



## **Report from the 13<sup>th</sup> round of negotiations for an Environmental Goods Agreement (EGA)**

The 13<sup>th</sup> round of negotiations for an Environmental Goods Agreement took place from **18<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2016 in Geneva**. Its objective was

- to continue discussions on products that should be included in the EGA,
- to review technical work on customs classification for the Chair's list of some 340 environmental goods submitted in December 2015,
- to discuss elements of a draft EGA legal text.

### *Product coverage and staging*

EGA negotiators worked on the basis of so-called "staging lists", tabled before the round. They include (i) products to be liberalised immediately at the entry into force of the EGA, (ii) products to be liberalised after some transitional periods ("staging"), and (iii) other products, including products on which reservations have been expressed. EGA Members worked bilaterally and in groups; they compared notes on their respective staging lists, identified products of common interest and discussed sensitive products.

### *Customs work*

Negotiators reviewed work done by customs experts during the previous rounds. The work on customs classification of products is important in order to ensure that customs and industry can in practice implement the tariff elimination for the environmental products covered by the agreement.

### *Draft legal text*

EGA negotiators also briefly discussed the draft legal text of the agreement including a possible work programme on services and non-tariff issues, and the relation of other WTO Members' to the EGA.

### *Outreach to other WTO members*

The Chair held an outreach and transparency session on 22 April 2016 for WTO members currently not participating in the EGA negotiations in order to inform them on the state of play of the EGA negotiations.

## **Next steps**

WTO members participating in the EGA negotiations are committed to intensify work this year in order to conclude the negotiations as soon as possible, using among others political milestones such as high level G20 meetings. The **next round** is scheduled for the week of **20<sup>th</sup> June 2016** in Geneva.

## Background

The Environmental Goods Agreement is a trade agreement currently being negotiated by 17 members of the World Trade Organization (WTO)<sup>1</sup>, including the EU. Together, they account for a large proportion of world trade in environmental goods. Australia currently chairs the negotiations. The negotiations were launched in July 2014.

The objective of the negotiations is to eliminate tariffs on a broad range of environmental goods, building on a list of 54 environmental goods agreed by APEC. The intention is to create a “living agreement”, which should allow the addition of new products in the future and to address non-tariff barriers and services linked to environmental goods. The agreement will be extended on a Most Favoured Nation basis to all WTO Member, subject to the condition that WTO Members in the EGA represent a critical mass of global trade in environmental goods. This means that the eliminated tariffs agreed by the participants in the negotiations would be applied to all WTO members and not just to those in the EGA group. This initiative is an important way to increase the use of environmental technologies, including for climate change mitigation, by eliminating custom duties on environmental goods. It is thus expected to bring economic and environmental benefits worldwide. To learn more about EU interests and the environmental goods negotiations, click [here](#)

The European Commission has conducted **a Sustainability Impact Assessment** on the Environmental Goods Agreement to assess its economic, environmental and social impact, for more information click [here](#)

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<sup>1</sup> Australia, Canada, China, Chinese Taipei, Costa Rica, the EU, Hong Kong China, Iceland, Israel, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Norway, Singapore, Switzerland, Turkey, and the United States.