



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Directorate-General for Trade

Directorate D - Sustainable Development; Economic Partnership Agreements - African, Caribbean and Pacific; Agri-food and Fisheries
Trade and Sustainable Development, Generalised System of Preferences

Brussels,
trade.dga1.d.1(2016)3893037DK/ess

Subject: EU Civil Society Advisory Group on EU-Ukraine DCFTA

Dear Member of the DG Trade Civil Society Dialogue Network,

DG Trade is seeking **expressions of interest from EU organisations to become members of the EU civil society advisory group** for the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement (DCFTA) under the Association Agreement the EU has concluded with Ukraine.

The EU-Ukraine DCFTA **includes a chapter on Trade and Sustainable Development** (Chapter 13). This includes provisions aimed at ensuring the effective implementation of the core labour standards and fundamental Conventions of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) as well as of key Multilateral Environmental Agreements. It also contains provisions to avoid a "race to the bottom" of labour or environment standards as a way to attract trade or investment and to promote trade and investment practices advancing sustainable development objectives, including with regard to corporate social responsibility and to the sustainable use of natural resources such as biodiversity, forestry, and fisheries.

The chapter also provides for the establishment and consultation of a **civil society advisory group** by each Party¹. This group will contribute to the implementation and monitoring of the Trade and Sustainable Development chapter, in particular by making recommendations and engaging in dialogue with government representatives of the Parties to the Agreement.

EU organisations interested in becoming members of the EU civil society advisory group should have an interest and/or expertise in the social or environmental dimension of EU-Ukraine trade matters. In line with the provisions of the DCFTA the group should have a balanced composition, with representation of the economic, social and environmental pillars of sustainable development e.g. business organisations, trade unions, environmental NGOs.

The advisory group should organise itself; **the Commission's role** is to ensure that the composition of the group is consistent with the provisions of the agreement and that the group is of a manageable size. The group would be expected to meet two or three times a year in Brussels and some members of the group would attend annual joint meetings with Ukraine civil society organisations in Brussels or Ukraine. Organisations based outside Brussels would be eligible for reimbursement of travel costs.

¹ Article 299 of the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement

The first meeting of the Trade and Sustainable Development Sub-Committee and Joint Civil Society Dialogue Forum is planned to take place **in Kiev in November 2016**. Thereafter, both the Trade and Sustainable Development Sub-Committee and the Civil Society Dialogue Forum are expected to take place annually. Some inter-sessional work will be needed for the full potential of these mechanisms to be realised.

If you feel your organisation can make a useful contribution to one or both of these new mechanisms please contact Mr Didier Bloch by email: Didier.BLOCH@ec.europa.eu by 29th July 2016.

The text of and general information on the Association Agreement, including some basic trade statistics can be found on DG Trade's website².

Yours sincerely

Madelaine Tuininga
Head of Unit



² See <http://ec.europa.eu/trade/policy/countries-and-regions/countries/ukraine/>. The relevant sustainability impact assessments can be found here: <http://ec.europa.eu/trade/policy/policy-making/analysis/sustainability-impact-assessments/assessments/>.