



# OVERVIEW OF FTA AND OTHER TRADE NEGOTIATIONS

Updated November 2017 – Updates in red

## FTA NEGOTIATIONS

Country	Negotiating Directives	Current Status	Next Steps
---------	------------------------	----------------	------------

### NORTH AMERICA

<b>USA</b>	Negotiating directives obtained in June 2013	Fifteen rounds have taken place since July 2013, the latest one during the first week of October 2016.	Negotiations with the United States on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) were stopped until further notice at the end of 2016. Both sides need to clarify if there is a sufficient level of shared ambition and common ground before deciding whether and how to proceed with new negotiations. In the meantime, work will continue on a positive economic agenda with the US.
------------	--	--	--

<b>CANADA</b>	Negotiating directives obtained in April 2009	The European Commission has adopted on 5 July 2016 draft proposals for Council Decisions on the signature, provisional application and conclusion of the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) and submitted this to the Council for adoption. The Council has adopted the CETA proposal on 28 October to allow the signature and the provisional application of CETA. The agreement was signed on 30 October 2016 during the EU Canada bilateral Summit. The European Parliament gave its	On 21 September 2017, the agreement has provisionally entered into force. It will enter into force fully and definitively when all EU Member States parliaments have ratified the Agreement.
---------------	---	--	--

		consent to CETA on 15 February 2017.	
--	--	--------------------------------------	--

## ASIA

<b>JAPAN</b>	Negotiating Directives adopted on 29 November 2012	<p>On 6 July 2017, the EU and Japan reached an agreement in principle on the main elements of an Economic Partnership Agreement at the EU-Japan summit.</p> <p>The EPA removes the vast majority of duties paid by EU companies, which sum up to €1 billion annually, opens the Japanese market to key EU agricultural exports and increases opportunities in a range of sectors. It sets the highest standards of labour, safety, environmental and consumer protection, data protection, fully safeguards public services and has a dedicated chapter on sustainable development. For the first time, an agreement includes a specific commitment to the Paris climate change.</p>	<p>For some chapters negotiations are still ongoing, such as on investment protection. The EU has put its reformed Investment Court System on the table and work towards the setting up of a Multilateral Investment Court. Other areas also require further work, such as the regulatory cooperation and the general and institutional chapters. Based on the agreement in principle from 6 July 2017, negotiators will continue to work on the remaining technical issues hoping to conclude a final text by the end of 2017.</p> <p>Only then will the Commission proceed to the legal verification and translation of the agreement into all EU official languages, and will consequently submit it for the approval of EU Member States and the European Parliament.</p>
--------------	--	--	---

<b>CHINA</b>	See below in: Other Trade Negotiations		
--------------	--	--	--

<b>ASEAN</b> <i>More on each particular country below</i>	Negotiating directives obtained in April 2007	<p>Negotiations with a regional grouping of 7 ASEAN Member States started in July 2007. In March 2009, the 7th Joint Committee agreed to take a pause in the regional negotiations. In December 2009, EU Member States agreed that the Commission would pursue FTA negotiations in a bilateral format with countries of ASEAN. Negotiations with Singapore and Malaysia were launched in 2010, with Vietnam in June 2012 and with Thailand in March 2013. Negotiations with Philippines and Indonesia were launched in 2016.</p>	<p>In March 2017 Ministers tasked the Senior Economic Officials to work out the parameters of a future ASEAN-EU region-to-region agreement and to report back to the next Ministerial meeting in 2018 under the Singapore chairmanship. <b>Since then, a Joint Working Group on the FTA met once in October 2017 in the Philippines. The next meeting of the Joint Working Group is scheduled for end January 2017.</b></p>
SINGAPORE	Based on 2007 ASEAN negotiating directives (see above)	<p><b>Trade and investment negotiations between the EU and Singapore were for the most part completed on 17 October 2014. Negotiated texts are available on DG Trade's website.</b></p>	<p><b>For its entry into force, the draft agreement needs to be formally approved by the European Commission and then agreed upon by the Council of Ministers, and ratified by</b></p>

