



## CIVIL SOCIETY DIALOGUE

# MEETING ON SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF THE MODERNISATION OF THE TRADE PILLAR OF THE EU-CHILE ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT – DRAFT INTERIM REPORT

**Date:** 12 November 2018

**Time:** 14:00 – 16:00

**Location:** Room Sicco Mansholt, Charlemagne Building, 170 Rue de la Loi, Brussels

### **Lead speakers**

- Deputy Head of Latin America Unit, DG Trade, European Commission
- BKP Development Research, Study Coordinator/Team Leader, accompanied by study team members

### **Moderator**

Coordinator, Civil Society Dialogue, DG Trade, European Commission

### **Presentation**

The opening remarks by DG Trade encouraged the participation of the civil society and highlighted the importance of the dialogue for transparency and inclusivity of the negotiations. DG Trade also explained that the meeting would focus on the presentation and discussion of the SIA draft Interim Report rather than the negotiations themselves, and that the report had been shared on the CSD meeting webpage.<sup>1</sup>

The opening remarks were followed by the **Study team's presentation** of the draft interim report focusing on (1) an overview of the work undertaken and the ongoing consultations; (2) the key preliminary findings as presented in the interim report in the four sustainability pillars as well as regarding the case and sector studies; and (3) the study schedule and the next steps. The corresponding slides are available on the CSD meeting webpage and on the SIA website.<sup>2</sup>

### **Discussion Highlights / Questions and Replies**

The Study team's presentation of the first section, focussing on the ongoing consultations, was followed by a session of participants' questions and comments. **FoodDrinkEurope** was interested in knowing to what extent the Study team had taken into account the consultations on the modernisation of the EU-Chile Agreement undertaken by the Commission at the beginning of the year. The **Study Team** answered that although some responses to that consultation had been

<sup>1</sup> <http://trade.ec.europa.eu/civilsoc/meetdetails.cfm?meet=11525>.

<sup>2</sup> <http://trade-sia-chile.eu/en/resources-2>.

provided by stakeholders to the team, the results and responses had not yet been shared by the Commission given potential data protection issues.

The **Friedrich Ebert Stiftung** asked to specify how the overall number of answered surveys was distributed across the different questionnaires and target groups. The **Study Team** explained that of 22 surveys answered online, 10 were Business/SME questionnaires, 9 general questionnaires, and 3 questionnaires on consumer issues. Regarding the representativity of the answers, the Study Team specified that the answers provided for the General and Consumers questionnaire are evenly split between respondents in Chile and the EU, as well as between types of interest groups. Regarding the Business/SME survey, two out of 10 responses are from Chile, and the 8 EU answers are all from Germany, as a result of the Study Team participating in a Germany-Chile business conference. The size and sector distribution of companies participating in the survey is however more evenly split. In addition to the online responses, between 10 and 15 responses have been collected from stakeholders in Chile on the occasion of the workshops; these will be integrated into the online platform after the final regional workshop in Chile.

The Study Team then presented the key findings of the interim report in the four sustainability pillars, followed by the second section for questions and comments. **Eurogroup for Animals** highlighted that animal welfare is a key aspect of sustainability and the report should state more clearly how animals are impacted by an increased output, and differentiate this by sector or industry. Eurogroup for Animals also asked to include animal welfare in the case studies where animals are directly affected, like in the case of salmon farming. They also highlighted the importance of FTAs to produce regulatory changes in the partner countries. The **Study Team** confirmed that animal welfare is a key element, also in the context of biodiversity. Regarding salmon welfare, the Chilean salmon industry is embracing environmental best practices also because there have been significant environmental accidents. The Study Team agrees with the opportunity to improve standards and make a difference through regulatory changes and will welcome a follow up conversation in order to have access to further information. The Study Team also stated that the expected impact of the modernisation of the Agreement on salmon farming is very limited, because the major investor in salmon farming in Chile is not from the EU, and salmon trade is already largely liberalised under the existing Agreement. As a result, the level of changes on salmon farming that can be brought up by the modernisation might be limited.

**FoodDrinkEurope** expressed general support for the Agreement and its modernisation and their intention to share their contribution to the Commission's earlier consultations with the Study Team. In terms of the contents of the interim report and particularly the human rights analysis, FoodDrinkEurope criticised the use of arbitrary language, in particular regarding the term "unhealthy foods", and the study assumption that an increase in trade correlates with an increased consumption of "unhealthy food". In their view, a more nuanced treatment of the subject was called for. The **Study Team** welcomed their remarks and suggested to engage in bilateral follow-up discussions after the CSD meeting.

The final intervention was by a member of the **European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)** representing the Elderly People in Germany<sup>3</sup> who would like to strengthen the cooperation between Chile and Europe regarding demographic change and the welfare of elderly people. The **Study Team** welcomed the intervention and will establish the link with the Chilean experts in the study team in order to identify suitable Chilean partners.

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<sup>3</sup> Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft der Senioren-Organisationen, <http://www.bagso.de/>