OVERVIEW OF ONGOING TRADE AND INVESTMENT NEGOTIATIONS

FTA Negotiations

Country	Negotiating Directives	Current Status	Next Steps
ASIA			
ASEAN *More on each particular country below*	Negotiating directives obtained in April 2007	Negotiations for a trade agreement with a regional grouping of 7 ASEAN Member States started in July 2007 and were suspended in December 2009. In March 2017, an EU-ASEAN Joint Working Group (JWG) was created to discuss the parameters of a future ASEAN-EU region-to-region agreement. The Joint Working Group so far met three times. In September 2022, the EU-ASEAN Economic Ministers Consultations decided to re-orient the focus (and the work of the Joint Working Group) to sectoral cooperation on 1) digital economy, 2) green technologies and green services and 3) supply chain resilience. The JWG first met in June 2023, their last meeting took place August2026. The JWG is the forum where the EU and ASEAN currently negotiate a set of non-binding Digital Trade Principles. EU Trade Director-General attended the ASEAN-Economic Ministers (AEM) - EU Trade Commissioner Consultation in Manila on 22 September 2026.	The next meeting of the Joint Working Group will take place in Q1 of 2027. The next AEM- Trade Commissioner Consultation will take place on 21 September 2027 in Singapore.
INDIA	Negotiating directives adopted in April 2007 and reviewed in 2011 to cover investment protection.	The FTA negotiations were closed at political level in January 2026 and the texts were published in February 2026. Work continues on some technical matters, notably related to the market access schedules. In parallel, the legal scrubbing has been initiated. There are separate negotiations for an Investment Protection Agreement (IPA) and an Agreement on Geographical Indications (GIs). Eight IPA and six GIs negotiations rounds have been held so far.	Finalisation of schedules and other technical details. Legal scrubbing ongoing, the objective is to finalise it in July 2026. Once that work is completed, the procedure for the Commission to propose signature and conclusion will be launched.

INDONESIA	Based on 2007 ASEAN negotiating directives (see above)	Negotiations for a trade agreement with Indonesia were launched in September 2016. The last round of negotiations took place in Indonesia in the week of 1 July 2024. EU Trade Commissioner Šefčovič and Minister Airlangga announced the finalisation of the negotiations on 23 September 2025.	The text is undergoing legal scrubbing and work will start for the signature and ratification procedures.
MALAYSIA	Based on 2007 ASEAN negotiating directives (see above)	Trade and investment negotiations with Malaysia were first launched in 2010 and, after seven rounds of negotiation, put on hold in April 2012 at the request of Malaysia. Following the successful conclusion of a technical stocktaking exercise (launched in September 2023 and finalised end of 2024), the relaunch of the negotiations was announced on 20 January 2025. This was based on a common understanding that was reached to aim for a modern, ambitious and comprehensive FTA. So far, we have had five rounds of negotiations (the last round of negotiations took place in Brussels between 21-25 September 2026). All rounds were overall very positive with a continued level of engagement on the Malaysian side and steady progress on text consolidation. A significant amount of work will however still be needed to find an acceptable outcome on the more sensitive areas (with GIs, TSD, access to raw materials and motor vehicles remaining the most difficult challenges). During the fifth round, both sides agreed to proceed with the exchange of initial market access offers (including import tariffs, services & investment and government procurement).	The sixth round of negotiations with Malaysia will take place in Malaysia in January 2027 (exact dates tbc).
PHILIPPINES	Based on 2007 ASEAN negotiating directives (see above)	Trade and investment negotiations with the Philippines were launched in December 2015. Two negotiating rounds took place in May 2016 and February 2017, but no further rounds were scheduled at the time. An extensive joint stocktaking exercise took place in the autumn of 2023 and confirmed that the Philippines and the EU share the aim to conclude an ambitious and modern agreement with sustainability at its core. On 18 March 2024, the EU and the Philippines announced the resumption of FTA negotiations. On 21 September 2026 the EU and the Philippines announced the substantial conclusion of the negotiations both at Leaders' and Ministers' level.	Technical work is ongoing to work out the final details of the agreement. Both sides aim to finalise this process and announce the formal conclusion of the FTA negotiations before the end of 2026.
THAILAND	Based on 2007 ASEAN negotiating directives (see above)	The relaunch of negotiations on an FTA was announced in March 2023, nine rounds have taken place since then. The latest negotiating round took place in the week of 22 June 2026. It was held against the background of a renewed political commitment on the Thai side to accelerate the negotiations, targeting their finalisation by the end of the year. The EU stands ready to match the pace at which Thailand can advance on substance. it remains to be seen if Thailand is able to take the necessary decisions to unblock areas which are outstanding.	The tenth round of negotiations is scheduled for the week of 28 September 2026, in Thailand.

