



European  
Commission



# Management Plan **2019**

Directorate-General for Trade





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Directorate-General for Trade

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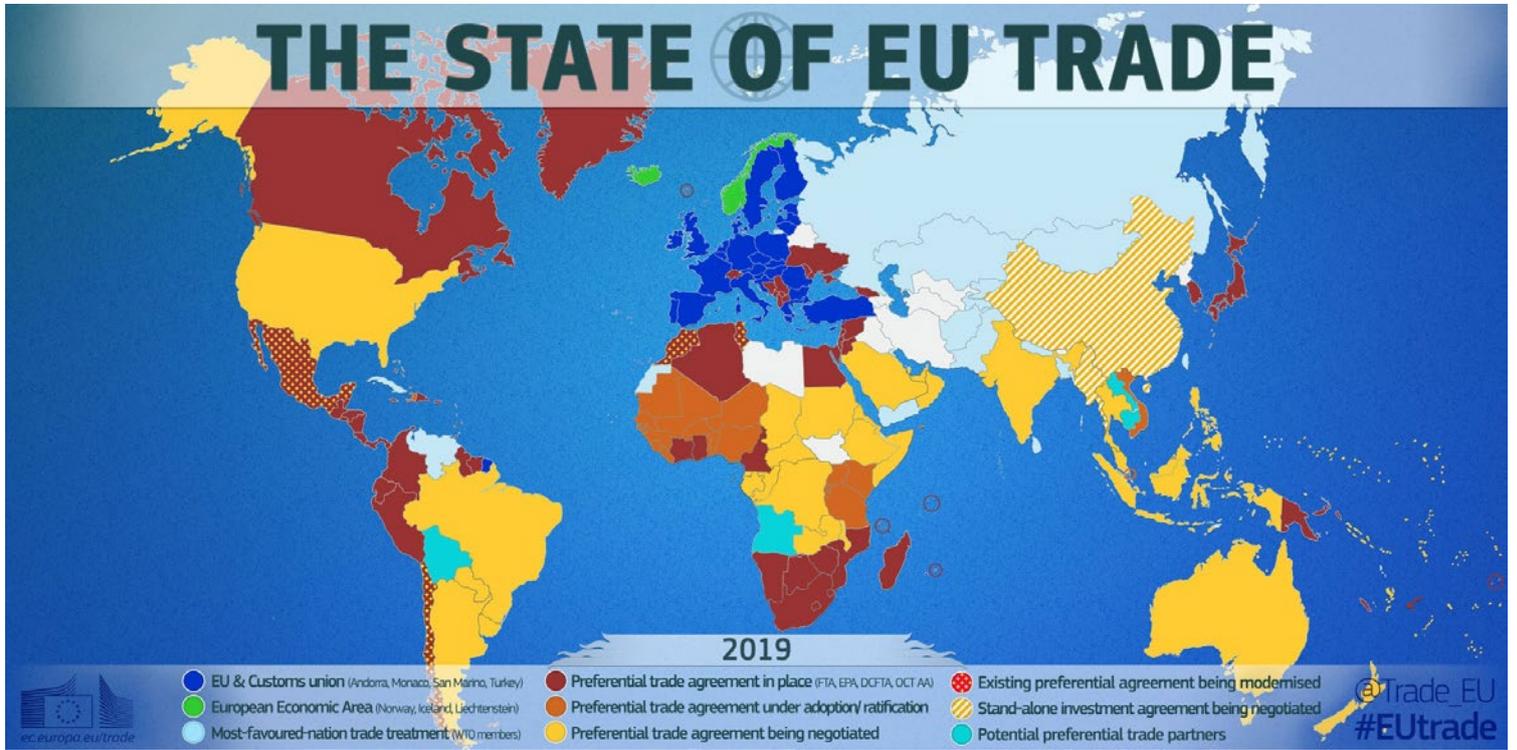
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# THE STATE OF EU TRADE



# INTRODUCTION

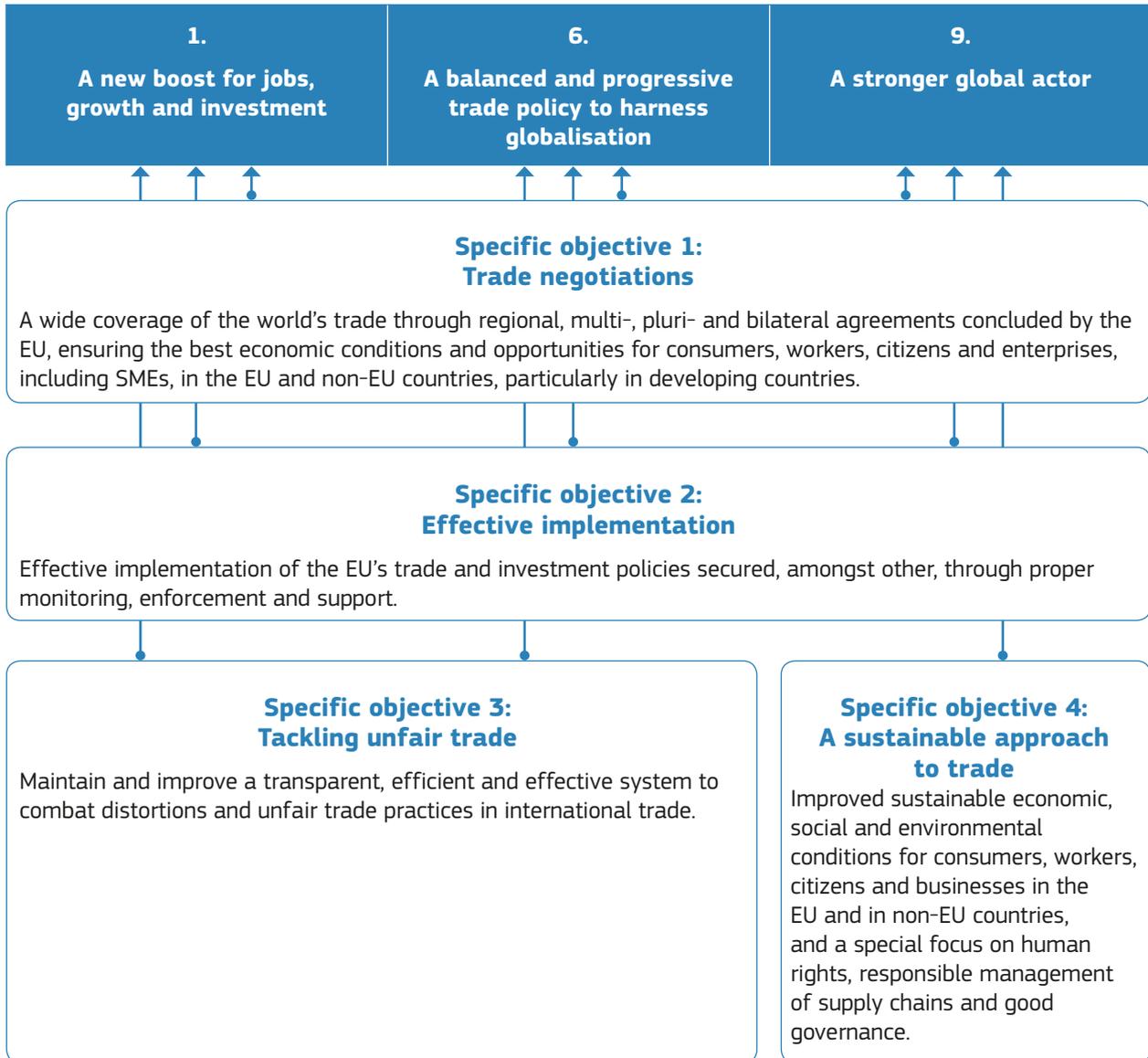
The European Commission's Directorate-General for Trade develops and implements the EU's trade policy in order to help secure prosperity, solidarity and security in Europe and around the globe. Trade policy aims to deliver growth, jobs, investment and innovation, while also seeking to improve conditions for citizens, consumers, workers, self-employed persons and small, medium and large enterprises within the EU, in developing countries and across the world. It does so in line with the principles and objectives of the EU's external action, and with the external objectives of the EU's internal policies, also ensuring consistency with European values and the European social model.

The EU occupies a prime position when it comes to global trade. The openness of our trade regime has positioned the EU as the biggest player on the global trading scene. The EU continues to be a highly attractive region with which to do business.

Trade remains a priority on the political agenda, as emphasised by President Juncker in his 2018 State of the Union address, in which he stated that, 'Europe has also reaffirmed its position as a trade power. Our global trading position is the living proof of the need to share sovereignty. The European Union now has trade agreements with 70 countries around the world, covering 40 % of the world's GDP. These agreements — so often contested but so unjustly — help us export Europe's high standards for food safety, workers' rights, the environment and consumer rights far beyond our borders'.

This management plan sets out how DG Trade will continue to pursue this ambitious agenda in 2019. In doing so, DG Trade will take account of the intense public debate on trade and investment policy and will listen to all input received, so that EU trade policy accurately reflects the EU's values and interests as a whole.

As set out in its 2016-2020 Strategic Plan, DG Trade will continue to pursue its specific objectives in 2019, within the framework of three of the Commission's general objectives. These specific objectives are provided below, together with their link to the general objectives.



To fulfil these specific objectives, DG Trade will aim to deliver successful results in a number of key areas in 2019.

# PART 1. MAIN OUTPUTS FOR THE YEAR

## SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 1: TRADE NEGOTIATIONS

A wide coverage of the world's trade through regional, multi-, pluri- and bilateral agreements concluded by the EU, ensuring the best economic conditions and opportunities for consumers, workers, citizens and enterprises, including SMEs, in the EU and non-EU countries, particularly in developing countries.

### The multilateral and plurilateral agenda

As reflected in the 2019 Commission Work Programme, increasing tensions and the growing lack of predictability in the global trade order mean that we need to reassert our commitment to preserving and strengthening the rules-based international system. Addressing the underlying tensions in the multilateral trading system linked to distortions caused by subsidies and forced technology transfers will be a top priority.

2019 will see an intensification of discussions and negotiations in different formats, regarding various strands of the **World Trade Organisation (WTO) reform initiative**. This will cover the three functions of the WTO.

(1) Rulemaking — with a focus on addressing level playing field issues, the advancement of open-ended text-based discussions under the Joint Statement on e-commerce, domestic regulation in services and investment facilitation, and the intensification of negotiations on multilateral fisheries subsidies.

(2) Dispute settlement — focussing 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.

(3) Regular WTO work — notably to strengthen transparency and to improve WTO committee procedures to make them more effective.

Concrete progress is expected to continue, particularly in relation to the plurilateral negotiations for future disciplines on **domestic regulation in services** and the exploratory work concerning potential negotiations on **e-commerce**.

In relation to **investment facilitation**, broad discussions throughout 2018 allowed to gain a better overview of Members' views on various aspects of the topic and will allow for more focussed exploratory work on potential negotiations on investment facilitation in 2019.

DG Trade will also continue its active and international promotion of the **WTO Government Procurement Agreement (GPA)**. In 2019, clear-cut progress is expected on the accession of partners such as Australia, China, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan and the Republic of North Macedonia.

Progress and the future work in the WTO was discussed by Ministers in the margins of the World Economic Forum in Davos in January 2019 and will be reviewed at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Ministerial meeting to be held in Paris in June 2019.

