



OVERVIEW OF ONGOING TRADE AND INVESTMENT NEGOTIATIONS

FTA NEGOTIATIONS

Country	Negotiating Directives	Current Status	Next Steps
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ASIA

<p>ASEAN <i>More on each particular country below</i></p>	<p>Negotiating directives obtained in April 2007</p>	<p>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 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.</p> <p>The Joint Working Group met in June 2023, March 2024 and July 2025. The Commissioner attended the ASEAN-Economic Ministers (AEM) -EU Trade Commissioner Consultation in Kuala Lumpur on 25 September 2025.</p>	<p>The next meetings of the Joint Working Group will be on 8 April and 20 August.</p>
<p>INDIA</p>	<p>Negotiating directives adopted in April 2007 and reviewed in 2011 to cover investment protection.</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>There are separate negotiations for an Investment Protection Agreement (IPA) and an Agreement on Geographical Indications (GIs). Seven IPA and six GIs negotiations rounds have been held so far.</p>	<p>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.</p>

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 three rounds of negotiations (the last round of negotiations took place in Brussels between 9-13 February 2026). All rounds were overall very positive with a very good level of engagement on the Malaysian side and good progress on text consolidation (with GIs being the exception, due to Malaysia not being ready yet to negotiate).	The fourth round of negotiations with Malaysia will take place in Malaysia in the week of 9-12 June 2026 and two more round are scheduled to take place before the end of 2026.
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. Five rounds of negotiations have taken place since the resumption of negotiations in 2024. The last (fifth) round took place in Brussels in March 2026.	The sixth round of negotiations is scheduled to take place in the week of 18 May in the Philippines. Intersessionals are taking place in the run-up to the round.
THAILAND	Based on 2007 ASEAN negotiating directives (see above)	Negotiations on a trade agreement with Thailand were launched in March 2013 and then paused in 2014. Following the successful conclusion of a mapping exercise with Thailand, the relaunch of negotiations was announced on 15 March 2023, based on a common understanding to pursue a modern, high-quality FTA, with sustainability at its core. Eight rounds have taken place so far, the last one in the week of 2 February 2026.	The ninth round of negotiations is scheduled for the week of 22 June 2026, in Brussels.

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.	The text is undergoing legal scrubbing and work will start for the signature and ratification procedures.
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LATIN AMERICA

ECUADOR (SIFA)	Negotiating directives adopted by the Council on 20 October 2025	On 20 October 2025, the Council authorised the opening of negotiations with Ecuador on a Sustainable Investment Facilitation Agreement. The EU and Ecuador announced the opening of negotiations on 10 November 2025. The first round of negotiations took place on 27-28 November in virtual format. The second round of negotiations took place on 20-21 January 2026 in Brussels. The negotiations were concluded on 23 January 2026.	Legal review, followed by translations and adoption of Commission proposals for Council Decisions on the signature and conclusion of the SIFA.
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AFRICA

ESAS - Deepening of the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) with 5 countries in Eastern and Southern Africa	Negotiating directives obtained in December 2019 (amending negotiating directives for negotiation of EPAs with ACP countries and regions)	<p>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.</p> <p>The Parties agreed to extend the scope of the EPA to areas not covered by the current agreement. Negotiations cover 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.</p> <p>Fifteen rounds of negotiations have taken place. A Chief Negotiators' meeting was held on 3-5 December 2025. At the 15th round, the parties agreed on a workplan aimed at solving outstanding issues at technical level.</p>	The Parties are currently actively engaging at technical and senior official level with the aim of concluding negotiations at ministerial level in the second quarter of 2026.
KENYA	Negotiating directives obtained in December 2019 (amending negotiating directives for negotiation of EPAs)	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.	A third round of negotiations could be scheduled end of April 2026.

	with ACP countries and regions)	<p>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.</p> <p>Two negotiation rounds have taken place, the last one in 20-22 February 2026 in Brussels.</p>	
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CANDIDATE COUNTRIES

TÜRKIYE	Draft Negotiating directives adopted by Commission on 21 December 2016.	<p>The deliberations in Council were stalled in 2017 due to the deterioration of the political situation in Türkiye.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>The annual trade committee – the 41st Customs Union Joint Committee will take place on 14-15th April in Ankara</p> <p>The 4th High-Level Trade Working Group will take place on 28 April in Brussels.</p>
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SOUTH MEDITERRANEAN & MIDDLE EAST COUNTRIES

