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COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT

Report on the implementation of the European Commission Communication on "Trade, Growth and Development"
and follow-up to the Council Conclusions on "EU's approach to trade, growth and development in the next decade"

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Commission Staff Working Document

Report on the implementation of the European Commission Communication on "Trade, Growth and Development" and follow-up to the Council Conclusions on "EU's approach to trade, growth and development in the next decade"

Overview:

On 16 March 2012, the Council of the European Union (EU) adopted conclusions on "EU's approach to trade, growth and development in the next decade" on the basis of the European Commission's Communication on "Trade, growth and development – Tailoring trade and investment policy for those countries most in need" of 27 January 2012[1]. These conclusions invite the Commission to provide a report to the Council on the implementation of the Commission's Communication and the follow up to the Council Conclusions in 2015. The present report is the Commission's response to this request.

The report is organised in eight sections corresponding to the areas of objectives in the Communication and the Council Conclusions, namely:

1. General objectives.
2. Non-reciprocal preferences.
3. Aid for Trade.
4. Measures for small operators.
5. Bilateral and regional trade agreements.
6. Sustainable development.
7. Resilience and response to crisis.
8. The multilateral agenda.

For clarity purposes, the present report is presented in a table format. The table links actual objectives in the Communication and the Council Conclusions with the current state of play.

The objectives are based on actual text in the considered documents, though simplified in so far as possible. The status of the implementation of the various objectives is associated to a colour code which allows for fast visualisation. Green is used for an objective with a fixed deadline or a clearly identified outcome that has been met, as well as broader and long-term processes that are on track. Orange is used for objectives that are a work in progress. The Commission's services consider that out of 52 objectives, 33 have been met or are on track, while 19 are work in progress.

[1] COM(2012)22 final.

The present report shows that the EU has made very good progress and met its main goals and fundamental objectives in the context of its trade and development policy, whether it concerns trade preferences, Aid for Trade, development-oriented trade agreements or other relevant actions.

At the same time, trade and development is by definition work in progress: further progress is both needed and possible. Yet while clearly identified targets can indeed be met by a certain deadline, for instance the adoption and entry into force of a new GSP Regulation, many of the EU's goals actually correspond to processes that extend over a long period of time, often with no fixed deadline, and that are not exclusively under the EU's full control, whether it is a bilateral or a multilateral negotiation, or to wider objectives that are largely of a more aspirational nature.

Furthermore, the EU's trade and development policy is also linked to new and emerging issues, notably the integration of sustainable development into trade policy at unilateral, bilateral and multilateral levels. This is a novel and unfolding agenda which, beyond EU action, is linked to complex and lasting bilateral and multilateral processes, including the implementation of the United Nations' (UN) 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It is also an area in which the EU is largely setting the pace, as demonstrated by the EU's achievement to date described in the present report, and the new orientations of the EU Trade Policy, as set in the Commission's Communication on "Trade for all – Towards a more responsible trade and investment policy[2]" of 14 October 2015, which strengthens some aspects of the 2012 trade and development policy.

1) General objectives:

The aim of the Commission's Communication on "Trade, growth and development" was to update the decade-old EU trade and development policy, adapt it to the new global economic landscape and henceforth increase its contribution to developing partners' ability to seize the opportunities of trade for their development. To achieve this goal, in conformity with the orientations of the "Agenda for Change[3]", the EU trade and development policy focuses on Least-Developed Countries (LDCs) and other countries most in need, the rationale being to prioritise those countries that most need EU support, for instance in the form of trade preferences or Aid for Trade (AfT). This new approach has been fully implemented, whether through unilateral instruments, bilateral and regional relations or in multilateral fora.

EU Objective	Status	State of play
1. Step up efforts to help countries most in need to reap the benefits of increasingly integrated world markets.		As described below in more detail, the full range of EU trade and development instruments was mobilised to step up support to countries most in need to lower barriers and increase access to world markets.
2. Focus efforts on the poorest and most vulnerable		The EU has mainstreamed its trade and development efforts towards LDCs and other

[2] COM(2015) 497/2 of 14 October 2015.
[3] European Commission Communication on "Increasing the impact of EU development policy: An Agenda for Change", COM(2011) 637 final of 13.10.2011.

countries and make sure those efforts are tailored to their needs and constraints, while ensuring coherence and complementarity between trade, development and other policies.		countries most in need. This is notably illustrated by the focus on countries most in need in the EU's new GSP and in the EU's development policy (Agenda for Change), as well as by the prioritisation of LDCs in multilateral fora, notably the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and the UN.

2) Non-reciprocal preferences:

The EU's Generalised Scheme of Preferences (GSP) has played a pivotal role in making the EU the most open market to imports of developing countries. The EU GSP has been designed to contribute to the goal of development and poverty reduction through the means of tariff reductions on exports to the EU of GSP beneficiaries.

The EU's reformed GSP Regulation[4] started to apply on 1 January 2014. As its predecessor, it is made up of three arrangements providing for differentiated preferences according to beneficiaries' needs: fist, the general/standard arrangement providing for a partial or entire removal of customs duties; second, the Special Incentive Arrangement for Sustainable Development and Good Governance (so-called "GSP+"), which offers close to full removal of duties on essentially the same tariff lines as those covered by the general arrangement; and third, Everything But Arms (EBA), the most advantageous arrangement which gives duty-free, quota-free (DFQF) access for all goods from LDCs except for arms and ammunitions.

The new GSP regime focuses preferences on LDCs and other countries most in need, i.e. low income countries and lower middle income countries which do not enjoy preferential market access to the EU under other arrangements such as trade agreements. The number of GSP beneficiaries has been reduced from 177 (until 31 December 2013) to 92 (as of 1 January 2014). This was a response to new realities in the international trading system, whereby upper middle income countries have become so successful that they no longer need this preferential treatment. In fact, maintaining their preferences would put undue strain on the economies of LDCs and other countries most in need which compete with advanced developing countries. The GSP is therefore also intended to offset the so called ‘preference erosion’ (decline of impact of GSP preferences due to overall reduction of tariffs), a process which actually meant hundreds of millions of Euro lost by LDCs each year, in terms of missed export opportunities.

Further, in November 2015, the EU notified[5] the WTO of the preferential treatment it intends to grant to services and services suppliers of LDCs, responding to the commitments made at the 2011 and 2013 WTO Ministerial Conferences on the so-called LDCs' services waiver.

EU Objective	Status	State of play
3. Adoption a new GSP Regulation and entry into		The new GSP Regulation was adopted on 25 October 2012 and applied as of 1 January 2014.