With the finalisation of expansion of the **Information Technology Agreement (ITA)** on tariffs, attention will now turn to encouraging other WTO members to join the

'ITA-2', ensuring the effective implementation of the agreement by other parties and the negotiation of disciplines on non-tariff barriers (NTBs). DG Trade will continue to work with a small group of like-minded ITA Members to obtain the necessary support to formulate a proposal on NTB disciplines to the WTO ITA Committee, notably on conformity assessment procedures.

DG Trade will continue to work towards gathering enough support among current parties and potential new participants to launch the **5<sup>th</sup> review of the Pharma arrangement** in order to incorporate new active ingredients in an arrangement which provides for their duty-free treatment. DG Trade will also continue to encourage other WTO members to join the Pharma arrangement.

Furthermore, on 13 September 2017, the Commission adopted the recommendation to open negotiations to establish a **multilateral investment court**. This court would replace the Investment Court System (ICS) currently foreseen in the EU's bilateral agreements and the Investor-State Dispute Settlement arrangements set forth in more than 3 000 current bilateral investment treaties to which our Member States are party. Constructive exploratory discussions with third countries, particularly in United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (Uncitral), took place during 2018 and negotiations are expected to begin later in 2019, provided the necessary consensus in Uncitral can be built.

On 8 November 2018, the Commission adopted a proposal for a Council decision on the conclusion as EU only of the compensatory agreements with 17 WTO members under Article XXI of the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) resulting from the accession of 13 EU Member States between 1994 and 2004 in order to obtain a consolidated GATS schedule of specific commitments covering all the Member States who were members of the European Union in 2006 (the so-called EU25 schedule of commitments). The proposal will require adoption by the Council of the EU and the consent of the European Parliament (EP) in 2019.

With regards to the Energy Charter Treaty (ECT) (a multilateral agreement covering international cooperation in several policy areas related to energy), the Commission actively participated in setting the agenda for the periodical modernisation process of the ECT throughout 2018. The Commission focussed strongly on gathering support amongst the 54 contracting Parties for a reform of the substantive investment protection provisions. The Commission is committed to use the modernisation process to bring the investment protection provisions in line with the standards developed under the new investment policy of the European Union introduced since the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA). The Commission will continue its work with a view to engage into negotiations on a reform of the investment protection standards in the second half of 2019.

### Finalising concluded bilateral and regional negotiations

The negotiations for an Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) with **Japan** <sup>(1)</sup> were finalised on 8 December 2017 and the Agreement was signed on 17 July 2018 at the Summit in Tokyo. The ratification process was finalised on 21 December 2018. The agreement entered into force on 1 February 2019.

With respect to the EU's engagement with members of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), the EU and **Vietnam** reached a political conclusion to the negotiations for a comprehensive free trade and investment agreement in 2015. A political conclusion was also reached for a free trade and investment agreement with **Singapore** <sup>(2)</sup> at the end of 2014. Following Opinion 2/15 of the European Court of Justice (ECJ) on the division of competences between the EU and its Member States in the Singapore

<sup>(1)</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/trade/policy/in-focus/eu-japan-economic-partnership-agreement/>

<sup>(2)</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/trade/policy/countries-and-regions/countries/singapore/>

Free Trade Agreement (FTA), the Commission initiated a reflection process with Member States on the future architecture of trade and investment agreements with third countries, including on the need to negotiate and propose for signature and conclusion two separate agreements, i.e. an FTA covering areas where the EU has exclusive competence according to the Treaty of the Functioning of the European Union and an investment protection agreement (IPA) covering areas where the EU shares competences with the EU Member States in some areas. Taking this process into account, the Commission engaged with Singapore and Vietnam to update the negotiated agreements, reflecting this new approach. In April 2018, the Commission submitted proposals for decisions to sign and conclude an FTA and an IPA with Singapore to the Council. These agreements were signed in October 2018 and EP consent is expected in early 2019. The Council will then decide on the conclusion of the FTA, while the IPA requires prior ratification by all Member States. In October 2018, the Commission also submitted to Council proposals for decisions to sign and conclude a FTA and an IPA with Vietnam. Discussions in Council and the EP on these proposals will continue in 2019.

With regards to the Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) with African countries, under the Commission proposal dated December 2014, DG Trade expects that countries and regions that have not yet signed will be able to do so in the near future. Provisional application of the regional EPA in 16 countries of the **West Africa** region can start once the last remaining country, Nigeria, has signed the agreement and two thirds of the West African countries have ratified it. Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana ratified their interim EPAs in 2016, while awaiting the entry into application of the regional agreement. A Commission proposal for the signature, provisional application and conclusion of the full EPA with five countries of the **East African Community** (EAC) was adopted by the Council in June 2016. All EU Member States, and Kenya and Rwanda signed the agreement. Signatures from the other three African countries are required before provisional application can start.

### Ongoing bilateral and regional negotiations

Following adoption by the Council of the negotiation directives on 13 November 2017, the EU and **Chile** have already undertaken three rounds of negotiations <sup>(3)</sup>. The negotiations are seeking to modernise the Association Agreement (AA) between the EU and Chile (2003), in the same manner as the EU embarked on the modernisation of its agreement with Mexico. In order to assess the potential impact of the agreement, DG Trade has used an independent contractor to carry out a Sustainability Impact Assessment (SIA).

Although the EPA with **Japan** was signed on 17 July 2018, the negotiations on an IPA are still ongoing, with the aim of concluding them as soon as possible in 2019.

Following the Council's authorisation in May 2018 to open negotiations for FTAs between the EU and Australia and between the EU and New Zealand, respectively, negotiations were launched in June 2018 and the first negotiating rounds were held in July 2018. Subsequent rounds were held with New Zealand in October 2018 and with Australia in November 2018. The procedure for the accompanying SIA was launched in the summer of 2018.

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'The trade and investment agreements with Vietnam are exemplary of Europe's trade policy. They bring unprecedented advantages and benefits for European and Vietnamese companies, workers and consumers. They take fully into account the economic differences between the two sides. They promote a rules- and values-based trade policy with strong and clear commitments on sustainable development and human rights.'

*Jean-Claude Juncker during the presentation of the EU-Vietnam trade and investment agreements*

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'Swift conclusion of the EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement — the biggest trade deal ever negotiated by the European Union — will be a powerful signal of this commitment. We will also work to ensure the rapid entry into force of the agreements with Singapore and Vietnam and to finalise those negotiations for which an agreement in principle has been reached (Mexico) or that are already at an advanced stage, such as those with Chile and Mercosur. We must also make as much progress as possible in other ongoing trade negotiations, including with Australia and New Zealand.'

*Commission Work Programme 2019*

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'By coming together in negotiations the EU and Australia are sending a signal - that we are open, outward-looking traders with busy negotiating agendas, and that we are not giving into the politics of fear and closing.'

*Commissioner Malmström, on the launch of negotiations with Australia*

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<sup>(3)</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/trade/policy/countries-and-regions/countries/chile/>

Following the successful resumption of negotiations with four countries of the South American sub-regional trading bloc **Mercosur** <sup>(4)</sup> on the trade part in the Association Agreement in 2016, thirteen negotiation rounds have taken place till December 2018. Both parties remain committed to the conclusion of the negotiations as soon as all necessary elements are in place, following which the text will be legally reviewed and translated. In order to assess the agreement's potential impact, DG Trade has used an independent contractor to carry out an SIA.

The EU and Mexico announced an agreement in principle to update the trade part of the EU-Mexico Global Agreement on 21 April 2018. With the modernisation, the EU and **Mexico** <sup>(5)</sup> will aim to bring their trade and investment framework into the 21st century, reaching a level of ambition, similar to that of the most recently concluded EU agreements. In addition, the agreement sends a strong signal in support of rules- and values-based trade. The agreement is currently under legal review and will subsequently be translated. The proposals for decisions on signature, provisional application and conclusion will be adopted by the Commission in 2019 and transmitted to the Council for adoption. To assess the agreement's potential impact, DG Trade has asked an independent contractor to carry out an SIA, which will be finalised in the course of 2019.

Apart from the concluded negotiations with Singapore and Vietnam (see above), the Commission also launched negotiations for free trade agreements with **Indonesia** <sup>(6)</sup>, **Malaysia**, the **Philippines** <sup>(7)</sup> and **Thailand**. The sixth round of negotiations took place with Indonesia in October 2018, while two rounds of negotiations have taken place so far with the Philippines. The Commission is also looking forward to resuming negotiations for trade and investment agreements with Malaysia and Thailand once the conditions are right. An SIA for the negotiations with Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines is being undertaken and a final report is due in 2019.

In the EU's immediate neighbourhood, negotiations with **Tunisia** <sup>(8)</sup>, for a deep and comprehensive FTA (DCFTA) are expected to resume their usual pace. **Morocco**, however, has suspended negotiations for a DCFTA, pending the outcome of in depth studies and domestic consultations, and has further limited contact with the EU following the ECJ ruling on the affiliation of Western Sahara. Negotiations to address the question of goods originating in Western Sahara will continue, with a view to resuming talks for a free trade deal. We will also work with other partners in the Southern Mediterranean region to build on the existing network of FTAs.

DG Trade will continue to work with the European External Action Service (EEAS) towards a new comprehensive agreement with **Azerbaijan** <sup>(9)</sup> and **Kyrgyzstan** <sup>(10)</sup>, enhancing our bilateral relations, including on trade. Furthermore, trade negotiations will be launched with **Uzbekistan** <sup>(11)</sup>, in the context of the broader negotiations towards a new Comprehensive Agreement, for which the Council issued its negotiating directives in July 2018. In order to advance effective implementation of the DCFTA with **Ukraine**, negotiations will be launched and conducted with Ukraine, with a view to amending certain provisions of the agreement concerning imports of poultry-meat products into the EU. In addition, work will continue towards finalising a new framework agreement with **Andorra**, **Monaco** and **San Marino**, ensuring their integration into the single market and their alignment with EU trade.

Key outstanding issues in relation to the resumption of negotiations for a trade and investment agreement with **India** <sup>(12)</sup> include improved market access for certain goods and services, government procurement, geographical indications, sound

<sup>(4)</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/trade/policy/countries-and-regions/regions/mercosur/>

<sup>(5)</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/trade/policy/countries-and-regions/countries/mexico/>

<sup>(6)</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/trade/policy/countries-and-regions/countries/indonesia/>

<sup>(7)</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/trade/policy/countries-and-regions/countries/philippines/>

<sup>(8)</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/trade/policy/countries-and-regions/countries/tunisia/>

<sup>(9)</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/trade/policy/countries-and-regions/countries/azerbaijan/>

<sup>(10)</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/trade/policy/countries-and-regions/countries/regions/central-asia/>

<sup>(11)</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/trade/policy/countries-and-regions/countries/regions/central-asia/>

<sup>(12)</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/trade/policy/countries-and-regions/countries/india/>

investment protection rules and sustainable development. The Commission is engaged with India to determine whether or not the conditions are right for the resumption of negotiations.

As to the deepening of the EPA between the EU and the Eastern and Southern Africa (ESA) subregion, key issues for negotiation under the 'rendez-vous clauses' include Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures, Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), and customs and trade facilitation, as well as trade and sustainable development (TSD), services, public procurement and the upgrading of the dispute settlement mechanism, institutional bodies and monitoring provisions. The agreement is currently applied by **Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles** and **Zimbabwe**, soon to be joined by **Comoros**, which signed the agreement in 2017. An evaluation of the current EPA with the Eastern and Southern Africa subregion will be carried out. This evaluation will feed into the SIA, to be conducted in parallel with the negotiations.