		<p>On 10 July 2015 the Commission lodged the application initiating proceedings with the Court of Justice of the EU for an Opinion on the EU competence to sign and ratify the agreement. The Court issued Opinion 2/15 on 16 May 2017.</p>	<p>the European Parliament.</p>
MALAYSIA	<p>Based on 2007 ASEAN negotiating directives (see above)</p>	<p>In September 2010 EU Member States approved the launch of negotiations for a Free Trade Agreement with Malaysia. One month later, negotiations were launched in Brussels. After seven rounds, negotiations were put on hold in April 2012 at Malaysia's request. The EU has reached the half-way point of the FTA negotiations with Malaysia. However, the most difficult issues remain to be resolved.</p>	<p>In 2016, a stocktaking exercise took place was initiated to assess the prospect to resume negotiations. Ministers are currently analysing the results of this stocktaking exercise with a view to re-launching the negotiations in due course. The EU is looking for a comprehensive and ambitious FTA, as was reached with Singapore and Vietnam.</p>
VIETNAM	<p>Based on 2007 ASEAN negotiating directives (see above)</p>	<p>On 2 December 2016, Commission President Juncker and Vietnamese Prime Minister Dung announced the formal conclusion of the negotiations for an EU-Vietnam FTA.</p>	<p>On 1 February 2016, the <u>preliminary text of the Agreement</u> was published on DG Trade's website together with a Commission Staff Working Document on Human Rights and Sustainable Development in the EU-Vietnam Relations with specific regard to the <u>EU-Vietnam Free Trade Agreement</u>. The legal review of the text is almost completed. The text will then be translated into all official EU languages and into Vietnamese before being presented to the Council for signature and conclusion and the European Parliament for consent. Subject to the decision making procedures of these two co-legislators, it is expected that the agreement could enter into force by the end of 2018. Preparations to ensure swift practical implementation of this FTA are on-going.</p>
THAILAND	<p>Based on 2007 ASEAN negotiating directives (see above)</p>	<p>The Council endorsed the launch of negotiations on an FTA with Thailand in February 2013. The talks were officially launched in March 2013 and four rounds took place with the last one held in April 2014. Since the military takeover in Thailand in May 2014 no further FTA rounds have been scheduled.</p>	<p>The EU remains committed to resuming negotiations with Thailand when the conditions are right to do so.</p>
INDONESIA	<p>Based on 2007 ASEAN negotiating directives (see above)</p>	<p>The Council gave the Commission the green light to start negotiations for an FTA with Indonesia on 18 July 2016.</p> <p>The first round of negotiations took place in September 2016 in Brussels. The second round of negotiations was held in January 2017 in Indonesia. The third round of negotiations took place on 11-15 September 2017 in Brussels.</p>	<p>The next round of negotiations will be held from 5 to 9 February 2018 in Indonesia.</p>

PHILIPPINES	Based on 2007 ASEAN negotiating directives (see above)	Negotiations for an FTA with the Philippines were formally launched on 22 December 2015. The first round of negotiations took place on 23-27 May 2016 in Brussels and the second round was held on 13-17 February 2017 in Cebu City (Philippines).	No date has been set yet for the next round of negotiations.
MYANMAR/BURMA	Negotiating directives for an investment protection agreement adopted in March 2014	The EU sent its text proposal in December 2014. Four rounds of negotiations have taken place so far: 9-12 February 2015, 25-29 May 2015, 21-23 September 2015, and 13-16 December 2016. Technical discussions were held on 26-27 April 2017, and good progress was made, but discussions will have to continue.	No date has been set yet for the next round of negotiations.

