



Report from the 11th round of negotiations for an Environmental Goods Agreement (EGA)

Outcome of the 11th round

The 11th round of Environmental Goods Agreement negotiations took place from **30 November to 4 December 2015 in Geneva**. The negotiators took stock of the considerable progress achieved in 1.5 years of the negotiations and agreed to continue their efforts to conclude the agreement next year.

Building a common list of environmental products

The negotiators continued the discussion on a Chair's draft final list of around 370 products nominated by EGA members. The list covered technologies used e.g. in solid and hazardous waste management, water waste management and water treatment, air pollution control, renewable energy generation, and energy efficiency. The talks concentrated on green technologies important for climate change mitigation, such as renewable energy generation, that would be crucial for implementation of the Paris Climate Agreement.

Customs work

The customs experts - meeting in a separate working group - made good progress and reached agreement on the classification of many nominated products. Their task is also to ensure that the tariff elimination for specific environmental products covered by the agreement can indeed be implemented by customs and industry.

Draft text

Although the focus of this round was on the products, bilateral talks continued on the revised draft text proposed by the EU in a previous round. The draft text includes e.g. how the commitments will be implemented, a review mechanism to add new products in the future, and a work programme on non-tariff issues. Some delegations provided further drafting suggestions.

Next steps

The Parties agreed to continue on the path towards a positive conclusion next year. The **next round** is tentatively scheduled for **February 2016** in Geneva. On 14th December 2015, at the 10th WTO Ministerial Meeting in Nairobi, the Chair presented a [progress report](#) on the EGA negotiations.

On 7th of December 2015 the Commission organised a [stakeholder seminar "Environmental Goods Agreement – contribution of trade to climate action"](#) that took place at the margins of the 21st Conference of Parties of the United Nations Conference on Climate Change in Paris.

BACKGROUND

The Environmental Goods Agreement is a trade agreement currently being negotiated by 17 members of the World Trade Organisation (WTO)¹, including the EU. Together, these countries account for a large proportion world trade in environmental goods. Australia currently chairs the negotiations.

The initiative was formally launched in January 2014 in Davos and the first round of negotiations took place in July 2014. The objective of the negotiations is to eliminate tariffs on a broad range of environmental goods, building on the APEC list of 54 environmental goods. The intention is to create a "living agreement", which should allow to add new products in the future and to address non-tariff barriers and services linked to environmental goods. Once a critical mass of WTO Members joins, the agreement will be extended on a Most Favoured Nation basis to all WTO Members, i.e. all WTO Members will benefit from the reduced tariffs agreed by the participants in the negotiations. This initiative is an important way to increase the use of environmental technologies, including for climate change mitigation, by eliminating custom duties on such goods. The initiative is expected to bring economic and environmental benefits worldwide.

[More about EU interests and the environmental goods negotiations.](#)

¹ 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.