While talks on the standalone bilateral investment agreement with **China** <sup>(13)</sup> continue, negotiations with **Myanmar/Burma** <sup>(14)</sup> are currently on pause. With regards to China, the first exchange of market access offers took place in the margins of the EU-China Summit in July 2018. Work on the investment agreement is expected to intensify, with a focus on investment protection rules, sustainable development and market access discussions.

### The proposal of new bilateral negotiations

Once the EU and **Switzerland** have concluded negotiations on the Institutional Framework Agreement, the EU will start preparations for prospective negotiations to modernise the current basis for trade relations between the two sides.

On 21 December 2016, the Commission recommended to the Council starting negotiations with **Turkey** <sup>(15)</sup> to enhance EU-Turkey bilateral trade relations and to modernise the Customs Union between us, but this recommendation is still pending a decision by the Council.

The Commission will continue to explore the launch of an impact assessment in view of possible investment negotiations with **Hong Kong**, as well as with the separate Customs Territory of **Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen** and **Matsu**.

On 25 July 2018, Presidents Juncker and Trump issued a joint statement announcing their intention to work together to facilitate transatlantic trade. The statement was a critical step in de-escalating the rising tensions with the United States and allowed both sides to enter into a constructive bilateral dialogue under the aegis of an Executive Working Group, established by the Joint Statement. Discussions are currently ongoing under this framework. Once common ground has been established with the United States and more precise objectives agreed, the Commission can engage with its partners in the Council and Parliament on the legal and other instruments that accompany the transatlantic work, as well as with outside stakeholders. Negotiating directives will also be requested, as needed.

DG Trade will continue to pay special attention to ensuring that trade negotiations are transparent throughout the entire process. Transparency is fundamental to better regulation and essential to ensuring the legitimacy of EU trade policy and public trust. As announced by President Juncker in the State of the Union address of 13 September 2017, the Commission now publishes all of its recommendations for negotiating directives for trade agreements (such as those for Australia, New Zealand and the Multilateral Investment Court). DG Trade will also continue to encourage the Council

<sup>(13)</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/trade/policy/countries-and-regions/countries/china/>

<sup>(14)</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/trade/policy/countries-and-regions/countries/myanmar/>

<sup>(15)</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/trade/policy/countries-and-regions/countries/turkey/>

to publish the final version of FTA negotiating directives after their adoption. The Council has already done so in the case of the negotiations with Australia and New Zealand.

During negotiations, DG Trade will also continue the systematic publication of all EU initial proposals for legal texts, together with a report, after each negotiating round. Shortly after a negotiation is finalised, the Commission publishes the final consolidated negotiated text of the agreement in question, supported by information material explaining the negotiation outcomes.

The Commission's commitment to transparency also continues during the implementation of the FTA. For example, starting with CETA, the agendas and reports of committee meetings for all new FTAs are published.

Furthermore, at the end of 2017, DG Trade set up an expert group in support of its work, offering technical expertise and practical experience, both in the context of negotiations and the overall implementation of trade agreements once in force. The group is composed of stakeholders who range from trade unions, employers' organisations, consumer groups and other non-governmental organisations.

At all stages — before, during and after an FTA negotiation — DG Trade engages with stakeholders and civil society, both in Europe and in the given partner country, through Civil Society Dialogues, workshops, interviews and public consultations. These are considered fundamental components of every impact assessment, SIA and ex-post evaluation.

An overview of all ongoing bilateral negotiations can be found in annex 1.

## SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 2: EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION

Effective implementation of the EU's trade and investment policies secured, amongst other, through proper monitoring, enforcement and support.

The Commission will continue the focus on maximising the benefits of our trade instruments, through the proper implementation and enforcement of our trade and investment rights and by building on the findings of the evaluation of FTAs already in place.

As far as FTAs are concerned, the 'Trade for All' Communication announced that the Commission will enhance its partnership with Member States, the EP and stakeholders in order to implement the EU's trade agreements.

In 2019, DG Trade will continue to work on outreach to these actors and focus, inter alia, on awareness-raising, regular structured exchanges on FTA-related activities, market access, sustainable development, and SME internationalisation. With regards to sustainable development, the Commission will step up actions for effective implementation and enforcement of the TSD chapters in EU FTAs, as mentioned under specific objective 4. As for trade promotion activities, we encourage Member States to strengthen their actions, share best practices and to prioritise countries with whom we have recently concluded agreements or anticipate doing so in the next 12-18 months. To facilitate the implementation of FTAs, the Commission will also work on enhancing communication on rules of origin based on the feedback received from economic operators (e.g. more user-friendly access to information on rules of origin in the Market Access Database), and will continue to analyse the preference utilisation rates of EU FTAs.

In order to make sure that the EU remains one of the world's most open investment regimes, and thereby a source of growth and jobs, while also protecting its essential interests, on 13 September 2017, the Commission proposed a new framework for the screening of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) into the EU. It consists of a dedicated communication outlining the strategic need for such a framework, entitled 'Welcoming Foreign Direct Investment while Protecting Essential Interests' <sup>(16)</sup>, as well as a Proposal for a Regulation of the EP and the Council establishing a framework for **screening of foreign direct investments into the European Union** <sup>(17)</sup>. In addition, a Staff Working Document has been published on the subject, providing information on FDI inflows, their implications and the potential risks they may pose for security and public order in the EU.

The legislative work on the Commission's proposal is well advanced. Political agreement between the co-legislators was reached on 21 November 2018. The Council and the EP subsequently endorsed the political agreement on 5 December and 10 December 2018, respectively. Both co-legislators aim at fully endorsing the regulation during EP Plenary meetings and Council meetings in March 2019.

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'The EU has every reason to be confident and assertive in our trade relations, but we will not be naïve. It is important that the co-legislators agree swiftly on the proposal on the screening of foreign direct investment, in order to monitor and prevent foreign take-overs that would be detrimental to EU interests.'

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<sup>(16)</sup> COM(2017) 494 final.

<sup>(17)</sup> COM(2017) 487 final.

In the Communication, the Commission announced two complementary measures, one being the launch of an in depth study. The study will address, in particular, FDI in strategic sectors, or assets that may raise security or public order concerns. It will include data collection, trend analysis, and an assessment of the impact of such investments, including through case studies. Its results should feed into the decision-making process for the proposed population. It is planned for the study to be released as a Commission Staff Working Document in early 2019. The second complementary measure announced is the setting up of a 'coordination group' dedicated to inward FDI, including all issues within the scope of the proposed Regulation. The expert group, chaired by the Commission and composed of representatives of Member States, was set up by the Commission on 29 November 2017 <sup>(18)</sup>. The group met twice in 2018 and will continue its work in 2019.

More specifically, in relation to individual bilateral agreements, DG Trade continues to monitor the implementation of the various agreements that have entered into force or are provisionally applied. The EU-**Canada** CETA entered into provisional application on 21 September 2017. In the first year of provisional application, both sides implemented the agreement's institutional structure, to allow the establishment and full functioning of the various CETA committees and working groups that will, inter alia, follow up on the Agreement's implementation. In 2019, the Commission will continue to focus on ensuring the smooth and effective implementation of the agreement. This includes identifying and monitoring implementation issues, and ensuring that committee meetings take place on a regular basis, with a prompt follow-up in relation to meeting outcomes. The Commission will continue to develop new and improved tools, providing practical information for European exporters to make full use of the potential of the agreement and continuing to reach out to stakeholders and the wider public to promote their use.

DG Trade will maintain focus on the **South Korea** FTA <sup>(19)</sup> through the management of six specialised committees, seven working groups and the annual FTA Trade Committee. The ex-post evaluation of the EU-South Korea FTA, after five years of application, is expected to be published by early 2019. The results of the evaluation will be used to improve the implementation of the FTA, as well as other FTAs currently being negotiated or that have already entered into force.

As the EPA with **Japan** is expected to enter into force in early 2019, DG Trade will work to facilitate its smooth implementation, beginning by ensuring that the bodies and procedures set up by the agreement are fully functional within the established timeframes. This implies, inter alia, the designation of bilateral contact points and the organisation of joint committee meetings to adopt decisions with legal effect (such as joint committee rules of procedure and additional rules governing dispute settlement proceedings). Work will be carried out to disseminate information about the agreement to European businesses and farmers, with a view to maximising the utilisation of new market access opportunities.

Within Latin America <sup>(20)</sup>, we will continue to pursue the effective implementation of the agreements that the EU has concluded with **Mexico, Chile, Colombia/Peru/Ecuador** <sup>(21)</sup> and **Central America** <sup>(22)</sup>, through the management of the specialised committees and the annual Trade Committee/Association Council. Substantive work is being carried out by EU Delegations in the countries concerned and Commission headquarters in Brussels will continue to monitor the implementation of specific issues. They will also carry out activities in the EU and the partner countries to disseminate information about the agreements, improve reporting activities and plan joint activities and projects to support the implementation of the agreements. The

<sup>(18)</sup> Commission Decision of 29.11.2017 setting up the group of experts on the screening of FDIs into the European Union C(2017)7866 final.

<sup>(19)</sup> The EU- South Korea FTA has been provisionally applied since July 2011, and was amended in 2014 to include Croatia as a party to the FTA, with effect from 1 July 2013.

<sup>(20)</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/trade/policy/countries-and-regions/regions/andean-community/>

<sup>(21)</sup> Ecuador acceded to the Colombia/Peru agreement on 1 January 2017.

<sup>(22)</sup> The EU-Colombia/Peru FTA and EU-Central America DCFTA have been provisionally applied since 2013.

trade agreements with Colombia and Peru and with Central America will be subject to ex-post evaluations, as from 2019. In turn, the respective AAs with Mexico and Chile are undergoing a modernisation. In addition, we are ensuring the appropriate enforcement of WTO commitments by partners in the region, in particular those with whom the EU has no bilateral trade agreement in place, with a special focus on important markets, such as Argentina and Brazil.

We shall also continue to monitor the implementation of the DCFTAs currently in place with **Ukraine, Georgia and Moldova**. For each relevant DCFTA, the overarching AAs provide a dedicated configuration of the Association Committee to discuss trade issues and four specialised subcommittees. Furthermore, the ex-post evaluation of the trade pillar of the DCFTAs with Georgia and Moldova will be launched in 2019. The efforts and results of the implementation work and evaluation will be reflected in the aforementioned general report on FTA implementation, in due course.

In the margins of the fifth Eastern Partnership summit in Brussels on 24 November 2017, **Armenia** and the EU signed a new Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement. This agreement provisionally entered into force on 1 June 2018. Once it is ratified and enters into full application, it will replace the former Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA) of 1999. It includes a series of ambitious trade-related provisions and work has already commenced to implement them, with a specific project being launched in relation to the implementation of Armenia's commitments to respect EU Geographical Indications, notably Cognac.

As for **Southern Mediterranean countries**, efforts are ongoing to improve the efficiency of subcommittees under the relevant AA and to ensure that annual trade subcommittee meetings tackle all trade-related issues effectively. DG Trade will continue to press these partners to remove trade-related barriers, whilst also aiming to assist them to benefit more widely from their existing preferential market access, in particular through trade-related assistance and capacity building.