<b>INDIA</b>	Negotiating directives obtained in April 2007	Negotiations for an ambitious and broad-based FTA were launched in June 2007 and, after 12 formal rounds and several technical meetings, were brought to a <i>de facto</i> standstill in the summer 2013 due to a mismatch of the level of ambitions. Discussions have resumed since January 2016 with the purpose of assessing whether sufficient progress can be made in key outstanding issues before formally resuming negotiations. At the EU-India Summit of 30 March 2016, President Juncker took a clear stance in favour of tangible progress in the negotiations provided there is movement on the outstanding issues.	A chief negotiators' meeting took place in Delhi on 14-15 November 2017 to work on a broad, forward-looking assessment.
--------------	---	--	---

## OCEANIA

<b>AUSTRALIA</b>	Commission proposed negotiating directives in September 2017	A joint scoping paper was concluded in April 2017. In September 2017 the College adopted the draft negotiating directives. The Commission proposal was published, along with the impact assessment report.	Actual negotiations will be launched once the Council adopts the negotiating directives.
<b>NEW ZEALAND</b>	Commission proposed negotiating directives in September 2017	A joint scoping paper was concluded in March 2017. In September 2017 the College adopted the draft negotiating directives. The Commission proposal was published, along with the impact assessment report.	Actual negotiations will be launched once the Council adopts the negotiating directives.

## LATIN AMERICA

<b>MERCOSUR</b>	Negotiating Directives of 1999	Negotiations rounds were resumed in 2016 after an exchange of market access offers took place in May 2016. A first round was held in Brussels in October 2016, followed by four rounds alternatively in Brasilia and Brussels. The last one took place in Brasilia from 6 to 10 November 2017.	The next round will take place end November and first week of December in Brussels. The aim is to conclude the negotiations by the end of 2017.
<b>MEXICO</b>	Negotiating Directives of 2016	The EU and Mexico met in Brussels in June 2016 to start the negotiation process for the modernisation of the EU-Mexico Global Agreement. The third negotiating round took place in Brussels in April 2017 and was preceded by the exchange of textual proposals in almost every chapter. The fifth round of negotiations took place in Brussels between 25 and 29 September 2017.	The next round will take place in the week on 27 November 2017, in Mexico.

#### CANDIDATE COUNTRIES

<b>TURKEY</b>	Draft Negotiating directives adopted by Commission on 21 December 2016.	Council started its deliberations on the Commission's proposal on 20 January 2017. The proposal is under discussion in the Council Working Groups COELA and TPC, as well as in the European Parliament.	The negotiations can start once the Council adopts the Negotiating directives.
<b>BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA</b>		The EU-Bosnia and Herzegovina Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA) was signed in June 2008 and entered into force in June 2015 (the trade part entered into force in July 2008 through an Interim Agreement on trade and trade-related matters).	Negotiations for Bosnia and Herzegovina's accession to the WTO are on-going.
<b>SERBIA</b>		The EU-Serbia Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA) was signed in April 2008 and entered into force in Sept. 2013 (the trade part entered into force in 2010 through an Interim Agreement on trade and trade-related matters).	Negotiations for Serbia's accession to the WTO are on-going.

#### SOUTH MEDITERRANEAN & MIDDLE EAST COUNTRIES

<b>GENERAL OVERVIEW</b> (see below for		The EU has established a network of Association Agreements, which include reciprocal FTAs essentially limited to trade in	
---	--	---	--

information on particular countries)		<p>goods, with 8 countries of the region (all except Libya and Syria). In order to promote broader regional integration, the EU also encourages the countries of the region to agree FTAs between themselves and has promoted wide participation in the Pan-Euro Mediterranean system of cumulation for rules of origin (in which EFTA and Western Balkans countries also participate).</p> <p>Under the framework of the Association Agreements, a series of bilateral negotiations have been launched with individual partners to complement and expand these agreements in areas such as agriculture, industrial standards, dispute settlement and services and establishment. A number of these free-standing negotiations have been successfully concluded, while others are continuing and, where appropriate, may be absorbed into DCFTA negotiations.</p> <p>On 14<sup>th</sup> December 2011, the Council authorised the Commission to open bilateral negotiations to establish Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Areas with Egypt, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia. Individual scoping exercises to prepare these negotiations were launched with Morocco, Tunisia and Jordan in March 2012 and with Egypt in June 2013. Negotiations with Morocco were launched in March 2013 and with Tunisia in October 2015.</p>	
--------------------------------------	--	--	--

