate change mitigation. The next, 18 <sup>th</sup> round took place in November and was followed by a Ministerial meeting in December 2016. Despite efforts, the deal could not yet be reached at a Ministerial meeting in December 2016 and the negotiations were shelved. <a href="#">Read more</a> .	Further steps to be determined.

<b>TRADE IN AGRI-FOOD AND FISHERIES PRODUCTS with EEA/EFTA COUNTRIES</b>		<p><b>European Economic Area (EEA):</b> negotiations on further liberalisation for agricultural products are part of the EEA agreement (Art. 19).</p> <p><b>Iceland:</b> an EU-Iceland agreement on geographical indications (GI) and a separate agreement on further liberalisation of trade in basic agricultural products and processed agricultural products between Iceland and the EU entered into force on 1 May 2018.</p> <p><b>Norway:</b> negotiations on a GI agreement started in 2013 and are now on hold. Negotiations on further liberalisation of EU-Norway trade in agricultural products, which started in 2015, were concluded at negotiator's level in April 2017; the respective EU-Norway agreement entered into force on 1 October 2018.</p> <p>Switzerland: negotiations on further liberalisation of agricultural products started in 2008 and are on hold since 2009.</p> <p>Norway and Iceland: negotiations of fish quotas took place between January 2014 and July 2015 and were finalised on 17 July 2015.</p>	
<b>ASSOCIATION AGREEMENTS WITH ANDORRA, MONACO AND SAN MARINO</b>		<p>The Council authorised on 4 December 2014 negotiations "on one or several Association Agreement(s)" between the EU and Andorra, Monaco, San Marino (AMS). The main goal of these negotiations which started in 2016 is to allow AMS to participate in the internal market (four freedoms). The last round of negotiations took place in on 8-11 June and 13-15 October 2020.</p>	

# EU trade agreements 2020



\* The United Kingdom withdrew from the European Union and is a third country as of 1 February 2020. During the transition period, which ends on 31 December 2020, Union law, with a few limited exceptions, continues to be applicable to and in the United Kingdom.

\*\* European Economic Area (EEA) / Overseas Countries and Territories (OCT).

\*\*\* Free Trade Agreement (FTA), Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement (DCFTA), Investment Agreement, Enhanced Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (EPCA), Partnership and Co-operation Agreement with preferential element (PCA).

+ The agreements with Chile, Tunisia, and Eastern and Southern Africa are currently being updated; the updated agreement with Mexico is under ratification.

#EUtrade