An evaluation of the trade pillar of six EU Association Agreements with Southern Mediterranean countries (Tunisia, Morocco, Egypt, Jordan, Algeria and Lebanon) began at the end of 2017 and is expected to be finalised in 2020. This exercise will help DG Trade to understand the strengths and weaknesses of these first-generation agreements better 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 EPAs with **African, Caribbean and Pacific countries** (ACPs) intensified in 2018 and will continue in 2019. Five countries from the South African Development Community (SADC) started provisional application of the EPA with the EU in 2016 and Mozambique in 2017. The implementation of interim EPAs with Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana in West Africa is also moving forwards. Monitoring activities apply to all relevant aspects, including compliance with EPA commitments and the impact on sustainable development. Annual meetings of the joint EPA bodies for EPAs with the Caribbean, Eastern and Southern Africa EPA-group, SADC and Pacific countries, as well as with Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana, took place in 2018. Samoa's accession to the EU-Pacific EPA was finalised in 2018, whereas Solomon Islands and Tonga both notified their intention to join this agreement. An ex-post evaluation to review the impact and implementation of the EPA with the Caribbean region was launched in 2018 and will be finalised by the end of 2019.

DG Trade will also continue to implement the EU strategy on **China** adopted in June 2016<sup>(23)</sup>. There will be a particular focus on bilateral strategic discussions on trade and investment issues covering China's agenda for economic reforms; overcapacity

(23) [http://eeas.europa.eu/archives/docs/china/docs/joint\\_communication\\_to\\_the\\_european\\_parliament\\_and\\_the\\_council\\_-\\_elements\\_for\\_a\\_new\\_eu\\_strategy\\_on\\_china.pdf](http://eeas.europa.eu/archives/docs/china/docs/joint_communication_to_the_european_parliament_and_the_council_-_elements_for_a_new_eu_strategy_on_china.pdf)

concerns (particularly regarding steel and export controls); level playing field issues, such as subsidies and forced technology transfer (in particular, in the EU-China working group on WTO reform, set up at the EU-China Summit in July 2018); Chinese investments in the EU (including in infrastructure) and investment negotiations; market access; and intellectual property rights. The implementation of the EU Connectivity Strategy (unveiled in October 2018) will also require synergies to be forged between China's Belt and Road Initiative and the EU's initiatives related to improving Europe-Asia connectivity.

Implementation of the strategy also entails following plurilateral and multilateral discussions at the level of G7, G20, the OECD, and the WTO, including on issues such as overcapacity and the International Working Group on export credits.

DG Trade will continue to work on the removal of trade barriers through our **Market Access Partnership** with Member States and industry, which creates additional export opportunities of € 4.8 billion each year — equivalent to the benefits of many of our FTAs. In the wake of the rise in protectionism detected in the latest Report on Trade and Investment Barriers, DG Trade is committed to reinforcing the partnership, by enhancing the prioritisation of actions to remove barriers, strengthening coordination with stakeholders, and through 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's activities in this area also include its work with the **SPS** Market Access Working Group to identify and agree on a mid- to long-term strategy to tackle SPS measures and the continued financial support for international standard-setting organisations.

Furthermore, we will continue to enforce the EU's multilateral and bilateral rights and obligations through the **WTO dispute settlement or through bilateral dispute settlement mechanisms**, if applicable. DG Trade also manages cases brought in investor-state dispute settlement mechanisms, i.e. the Energy Charter Treaty and under the Grandfathering Regulation <sup>(24)</sup>. We will continue to monitor how WTO members comply with their membership commitments, including those stemming from plurilateral agreements (notably ITA).

At the WTO Ministerial Conference in 2015, ministers agreed on a global trade deal to benefit developing countries in Africa and around the world by creating new rules regarding export competition in agriculture. On behalf of the EU, DG Trade will continue to monitor the situation and work with other WTO members to ensure swift implementation of all aspects of the agreement by all WTO members, as well as exploring which further steps can be taken in order to further improve conditions regarding export competition.

As part of its **implementation and enforcement** efforts, the Commission will continue to report regularly on protectionist trends and the progress made in eliminating trade barriers. A comprehensive report on the implementation of FTAs is published annually.

<sup>(24)</sup> Regulation (EU) No 1219/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 December 2012, establishing transitional arrangements for bilateral investment agreements between Member States and third countries.

## SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 3: TACKLING UNFAIR TRADE

Maintain and improve a transparent, efficient and effective system to combat distortions and unfair trade practices in international trade.

The EU uses trade defence instruments to re-establish a competitive environment for EU industry when it is harmed by unfair imports.

The 2013 Commission proposal on the modernisation of the EU's Trade Defence Instruments <sup>(25)</sup> entered into force on 8 June 2018. The amendments, inter alia, make it possible to impose provisional anti-dumping measures more quickly and allow the EU to set the anti-dumping duty at the level of the full dumping margin, to remove the relevant injury, where the exporting country distorts raw material prices, for instance by introducing export restrictions on them.

The modernisation package completes the reform of European Union trade defence legislation, which started with the introduction on 20 December 2017 of a new method for calculating dumping on imports from countries where there are significant market distortions, in particular where the state has a pervasive influence on the economy.

Several measures will be taken in 2019 to reap the full benefits of the new disciplines. In relation to the new dumping methodology, a report is being prepared concerning possible significant distortions in Russia, which should be available in the third quarter of 2019. With regards to the modernisation package, the Commission is preparing the customs tool that will make it possible to extend anti-dumping and countervailing measures to the continental shelf and the Exclusive Economic Zone of the Union.

DG Trade will continue to maintain and improve a transparent, efficient and effective system to combat distortions and unfair trade practices. 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 will continue to make investigations more transparent and efficient by expanding the use of the web platform (TRON) to consult files and communications with parties participating in the investigations. Furthermore, both the new legislation for the calculation of dumping and the modernisation file contain elements that increase transparency: these transparency measures will be implemented in investigations due for completion in 2019.

DG Trade is also actively participating in trade defence investigations by non-EU countries against EU Member States, with the aim of minimising the cost for EU exporters.

In the current situation of overcapacity in the steel sector, a Global Forum on steel excess capacity was launched in Berlin on 16 December 2016, to implement the commitment undertaken by the G20 Leaders at the Hangzhou and Hamburg Summits in September 2016 and July 2017, respectively. In line with the G20 mandate, the September 2018 Paris Ministerial meeting agreed important steps to address the subsidies that cause overcapacity; March 2019 was given as the timeframe for voluntary

<sup>(25)</sup> COM(2013)192: [http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2016/november/tradoc\\_155079.pdf](http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2016/november/tradoc_155079.pdf)

commitments. DG Trade will seek the full implementation of the Forum's mandate to enhance transparency and develop concrete policy solutions that reduce steel excess capacity. DG Trade will continue its work to fight overcapacity in other sectors through all multilateral, plurilateral and bilateral channels to prevent their emergence, notably in the aluminium and high-tech sectors. In parallel, and in addition to this multilateral exercise, DG Trade will continue to push China to deliver on the bilateral commitment between the EU and China.

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, and in the WTO, the OECD and the G7/G20.

## SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 4: A SUSTAINABLE APPROACH TO TRADE

Improved sustainable economic, social and environmental conditions for consumers, workers, citizens and businesses in the EU and in non-EU countries and a special focus on human rights, responsible management of supply chains and good governance.

In 2019, EU trade policy will continue to contribute to the Treaty objective of **sustainable development in its economic, social and environmental dimensions**, in Europe and in our partner countries, and to boost inclusive and sustainable growth and reducing poverty in developing countries.

As foreseen in the 'Trade for All' Communication, DG Trade will reinforce its agenda to promote sustainable development, human rights and good governance, in the spirit of the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including by ensuring that FTA provisions related to these and the Generalised Scheme of Preferences <sup>(26)</sup> are implemented effectively.

The Commission will continue to negotiate ambitious provisions to promote respect for labour rights and the protection of the environment, in line with international commitments, and work with FTA partners fully and effectively to implement relevant provisions, thereby supporting decent work and the conservation and sustainable management of the environment. The Commission will pay particular attention to trade and climate by, inter alia, continuing to engage in the debate at an international level and developing implementation actions within EU FTAs, where pertinent.

The debate launched by the Commission on **improving the implementation and enforcement of TSD chapters** <sup>(27)</sup> concluded in February 2018 with a 15-point Action Plan. The Commission is now focussed on implementing this plan in full, which will frame the initiatives to be carried out in 2019. Implementation will involve an enhanced partnership with Member States, the EP, international organisations and civil society. Since November 2018, a € 3 million project has been available to support civil society involvement in the implementation and monitoring of EU trade agreements. The project will have a three-year duration and will be funded through the Partnership Instrument.

Specific attention will continue to be paid to ensuring compliance with TSD commitments (including, in the case of South Korea, with whom the Commission has launched consultations under the TSD chapter for the first time, and in the case of Guatemala, El Salvador and Peru) and to preparing the implementation of TSD chapters of upcoming and new FTAs, such as those with Japan, Vietnam and Singapore. The annual FTA implementation report will provide a good opportunity to monitor overall progress on TSD implementation.

The Commission will also pursue a better link between trade policy instruments (e.g. the Generalised Scheme of Preferences and the sustainable development chapters

<sup>(26)</sup> The EU's Generalised Scheme of Preferences (GSP) is designed to help developing countries integrate into the international trade system, by making it easier for them to export their products to the EU. This is done in the form of partly or fully reduced tariffs for their goods when entering the EU market. Through the additional export revenue that is generated, GSP fosters income growth and supports development.

<sup>(27)</sup> On 11 July 2017, the Commission launched a debate on the enforcement and implementation of the EU's FTA TSD chapters. The basis for this debate is a non-paper prepared by the Commission, transmitted to the Member States and the EP, and made public (available on the DG Trade website: [http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2017/july/tradoc\\_155686.pdf](http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2017/july/tradoc_155686.pdf)).

in FTAs) and cooperation with the aim of promoting labour rights and environmental protection, including actions on climate. Dedicated funding will be provided to the International Labour Organisation (ILO) for capacity building on labour rights in key trading partner countries, including Myanmar/Burma and Vietnam.

The Commission will review the implementation of the **Generalised System of Preferences** (GSP) Regulation on a regular basis. This includes the **GSP+ scheme**, which offers additional preferences to developing countries that commit to implementing core international conventions on human rights, labour rights, environmental protection and good governance, and the **Everything But Arms** (EBA) initiative, which provides duty- and quota-free access for all goods from Least Developed Countries (LDCs), with the exception of arms and ammunition. In this context, DG Trade will continue its enhanced monitoring of a number of EBA countries in 2019, through missions and high-level dialogue, in particular with regard to Myanmar/Burma, Cambodia and Bangladesh. The Commission will consider the possibility of launching procedures for the temporary withdrawal of preferences, if considered justified.

In 2019, the Commission will update the list of beneficiaries and graduated partners as foreseen under the GSP Regulation. DG Trade will also start to implement some of the findings of the GSP mid-term evaluation as finalised in 2018, including the launch of a project that will seek to strengthen transparency and outreach regarding the GSP.

Last but not least, building on the findings of the evaluation of the GSP, DG Trade will launch an ex-ante impact assessment in 2019, with a view to initiating preparatory work on the future GSP Regulation, given that the current regulation will come to an end in 2022.

The EU is actively promoting **due diligence practices for responsible global value chains**. For example, in 2014, the EU adopted the Non-Financial Disclosure Directive, which 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. The EU is now gaining experience as the related guidelines on its implementation are being adopted. 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 and is working closely with the OECD to develop sectoral due diligence guidelines. The implementation of these guidelines will remain a priority for DG Trade in 2019.