[4] Regulation (EU) No 978/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 applying a scheme of generalised tariff preferences and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 732/2008 (OJ L 303, 31.10.2012, p. 1).
[5] WTO/S/C/N/840 "The European Union's notification of preferential treatment it intends to grant to services and service suppliers of least-developed countries".

force no later than 1 January 2014.		

3) Aid for Trade:

More than a third of total EU Official Development Assistance (ODA) supports trade-related needs. The EU and its Member States are collectively the leading provider of Aid for Trade (AfT)[6] with about a third of the world's total. Delivery of AfT is based on the Joint Aid for Trade Strategy[7] approved by the EU and its Member States in 2007. EU AfT helps developing countries reap the benefits of integrating into the multilateral trading system. Particular emphasis is placed on supporting the implementation of trade agreements, either multilateral, regional or bilateral, drawing the benefits of EU non-reciprocal trade preferences, and bolstering regional integration efforts of developing country markets.

A number of the AfT objectives are work in progress. This is related to the fact that the Communication and Council Conclusions came towards the end of the previous programming period and just before preparations for the new programming under the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) for 2014-2020. The finalisation of all EU National and Regional Indicative Programmes in 2016 will allow for operational projects and programmes to be adopted and progressively implemented. Further developments can be expected from the delivery of the new programming. Further change can also be expected from the review of the 2007 Aid for Trade Strategy, which is foreseen to be undertaken in 2016 also in the light of the implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

EU Objective	Status	State of play
4. Continue to lead global efforts to respond to AfT demands, and continuously review the EU's AfT strategies and programmes.		With a total of EUR 11.7 billion in 2013, the EU and its Member States remained collectively and by a large margin the most significant AfT donor in the world[8]. After an all-time high in 2012, EU collective AfT kept expanding in 2013 with a 1.6% increase to set a new record.
5. Focus on LDCs and developing countries most in need.		Between 2012 and 2013, EU AfT to LDCs increased by about 44%, from EUR 1.8 billion to EUR 2.6 billion, representing 24% of the total EU AfT. While encouraging, this progress is not sufficiently embedded to be an established trend and remains subject to cyclical variations. This is one of the main topics for consideration under the revision of the EU

[6] According to the WTO definition, there are five categories of Aid for Trade: (1) trade policy and regulations; (2) trade development; (3) trade-related infrastructure; (4) building productive capacity; and (5) trade-related adjustment. The EU added a sixth category, 'other trade-related needs', which corresponds to EU programmes supporting trade in sector not comprised in the other five categories. Categories 1, 2 and 6 correspond to standard "Trade-Related Assistance" (TRA), whereas all categories taken together are usually referred to as "wider Aid for Trade agenda" or Aid for Trade.
[7] http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2008/november/tradoc_141470.pdf
[8] European Commission Staff Working Document on "Aid for Trade Report 2015 - Review of progress by the EU and its Member States", SWD(2015) 128 final of 22 June 2015.
http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2015/september/tradoc_153808.pdf

		Aid for Trade Strategy foreseen in 2016.
6. Follow Aid Effectiveness principles, provide better targeted, result-oriented and better coordinated AfT among EU donors, as well as with non-EU traditional or emerging donors, enhancing the complementarity and coherence between trade and development instruments, and increasing the engagement of the private sector.		The concentration of AfT in the Regional Indicative Programmes (RIPs) under the MFF for 2014-2016 aims at enhancing consistency and effectiveness as well as support for regional integration, as RIPs continue to apply to middle income countries alongside low income countries, lower middle income countries and LDCs. A review of the 2007 EU Aid for Trade Strategy is foreseen in 2016. A Communication on the role of the private sector for development was published in 2014[9], outlining actions to be taken to work with and for the private sector in order to achieve development objectives.
7. Continue to encourage developing countries to include trade in their development strategies.		The EU consistently encourages developing countries to include trade in their development strategies and to reflect their trade-related needs in the priorities of their bilateral or regional cooperation with the EU. These efforts were reinforced with the adoption of the Communication on trade, growth and development and the related Council Conclusions, as it coincided with preparations for the programming of EU aid under the MFF for 2014-2020. This included advocacy in multilateral fora, bilateral and regional dialogue, as well as EUR 10 million worth of EU support to Phase I of the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF) (Phase II started on 1 January 2016), whose main aim is to help LDCs mainstream trade in their development strategies. Furthermore, under the MFF for 2014-2020, some EUR 2.3 billion have been allocated within the RIPs alone for economic integration and AfT (EUR 1.77 billion for the ACP countries; EUR 320 million in Asia and EUR 265 million in Latin America). Additional funds may be allocated within other instruments that cover sectors with a trade component, such as transport, infrastructure or agriculture.
8. Further improve the programming and delivery of AfT, notably where trade increases opportunities for		Trade opportunities for development partners have been reflected in the priorities of the programming of EU bilateral and regional aid under the MFF for 2014-2020. EU support to trade, particularly for partners engaged in trade agreements with the EU or for GSP

[9] Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions "A Stronger Role of the Private Sector in Achieving Inclusive and Sustainable Growth in Developing Countries", COM(2014) 263 final.

developing countries (e.g. EPAs, GSP, new rules of origin).		beneficiaries, has in particular been systematically included in RIPs.
9. Use new thematic programmes under the Global Public Goods and Challenges (GPGC) Programme to accompany trade openings.		A number of actions in support of the trade, growth and development policy are foreseen under the GPGC Programme. This started in 2015 with a EUR 9.6 million allocation to the World Bank Trade Facilitation Support Programme (TFSP), which was set up to respond to provide a rapid-response to requests from developing countries for support to the implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement. Further support is foreseen, notably for the Trade for Sustainable Development (T4SD) Programme of the International Trade Centre (ITC) (up to EUR 5 million) and Phase II of the EIF (see next box).
10. Focus on LDCs, building on the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF) and increasing the effectiveness of the EIF and other internationally recognised frameworks.		The EU has provided EUR 10 million to Phase I of the EIF and has been a member of the EIF Board for several years. The EU was also actively involved in the evaluation of the EIF and the design of Phase II of the EIF, which should significantly bolster the programme's effectiveness. In December 2015 the EU pledged to support the next phase of the EIF up to EUR 10 million. Beyond the EIF, the Commission services are also assessing opportunities for closer cooperation on customs and trade facilitation issues with the most concerned international organisations, such as the World Customs Organisation.
11. Step up economic partnerships, regulatory dialogues and business cooperation through the new Partnership Instrument, in particular in emerging economies, and foster new forms of cooperation in countries graduating from bilateral aid.		The Partnership Instrument's (PI)[10] Annual Action Programme (AAP) 2014 included the provision of a Market Access and FTA Implementation facility (EUR 2 million in 2014 and EUR 7 million in 2015) under which activities can be carried out to support trade priorities in all countries with an emphasis on strategic partners, including the main emerging economies. Stand-alone projects, including on public procurement and business cooperation in the emerging economies, notably China, were also included in the AAP 2014 and 2015. Activities promoting intellectual property right and transparency are foreseen to be addressed in 2016.
12. Review the approach		Under the Multi-annual Financial Framework (MFF)