GENERAL OVERVIEW South Mediterranean (see below for information on particular countries)		<p>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 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</p>	
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		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	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. Five first rounds took with the first round on 24 June -9 July (VTC), the fifth round on 2-5 February 2026 (Dubai).	The dates for the next round of EU-UAE FTA negotiations are to be scheduled for March or April in the Brussels.
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

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UK in respect of GIBRALTAR	Negotiating directives adopted in October 2021.	On 11 June, the European Commission and the UK in respect to Gibraltar reached an agreement on the core principles. The full legal text has been finalised as well as legal scrubbing. The decision and full legal text of the agreement have been presented to the Council. The process is ongoing, and the Council is asking several questions on the agreement.	Entry into force is expected before April 10 th when the EU Entry-Exist System will enter into force. Commission is seeking agreement of the European Parliament for provisional application of the Gibraltar agreement.
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. Restructuring in the Azeri Ministry of Economy and COVID-19 had delayed the negotiations. Discussions to resume the negotiations started in July 2021. The EU is still waiting for Azerbaijan's reply to its proposal for a comprehensive text of the trade title from February 2022.	After a stocktaking meeting on the political part that took place on 3 March 2025. It was decided to have technical meetings on the trade chapters in Brussels in April (dates to be confirmed).
TAJIKISTAN	The negotiating directives were approved by Council in November 2022.	<p>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.</p> <p>The interservice consultation (ISC) for the decision to initial was launched in February 2025 and finalised mid-March.</p> <p>The text of the Enhanced Partnership and Cooperation Agreement was initialled on 18 July 2025.</p>	<p>The text of the agreement is undergoing legal scrubbing before transfer to the Council for the decisions on conclusion and signature.</p> <p>The Joint Declaration of the EU-Central Asia Summit confirmed the respective commitments towards signing the Enhanced Partnership and Cooperation Agreement in 2026.</p>

Topic	Negotiating Directives	Current Status	Next Steps
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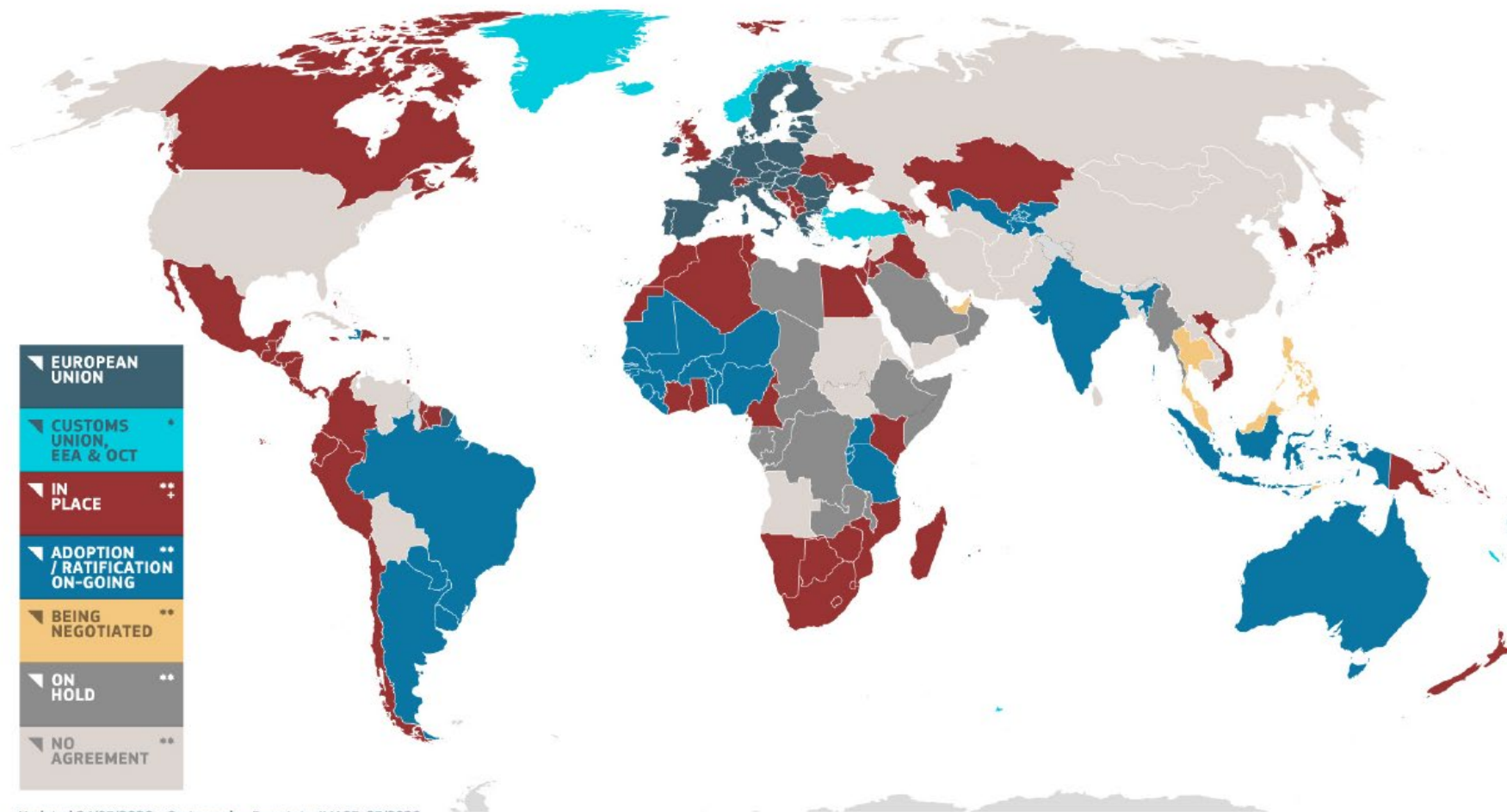
DIGITAL PARTNERSHIPS IN THE INDO-PACIFIC