The Commission has developed capacity building and outreach programmes to help developing countries address sustainability challenges, notably with ongoing projects under the Partnership Instrument on responsible supply chains in Asia and Latin America.

DG Trade will also ensure that TSD is included as part of the multilateral work it carries out in key international bodies and fora, notably the WTO (the Committee on Trade and Environment and the Committee on Trade and Development, for example), and also in the UN, OECD, the World Bank, the G20, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (Unctad), ILO, etc.

As provided for in the 'Trade for All' communication, DG Trade will reinforce its focus on the **gender** angle of trade inclusiveness. It will actively implement the actions foreseen in the Declaration on Trade and Women's Economic Empowerment adopted at the 11th WTO Ministerial Conference. DG Trade will also work on specific provisions on trade and gender in the modernisation of the EU-Chile Association Agreement <sup>(28)</sup>.

<sup>(28)</sup> EU text proposals for provisions on Trade and Gender Equality: [http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2018/june/tradoc\\_156962.pdf](http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2018/june/tradoc_156962.pdf)

DG Trade will also implement the CETA Joint Committee recommendation on trade and gender <sup>(29)</sup>. To improve the understanding of the impact of trade instruments on gender equality, DG Trade has launched a study entitled, 'Women in Trade: Collecting data on women entrepreneurship and female employment in exporting and importing firms in selected EU Member States (August 2018–October 2019)'.

The EU's foreign policy remains the primary instrument for the EU to promote human rights in third countries, through a broad range of tools, from bilateral Human Rights Dialogues to the adoption of political sanctions. In 2019, DG Trade will continue to work on the implementation of the outstanding trade-related actions under the Human Rights Action Plan 2015-19, including intensified dialogue on human rights with specific GSP beneficiaries, ensuring that relevant trade policy tools are appropriately used to contribute to address human rights issues, in particular in relation to child and forced prison labour (also in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals), as well as to enhance the analysis and assessments of the impact of trade initiatives on human rights.

In the same spirit of promoting good governance, in cooperation with EU Member States and the EP, the Commission will work on further defining its approach on how to improve its approach to promoting and contributing to the **fight against corruption affecting trade in investment**.

Well-functioning intellectual property (IP) systems are a key lever to promote investment in innovation and sustainable growth. DG Trade will continue to engage with key trading partners to cooperate towards an adequate and efficient protection and enforcement of IP rights. In 2019, we intend to hold IP Dialogues and Working Groups with China, South Korea, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine and the United States. DG Trade, in cooperation with the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO), will continue to implement three IP technical cooperation programmes ('IP Key 2017-2020') in China, South East Asia and Latin America. An IPR action for Africa will be launched by the Commission (DG International Cooperation and Development, DG Trade, DG Agriculture and Rural Development and DG Taxation and Customs Union), in cooperation with EUIPO. The practical implementation of these programmes will begin in 2020. DG Trade will actively support the implementation of the 'Action Plan on Euro-Mediterranean Cooperation on the fight against piracy and counterfeiting'. DG Trade will publish, by the end of 2019, an updated report on the protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights in third countries. DG Trade will continue to work in multilateral organisations, in particular the OECD, UNESCO and the WTO (TRIPS Council) to develop measures to ensure the better protection and enforcement of IP rights worldwide.

In the area of **public procurement**, DG Trade will continue to promote transparency, good governance and reciprocity with third countries, including through an International Procurement Instrument to ensure the openness of foreign procurement markets for EU companies, goods and services. DG Trade will monitor and continue its engagement in the legislative procedure regarding the amended Commission proposal <sup>(30)</sup>, with a view to facilitating its adoption by the co-legislators.

In the area of **security trade controls**, and in the light of the EP's first reading position of 17 January 2018, DG Trade will support the conclusion of the legislative proposal on the modernisation of EU export controls <sup>(31)</sup> in 2019, in order to enhance EU security and facilitate trade in advanced technologies. The Commission will continue

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'It is also time for Member States to break the deadlock on the proposal for an International Procurement Instrument so that we can prevent discrimination against EU companies in the procurement markets of third countries, and to agree to the reform of the dual use rules so that trade can never be misused as a cover for goods which can be used to violate basic human rights.'

*Commission Work Programme 2019*

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<sup>(29)</sup> [http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2018/september/tradoc\\_157419.pdf](http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2018/september/tradoc_157419.pdf)

<sup>(30)</sup> COM(2016) 34 final: [http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2016/january/tradoc\\_154187.pdf](http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2016/january/tradoc_154187.pdf)

<sup>(31)</sup> COM(2016)616: [http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2016/september/tradoc\\_154976.pdf](http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2016/september/tradoc_154976.pdf)

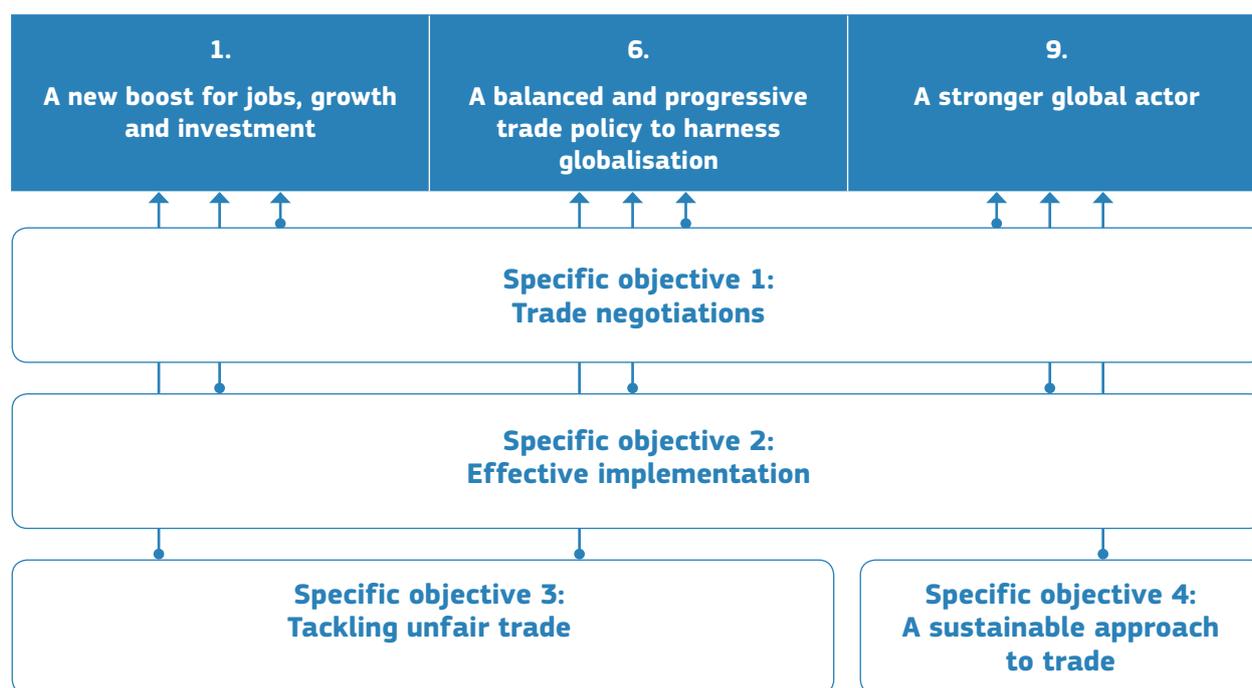
to develop the EU export control network to ensure the effective implementation of controls, e.g. through the development of electronic licensing systems, and EU guidelines on industry compliance standards.

In conflict-affected and high-risk areas, national mineral resources and associated revenues can fuel the outbreak or continuation of violent conflict, undermining endeavours towards development, good governance and the rule of law. The so-called conflict minerals — tin, tantalum, tungsten and gold — can find their way into our mobile phones, cars and jewellery, for example. Therefore, the EU adopted in 2017 a regulation to ensure that importation of these minerals is responsible and does not contribute to violent conflict and associated human rights abuses, and thereby contributing to the sustainable, equitable and effective development and the livelihood of local communities. The requirements on EU importers will apply as of 1 January 2021 so that companies have time to adapt. In the meantime, the EU, its Member States and companies must prepare to ensure effective implementation of the rules once they start to apply.

In 2018, the Commission issued two sets of non-binding guidelines to: (i) economic operators on the criteria for conflict-affected and high-risk areas; and (ii) EU Member State competent authorities, to provide information on how to implement the regulation at national level. Outreach dialogues on conflict minerals will continue in 2019, with a number of trading partners, as in recent years. Furthermore, the Commission is selecting external expertise which will provide an indicative, non-exhaustive list of conflict-affected and high-risk areas by the end of 2019. It is also finalising a delegated act on the methodology and criteria for the recognition of supply chain due diligence schemes, which will enter into force in 2019. In early 2019, the Commission will also place online a transparency platform for responsible minerals, focusing on downstream companies.

With respect to the 'Anti-Torture' Regulation, and following the successful launch of a Global Alliance to end trade in goods that could be used for torture or capital punishment on 18 September 2017 involving Commissioner Malmström, DG Trade will support the Service for Foreign Policy Instruments (FPI) in its efforts to promote the EU model and encourage third countries to develop and adopt similar legislation.

# PERFORMANCE TABLES SETTING OUT CONCRETE DELIVERABLES FOR THE YEAR



<i>Specific objective</i>	<i>1. Trade negotiations</i>	
<b>Main outputs in 2019:</b>		
<b>All new initiatives / significant evaluations from the Commission Work Programme</b>		
<b>Output</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target</b>
Entry into force of the EPA with Japan <i>PLAN/2017/2010</i>	European Parliament (EP) consent to the agreements	Q4 2018
	Council adoption of the decision to conclude the FTA	Q1 2109
Signature and conclusion of the FTA and the IPA with Singapore <i>2015/TRADE/020 and 021</i>	College adoption of proposals for Council Decisions	April 2018
	Council adoption of the Decisions to sign the agreements	October 2018
	Signature of the agreements	October 2018
	EP consent to the agreements	Q1 2019
	Council adoption of the decision to conclude the FTA	Q1 2109
Signature, provisional application and conclusion of the modernised Global Agreement with Mexico <i>2018/EEAS/2532</i>	College adoption of proposals for Council Decisions	Q3 2019