[10] http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/fpi/what-we-do/partnership_instrument_en.htm

to supporting regional integration. Specific regional programmes could be designed for trade facilitation and connectivity.		2014-2020 and in order to implement the Agenda for Change[11], EU trade-related development assistance is programmed at the regional level. In most cases this is provided for by joint Trade and Regional Integration allocations. The strategic programming documents prioritise actions in support of trade facilitation and the design and implementation of such projects will possibly commence in 2016. Additionally, some EUR 17.5 million are foreseen for trade facilitation under the Pan-African Programme (PAP).
13. Use EU blending mechanisms to leverage domestic and foreign investment in developing countries. The use of such financial instruments will be assessed case by case in countries where debt sustainability is fragile. Greater coherence is also needed with trade and investment agreements.		From the creation of the first facilities in 2007 until the end of 2014, some EUR 2 billion worth of EU grants have leveraged almost EUR 20 billion worth of loans from finance institutions and regional development banks, and lead to investments in EU partner countries of more than EUR 44 billion. The issue of debt sustainability is addressed in the application form, which provides all the relevant information on the impact of the project on the debt sustainability of the beneficiary country. Consultations with EU Delegations ensure the coherence of projects with EU policies.

4) Measures for small operators:

The Communication proposed a package of measures for small operators in developing countries. The package is a mix of pre-existing actions which it committed to continue, as well as new and innovative actions. It brings them together under the same umbrella, thus reinforcing coherence and synergy amongst the various actions. The new and innovative elements of the package do not involve large amounts of funding. Furthermore, in an initial phase, they necessitated pilot actions to validate the concept and approach.

EU Objective	Status	State of play
14. As a complement to the EU Export Helpdesk, support a multilateral initiative providing similar information on all markets.		The EU supports the Market Access Map (MAcMap) Project of the ITC[12]. MAcMap was developed by ITC to support the needs of exporters, trade support institutions, trade policy makers and academic institutions in developing countries. It provides information about customs tariffs (including tariff preferences) applied by 191 countries. It also covers tariff rate quotas, trade remedies, rules and certificates of origin, bound tariffs of WTO members, non-tariff

[11] Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions "Increasing the impact of EU Development Policy: an Agenda for Change", COM(2011) 637 final.
[12] See EU-funded ITC projects at: http://www.intracen.org/itc/projects/EU-funded-projects/

		measures and trade flows to help users prioritise and analyse export markets as well as prepare for market access negotiations. Both MAcMap and the Export Helpdesk are free to users in developing countries and their representations abroad, as well as for EU officials (including in delegations). The EU contributed EUR 300,000 to MAcMap in 2011, EUR 300,000 in 2012, EUR 500,000 in 2013 and EUR 500,000 in 2014/15.
15. Train networks of diaspora small traders in the EU.		The EU initiated the launch of the Small Traders Capacity Building component under the ITC T4SD Programme. Small traders often suffer from complex administrative procedures and a lack of information, training, connections or access to finance. This action seeks to assist small traders to overcome these barriers by providing capacity building workshops on the above topics in LDCs. A diaspora conference was held in Tanzania in collaboration with the government in August 2015 and a joint conference held with the World Bank on support to diaspora from Sierra Leone in Washington D.C. in September 2015. The EU contributed EUR 1 million to the Small Traders Capacity Building Project over the period 2013-2015.
16. Support participation of small businesses in trade schemes that secure added value for producers, including those based on sustainability and geographic origin criteria.		The EU supports the Standards Map component of the ITC T4SD Programme. Standards Map delivers information on more than 70 voluntary sustainability standards operating in over 200 countries, and certifying products and services in more than 80 economic sectors, allowing them to review and compare standards, and provides assistance in the certification process. Standards Map also includes additional reference material to increase awareness and knowledge of voluntary standards, including quick-fact sheets for each of the standards referenced to and links to more than 250 academic studies, dissertations and research papers. The EU contributed EUR 350,000 to Standards Map mainly focused on delivering capacity building and outreach of the project tools in LDCs over the period 2014-2015.
17. Facilitate access to finance for small exporters/traders from developing countries.		Over the course of 2013-2014, the Small Traders Capacity Building project managed by the ITC developed a curriculum on access to finance which has subsequently been delivered in 21 capacity building sessions to a total of 681 participants in seven LDCs: Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Mozambique, Rwanda, Senegal and Tanzania. In 2014, this curriculum was further developed into an e-curriculum so that it can be accessed online. This foundation has

		been built upon through the two above-mentioned diaspora conferences focusing on Tanzania and Sierra Leone where access to finance is a central part of the agenda. Tailored work on this topic is ongoing with 12 producers in Tanzania who have been assessed to have the most potential to grow with increased access to finance.
18. Facilitate the use of intellectual property tools by small producers and farmers.		In 2014, the Commission published its revised Intellectual property Rights (IPR) Strategy for the protection and enforcement of IPR in third countries[13]. The EU IPR strategy reaffirms the importance to take into account third countries' level of development and capacity and the importance of striving to find a good policy balance between encouraging and rewarding innovation, and ensuring access for users and the public. IPR provisions are included in the bilateral and regional trade agreements negotiated by the EU, in a manner that takes into account the level of development of the relevant partners. The EU also assists developing countries in adopting and enforcing IPR regimes in line with their international obligations. The EU and its Member States support a broad range of projects which take into account development levels and needs, and include awareness raising and capacity building. While some technical assistance activities focus exclusively on IPR, in others it is smaller element of a broader project on trade-related assistance (TRA). Significant EU technical assistance projects in this field are currently on-going in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), China, Cambodia, India and Pakistan, including through the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation[14]. The EU committed that 60% of the 77 billion EUR 2014-2020 Framework Programme for Research and Innovation ("Horizon 2020") should be used for sustainable development supporting Research and Innovation (R&I) actions. One type of IPR that is particularly

[13] Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council and the European Economic and Social Committee on "Trade, growth and intellectual property – Strategy for the protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights in third countries – COM(2014) 389 final of 1 July 2014.