OCEANIA

AUSTRALIA	Negotiating directives adopted in May 2018.	Negotiations for a free trade agreement with Australia were launched in June 2018. Fifteen negotiating rounds were held, the last one in April 2023. The conclusion of the negotiations was announced on 24 March 2026 by European Commission President Von der Leyen and Australian Prime Minister Albanese. Legal scrubbing was concluded on 10 August.	Work started for the signature and ratification procedures.

AFRICA

ESA - Enhanced Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) with 4 States in Eastern and Southern Africa	Negotiating directives obtained in December 2019 (amending negotiating directives for negotiation of EPAs with ACP countries and regions)	In 2009, Mauritius, Seychelles, Zimbabwe, and Madagascar signed an interim Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA); applied provisionally since May 2012 (February 2019 for Comoros). Negotiations for the 'deepening' of the existing agreement were officially launched in Mauritius in October 2019.15 rounds of negotiations took place, the last one from 3 to 7 March 2025. In addition, two Chief Negotiators' meetings were held on 4-5 December 2025 and 17-18 March 2026. On 10 June 2026, the EU and four Eastern and Southern African (ESA4) States (Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius, and Seychelles) concluded negotiations to enhance the currently implemented Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA). The enhanced EPA is the first modern and comprehensive free trade agreement between the EU and partners in Sub-Saharan Africa as it covers all trade-related areas such as rules of origin, technical barriers to trade, customs and trade facilitation, sanitary and phytosanitary standards, agriculture, trade and sustainable development, trade in services, investment liberalisation and digital trade, intellectual property rights, transparency in public procurement, and economic and development cooperation. The Agreement remains open to accession by other ESA States,	Legal review, followed by translations and adoption of Commission proposals for Council Decisions on the signature and conclusion of the Agreement. Work will then start for the signature and ratification procedures.
Côte d'Ivoire (SIFA)	Negotiating directives adopted in June 2025	On 12 June 2025, the Council authorised the opening of negotiations with Côte d'Ivoire on a Sustainable Investment Facilitation Agreement. The EU and Côte d'Ivoire announced the opening of negotiations on 17 July 2026.	The first round of negotiations is scheduled for October 2026.

KENYA	Negotiating directives obtained in December 2019 (amending negotiating directives for negotiation of EPAs with ACP countries and regions)	When negotiations on the bilateral EU-Kenya EPA were concluded in June 2023, the Parties agreed to update the Protocol on Rules of Origin within the first five years of the implementation of the agreement. The basis for the negotiation is the rules of origin protocol in the regional EU-East Africa Community (EAC) EPA that was concluded in 2014 but never implemented. In the meantime, rules of origin defining the products eligible for trade preferences under the bilateral EU-Kenya EPA continue to be the ones set out in the EU Market Access Regulation. Three negotiation rounds have taken place, the last one in September 2026.	A fourth round of negotiations is scheduled for November 2026.

CANDIDATE COUNTRIES

TÜRKIYE	Draft Negotiating directives adopted by Commission on 21 December 2016.	The deliberations in Council were stalled in 2017 due to the deterioration of the political situation in Türkiye. The European Council invited the Commission in March 2021 to intensify talks with Türkiye to address current difficulties in the implementation of the Customs Union, ensuring its effective application to all Member States. The "Joint Communication on the State of Play of EU-Türkiye Political, Economic, and Trade Relations" of November 2023 recommended establishing the High Level Dialogue (HLD) on Trade, and resuming discussions in the Council on the draft negotiating framework for the modernisation of the EU-Türkiye Customs Union on the understanding that Türkiye keeps addressing the circumvention of EU restrictive measures against Russia via its territory rapidly and efficiently and continues to resolve trade irritants. In April 2024, the European Council held a strategic debate on EU-Türkiye relations and invited COREPER to continue working on the matter. The High-Level Trade Working Group co-chaired by EU Trade Director-General Sabine Weyand and Deputy Minister of Trade Tuzcu took place on 11 March 2025 in Istanbul. The 2nd High-Level Dialogue on Trade at the level of the Commissioner and Turkish Minister of Trade was held on 1 July 2025 in Ankara.	The mandate for the modernisation of the EU-Turkey Customs Union may be adopted by the Council subject to additional guidance by the European Council. The annual trade committee – the 41st Customs Union Joint Committee will take place on 14-15th April in Ankara The 4th High-Level Trade Working Group will take place on 28 April in Brussels.