ASEAN	Non-binding instrument	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The first meeting between co-chairs took place in January 2026. A technical level meeting to discuss the DTPs took place on 1 April. 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.</p>	<p>The Joint Working Group (JWG), which is the formal negotiating body, will meet on 8 April and 20 August 2026.</p> <p>EU and ASEAN to carry out technical meetings in advance of 20 August, to negotiate the text. The aim is to conclude the non-binding instrument on Digital Trade Principles at the latest by end of 2027.</p>
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 now needs to conduct again an internal legal review.	A meeting between the Delegation and the Ministry responsible (MOFE) is scheduled for 9 April 2026.
REPUBLIC OF KOREA (digital trade agreement)	The Council adopted its decision to authorise the Commission to open negotiations with Korea (and with Singapore) for a digital trade agreement on 27 June 2023.	The negotiations were concluded politically on 10 March 2025.	The political conclusion marks the end of the negotiations. The Commission and Korea will now follow their respective procedures to work towards the formal signature and conclusion of the agreement. On the EU side, scrubbing and translations into all EU languages has been completed. The indicative date for signature of the Digital Trade Agreement is 10 June, on the margins of the EU-Korea Summit.
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 EU has tabled and published its text proposal. Canada has tabled its text proposal, which still needs to be completed (it contains various placeholders).	First round of negotiations will take place in Brussels on 14-16 April.

	for a digital trade agreement on 24 November 2025.		
E-Commerce	Supplementary negotiating directives were adopted in May 2019.	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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. The consensus on incorporation was not reached due to opposition from India and South Africa (several other Members raised concerns, including Bangladesh, Pakistan, Türkiye, Brazil, Indonesia).</p>	Discussion on next steps ongoing among the supporters of the E-Commerce Agreement.
Investment facilitation for development (IFD)	The Directives for the negotiation of Investment Facilitation multilateral framework were adopted by the Council on 7 th of October 2019.	<p>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.</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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, 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).</p>	The request for legal incorporation into Annex 4 of the WTO Agreement will be (re-)submitted for decision to the 14 th WTO Ministerial Conference (MC14) in Cameroon. Once the request 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.

<p>MULTILATERAL INVESTMENT COURT</p>	<p>Adopted on 20 March 2018</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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 2024 the UNCITRAL Commission adopted in principle the draft Statute of the Advisory Centre on International Investment Disputes.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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).</p>	<p>Substantive discussions of WGIII will continue on aspects that are relevant for the Multilateral Investment Court, including a Tribunal of First Instance and Appellate Tribunal, treaty aspects relevant for the Multilateral legal Instrument to capture the various reforms. Additional procedural issues are also being examined.</p> <p>In parallel, an operationalisation process for the Advisory Centre is ongoing in order to finalise its statute on certain issues essential for its set-up (budget, financing, classification of members and location). This operationalisation process concluded its work in December 2025. The Statute of the Advisory Centre will be formally adopted by the UNCITRAL Commission in June/July 2026, before being endorsed by the UN General Assembly and opened for signature in 2027.</p>
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EU Trade agreements 2026



Updated 24/03/2026 - Cartography: Eurostat - IMAGE, 03/2026

* 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.

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