[14] The EU submits an annual report to the WTO on its technical assistance activities in support of IPR. More detail on individual projects and actions can be found in this report: https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/FE_Search/FE_S_S009-DP.aspx?language=E&CatalogueIdList=135144,135092,134874,134825,134826,134821,134669,134625,130538,128045&CurrentCatalogueIdIndex=8&FullTextHash=

		suitable for farmers and agri-food producers in countries with lower levels of development and with strong cultural or agricultural traditions is Geographical Indication (GIs). This system offers a mechanism to protect the collective IPR in indigenous and regional products. This can enable producers, especially small holders, to exercise more control over the marketing of their products and secure a higher share of the value added by distinguishing their product in the marketplace. For instance, the IPR chapters of the EU FTAs with Central America, Colombia and Peru, and Vietnam, as well as the EPAs with the Caribbean region and the Southern African Development Community (SADC), include a GI section.
19. Promote dialogue within the SME Finance Forum on Africa established in 2011 and the Memorandum of Understanding signed with the Africa Union Commission in 2011.		The report on opportunities for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs) in Africa announced at the SME Finance Forum on Africa was published in August 2013[15]. There are no activities yet to report concerning the Memorandum of Understanding.
20. Consider extending to other preferential arrangements the simplified procedure for obtaining proof of origin based on self-certification under the 2011 reform of rules of origin for GSP if this system works well.		A new self-certification system by exporters will replace the system of certification of origin by public authorities from 1 January 2017. A so-called registered exporter system (REX) will progressively replace the current system of certification of origin of goods from 1 January 2017. The scheme is to be extended to future FTAs.

5) Bilateral and regional trade agreements:

In recent years, the EU has made significant strides forward in the implementation of its ambitious bilateral and regional trade agenda. This includes both the negotiations of Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) with African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries initiated in 2002, and the negotiations of FTAs with other developing countries and regions launched in the wake of the 2006 Global Europe Communication[16], whether in Asia, Latin America or the European Neighbourhood.

[15] SWD(2013) 302 final.
[16] Commission Communication on "Global Europe: Competing in the World" – COM(2006)567of 4 October 2006.

These are negotiations for modern and comprehensive trade agreements which look beyond tariffs at behind-the-border issues that may include technical norms and standards, investment, government procurement, competition, services, IPRs, as well as sustainable development, including labour and environmental provisions.

The EU takes account of development policy objectives in its trade negotiations through a flexible approach that allows for necessary adjustments in developing countries. EU trade agreements with developing countries provide for transition periods so that liberalisation can take place gradually. They typically come along with accompanying measures to trade liberalisation, such as enhanced development cooperation, notably TRA.

EPAs in particular have a specific development focus, as they include a series of principles, objectives and specific undertakings to use trade as an instrument to promote development and systematically include development cooperation as an essential dimension of the implementation of the agreement. EPAs offer provisions aimed at easing trade opening for weaker developing countries, such as very long transition periods or even exclusions from market opening, special safeguards for the development of infant industry and on food security, and voluntary EU restraint on WTO safeguards or the use of dispute settlement.

EU Objective	Status	State of play
21. Aim for comprehensive FTAs and take into account the level of development of our partners, offering flexible approaches tailored to their needs and capacities.		The EU reflects development policy objectives in its trade negotiations through a flexible approach that allows for necessary adjustments in developing countries. EU trade agreements provide for transition periods so that liberalisation can take place gradually, as well as for asymmetric coverage of tariff dismantlement, specific safeguard and infant industries clauses. The specific needs and capacity of developing partners is taken into account in the design of accompanying measures to trade liberalisation, such as focused development cooperation under the existing instruments. AfT helps partners put in place the necessary policies and institutions, as well as increase production capacity and improve infrastructure, so that they can better benefit from trade liberalisation and related reforms.
22. Seek to conclude EPA negotiations with all interested ACP countries and regions.		EPAs with ACP countries are EU trade agreements with primarily a development objective. EPAs include a series of principles, objectives and specific undertakings to use trade as an instrument to promote development and systematically include development cooperation as an essential dimension of the implementation of the agreement. EPAs have reached the implementation stage in the Caribbean, Pacific (Papua New Guinea and Fiji), Eastern and Southern Africa (Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles, Zimbabwe), as well as in Central Africa (Cameroon). In 2014, negotiations were concluded with West Africa, the Southern African Development

		Community – EPA States (six countries within SADC) and the East African Community (EAC), with whom the signature and ratification processes are in progress.
23. Include in trade agreements rules that promote transparency, predictability and accountability, thus supporting domestic reforms and good governance in support of trade-led growth.		All EU trade agreements systematically include provisions to promote, inter alia, regulatory convergence to reduce transaction costs and Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs), as well as monitoring mechanisms to evaluate implementation and results. These provisions help to enhance transparency, promote regional harmonisation of rules and alignment with internationally recognised standards with a view to improving the business environment.
24. Open negotiations for Deep and Comprehensive FTAs with Egypt, Tunisia, Jordan and Morocco.		The preparatory process was concluded with Morocco in October 2012 and negotiations launched in March 2013. The preparatory process with Tunisia was finalised in June 2014 and negotiations launched in October 2015. The preparatory process has been ongoing with Jordan since March 2012 and is well advanced. A dialogue on the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA) with Egypt was launched in June 2013.
25. Build closer trade ties with our Eastern Neighbourhood, including with Armenia, Georgia and Moldova.		Association Agreements (AAs) with DCFTA components were signed with Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine in 2014. The DCFTA part provisionally applies since September 2014 for Georgia and Moldova, and since January 2016 for Ukraine. The AAs/DCFTAs involve ambitious political, economic and social reform agendas, bringing the Eastern Partners concerned closer to the EU. Three other Eastern Partners do not follow the AA/DCFTA path. In October 2014, Armenia signed its accession treaty to the Eurasian Economic Union, which entered into force on 2 January 2015, and Azerbaijan decided to suspend the negotiations of the AA with the EU. The EU has now launched negotiations for a new agreement with Armenia, on the basis of the scoping exercise concluded in March 2015, and has initiated exploratory talks with Azerbaijan on the basis of a new proposal received from Azerbaijan in May 2015. The EU is also exploring options for closer collaboration with Belarus.
26. Deploy investment protection agreements at EU level in a progressive manner, either as part of on-going FTA negotiations or as stand-		In March 2014, negotiations were launched for an EU-Myanmar/Burma investment protection agreement. In addition to protection for investors, which should act as encouragement for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) as a key element of increased economic growth, the agreement will offer an opportunity for the EU and

alone agreements.		Myanmar/Burma to continue to pursue their strong commitment to sustainable development and promote corporate social responsibility (CSR) and responsible business conduct, in line with internationally recognised principles and guidelines. In November 2015, the EU and China launched negotiations for a comprehensive agreement on investment to cover both market access and investment protection. Negotiations are still at a very early stage and the impact on development will depend on the final outcome of negotiations. Additionally, the EU has integrated an investment chapter in its recently concluded FTA with Vietnam.