<b>COUNTRY OVERVIEW</b>			
MOROCCO	Negotiating directives for a DCFTA adopted by the Council on 14 <sup>th</sup> December 2011	<p>The EU-Morocco Association Agreement was signed in February 1996 and entered into force in March 2000. The two sides subsequently negotiated an additional protocol setting up a dispute settlement mechanism, which entered into force in November 2012, and an agreement on further liberalisation of trade in agricultural products which entered into force in October 2012.</p> <p>In March 2013, the EU and Morocco launched negotiations for a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA).</p> <p>Four rounds have taken place and texts for all chapters have been put on the table.</p>	The latest round took place in April 2014. The negotiations were then put on hold to accommodate the plan of Morocco to carry out additional studies before continuing the negotiations.

TUNISIA	Negotiating directives for a DCFTA adopted by the Council on 14 <sup>th</sup> December 2011	<p>The EU signed an Association Agreement with Tunisia in July 1995. The Agreement entered into force in March 1998.</p> <p>In December 2009, the EU signed also an agreement on Dispute Settlement Mechanism that entered into force in September 2011.</p> <p>A preparatory process for launching negotiations on a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTAs) was completed in June 2014 and the negotiations were launched in October 2015.</p> <p>Bilateral negotiations on the liberalisation of trade in services and establishment, and agriculture will be integrated into the DCFTA. The negotiations were launched on the 13<sup>th</sup> of October 2015 in Tunis, in presence of Commissioner Malmström and the Tunisian Minister of Trade. A preliminary round followed during the week of 19 – 22 October 2015 in Tunis. The first full round took place in Tunis in the week of 18 – 21 April 2016 and was followed by a technical round during 6 – 10 February 2017 in Brussels</p>	The second full round is planned for early 2018.
---------	---	---	--

**ACP (African, Caribbean and Pacific Countries)**

[See Overview of Economic Partnership Agreements \(EPAs\)](#)

## OTHER TRADE NEGOTIATIONS

Country	Negotiating Directives	Current Status	Next Steps
<b>ARMENIA</b>	Directives for the negotiation of a Framework Agreement between the EU and Armenia were adopted by the Council on 12 October 2015.	No mandate/negotiations for an FTA.  Negotiations to enhance and replace the current Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA) in force, including its trade related provisions were concluded on 27th February and initialled on 21 March 2017.	The agreement will now follow a usual approval procedure on both the EU and Armenian side.
<b>AZERBAIJAN</b>	Directives for the negotiation of a Comprehensive Agreement between the EU and Azerbaijan were adopted by the Council on 7 November 2016.	No mandate/negotiations for an FTA.  Negotiations to enhance and replace the current Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA) in force, including its trade related provisions, were launched in February 2017.  Negotiations of the WTO accession of Azerbaijan are ongoing.	Negotiations are ongoing. The next round of negotiations should take place in December 2017.
<b>BELARUS</b>	Conclusions of the European Council on Belarus of 15 February 2016 call for 'the acceleration of the implementation of measures aimed at enhancing EU-Belarus cooperation in a number of economic, trade and assistance related fields'.	Through the amendment of Regulation (EU) 2015/936, Commission proposed on 3 February 2016 to abolish the autonomous quotas for the import of textiles and clothing from Belarus, also considering their limited use and impact on trade.	Regulation (EU) 2017/354 of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EU) 2015/936 on common rules for imports of textile products from certain third countries not covered by bilateral agreements, protocols or other arrangements, or by other specific Union import rules was adopted on 15 February 2017 and published on 3 March.  Next and final step will be to amend via Delegated Act the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2016/2148 laying down rules for the management and distribution of textile quotas established for the year 2017 under Regulation (EU) 2015/936.



