



## **Environmental Goods Agreement:**

### **Report from the 16<sup>th</sup> round of negotiations**

The 16<sup>th</sup> round of Environmental Goods Agreement negotiations took place from **19<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2016 in Geneva**, and built on the political momentum given by the G20 Leaders on 4-5<sup>th</sup> September in Hangzhou, in which they: *"welcomed the landing zone achieved in the EGA negotiations, and reaffirmed their aim to redouble efforts to bridge remaining gaps and conclude an ambitious, future-oriented EGA that seeks to eliminate tariffs on a broad range of environmental goods by the end of 2016, after finding effective ways to address the core concerns of participants."*

EGA members started work on the outcome proposal presented by the Chair in July (referred to as a 'landing zone'). It includes a list of 304 products that could potentially be covered by the agreement and identifies a number of other issues, such as how to ensure that the agreement covers a critical mass of trade in the covered products, now and in the future, what should be the calendar for phasing out of tariffs and how the future work programme on non-tariff barriers and services should look like.

The aim of discussions on the 'landing zone' product list was to further refine the understanding of priorities and sensitivities of participants. The negotiations took into account environmental aspects, as well as commercial considerations.

EGA members also had productive and detailed discussions on the draft legal text of the Agreement including on the schedule for its implementation, a periodic revision mechanism, potential future participation of other WTO Members in the EGA, institutional arrangements, as well as a possible work programme on services and non-tariff issues.

There is a growing convergence on a core set of provisions in the draft text.

#### **Next steps**

The indicative roadmap for the conclusion of EGA talks by the end of 2016 includes:

- 17<sup>th</sup> EGA round: week of 17<sup>th</sup> October 2016;
- Ministerial meeting in the margins of the WTO Mini-Ministerial in Oslo: 22 October 2016;
- 18<sup>th</sup> EGA round: 27 November – 1 December 2016;
- Ministerial meeting aimed at concluding the EGA negotiations: 3-4 December 2016.

## Background

The Environmental Goods Agreement is a trade agreement currently being negotiated by 17 members of the World Trade Organisation (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.