Signature of the FTA and the IPA with Vietnam <i>2015/TRADE/046 and 047</i>	College adoption of proposals for Council Decisions Council adoption of the Decisions to sign the agreements Signature of the agreements EP consent to the agreements Council adoption of the decision to conclude the FTA	October 2018 Q1 2019 Q2 2019 2019 2019
Finalisation of the negotiations for an AA with Mercosur	Conclusion of an agreement in principle	Q2 2019
Modernisation of the trade part of the EU-Chile AA <i>2015/TRADE/039</i>	Conclusion of an agreement in principle	2019
Rapid progress in the negotiations for FTAs with Australia and New Zealand <i>2015/TRADE/040</i>	Adoption of negotiating directives by the Council Launch of FTA negotiations	May 2018 June 2018
Tariff rate quotas included in the EU's WTO tariff schedule following the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the EU (Brexit preparedness)	Contribution to proposal for a Regulation on the apportionment of tariff rate quotas included in the WTO schedule of the Union following the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the EU and amending Council Regulation (EC) No 32/2000 Contribution to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) Article XXVIII negotiations with WTO members	Throughout 2019
Conclusion of the compensatory agreements with 17 WTO members under Article XXI GATS resulting from the accession of 13 EU Member States between 1995 and 2004 in order to obtain a consolidated GATS schedule of specific commitments (the so-called EU25 schedule of commitments) <i>PLAN/2018/3371</i>	College adoption of proposals for Council Decisions Council adoption of the Decisions EP consent to the agreements	8 November 2018 Q1 2019 Q2 2019
<b>Important items from financing decisions</b>		
<i>For a complete listing of expenditure-related outputs, please refer to the Programme Statements published together with the <b>Draft Budget for 2019</b></i>		
<b>Output</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target</b>
SIA for FTAs with Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines <i>[2016 budget]</i>	Inception report Final report Commission Position Paper	July 2018 Q1 2019 Q2 2019
SIA for Agreement with Mercosur <i>[2016 budget]</i>	Commission Position Paper	Q1 2019
SIA for FTA with India <i>[2016 budget]</i>	Contract signature Interim report Final report Commission Position Paper	It depends on the resumption of negotiations

SIA for Agreement with Mexico	Interim report	February 2018
	Final report	Q1 2019
	Commission Position Paper	Q2 2019
SIA for Agreement with Turkey	Launch of the study	2019 (if conditions are right)
Impact Assessment (IA) for modernisation of trade agreement/s with Switzerland <i>PLAN/2018/4628</i>	Launch of the study	2019 (if the conditions are met)
SIA for FTAs with Australia and New Zealand	Contract signature	Q4 2018
	Interim report	Q2 2019
	Final report	Q4 2019
	Commission Position Paper	Q4 2019
SIA for Agreement with Chile	Interim report	November 2018
	Final report	Q1 2019
	Commission Position Paper	Q2 2019
SIA for deepening of EU-ESA EPA combined with ex-post evaluation	Contract signature	Q2 2019
	Interim report	Q4 2019
	Final report	Q4 2020
	Commission Position Paper	Q4 2020
<b>Other important outputs</b>		
<b>Output</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target</b>
Enhancement of the EU-Turkey bilateral trade relations and the modernisation of the Customs Union <i>2015/TRADE+/035</i>	Launch of negotiations	When conditions are right
Myanmar/Burma Investment Agreement	Completion of negotiations	Negotiations paused
China Investment Agreement	Exchange of improved offers	2019
Trade part of AA with Azerbaijan	Completion of negotiations	2019
Trade part of AAs with the Micro States	Completion of negotiations	2019
Trade Title of the Comprehensive Agreement with Kyrgyzstan	Completion of negotiations	2019
Trade Title of the Comprehensive Agreement with Uzbekistan <i>PLAN/2017/2147</i>	Launch of negotiations	2019
Amendments to the DCFTA with Ukraine, concerning poultry-meat imports into the EU <i>PLAN/2018/4632</i>	Launch and completion of negotiations	2019

Technical and financial assistance package on the phasing out of the use of the term '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	2019
WTO reform across the three pillars: rulemaking, dispute settlement and regular work	Submission of textual proposals in the WTO	Throughout 2019
Proposals on e-commerce and domestic regulation	Submission of textual proposals in the WTO	Throughout 2019
Investment facilitation	Submission of examples, including textual proposals, in the Structured Discussions on IF	Throughout 2019
Council decision on adaptation of EU-Central America Association Agreement to take account of Croatia's accession to the EU	College adoption of proposal for Council decision	Q4 2019
ECT modernisation: update of the substantive investment protection rules <i>PLAN/2018/4770</i>	Launch of negotiations	2019

<i>Specific objective</i>	<b>2. Effective implementation</b>	
<b>Main outputs in 2019:</b>		
<b>Delivery on legislative proposals pending with the legislator</b>		
<b>Output</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target</b>
Adoption by the co-legislators of the proposal on the screening of FDI in the European Union <i>COM/2017/0487 final</i>	Proposal for a Regulation establishing a framework for screening of FDIs into the European Union	Political agreement accepted on 5 December in the Committee of Permanent Representatives (Coreper) and on 10 December by the European Parliament's Committee on International Trade (INTA). Adoption by Council and EP Plenary in Q1 2019

<b>Important items from financing decisions</b>		
<i>For a complete listing of expenditure-related outputs, please refer to the Programme Statements published together with the <b>Draft Budget for 2019</b></i>		
<b>Output</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target</b>
Interim ex-post evaluation of the implementation of the EU-South Korea FTA <i>2015/TRADE/054</i>	Staff Working Document	Q1 2019

Ex-post evaluation of Trade Agreement with Colombia/Peru/Ecuador <i>PLAN/2018/2807</i>	Contract signature Interim report Final report Staff Working Document	Launch 2019 Final report 2020
Ex-post evaluation of AA (Trade Pillar) with Central America <i>PLAN/2018/4639</i>	Contract signature Interim report Final report Staff Working Document	Launch 2019 Final report 2020
Interim ex-post evaluation of the implementation of the EU-Caribbean EPA <i>PLAN/2017/2308</i>	Staff Working Document	Launch 2018 Final report 2019
Evaluation of the trade pillar of six EU AAs with Euromed countries (Tunisia, Morocco, Egypt, Jordan, Algeria and Lebanon) <i>PLAN/2017/1317</i>	Contract signature Interim report Final report Staff Working Document	Launch 2018 Final report 2019-2020
Evaluation of the trade pillar agreements with Georgia and Moldova	Contract signature	Launch 2019
<b>Other important outputs</b>		
<b>Output</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target</b>
Communication on international investment <i>PLAN/2017/1072</i>	College adoption	Postponed beyond 2019
Trade and Investment Barriers Report	College adoption	Q2 2019
FTA Implementation Report	College adoption	Second half of 2019
Convention to establish a multilateral court on investment <i>COM/2017/0493</i>	Initiation of negotiations in Uncitral	Q4 2019
Council Decision on amending the Services' Annex of the EU-Ukraine AA/DCFTA <i>PLAN/2018/3017</i>	Commission proposal for a Council Decision	Q2 2019
Council Decision on amending the Customs Annex of the EU-Ukraine AA/DCFTA <i>PLAN/2018/3014</i>	Commission proposal for a Council Decision	Q2 2019
Council Decision on establishing the list of TSD Experts under the EU-Ukraine AA/DCFTA <i>PLAN/2018/3015</i>	Commission proposal for a Council Decision	Q2 2019
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 2019

Council Decision on amending the Services' Annex of the EU-Georgia AA/ DCFTA <i>PLAN/2018/4621</i>	Commission proposal for a Council Decision	Q2 2019
Council Decision on modification of protocol 4 to the EU-Faroe Islands – Denmark FTA <i>PLAN/2018/4629</i>	Commission proposal for a Council Decision	Q3 2019
Proposal for Council Decision on the amendment of the protocol on rules of origin to the EU-ESA EPA <i>PLAN/2017/2238</i>	College adoption Adoption by Council	Q1 2019
Proposals for Council Decisions on rules of origin, list of arbitrators and the rules of procedure for dispute settlement under the EU-Central Africa EPA <i>PLAN/2017/2222</i>	College adoption Adoption by Council	Q2 2019
Proposal for Council Decision on the protocol on rules of origin of the EU-Ghana EPA <i>PLAN/2017/2232 (ISC and adoption process to be managed by DG Taxation and Customs Union)</i>	College adoption Adoption by Council	Q1 2019
Proposal for Council Decision on the Rules of Procedure of the EU-Ghana EPA <i>PLAN/2017/2250</i>	College adoption Adoption by Council	Q1 2019
Proposal for Council Decision on protocol on rules of origin for EU-Côte d'Ivoire EPA <i>PLAN/2017/2231 (ISC and adoption process to be managed by DG Taxation and Customs Union)</i>	College adoption Adoption by Council	Q1 2019
Proposal for Council Decisions concerning the arbitrators under the EU-Côte d'Ivoire EPA <i>PLAN/ 2018/4722</i>	College adoption Adoption by Council	Q2 2019
Proposal for Council Decisions concerning the accession of Solomon Islands to the EU-Pacific States EPA <i>PLAN/2017/2241</i>	College adoption Adoption by Council	Q1 2019
Proposal for Council Decisions concerning the rules of procedure, rules of origin and arbitrators under the EU-Pacific States EPA <i>PLAN/2017/2244 – 2245 - 2246</i>	College adoption Adoption by Council	Q1 2019

<b>Specific objective</b>		<b>3. Tackling unfair trade</b>
<b>Main outputs in 2019:</b>		
<b>Output</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target</b>
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	Demand driven. To be adopted within the regulatory deadlines  100 % of investigations concluded within deadlines while 10 % of new investigations concluded before the mandatory deadline (by at least a month)
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 traditional and high-tech sectors.	2019
Annual reports: - 37 <sup>th</sup> Annual Report on the EU's Anti-Dumping, Anti-Subsidy and Safeguard activities; - 15 <sup>th</sup> Report on overview of third countries' trade defence actions against the EU.	College adoption and possible presentation (e.g. EP and Civil Society)	Q1 2019
<b>Specific objective</b>		<b>4. A sustainable approach to trade</b>
<b>Main outputs in 2019:</b>		
<b>Delivery on legislative proposals pending with the legislator</b>		
<b>Output</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target</b>
Amended proposal, access of third country goods and services to the European Union's internal market (public procurement with third countries) <i>Initial proposal: COM(2012)124</i> <i>Revised proposal: COM(2016)34</i>	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 the access of Union goods and services to the public procurement markets of third countries	2019
Export control review —  Proposal for a Regulation of the EP and Council setting up a Union regime for the control of exports, transfer, brokering, technical assistance and transit of dual-use items (recast) <i>2016/0295 (COD)</i>	Adoption by the EP and the Council	1 <sup>st</sup> Semester 2019

Brexit contingency proposal — Adding the United Kingdom to the list of destinations in EU001 (dual-use goods)	Adoption by the European Parliament and the Council	1 <sup>st</sup> Semester 2019
<b>Other important outputs</b>		
<b>Output</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target</b>
Completion of the electronic licensing system pilot project — delivery of the system to two Member States	E-licensing system (pilot) in Italy, Latvia, Greece, Romania and Belgium	Q2 2019
Commission Recommendation — industry compliance guidelines	Commission adoption	Q2 2019
Commission Delegated Regulation updating the EU control list for dual-use items	Commission adoption	Q3 2019
Export control annual report <i>PLAN/2018/4139</i>	Commission adoption	Q3 2019
Commission Delegated Regulation to implement the yearly update of the beneficiaries under the GSP Regulation <i>PLAN/2018/4207</i>	College adoption	Q4 2019
Commission Delegated Regulation amending Annex III to Regulation (EU) No 978/2012 of the EP and of the Council applying a scheme of generalised tariff preferences (Tajikistan)	College adoption	Q4 2019
Biennial Commission Report to the EP and Council on monitoring GSP countries	College adoption	Q4 2019
Delegated act for methodology and criteria allowing the Commission to assess supply chain due diligence schemes for recognition <i>PLAN/2017/1286</i>	Adoption by College	Q1 2019
Updated report on the protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights in third countries	Staff Working Document	End 2019

# PART 2. MAIN ORGANISATIONAL MANAGEMENT OUTPUTS FOR THE YEAR

## A. Human resource management

### **DG Trade's specific objective is to motivate and retain highly qualified staff in order to maintain effective and efficient operation of DG Trade**

In order to ensure an efficient and effective delivery of DG Trade priorities and specific objectives, our strategic HR management seeks to ensure that DG Trade can draw on a rich and balanced pool of engaged and professional staff. 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, a new multiannual DG Trade HR strategy has been prepared for 2018-2020, bringing together a number of forward-looking elements, drawing from the policy perspective.