SOUTH MEDITERRANEAN & MIDDLE EAST COUNTRIES

GENERAL OVERVIEW South Mediterranean		The EU has established a network of Association Agreements, which include reciprocal FTAs on trade in goods, with 8 countries of the Southern neighbourhood (all except Libya and Syria). The EU also encourages the countries of the region to agree FTAs between themselves and has promoted	

(see below for information on particular countries)		wide participation in the Pan-Euro Mediterranean system of cumulation for rules of origin (in which EFTA and Western Balkans countries also participate). On 14th December 2011, the Council authorised the Commission to open bilateral negotiations to establish Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Areas with Egypt, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia. Negotiations with Morocco were launched in March 2013 and with Tunisia in October 2015 but are suspended. The new EU Trade Policy Review suggests to discuss options to modernise trade and investment relations with Morocco and Tunisia, to better adapt them to today's challenges. A new sustainable investment initiative is also proposed to interested partners in the Southern Neighbourhood, in the form of stand-alone investment agreements, or as part of the modernisation of existing trade agreements.	
GENERAL OVERVIEW Countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)	New Negotiating Directives adopted by the Council on 20 June 2025 (replacing previous negotiating directives from 1989)	Negotiations for an EU-GCC Free Trade Agreement were suspended in 2008. On 20 June 2025, the Council adopted the Decision authorising the European Commission to open a regional Free Trade Agreement and bilateral Free Trade Agreements negotiations with countries of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf and respectively the Kingdom of Bahrain, the State of Kuwait, the Sultanate of Oman, the State of Qatar, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the State of the United Arab Emirates. Exploration of resuming the EU-GCC FTA negotiations ongoing.	Re-launch of EU-GCC FTA negotiations to be confirmed; focussed scoping is ongoing.
UAE	New Negotiating Directives adopted by the Council on 20 June 2025 (replacing previous negotiating directives from 1989)	Scoping for an EU-United Arab Emirates FTA completed in March 2025. EU-UAE FTA negotiations announced at Presidential level on 10 April; The negotiations were launched on 28 May in Dubai by the Commissioner and the Trade Minister of the UAE. Seven rounds of negotiations took place with the last round on 24 June -9 July (VTC).	The eight round will take place between 5-9 October 2026.
QATAR (SPA)	Negotiating directives adopted by the Council on 18 July 2025	On 18 July 2025, the Council adopted the Decision authorising the European Commission and the High Representative to open bilateral negotiations for Strategic Partnership Agreements (SPAs) with Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries. The EU and Qatar announced the opening of negotiations on 6 December 2025.	in February 2026, Qatar submitted its proposal concerning the structure and the legal nature of the future SPA. Both sides are currently engaged in follow up discussions.