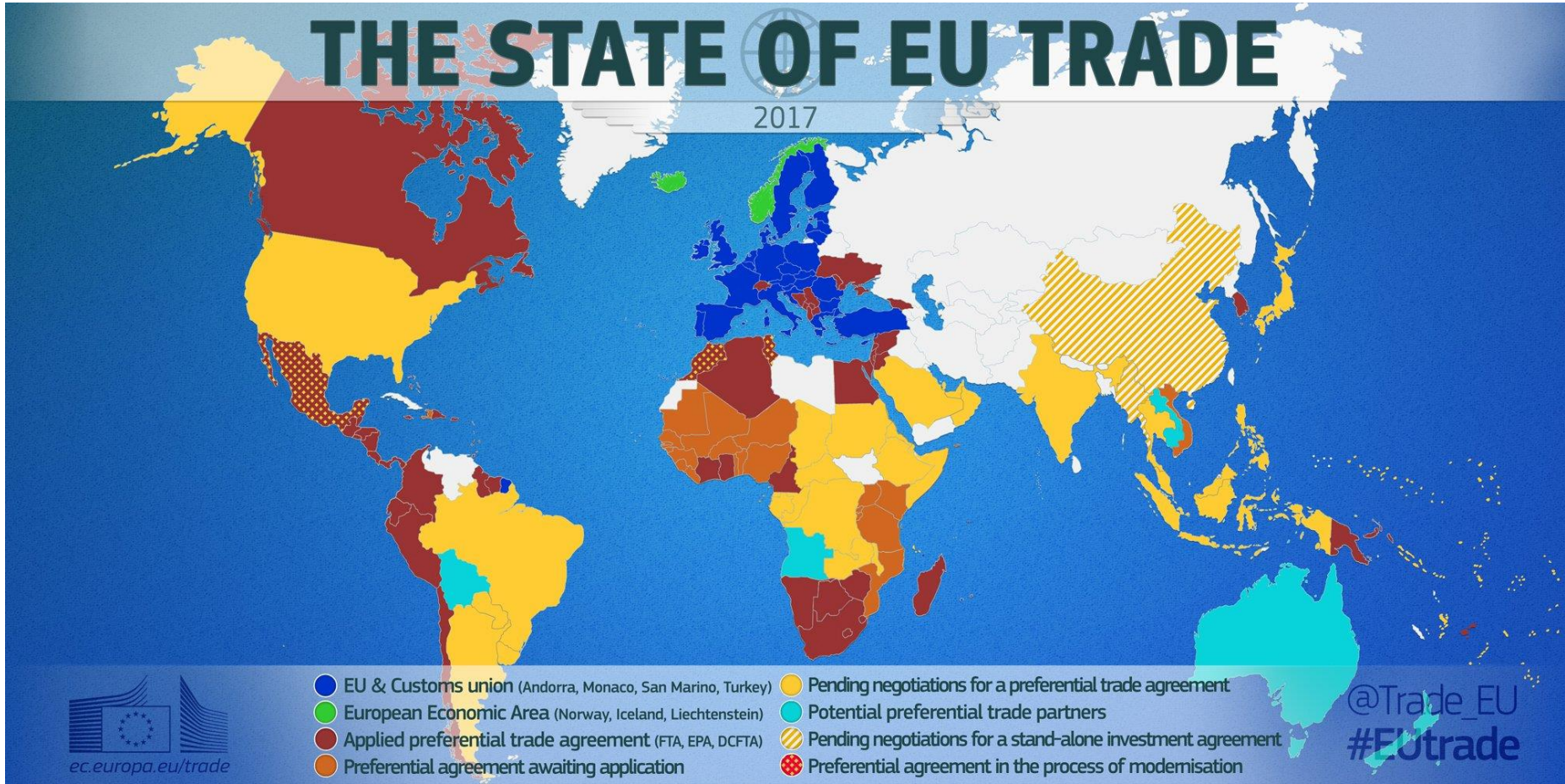
<b>KYRGYZSTAN</b>	College adopted joint recommendations to the Council on 2 June 2017	College authorised the Commission and the HRVP to negotiate a new agreement (Enhanced Partnership Cooperation Agreement) with the Kyrgyz Republic, building on the provisions of the existing PCA which dates from 1995.	Council discussions ongoing on the negotiations directives.
-------------------	---	--	---