DG Trade's HR strategy seeks to maintain a knowledgeable, motivated and healthy workforce; it therefore offers opportunities to all categories of staff, in different grades and functions and at different stages in their career, both at Headquarters and in EU Delegations. Mindful of the continued very high workload in DG Trade and the political sensitivity of DG Trade's agenda, further actions that seek to improve work-life balance, health and wellbeing continue to be a priority for the coming year. This new strategy maps out these objectives in more detail and offers a comprehensive approach to HR support. The strategy looks at key numbers and trends for DG Trade's staff as well as at the challenges faced in terms of workload and of the nature of DG Trade's activities. It then identifies possible avenues of response, aiming at delivering over the coming years the right people in the right place at the right time in order to achieve successful policy results.

This has been translated into a detailed action plan, across five areas, to ensure that DG Trade:

1. makes the best use of all of our human resources;
2. offers a sustainable and healthy working environment;
3. delivers a modern, networked and inclusive workplace;
4. seeks to manage its talent in way that allows staff to achieve their full potential;
5. benefits from an effective, open and motivated management team through the active support of managers at all levels.

More specifically, as in previous years, DG Trade will continue to take its commitment to the promotion of gender equality seriously. While we have fulfilled our target of the first female middle management appointments (with two appointments made), our efforts will continue to ensure a balanced pool of administrator (AD) staff in 2019.

Furthermore, as part of its HR strategy, DG Trade continuously analyses and plans how efficiently and effectively it manages its human resources. Each year, DG Trade holds a spring and autumn review, where, together with Senior Management, the human resources and mobility situation in the DG are assessed and planned for the coming months as well as longer term. These reviews also help DG Trade senior management to decide how to identify any needs for further reinforcement, or internal redeployments of staff. Through this process, continuous redistribution of human resources within the DG is possible, so that DG Trade can meet its priorities, while at the same time balancing insufficient staff levels and staff turnover.

These reviews and continuous discussions with senior and middle managers enable forward-planning and allow for the optimisation of human resources to implement DG Trade policy objectives, while also ensuring staff engagement, through learning and development programmes, and wellbeing and diversity actions, in line with the Commission's talent management, diversity and 'fit@work' policy. In 2019, in addition to trade policy-related training events, special focus will be placed on training actions for management development and wellbeing, supported by appropriate internal communication actions via InTRADEnet and other tools. In this vein, we are also looking forward to the results of the 2018 staff opinion survey 2018, which we will closely review to produce an action plan in the course of 2019, in line with our HR strategy.

**The DG effectively deploys its resources in support of the delivery of the Commission's priorities and core business, has a competent and engaged workforce, which is driven by an effective and gender-balanced management and which can deploy its full potential within supportive and healthy working conditions.**

**Main outputs in 2019:**

Output	Indicator	Target
Organisation of suitable training courses to ensure that the DG has the skilled, knowledgeable and competent staff required to meet its present and future needs within all categories of staff	Number of trade policy-related training courses/lunch time sessions organised in 2019	10 trade policy-related training courses/lunch time sessions
	Average number of participants in the WTO law courses	On average 15 participants per WTO law course
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 the organisation of pre-management training sessions	Percentage of AD female staff in DG Trade in 2016: 19.09 %.	> 19.09 % ≥ 30 %
	<i>[source: Clikview — 01/01/2016 — % of total staff]</i>	Two training sessions, with an average of 10 participants
	Percentage of women in middle management, 2017 figures: 30 % <i>[source: DG Trade HR Dashboard — 1 December 2017 version]</i>	
The organisation of health and wellbeing events for all DG Trade staff, in line with DG Trade's Action Plan	Number of health and wellbeing events organised in 2019	Two events
	Average number of participants in the workshops organised during these events	An average of 10 participants in each workshop
Action Plan as follow-up to 2018 staff opinion survey	Approval of the Action Plan by the Director General	By end of Q2 of 2019

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.	Percentage of Trade Foreign Affairs Councils that are followed by debriefings for staff	100 %
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 levels within the DG and amongst delegation staff.	Number of working days on which the Daily Trade Press Review is issued	All working days, except during the summer break

## B. Financial management: Internal control and risk 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 throughout all of the DG's activities.**

**DG Trade's specific objective on fraud detection is to: improve and contribute to strengthening DG Trade's capacity to prevent and detect fraud, thus reinforcing existing measures, which are in place for the purpose of protecting the EU's financial interests, without prejudice to OLAF's investigation responsibilities for the fight against fraud.**

Although DG Trade manages a relatively small budget, it does acquire services for economic and impact assessment studies, organising conferences and negotiation rounds, IT support, and 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 Agreements with international organisations.

The budget is primarily implemented through direct management, although a portion of the contributions to international organisations are implemented through contribution agreements, i.e. indirect management. DG Trade is expected to continue to operate a decentralised financial circuit with counterweight. 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, and management, reporting and communication processes, so as to ensure effective mitigation of the financial and management risks.

These processes 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 DG Trade's Internal Control Framework;
- financial circuits designed to ensure compliance with the Financial Regulation and its Rules of Application;
- regular accounting controls;
- formal reporting requirements and handover 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;
- a DG Trade-specific ethics framework, including an anti-fraud strategy, in line with the new Commission Anti-Fraud Strategy, about which DG Trade intends to increase staff awareness levels.

**Objective 1: Effective and reliable internal control system, providing the necessary guarantees concerning the legality and the regularity of the underlying transactions.**

**Main outputs in 2019:**

Output	Indicator	Target
Estimated residual error rate (RER)	Conservative estimate of RER Source: DG Trade Annual Activity Report (AAR)	< 2 %

**Objective 2: Effective and reliable internal control system, in line with sound financial management.**

**Main outputs in 2019:**

Output	Indicator	Target
Full implementation of the financial resources allocated to DG Trade	% of budget execution with respect to annual and final budgets Source: Accrual based accounting (ABAC)	Commitments: 100 % Payments: 100 %
Compliance with payment times	Percentage of payment files executed within legal deadlines Source: ABAC	> 95 %
Economy	Cost of control over expenditure authorised Source: DG Trade AAR	Same costs for the same budget (i.e. < 10 %)
Effectiveness of controls carried out	Number of exceptions and non-compliance events; Number of decisions overriding of controls Source: DG Trade Internal Registry	Keep stable/reduce Zero
Effectiveness of controls carried out	Number of legal cases following complaints in procurement procedures Source: DG Trade	Zero

**Objective 3: Minimisation of the risk of fraud through application of effective anti-fraud measures, integrated in all activities of the DG, based on the DG's anti-fraud strategy (AFS), aimed at the prevention, detection and reparation of fraud.**

**Main outputs in 2019:**

Output	Indicator	Target
Report to OLAF on the financial and administrative follow-up to OLAF investigations	Number of OLAF cases reported	0/0
	% of recommendations issued by OLAF implemented/closed by DG Trade within deadlines Source: DG Trade	100 %
Implementation of the anti-fraud strategy planned for 2019	% of implementation of actions planned for 2019 in the anti-fraud strategy	100 %
Increased level of anti-fraud awareness	Number of awareness-raising actions on Ethics/Anti-fraud (targeted for all management levels) organised	1

## C. Better Regulation

The primary planned outputs linked to the 'Better Regulation objective' in the strategic plan are listed in the tables in Part 1, under the relevant specific objective.

## D. Information management aspects

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. For this purpose, we need to support collaboration with efficient tools. DG Trade intends to extend the use of current and future corporate tools for information and knowledge management, taking into account specific security needs. In this context, DG Trade is developing a more strategic approach to encourage knowledge-sharing and collaborative working, in line with the corporate framework, for example, by developing a 'share-by-default approach', combined with a 'need-to-know' confidentiality scheme. The objective is, inter alia, to identify the information assets of corporate interest that could be shared with other services, notably to meet transparency obligations.

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

Following the first step of analysis and consultation with DG Trade stakeholders, some areas have been identified not only as candidates for filesharing with other DGs, but also to expand the visibility within our DG. This approach could gradually be expanded to all other possible areas of activity where open sharing would generate additional benefits.

The integration of TRADE IT systems with HAN is another essential area to achieve the efficient sharing and reuse of information. After BASIS integration with HAN, other applications, such as the Event Management Tool (EMT) follow the same scheme.

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

The use of the electronic signature in ARES, and the gradual elimination of parallel paper signatories, has contributed significantly to the speeding-up of processes and improved the efficiency of workflow circuits. Since the wide-spread application of the use of the ARES e-signatory procedure at the end of 2016 within DG Trade, significant progress has been made, with a greater than 90 % reduction in the parallel paper circulation of files seen in 2018. DG Trade's objective for 2019 is to try to at least maintain this result and, if possible, see a further reduction.

**Objective: Information and knowledge in your DG is shared and reusable by other DGs. Important documents are registered, filed and retrievable.**

**Main outputs in 2019:**

Output	Indicator	Target
Managing information and knowledge within DG Trade	Support preservation of corporate knowledge, coordination of trade negotiations and efforts to tackle unfair trade through the continued evolution and rollout of a number of IT tools and systems: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the NEST project and the Trade Together collaboration platform;</li> <li>- the A3G project and the evolution of Market Access Database and Trade Helpdesk;</li> <li>- the TRON project in trade defence;</li> <li>- the Quasar service for statistical and analytical reporting;</li> <li>- collaborative tools such as BASIS (briefing repository), EMT (meeting database) and Kiosk (on-line document store).</li> </ul> Support legislative and political initiatives through the creation of information systems such as e-licensing. Share information in the IT domain through the reusability of software components with other DGs, such as DG Informatics and DG Competition.	2019
Handling email registration in ARES	Number of emails registered with Areslook	Maintaining the proportion of one third of the total
Better use of electronic workflows, with a reduction in the number of errors caused by double circulation and the reduction of paper storage	Number of registered documents with a fully approved e-signatory (no paper circulation in parallel).	≥ 90 % of registered documents approved in full electronic mode (without circulation of paper signatories)

## E. External communication activities

**DG Trade's specific objective is to make citizens understand and recognise the value of external trade for the EU's economic and social model, and to make them aware and supportive of the rules-based trading system and of progressive trade agreements.**

EU trade policy features in three of the Juncker Commission's policy priorities, with its focus on the creation of jobs, growth and investment (priority 1); the enhanced role of Europe as a global player (priority 9); and a balanced and progressive trade policy to harness globalisation (priority 6). How exactly trade will feature in the priorities of the new Commission, due to enter office towards the end of 2019 is, as yet, unknown, but it will likely continue to play an important role.

We expect the high level of political and public scrutiny and interest regarding the EU's trade policy, and how it relates to globalisation, to continue in 2019. President Juncker's call, in his State of the Union address, for a Europe that protects while rejecting protectionism, for adequate investment screening and better implementation of our agreements, is in part a reaction to this. Our communications activities will need to reflect this focus.