Other Trade Negotiations

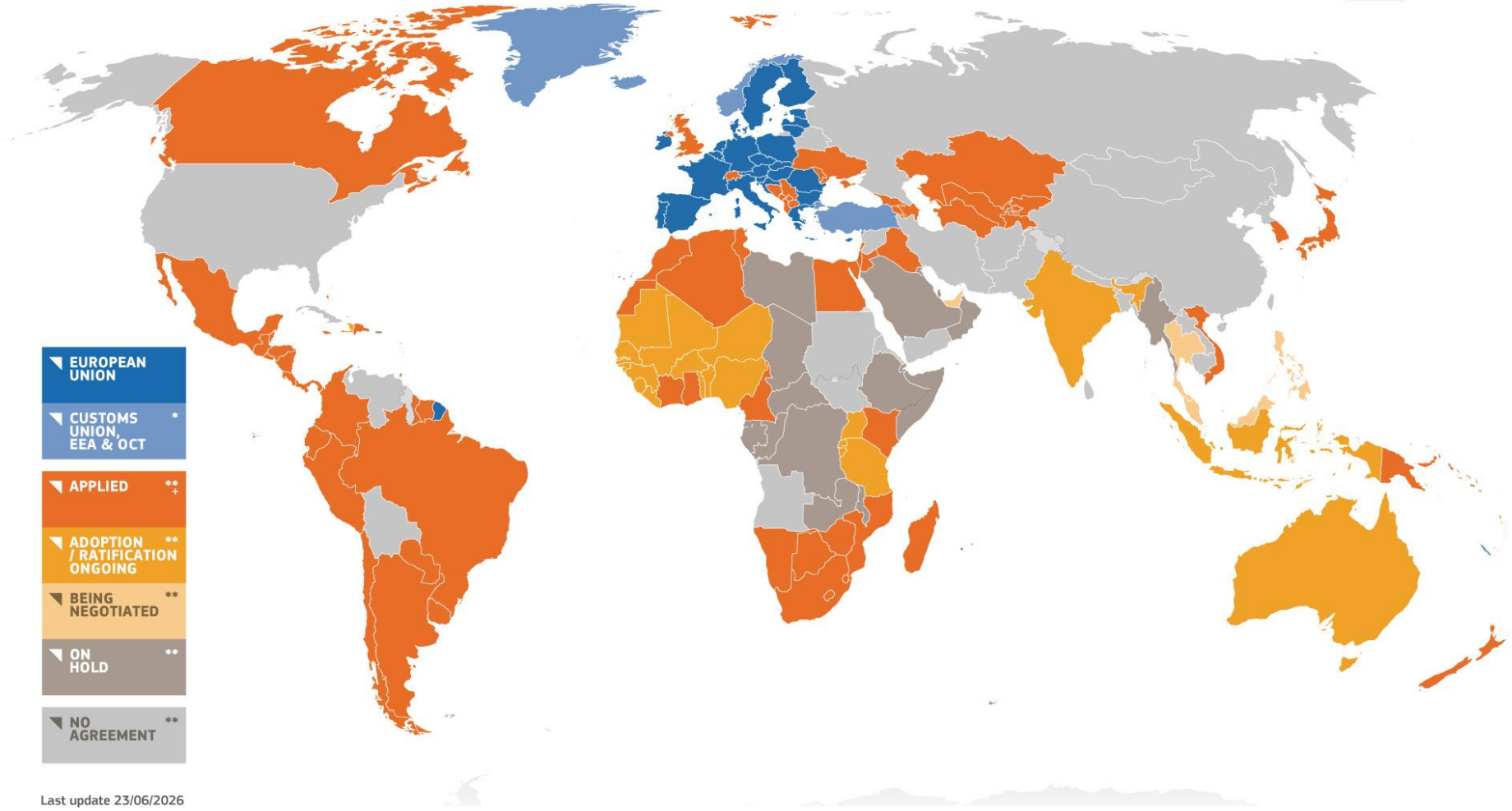
Country	Negotiating Directives	Current Status	Next Steps
AZERBAIJAN	Directives for the negotiation of a Comprehensive Agreement between the EU and Azerbaijan were adopted by the Council on 7 November 2016.	Negotiations to enhance and replace the current Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA) in force, including its trade related provisions, were launched in February 2017. The seventh round of trade negotiations took place in Baku on 23-25 April 2019. The negotiations were restarted with a round in Baku in June 2026. The round mainly served to clarify positions after a 7 year break on negotiations	After a restart of the negotiation in June, the next round will take place in Brussels on the 29-30 September 2026
TAJIKISTAN	The negotiating directives were approved by Council in November 2022.	Formal opening of negotiations took place in February 2023. First negotiating Round with Tajik authorities took place 1-2 June 2023 in Dushanbe. Round 2 took place in Brussels 29-30 November 2023. Round 3 took place in Dushanbe 8-9 April 2024. Negotiations were concluded in December 2024. The interservice consultation (ISC) for the decision to initial was launched in February 2025 and finalised mid-March. The text of the Enhanced Partnership and Cooperation Agreement was initialled on 18 July 2025.	The text of the agreement is undergoing legal scrubbing before transfer to the Council for the decisions on conclusion and signature. The Joint Declaration of the EU-Central Asia Summit confirmed the respective commitments towards signing the Enhanced Partnership and Cooperation Agreement in 2026.