6) Sustainable development:

Sustainable development is a new dimension of trade policy whose importance is set to continue growing, not least in view of the adoption by the UN of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its implementation. This reflects increasing attention being devoted to sustainable development in its three mutually reinforcing dimensions: economic, social and environmental, at both international and EU level. At the same time, the EU is clearly a frontrunner when it comes to the inclusion of sustainable development into its trade policy, whether through its unilateral instruments, notably the GSP; bilaterally through the systematic inclusion of a trade and sustainable development chapter in the new generation of trade agreement; or at multilateral level.

EU Objective	Status	State of play
27. Make the GSP+ scheme more attractive.		The revised GSP regime relaxed the economic criteria to become eligible for GSP+, thus allowing more countries to apply. It also removed the fixed entry windows that existed before, allowing countries to apply at any time. In addition, the GSP+ arrangement is particularly appealing as beneficiaries are not subject to the graduation mechanism, which means that all their exports continue to receive preferential treatment for the entire period of eligibility. On the other hand, the monitoring of GSP+ compliance with 27 core international conventions has been strengthened, notably with the use of detailed scorecards as a basis for engaging with the countries and third parties to review implementation. The first report reviewing the performance of GSP+ participating countries was published on 28 January 2016[17]. Currently, some 13 countries benefit from

[17] Joint Staff Working Document on "The EU Special Incentive Arrangement for Sustainable Development and Good Governance (GSP+) covering the period 2014-2015", SWD(2016) 8 final of 28.01.2016.

		GSP+ preferences[18]. The 10 years duration of the scheme takes into account on the one hand the need for long term predictability and on the other hand the need for periodical adaptations.
28. Make sure that provisions on trade and sustainable development in recent FTAs are effectively used and provide appropriate support in our development cooperation.		Since the FTA between the EU and the Republic of Korea, all EU FTAs systematically include a trade and sustainable development chapter, including labour and environmental provisions. These chapters include a strong institutional mechanism, closely involving civil society at both domestic and bilateral level, thus ensuring a strong push for the implementation of sustainable development provisions, as well as thorough monitoring. Accordingly, such mechanisms are now fully operational under the FTAs with the Republic of Korea, Colombia and Peru, Central America, Georgia and Moldova, with full-fledged participation of civil society. As regards FTAs with developing countries specifically, financial support to the implementation of sustainable development provisions is available in the form of TRA under the rules governing development cooperation with our developing partners, generally in the framework of the regional indicative programmes.
29. Include provisions in our agreements to promote responsible business conduct by investors.		The trade and sustainable development chapter in the new generation EU FTAs systematically include a reference CSR and the related relevant international guidelines and principles.
30. Support green and inclusive growth through bilateral and regional trade agreements, innovative financing and public-private partnerships.		New generation EU FTAs systematically include a trade and sustainable development chapter, including provisions on facilitating and promoting trade and investment in environmental goods and services. In July 2014, the EU together with 13 other WTO Members launched plurilateral negotiations on the Environmental Goods Agreement (EGA) in the WTO context. An additional three countries have joined the EGA negotiations in the meantime[19]. The objective of the EGA negotiations is to make it easier to trade environmental goods and services internationally. The negotiations currently focus on eliminating tariffs on a broad list of environmental products, building on the list of 54 products agreed in 2012 by Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC). They cover such

[18] Armenia, Bolivia, Costa Rica, Cape Verde, El Salvador, Georgia, Guatemala, Mongolia, Panama, Peru, Pakistan, Paraguay and Philippines.
[19] In addition to the EU, the following 16 countries participate in the EGA negotiations: Australia, Canada, China, Costa Rica, Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong (China), Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland, Singapore, United States, Israel, Turkey and Iceland.

		environmental areas as waste management, water treatment, air pollution control, renewable energy, energy efficiency. In addition to elimination of tariffs, the EU is interested to address services enabling export of environmental green goods (e.g. installation and maintenance). The ambition is also to create a "future-oriented agreement" that will allow to take into account changes in technologies and to discuss more complex issues such as NTBs in the future. Once the critical mass of WTO Members is reached, the benefits of the agreement will be expanded to all WTO Members on a Most-Favoured Nation (MFN) basis. Any WTO Member sharing similar level of commitment to liberalisation of green goods and services can join the negotiations. Reducing barriers to trade and investment in green technologies can contribute to their increased deployment, which could deliver considerable economic and environmental benefits globally, including for developing countries. In January 2015, the Commission launched a Sustainability Impact Assessment (SIA) that will assess economic, social and environmental impact of the EGA, including on developing countries. In this context, two regional stakeholder events were held in Malaysia and Mexico, gathering several developing countries from each region[20].
31. Better assess the impact of trade initiatives on the EU and its trading partners, including developing countries, and streamline Sustainability Impact Assessments.		First developed in 1999 for the WTO Doha Development Agenda (DDA) negotiations, SIA have been carried out for all major bilateral and plurilateral trade negotiations ever since. The Commission published the first edition of the SIA Handbook in 2006. The second edition of the SIA Handbook is to be adopted by the Commission at the beginning of 2016. It incorporates the improvements brought to the conduct of SIAs over the years and comments received from stakeholders further to the public consultation. This second edition reinforces further several elements of the analysis. In particular, careful attention has been given to strengthening the consultation of stakeholders as well as to carrying out an in-depth analysis of potential impacts on human rights. Increased emphasis is also given to the analysis of possible key impacts of new trade agreements on developing countries, in particular LDCs. These improvements will promote greater synergy between the EU's trade and development policies. They will help to increasingly

