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Unit A5 - Evaluation

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Trade Policy Committee	
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NOTE FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE TRADE POLICY COMMITTEE

SUBJECT: **Publication of second edition of the handbook for Trade Sustainability Impact Assessment (SIA)**

*ORIGIN***:**   **Commission DG Trade Unit A5 - Evaluation**

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OBJECTIVE: *For information*

REMARKS:

The Commission published today the second edition of its handbook for Sustainability Impact Assessments (SIAs).

SIAs are a key tool for the conduct of sound and transparent trade negotiations. Taking place during the negotiations, they feed into the work of the negotiators as the negotiations evolve. They complement the impact assessment that the Commission carries out before starting the negotiations by allowing a more in-depth analysis of the potential economic, social, human rights and environmental impacts of the trade agreement under negotiation, as well as by facilitating a wider outreach to stakeholders in both the EU and partner countries.

The Commission has been carrying out SIAs on all negotiated trade agreements since 1999. This second edition of the SIA Handbook reflects the various improvements introduced in the conduct of SIAs in the light of experience. It takes account of stakeholders' views over the years and guidance for better policy making in the *Better Regulation* agenda. It also reflects commitments made in the *Trade for All* communication to further reinforce the analyses carried out in support of trade negotiations, including an in-depth analysis of the impact on human rights and the importance of close dialogue with all relevant stakeholders.

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