Topic	Negotiating Directives	Current Status	Next Steps
DIGITAL PARTNERSHIPS IN THE INDO-PACIFIC			
ASEAN	Non-binding instrument	The Digital Trade Principles (DTP) will be part of the sectoral trade cooperation on digital trade between the EU and ASEAN as referred to in the 18th ASEAN Economic Ministers (AEM)-EU Trade Commissioner Consultation of 18 September 2026. The Digital Trade Principles would reflect a common understanding on key issues relevant to digital trade and a joint intention to promote an open digital economy, free of unjustified barriers to international trade. On 8 April, the Joint Working Group on Trade and Investment decided to establish an ad-hoc technical working group, in order to advance discussions. The technical working group has meet in Hanoi, Viet Nam and in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 27-29 July and 4-6 September respectively.	The next meeting of the Joint Working Group (JWG), which is the formal negotiating body, is envisioned for Q1 2027. EU and ASEAN to carry out further technical meetings before the end of 2026, to negotiate the text. The aim is to conclude the non-binding instrument on Digital Trade Principles at the latest by end of 2027.
REPUBLIC OF KOREA (postal and courier services)	EU-Korea negotiating directives.	The FTA includes a review clause on postal and courier services prescribing that the Trade Committee shall set out the regulatory principles applicable to those services. Negotiations with the Republic of Korea, stalled since 2017, resumed in Q3 of 2022 and went again on a 1.5-year hiatus before restarting in June 2025. The main stumbling block concerns the article on the prevention of market distortive practices. Different landing zones have been proposed to Korea, but none has been accepted. Korea can only accept a non-binding obligation on the pending article, which is a red line for the EU.	Given Korea's stance, a solution does look possible at this stage. The negotiations are therefore halted.
COSTA RICA (digital trade agreement)	The Commission adopted a Recommendation for a Council adopted its decision to authorise the Commission to open negotiations with Costa Rica for a digital trade agreement	First scoping exercise to follow on 19, 20 and 21 October. Formal launch to follow the adoption of the negotiating directives by the Council	Formal launch to follow the adoption of the negotiating directives by the Council
CANADA (digital trade agreement)	The Council adopted its decision to authorise the Commission to open negotiations with Canada	Formal launch of the negotiations on 5 March 2026. The first round took place in Brussels on 14-16 April. Round 2 took place in Brussels on 16-18 June. Round 3 took place in Toronto on 21-24 July. Round 4 took place in	Leaders to announce the political conclusion of the negotiations at the EU-Canada Summit on 29-30 October in Canada.

	for a digital trade agreement on 24 November 2025.	Ottawa on 24-26 August. Round 5 took place in Brussels on 28-29 September. The EU has tabled and published its text proposal. Canada has tabled its text proposal. Substantive discussions have been met with good progress across almost all the trade disciplines. The key outstanding issue concerns scope (the extent of the DTA's coverage for government procurement). Technical discussions are ongoing.	
E-Commerce	Supplementary negotiating directives were adopted in May 2019.	Plurilateral WTO negotiations on e-commerce were launched in Davos in January 2019 after a year of exploratory talks. The negotiations cover both goods and services and their aim is to agree on global rules on digital trade. So far 91 WTO Members have formally joined the talks. On 26 July 2024, the co-convenors of the initiative published a ministerial statement on behalf of the Members (with the exception of a few Members who could not endorse the text at this stage) agreeing on a stabilised text of the Agreement. The text was made public. 71 JSI (Joint Statement Initiative) participants supporting the E-Commerce Agreement submitted the Agreement to the General Council in February and December 2025 for decision on incorporation as Annex 4 to the WTO Agreement ,but no consensus on incorporation could be reached. In view of this situation, 67 WTO Members, included the EU, signaled their intention to move ahead with the implementation of the Agreement during MC14, on the basis of interim arrangements.	The E-commerce Agreement will enter into force once 45 Members have submitted their instruments of acceptance to the WTO DG. The EU is advancing its internal procedures for its conclusion.
Investment facilitation for development (IFD)	The Directives for the negotiation of Investment Facilitation multilateral framework were adopted by the Council on 7th of October 2019.	During the WTO Ministerial Conference in Buenos Aires in December 2017, 70 Members called for developing a multilateral framework on investment facilitation. The objective is to increase worldwide investment flows and contribute to sustainable development by making investment conditions and opportunities more transparent and streamlining administrative procedures. A special focus is on developing countries and LDCs. Negotiations started in September 2020 and were concluded on 6 July 2023. More than two thirds of WTO Members participate in the initiative. On 25 February 2024, the participants finalised and published the text of the agreement, and subsequently tabled a request for legal incorporation into Annex 4 of the WTO Agreement (the relevant annex for plurilateral agreement). The request for legal incorporation of the agreement was discussed among WTO Members in the context of the WTO General Council (March 2024 and May 2024). No decision was taken at the July 2024, October 2024,	Once the request for Annex 4 incorporation is approved by consensus, the agreement will be submitted for "acceptance" under domestic procedures. The agreement will then enter into force once 75 WTO Members have accepted it.