[20] For more information on the EGA, including the Sustainability Impact Assessment, see: http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/press/index.cfm?id=1116

		ensure that EU trade policy is designed in a way that supports the development objectives of its trade partners. Separately, a study was carried out in 2014 regarding the impact of the EU's preferential trade regimes on the agricultural sector in relation to EPAs[21]. Another one on bilateral trade agreements was launched in 2015.
32. Assist developing partners in the implementation of EU schemes to promote the sustainable management of key natural resources such as timber and fish traded into the EU, and cooperate with other countries which are important markets for natural resources to promote similar standards.		Poverty reduction, development and environmental protection are closely interrelated. The world's poorest are those most directly dependent on natural resources for their daily survival and therefore most vulnerable to environmental hazards. This is why the Commission has made the protection and sustainable management of natural resources a key priority in its poverty reduction policies. Integrating environmental concerns into development policy is also key to ensuring that natural resources are protected. Development cooperation programmes financed by the EU and targeting developing countries promote high levels of environment protection and sustainable use of natural resources. Regarding fisheries, the EU is promoting fulfilment of international law obligations in the figh against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing. In this context the EU is actively involved in supporting developing countries' efforts in their fight against IUU fishing, the sustainability of fish stocks and the socioeconomic situation of fishermen. Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements (SFPAs) signed between the EU and a number of developing countries contribute to the sustainable management of fisheries resources. The reform of the Common Fisheries Policy and its external dimension has put emphasis on the sustainability of stocks, and reinforced the partnership component of these agreements, notably in view of reinforcing the scientific, administrative and technical capacity of partner countries. Efforts are also made to obtain better synergies between these instruments and development policy tools.
33. Promote the elimination of tariff and non-tariff barriers on goods and services that can deliver environmental		In additional to the EGA negotiations and SIAs (see point 31 above), the EU continues to frontload liberalisation of environmental products in its FTAs, and had negotiated green technology annexes, for

[21] http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/evaluation/market-and-income-reports/epas-2014_en.htm

benefits.		instance with Singapore.
34. Strengthen our support for developing country producers taking part in sustainable trade schemes (e.g. fair, ethical or organic), including through Aid for Trade, improved monitoring of related activities and continued encouragement to partner countries to promote fair and ethical trade.		Under development cooperation, the EU supports fair trade, sustainable consumption and production, cooperatives and smallholder farmers in developing countries through various grants schemes. Smallholder producers are benefiting from EU programmes aimed at fostering an improved business enabling environment, from AfT programmes providing capacity-building to small producers, e.g. in areas linked to quality and standards or sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) requirements, and agricultural and rural development programmes, including food security. The EU also supports non-state actors in the areas of awareness-raising and educational activities in EU Member States, activities supporting market transparency of voluntary standards schemes in the EU, or impact assessments or development of fair trade activities in developing countries.
35. Further facilitate fair and ethical purchasing choices by public authorities in Europe in the context of the upcoming review of public procurement directives.		The revised Public Procurement Directive[22] adopted by the European Parliament on 15 January 2014 allows for contracting authorities to consider inter alia environmental and social aspects in their award decisions. Prior to that, the Commission had issued in 2011 "Buying social: a guide to social considerations in public procurement", which encourages contracting authorities to take sustainability issues into account in a neutral, non-discriminatory way in their purchasing decisions, and provides examples on what regional and local authorities can (and cannot) do to promote fair and ethical trade though their purchasing policies and practices.
36. Encourage companies to sign up to internationally recognised guidelines and principles in the area of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), such as the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, and encourage our trading partners to adhere to them.		The EU has included provisions on the promotion of CSR into all trade and sustainable development chapters of its new generation FTAs (e.g. South Korea, Canada, Singapore, Colombia-Peru, Central America, Vietnam). In this context, the EU advocates in particular greater support for and use of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, including adherence by non-OECD member countries. The OECD Guidelines are explicitly referenced in the agreements with Singapore, Georgia, Moldova and Canada. The EU intends to pursue a similar approach in ongoing and planned negotiations, including those for stand-alone

[22] Directive 2014/24/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 February 2014 on public procurement and repealing Directive 2004/18/EC (OJ L 94, 28.3.2014, p. 65–242).

		investment agreements (e.g. China and Burma/Myanmar).

7) Resilience and response to crisis:

The Communication devotes attention to helping vulnerable countries improve their resilience and response to crisis, notably in relation to natural disasters, conflicts and commodity price volatility. Significant progress has been realised on these issues, both regarding the EU's own policy and cooperation instrument, notably with the proposed EU Regulation on the sourcing of minerals originating from conflict areas[23], as well as at plurilateral and multilateral levels, whether in the G20, OECD or WTO. Work will continue on this dimension.

EU Objective	Status	State of play
37. Improve preparedness for natural disasters by seeking to factor trade vulnerabilities into needs assessments undertaken in the context of EU humanitarian aid policy.		Following a review in 2012, the Commission decided not to include a trade-related indicator in its Internal Assessment Framework (IAF) that plays a large role in allocating humanitarian aid to the most vulnerable. However, one of the values used for assessing the human hazard in INFORM (Global Index for Risk Management) is the Projected Conflict Risk that uses data from the Global Conflict Risk Index (GCRI), a composite index developed by the Joint Research Centre (JRC), the Commission and many others, to serve as a first step in the EEAS/EU conflict early warning system. The GCRI index includes an indicator on 'Trade Integration', which determines a country's economic openness by adding up imports and exports and dividing it by gross national product. While the impact of this data on the final score and assessment results is very small, lack of trade integration was identified by the science and the conflict assessment experts as one of the major economic causes contributing to conflicts.
38. Explore ways to improve transparency throughout the supply chain, including aspects of due diligence, in developing countries plagued by conflicts linked to the control of natural resources, and		In 2014, the Commission and the High Representative adopted an integrated EU approach[24] to the responsible sourcing of minerals originating from conflict-affected and high-risk areas addressing the link between armed groups and the exploitation of and trade in minerals. The integrated approach addresses three main issues: reducing the opportunities for armed groups to trade in tin, tantalum, tungsten and gold in conflict-affected areas; improving the ability of EU operators −

[23] Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and the Council setting up a Union system for supply chain due diligence self-certification of responsible importers of tin, tantalum and tungsten, their ores, and gold originating in conflict-affected and high-risk areas - COM/2014/0111 final of 5 March 2014 - 2014/0059 (COD).
[24] European Commission, Proposal for a Regulation, COM(2014) 111 of 5 March 2014.