In terms of negotiations, the focus of attention is likely to be the next legal and operational stages of the trade agreements with Japan, Singapore and Vietnam; the completion of the trade agreement with Mexico; and the ongoing negotiations with Chile, Australia, and New Zealand. The possible completion of talks with Mercosur will also require communications work.

In the case of the United States, our aim will be to ensure transatlantic and international markets remain open while we strive with the United States and other major partners, such as Japan and China, to reform the WTO.

Beyond negotiations, communication activities will support the EU's efforts to tackle unfair trade, including through trade defence activity and dispute settlement in the WTO.

Finally, in 2019, we will devote more communication resources to the FTA implementation agenda. To increase European small and medium-sized companies' awareness about the opportunities that trade agreements offer, the DG will continue its two-year project to develop new communication material (including through a modernised one-stop-shop market access helpdesk) and to carry out outreach activities with smaller businesses.

We also foresee communication on FDI-screening in the event that co-legislators reach an agreement in the trilogue process.

At European and national level, the DG's communications, information, outreach and transparency work will concentrate on these priority issues. DG Trade must be able to demonstrate and explain the Commission's trade policy activities, including the policy's multilateral dimension, development function and its growing contribution to jobs and growth within the EU. We must show that trade is part of the solution to the challenges the EU faces, not part of the problem.

In relation to its commitment to a transparent and inclusive trade negotiation process, DG Trade will continue to develop its integrated approach of greater transparency by providing comprehensive information about trade negotiations and EU trade policy; engaging with civil society, stakeholders and the general public; and explaining the benefits of trade, including jobs and growth. Within the resources available, DG

Trade will continue to pursue this approach not only from Commission headquarters in Brussels, but also from Commission representations in the Member States and through the trade teams in the EU's network of Delegations around the world. It will also continue to deploy staff to participate in grass roots-level events and to work closely with Commission Representations, with a particular focus on those Member States where public opinion is more negative. It will also seek to encourage Member State governments to play their part in communicating about EU trade policy and ensuring transparent and inclusive processes at national level.

The DG's own activities will be complemented with relevant material production and projects financed from the DG's communication budget. The overall estimated spending for communications actions for 2019 amounts to [€ 1.6 million]. This will include press-related activities (specifically, dedicated seminars), trade publications, production of multimedia communication material, promotion of social media, policy events and regional and local activities.

**Citizens perceive that the EU is working to improve their lives and engage with the EU. They feel that their concerns are taken into consideration in European decision making and they know about their rights in the EU.**

**Main outputs in 2019:**

Output	Indicator	Target
Implement the integrated communications and outreach strategy <sup>(32)</sup>	Europe Direct requests answered	1 500
	Visits leading to document downloads	2 000 000
	Website visits	1 500 000
	Social media reach	11 000 000
Systematic publication or reports of negotiation rounds	Percentage of documents uploaded	100 %
External website: keep it reliable and up-to-date	Number of webpage views	2 500 000
Civil Society Dialogue	Number of meetings	20-25 in 2019
Expert Group on Trade Agreements	Number of meetings	4-5 in 2019

**Important items from financing decisions**

Trade helpdesk	Open procedure to acquire the helpdesk data	€ 500 000
Eurobarometer		€ 400 000

**Annual communication spending:**

Baseline (2018)	Estimated commitments (2019)
€ 1.5 million	[€ 1.6 million]

<sup>(32)</sup> Targets on website visits and document downloads are not easy to predict, given the anticipated migration to 'Drupal', a new IT system in 2019.

## **F. Examples of initiatives to improve economy and efficiency of financial and non-financial activities of the DG**

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 currently being implemented within DG Trade:

### **Example 1 — HR management**

DG Trade is continuing its efforts to absorb the effects of a highly sensitive political trade environment, ongoing budgetary constraints and an increased workload within existing teams as far as possible, by developing more horizontal cooperation and constantly seeking redeployment options, both at Commission headquarters in Brussels and in Delegations, as laid down in our HR Strategy. At the same time, DG Trade is seeking to continue to ensure suitable actions are implemented in the area of well-being in order to maintain a high level of staff engagement.

### **Example 2 — Streamlining financial management**

DG Trade is continuing its close monitoring of the development of the eProcurement project and views the deployment of the ensuing applications as the main driver of efficiency gains in financial management. In 2018, DG Trade deployed another eProcurement module (an e-submission module) and began the deployment of AGM (an IT system devoted to meeting preparation and organisation, notably with the capacity to handle expert reimbursements). This process will continue in 2019.

# ANNEX 1.

## OVERVIEW OF ONGOING BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS <sup>(33)</sup>

Time line negotiations	Impact assessment completed	Scoping	Recommendations to negotiate adopted by Commission	Recommendations to negotiate adopted by Council	Negotiations launched	Number of negotiation rounds
<b>Finalisation</b>						
Singapore FTA	-	√	April 2007	December 2009	March 2010	11
Singapore IPA	-	√	April 2007	December 2009	March 2010	11
Vietnam FTA	-	√	April 2007	May 2012	June 2012	8
Vietnam IPA	-	√	April 2007	May 2012	June 2012	8
Japan EPA	July 2012	√	July 2012	November 2012	March 2013	17
West Africa	-		April 2002	June 2002	October 2003	-
East African Community (EAC)	-		April 2002	June 2002	February 2004	-
Armenia	-	February 2015	May 2015	October 2015	December 2015	4
Modernisation of the trade part of the EU-Mexico Global Agreement	September 2014	√	December 2015	May 2016	June 2016	9
<b>Ongoing</b>						
Mercosur	-	√	1999	-	Re-launch	36
Modernisation of the trade part of the EU-Chile AA	May 2010	36	24 May 2017	November 2017	November 2017	3
Thailand FTA	February 2017	√	24 May 2017	November 2017	November 2017	3
Malaysia FTA	-	√	April 2007	February 2013	March 2013	4
Indonesia FTA	-	√	April 2007	October 2010	November 2010	7
Philippines FTA	-	√	April 2007	October 2010	July 2016	6
India FTA	-	√	April 2007	October 2010	December 2015	2
Morocco DCFTA	-	√	April 2007	April 2007	June 2007	12
Tunisia DCFTA	N/A	√	October 2011	December 2011	October 2015	2

<sup>(33)</sup> Dates in square brackets are provisional dates to be confirmed.

<sup>(34)</sup> Pending completion of signature process.

<sup>(35)</sup> Pending completion of the signature process.

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
October 2014	May 2015	May 2015	October 2015	April 2018	October 2018	[1st half 2019]
October 2014	May 2015	May 2015	October 2015	April 2018	October 2018	[1st half 2019]
December 2015	February 2017	March 2017	November 2018	October 2018	[1st half 2019]	[2019]
December 2015	February 2017	March 2017	November 2018	October 2018	[1st half 2019]	[2019]
6 July 2017	February 2018	Q1 2018	April 2018	April 2018	July 2018	December 2018
February 2014	June 2014	June 2014	September 2014	September 2014	December 2014	( <sup>34</sup> )
October 2014	September 2015	Oct 2014	February 2016	February 2016	June 2016	( <sup>35</sup> )
27 February 2017	May 2017	21 March 2017	August 2017	2017	November 2017	-
23 April 2018	ongoing	Proposal to sign and conclude adopted by COM by October 2019				
<b>Expected outputs in 2019</b>						
Political conclusion						
Political conclusion						
<i>No negotiating rounds scheduled since suspension of the talks in 2014 due to the political situation in Thailand. To be re-assessed after the election of a civil government, expected in the 1st half of 2019.</i>						
<i>Contacts continue to examine the basis for a possible resumption of negotiations.</i>						
<i>Three negotiating rounds took place in 2018, and negotiations will continue in 2019.</i>						
<i>Two negotiating rounds took place in 2017, but no new round currently scheduled.</i>						
<i>Contacts continue to examine the basis for a possible resumption of negotiations.</i>						
<i>DCFTA negotiations remained on pause throughout 2018, at Morocco's request, while Morocco carried out additional internal studies and consulted civil society and other domestic stakeholders.</i>						
<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 included in 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.</i>						

Time line negotiations	Impact assessment completed	Scoping	Recommendations to negotiate adopted by Commission	Recommendations to negotiate adopted by Council	Negotiations launched	Number of negotiation rounds
GCC (Gulf Cooperation Council)	-	N/A	-	December 1989	October 1990	-
Libya	N/A	N/A	February 2008	July 2008	November 2008	10
Russia New Agreement	-	-	-	2008	-	12
Azerbaijan PCA	-	March 2016	July 2016	November 2016	February 2017	2
Micro States (Andorra, Monaco, San Marino)	N/A	2013	April 2014	December 2014	March 2016	11
Kyrgyzstan	N/A		2 June 2017	9 October 2017	March 2018	4
Japan BIA	July 2012	√	July 2012	November 2012	March 2013	2 <sup>(36)</sup>
China investment agreement	May 2013	√	May 2013	October 2013	November 2013	19
Myanmar/Burma investment agreement	Nov 2013	√	February 2014	March 2014	March 2014	5
Australia FTA	September 2017		13 September 2017	June 2018	June 2018	2
New Zealand FTA	September 2017		13 September 2017	June 2018	June 2018	2
<b>IN THE PIPELINE</b>						
Turkey	<i>October 2016</i>	√	21 December 2016	<i>[Q2 2019]</i>	<i>[Q3 2019]</i>	
Jordan DCFTA Egypt DCFTA	<i>N/A</i>	√	Oct 2011	Dec 2011	<i>Negotiation guidelines have been Mediterranean countries, when</i>	
Enhanced PCA with Uzbekistan	-	-	<i>May 2018</i>	<i>16 July 2018</i>	<i>[Q1 2019]</i>	
Ukraine — poultry meat	-	√	<i>27 November 2018</i>	<i>20 December 2018</i>	<i>[Q1 2019]</i>	
Convention establishing a multilateral investment court	September 2017	√	13 September 2017	<i>20 March 2018</i>	<i>Discussions initiated in Uncitral</i>	

<sup>(36)</sup> Two meetings at chief negotiator level.

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
<i>Negotiations were suspended in 2008 by the GCC. The only outstanding issue at the time was the treatment of export duties.</i>						
<i>Negotiations were suspended in February 2011. Resumption will depend on the security situation in the country.</i>						
<i>Negotiations for a new agreement were suspended by the European Council on 6 March 2014. Advance of the negotiations with potential conclusion in 2019.</i>						
<i>Potential conclusion of negotiations in 2019.</i>						
<i>Potential conclusion of negotiations in 2019.</i>						
<i>Advance of the negotiations.</i>						
<i>Nineteen rounds have taken place up to now. Talks intensified throughout 2018; the parties exchanged offers in July 2018. Negotiations will continue in 2019.</i>						
<i>The EU made good progress in negotiations but no conclusion expected soon given the Rohingya refugee crisis in Myanmar/Burma.</i>						
<i>Two negotiating rounds have taken place since the launch of negotiations in June 2018. Negotiations will continue in 2019.</i>						
<i>Two negotiating rounds have taken place since the launch of negotiations in June 2018. Negotiations will continue in 2019.</i>						
<i>adopted by the European Council, providing the Commission with the legal basis to start negotiations with the southern the conditions are deemed appropriate.</i>						
<i>Working Group III in November 2017.</i>						



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The EU Open Data Portal (<http://data.europa.eu/euodp/en>) provides access to datasets from the EU. Data can be downloaded and reused for free, for both commercial and non-commercial purposes.

