



EU anti-coercion instrument – launch of public consultation

Frequently asked questions

Date: 23.03.2021

Trade

What would be the objective of this instrument?

- The instrument under consideration should aim first of all to deter, and only where needed to counteract, coercive practices by non-EU countries unduly interfering in the EU's or Member States' policy choices.

How does the Commission define the coercive practices by non-EU countries, and in which circumstances can the EU act against those practices?

- This is a central question for the initiative and the Commission is currently seeking input from stakeholders to further define these practices.

Can you give an example of coercive practices?

- There could be many scenarios that illustrate coercive practices.
- For example, an EU trading partner may be seeking to shape future legislative initiatives of the EU or dissuade the EU from introducing a measure altogether by, for example, introducing (or threatening to introduce) extra, discriminatory import duties, intentional delays or refusing (or threatening to refuse) authorisations needed to do business.
- The Commission is currently looking into practices that can be considered as coercive (existing or potential). Stakeholders are invited to provide their views, and where possible evidence.

What type of input is the Commission seeking concretely from stakeholders?

- The Commission is seeking input on existing or potential coercion actions by non-EU countries and their effect on the EU and Member States' economic and geopolitical interests, as well as on how best to tackle the problem of coercion, including through deterring non-EU countries.
- Stakeholders will be asked to provide suggestions on defining:
 - the triggers (or the circumstances in which the EU may act),
 - the countermeasures (types of measures the EU may employ to tackle coercion), and

- the likely impact of the various designs.

Are there any stakeholder groups that are particularly encouraged to contribute to the consultation?

- The public consultation is open to all organisations and citizens, within the EU and outside. The following groups of stakeholders might have a particular interest in participating:
 - EU businesses and their associations, trade unions, in particular those active outside the EU, as well as EU Member States' public authorities,
 - research and academic institutions, think tanks, consultancies and non-governmental organisations and platforms, and
 - non-EU governments and businesses, as well as international institutions and bodies.

What are the next steps?

- The public consultation will run for 12 weeks until 15 June 2021.
- A [stakeholder meeting](#) on 16 April 2021 to accompany the launch of the public consultations.
- Between March and June 2021 various targeted consultation activities will take place with specific group of stakeholders.
- Following the end of the consultation activities in late June, the Commission will prepare the impact assessment report for this initiative.
- The Commission aims to adopt a legislative proposal by the end of 2021; the impact assessment report will be published with the legislative proposal.
- The full process can be followed on the Commission's [Have your say portal](#) and also on the European Commission [DG Trade webpage](#)

Will the instrument be compatible with international law?

- The EU policy intervention, in any form, must and will be compatible with the EU legal order and with international law.
- Stakeholders are invited to share their views also on the compatibility.

Will the instrument target a particular country?

- No, the instrument would not be targeting any particular country. It will be looking at the problem of coercion which the Commission is at this stage tracing and studying.

Who can I contact if I have a particular question on my submission?

- Stakeholders can contact the Commission’s team directly at trade-anti-coercion@ec.europa.eu at any stage of their submission.

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