advocate greater support for and use of related OECD Guidelines for multinational enterprises and OECD recommendations.		especially in the downstream section of the supply chain − to comply with existing due diligence frameworks, including the OECD and section 1502 of the US Dodd-Frank Act; and reducing distortions in global markets for the four minerals mentioned above that are sourced from conflict-affected and high-risk areas. The proposal is currently being discussed in Council with a view to granting the mandate to start the trilogue between the Commission, Council and the European Parliament (see next box). It consists of a draft Regulation and a joint Commission/High Representative Communication, including inter alia, options for accompanying measures to the Regulation. The proposed Regulation of the EP and the Council would set up an EUsystem for supply chain due diligence and self-certification of responsible importers of tin, tantalum and tungsten, their ores, and gold originating in conflict-affected and high-risk areas. It creates legally binding obligations for importers of these minerals and metals that choose to opt in to undertake supply chain due diligence to identify and mitigate the risk of conflict financing based on the OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains of Minerals from Conflict-Affected and High-Risk Areas. The draft Regulation is founded on a risk-based approach and includes an obligation for regular independent audits and public disclosure of company due diligence efforts and rules applicable to infringement. Through the Instrument for Stability (IfS)[25], the EU provided EUR 1 million, (2014-2015) for the dissemination, adoption and use of the OECD Guidance. The IfS also provides support to the implementation of the ICGLR (International Conference for the Great Lakes Region) Regional Initiative on Natural Resources with a budget of EUR 3 million EUR (2014-2016). EU support of this regionally-owned initiative targets the setting-up of a sustainable regional export certification mechanism in countries such as DRC, Uganda and Burundi.
39. Continue to cooperate with and provide support to developing countries on sustainable mining, geological knowledge and good governance in		Support is available within the Global Public Goods and Challenges Programme under the Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI)[26] and the European Development Fund (EDF)[27] under the MFF for 2014-2020 at the request of developing countries or regions. While indicative programmes are in general finalised,

[25] http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/fpi/what-we-do/instrument_contributing_to_stability_and_peace_en.htm
[26] https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/how/finance/dci_en.htm_en
[27] https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/funding/funding-instruments-programming/funding-instruments/european-development-fund_en

natural resources management.		the projects identification phase is still on-going. In line with the 2014 Communication on a stronger role of the private sector, this will focus in particular on assistance for transposing OECD Due Diligence Guidance into regional or country legislation, capacity building for implementing that legislation and the artisanal and small scale mining; assistance to civil society organisations and non-state actors supporting advocacy and political dialogues; technical assistance to promote transparency and due diligence; assistance on other horizontal aspects. Specific actions have been undertaken under the 10th EDF Intra-ACP funds and the DCI Pan-African Programme (PAP). The EU supports the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI), including through the EITI Multi-Donor Trust Fund. This issue was also on the agenda of the 4th EU-Africa Summit and was discussed in the context of the EU-Africa Strategic Partnership. Beyond the area of mining, the "Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT)" Action Plan aims to combat illegal logging.
40. Work to set up a new shock-absorbing scheme in relation to commodity price volatility, focusing on broader exogenous shocks with a cross-country dimension[28].		The EU actively supports the G20 work on the Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS) and its Rapid Response Forum (RRF). AMIS has proved a successful mechanism to reduce the likelihood of unexpected price fluctuations in international agricultural commodity markets by improving transparency and reducing the risk of uncoordinated destabilising policy actions.
41. Strengthen the ability of vulnerable countries to cope with external shocks, such as fluctuations in the prices of food		In WTO, the EU is actively engaging in discussions on public stockholding for food security. The issue was provisionally addressed at the 9th WTO Ministerial Conference (MC9), seeking to ensure that the stocks do not distort world markets and adversely affect the food security of other members. A permanent solution to this end should be found by the 11th WTO Ministerial Conference (MC11). In parallel, the Commission supports the Regional Food Reserve programme in West Africa (EUR 56 million). The objective is to strengthen the environment to better respond to food crises. The national storage systems, their network (RESOGEST in West Africa) and local storage facilities are also supported through EDF national indicative

[28] Multiannual financial framework regarding the financing of EU cooperation for ACP States and Overseas Countries and Territories for the 2014-2020 period (11th European Development Fund)

		programmes.
42. Address emerging challenges such as food security, sustainable use of natural resources, access to energy supplies and climate change.		The EU has integrated emerging challenges into its trade and sustainable development policy. The trade and sustainable development chapters in EU trade agreements increasingly include provisions on the sustainable management of natural resources (e.g. forestry, fisheries, biodiversity) as well as on climate change. The EU is also actively engaged in work ongoing at multilateral level in these areas, such as the 2015 UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of the Parties, or the activities of Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs) where the EU has a leading role in the promotion of ocean governance and the sustainability of marine living resources. Regarding the latter, the EU provides voluntary financial contributions to strengthen RFMOs, including the facilitation of participants from developing countries, amounting to approximately EUR 8 million in 2014. Regarding food security, in addition to the initiative described under objective 42 above, the EPAs with ACP countries include simple tools to protect agricultural markets when necessary: a general safeguard, a bilateral safeguard clause with very flexible conditions and a food security clause. The latter allows the bilateral safeguard to be triggered when the implementation of EPAs leads to difficulties in securing or accessing foodstuffs needed to ensure food security. In addition, the EU has eliminated all export subsidies on all agricultural goods exported to EPA partner countries. On SPS aspects, assistance continued to facilitate developing countries' capacity to bring their products to market and to take better advantage of the opportunities to trade around the world. EU's contribution (including EU Member States) amounted to approximately EUR 75 million in 2013, provided through more than 300 SPS-related projects worldwide.

8) The multilateral agenda:

The EU firmly believes in the central role of the multilateral trading system and its importance for development. In particular, the EU considers that the WTO's core functions of rule-setting, dispute settlement and monitoring of trade policies as well as the rules-based multilateral trading system established by WTO play an invaluable role in creating a level-playing field for all countries, notably developing ones. The multilateral trading system is therefore the best means to ensure that developing countries, and particularly LDCs, are able to effectively tap into trade-driven growth and poverty-reduction. Important developments have taken place in this respect, notably with the adoption of important decisions by the 9th and 10th WTO Ministerial Conferences.

EU Objective	Status	State of play
43. Preserve and strengthen the multilateral trading system.		The successful outcome of the 9th WTO Ministerial Conference (MC9) held in Bali in December 2013 was instrumental in preserving and strengthening the multilateral trading system.
44. Achieve a balanced outcome of the Doha Development Agenda (DDA) negotiations, including delivering on its development dimension.		After the success of MC9, where the Trade Facilitation Agreement and a number of important development-related decisions in favour of LDCs were agreed, the WTO achieved another important result at the 10th WTO Ministerial Conference (MC10) held in Nairobi, Kenya, in December 2015. The package agreed in Nairobi will deliver significant benefits for developing and least-developed countries, notably by eliminating distortions in agricultural export competition. The Nairobi decisions on the issues of interest to LDCs will also be instrumental in fostering LDCs' integration in global trade. In Nairobi, WTO Members also acknowledged that, while some outstanding DDA issues still remain to be addressed, it is important to adopt new approaches and possibly introduce new issues in the WTO agenda. Only in this way will the centrality of WTO as a negotiating forum be reaffirmed and strengthened. This is crucial especially for LDCs and other less advanced developing countries that can draw the greatest benefits from a lively multilateral trading system.
45. Work for early results in the DDA negotiations on trade facilitation, non-tariff barriers (NTBs) and dispute settlement.		The Bali package agreed by MC9 includes an agreement on a Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) which aims to ease border procedures and to facilitate the movement, release and clearance of goods. The TFA will enter into force once two-thirds of WTO members have completed their domestic ratification process. The EU ratified the TFA on 5 October 2015. At the same time, the EU has been supporting the continuation of negotiations on NTBs within the DDA.
46. Keep pushing for concrete results that benefit LDCs, notably regarding duty-free and quota-free access, cotton, preferential rules of origin and the services		The Bali package agreed by MC9 includes significant decisions for LDCs on DFQF market access, cotton, preferential rules of origin and operationalisation of the waiver concerning preferential treatment to services and services suppliers of LDCs. Furthermore, the EU already provides DFQF market access to all LDC products except arms and ammunition, as well as