<b>CHINA – Investment</b>	<p>The Council authorised the Commission to initiate negotiations for a comprehensive EU-China investment agreement on 18 October 2013.</p> <p>The mandate to launch negotiations on a new Partnership and Cooperation Agreement with China was approved by the Council in December 2005.</p>	<p>Negotiations of a comprehensive EU-China investment agreement were formally launched at the EU-China Summit of 21 November 2013 in Beijing. The aim of this agreement is to remove market access barriers to investment and provide a high level of protection to investors and investments in EU and China markets. It will replace the 26 existing Bilateral Investment Treaties between 27 individual EU Member States and China by one single comprehensive investment Agreement.</p> <p>The 14th round of negotiations took place in Brussels the week of 11 July 2017.</p> <p>In 2016 the EU and China negotiators reached clear conclusions on an ambitious and comprehensive scope for the EU-China investment agreement and established a joint negotiating text.</p> <p>Separate negotiations with China for an upgrade of the 1985 Trade and Economic Cooperation Agreement were launched in 2007 but have been stalled since 2011 due to divergences between the mandates and expectations of the parties.</p>	No date set for the next round.
<b>Services (TiSA)</b>	In February 2013, the European Commission received from the Council its green light for negotiations on a new international agreement on trade in services. The negotiations cover all services sectors, including information and	The talks started formally in March 2013. To date, 23 WTO members (including EU representing its 28 Member States) have taken part in the negotiations. By the end of 2016, most participants had indicated which of their services markets they were prepared to open and to what extent. 21 negotiation rounds took place..	The talks were put on hold late autumn 2016. Next steps to be determined.

	communication technology (ICT) services, logistics and transport, financial services and services for businesses.		
<b>Green Goods</b>		Since July 2014 the EU and 16 other members (see below) of the World Trade Organization (WTO) have been negotiating an Environmental Goods Agreement (EGA) to remove barriers to trade in environmental or "green" goods that are crucial for environmental protection and climate change mitigation. The next, 18 <sup>th</sup> round took place in November and was followed by a Ministerial meeting in December 2016. Despite efforts, the deal could not yet be reached. <a href="#">Read more.</a>	Further steps to be determined.
<b>TRADE IN AGRI-FOOD AND FISHERIES PRODUCTS with EEA/EFTA COUNTRIES</b>		<p>European Economic Area (EEA): negotiations on further liberalisation for agricultural and fisheries are part of the EEA agreement.</p> <p>Norway and Iceland: negotiations of fish quotas took place between January 2014 and July 2015 and were finalised on 17 July 2015.</p> <p>Iceland: negotiations on GI and liberalisation of basic agricultural products and processed agricultural products were also concluded in 2015. They are in the process of formal adoption.</p> <p>Norway: negotiations on geographic indications started in 2013 and are now on hold. Negotiations on liberalisation of agricultural products, which started in 2015, were concluded at negotiator's level in April 2017.</p> <p>Switzerland: negotiations on further liberalisation of agricultural products started in 2008 and are on hold since 2009.</p>	Formalise agreement with Norway on liberalisation of agricultural products.
<b>ASSOCIATION AGREEMENTS WITH ANDORRA, MONACO AND SAN MARINO</b>		The Council authorised on 4 December 2014 negotiations "on one or several Association Agreement(s)" between the EU and Andorra, Monaco, San Marino (AMS). The main goal of these negotiations which started in 2016 is to allow AMS to participate in the internal market (four freedoms).	<b>The next round of negotiations should take place in December 2017, in Brussels.</b>

# THE STATE OF EU TRADE

2017



@Trade\_EU  
#EUtrade