		December 2024, February 2025, May 2025, July 2025, October 2025 and December 2025 General Council meetings due to the objections raised by India, Türkiye and previously South Africa (at the December 2025 General Council meeting, South Africa announced that it will no longer block the consensus on incorporation). The request for legal incorporation into Annex 4 of the WTO Agreement was submitted for decision to the 14th WTO Ministerial Conference (MC14) in Cameroon. Türkiye lifted its objection to the incorporation request at the start of MC14. No consensus was reached, however, given that India maintained its opposition.	
MULTILATERAL INVESTMENT COURT	Adopted on 20 March 2018	Working Group III of UNCITRAL (United Nations Commission on International Trade Law) discussing ISDS (Investor-State Dispute Settlement) reform is progressing at a good pace with important issues for structural reform of ISDS, i.e. the creation of a Multilateral Investment Court, being discussed. These discussions have already delivered tangible results, including Model Provisions and Guidelines on Mediation for International Investment Disputes, and Codes of conduct and related Commentaries for arbitrators and judges. In July 2026 the UNCITRAL Commission adopted the Statute of the Advisory Centre on International Investment Disputes which will be open for signature in 2027. The UNCITRAL Commission also adopted a set of 11 supplementary provisions covering procedural issues, which can be used as a standalone instrument by disputing parties, provisions to be retrofitted into treaties and will be used to update UNCITRAL arbitration rules. Importantly, while the Code of conduct for judges is the first part of the work on a Multilateral Investment Court, the Advisory Centre constitutes the first institutional reform to Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) agreed by the Working Group. In parallel Working Group III is advancing its work on the design and functioning of a standing mechanism, with now two statutes of a Tribunal of First Instance and Appellate Tribunal being close to finalisation (2027).	Substantive discussions of WGIII will continue on aspects that are relevant for the Multilateral Investment Court, including a permanent Tribunal of First Instance and Appellate Tribunal, treaty aspects relevant for the Multilateral legal Instrument to capture the various reforms. Additional treaty provisions to be retrofitted into treaties are also being examined. We expect these last reforms to be adopted in July 2027. An operationalisation process to set up the Multilateral Investment Court may be necessary in 2027-2028 before the statutes are open for signature. The WGIII will also finalise the multilateral instrument on ISDS reforms which will be the framework convention to which each reform will be attached as protocols and States will be able to sign up to.

EU Trade agreements



Last update 23/06/2026

* European Economic Area (EEA) / Overseas Countries and Territories (OCT).
** Free Trade Agreement (FTA), Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement (DCFTA), Enhanced Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (EPCA), Partnership and Co-operation Agreement with preferential element (PCA).
+ The updated agreements with Tunisia, and Eastern and Southern Africa are currently being updated; the updated agreement with Chile is under ratification. The DCFTA with Georgia does not apply in South Ossetia and Abkhazia.
Mercosur: The interim trade agreement applies as of 1 May 2026. The interim trade agreement will be superseded by the EU-Mercosur Partnership Agreement, once the latter enters into force.

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