waiver.		preferential rules of origin.
47. Call on developed countries and developing countries in a position to do so to follow the EU's lead in providing LDCs with duty-free and quota-free access for all products except arms.		The EU supports this central LDC request in multilateral negotiations. Though important progress has been made by most developed countries and a number of emerging economies, there remains considerable room for further progress.
48. Continue to support and facilitate the accession of LDCs to the WTO and actively contribute to the revision of accession guidelines.		The EU has continued to actively engage in negotiations that eventually led to the accession of Vanuatu (2012), Laos (2013), Yemen (2014) as well as Liberia and Afghanistan (2015). Based on this, the EU and its Member States are also supporting LDCs in the post-accession phase, for which targeted technical assistance is provided both bilaterally and in partnership with international organisations. The EU also supports the decision taken by the WTO Council for Trade-Related Aspects of IPRs (TRIPS) on 6 November 2015 which allows LDCs to maintain maximum flexibility in their approach to patenting pharmaceutical products until at least 2033.
49. Continue to exercise due restraint as regards market opening and assist LDCs in enacting and implementing new disciplines.		The EU supported the approval in July 2012 of the revised guidelines for LDCs accessions[29] which reiterated the need to exercise due restraint in market opening and introduced new provisions on trade in goods and services, transparency, special and differential treatment and technical assistance in all of the recent accessions and negotiations described above.
50. Promote the use of intellectual property tools, including geographical indications, while giving favourable consideration to duly motivated requests for further extension of the TRIPS implementation deadline for LDCs.		The revised EU Strategy for the protection and enforcement of IPRs reaffirms the importance for the Commission to take into account third countries' level of development and capacity in its engagement, and the importance of striving to find a good policy balance between encouraging and rewarding innovation, and ensuring access for users and the public. It is important to reaffirm that developing countries, in particular middle-income countries, can host inventive and creative industries that stand to benefit from stronger IPR protection. As indicated under EU objective 18, one type of IPR that is particularly suitable for countries with lower levels of development and with strong cultural or agricultural traditions is GIs. In addition to being the biggest provider of resources to support health policies in developing countries, the EU

[29] General Council Decision to strengthen, streamline and operationalise the 2002 Guidelines (WT/L/508/Add.1)

		pays particular attention in the context of bilateral negotiations to ensuring access to affordable medicines as agreed in the TRIPS Agreement. The level of development and public health concerns of our trading partners are always taken into consideration.
51. Follow-up the discussions on improving market access in services for LDCs, taking into account the services waiver for LDCs adopted by MC8.		The LDC Services Waiver, adopted in 2011 at the 8th WTO Ministerial Conference (MC8) (WT/L/847), authorised WTO Members to grant preferential treatment to services and service suppliers of the world's LDCs. The timetable for granting the preferences was agreed at MC9 in 2013 (WT/L/918). Following up on the WTO Ministerial Decisions, on 18 November 2015, the EU notified the WTO of the preferential treatment it intends to grant to the services and service suppliers from LDCs (S/C/N/840)[30], improving the EU's GATS commitments in over 100 sub-sectors and including elements from the recent development oriented FTAs. In line with the LDC collective request, the EU notification puts strong focus on the movement of persons - Mode 4, offering broader sector coverage, additional categories, and possibility for longer stay to the LDCs' services suppliers. The Decision adopted at MC10 acknowledged the progress achieved to date in relation to the LDC services waiver and encouraged Members to proceed with the effective implementation in the coming years, namely through encouraging more Members to notify their preferences, putting more emphasis on addressing supply side constraints in the LDCs and extending duration of the waiver until 2030. The WTO Council for Trade in Services is called upon to enhance its work in relation to the monitoring of the implementation of the waiver and the evaluation of technical assistance needed to successfully implement the waiver. The EU will take part in this work.
52. Encourage emerging economies to assume more responsibility by opening their market on a non-discriminatory basis towards the rest of the WTO membership.		The EU has encouraged emerging economies and upper middle-income countries to assume greater responsibility commensurate with their growing economic weight in all relevant multilateral fora, notably during the negotiations of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Success to date is mixed and mainly concerns the provision of DFQF to LDCs. According to the 2015 WTO Secretariat Note on "Market access for products and services of export

[30] http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2015/november/tradoc_153997.pdf

		interest to Least Developed Countries: A WTO@20 Retrospective[31]", important progress has been registered on the preferential treatment provided to LDCs by developing countries, though data only concerns 14 countries. The latest data available shows that some emerging economies are now providing significant DFQF to LDC imports: from 38.4% of tariff lines for Russia to 79% for Turkey, 95% for South Korea, 97% for China to, 96.4% for India and 99.5% for Chile. The EU will pursue its efforts, not only regarding DFQF but also regarding AfT volumes and respect of development effectiveness principles.

[31] WT/COMTD/LDC/W/60 of 5 October 2015.

List of main abbreviations:

AA	Association Agreement
ACP	African, Caribbean and Pacific
AfT	Aid for Trade
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
DCFTA	Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement
DCI	Development Cooperation Instrument
DDA	Doha Development Agenda
EBA	Everything but Arms
EDF	European Development Fund
EGA	Environmental Goods Agreement
EIF	Enhanced Integrated Framework
EITI	Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative
EPA	Economic Partnership Agreement
FTA	Free Trade Agreement
GI	Geographical Indication
GPGC	Global Public Goods and Challenges
GSP	Global Scheme of Preferences
IfS	Instrument for Stability
ITC	International Trade Centre
LDC	Least Developed Country
MFF	Multiannual Financial Framework
NTBs	Non-Tariff Barriers
ODA	Official Development Assistance
PI	Partnership Instrument
RIP	Regional Indicative Programme

SIA	Sustainability Impact Assessment
TRA	Trade-Related Assistance