



Federation of the European
Sporting Goods Industry

Trade Monthly Monitor – February

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- India – Commission calls for [rapid ratification](#) to benefit from tariff reductions

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- Switzerland – [EU and Switzerland sign package](#) to modernise bilateral relations

No relevant updates

- GSP Regulation Reform (provisional agreement approved by INTA awaits formal endorsement by Council and Parliament)

Highlights

Indonesia – European Commission publishes tariff schedules agreed in the FTA / US-Indonesia announced Trade Deal

27 February

The [European Commission has published the tariff schedules](#) for trade in goods under the EU–Indonesia CEPA concluded in September 2025, together with the market access schedules for services and public procurement. The general texts of the agreement have been available publicly since the end of 2025, but the bulk of the deal – namely the tariffs – were not publicly known.

Many textile and apparel tariff lines are eliminated on entry into force, while certain items are phased out over five years.

Next steps: The Commission is currently finalising the legal revision and translation of the text, which is expected to be completed by May. The Council will then adopt a decision authorising the signature of the agreement, after which it will be signed by the European Union and Indonesia. Following signature, the agreement will require the consent of the European Parliament before it can be formally concluded.

[Link](#) to the FTA documents

19 February

The United States and Indonesia [announced](#) a Reciprocal Trade Agreement under which Indonesia will eliminate tariffs on over 99% of US exports and reduce non-tariff barriers across sectors, while the United States will maintain a 19% “reciprocal” tariff rate with limited product exemptions. For example, for certain textile and apparel goods, the United States has committed to establish a mechanism allowing some goods from Indonesia to receive a 0% reciprocal tariff rate for a to-be-specified volume of imports.

Next steps: In the coming weeks, the United States and Indonesia will undertake applicable domestic procedures to make the Agreement effective and to make it compatible with US Supreme Court ruling on IEEPA tariffs – see below.

India FTA – Commission urges fast ratification

20 February

Commissioner [Šefčovič advocated for a fast ratification by the EU](#) of the trade agreements recently concluded, including the one with India. In the informal meeting of EU trade ministers held in Nicosia, Cyprus, which currently holds the six-month presidency of the EU Council, the Commissioner emphasised that signing the deal

will not yield results until ratification is achieved. To speed up delivery, Šefčovič encouraged Member States not to wait for the national language translations, as required in the legal process of concluding international trade agreements in the EU, but to ratify the English language version.

Šefčovič pointed out that there is “broad consensus” on the issue among the ministers of the 27 Member States, explaining that “if you look at any assessment of how much money we are losing when this process takes a long time, I think that—especially in this volatile world—it is something we can no longer afford.” For the EU to effectively benefit from the various trade agreements currently being negotiated, the process must be completed “within one year of the end of negotiations”. He called on **the EU “to use the free trade agreements with India and Indonesia as test cases.”**

Next steps: Following the political conclusion of the agreement in late January, the text will undergo legal revision and translation.

[Link](#) to the FTA documents.

FTAs

Thailand-EU FTA – 8th round of negotiations concluded before Thai elections

2-6 February

The [8th round of negotiations on an EU-Thailand Free Trade Agreement](#) took place in the week of 2 February 2026 in Chiang Mai (Thailand). The respective negotiating teams were led by Mr Christophe Kiener (Directorate General for Trade and Economic Security of the European Commission) and Ms Chotima Iemsawasdikul (Ministry of Commerce of Thailand).

DG TRADE confirmed that negotiations continue to progress steadily. The negotiating round has been described as productive. The Commission expects continuity in Thailand's overall negotiating position. Several chapters have already been closed, and progress has also been made in politically sensitive areas such as sustainability and dispute settlement. Work on consolidating the legal text is advancing. Thailand is pushing for a rapid conclusion of negotiations. However, DG TRADE suggests that, from the EU perspective, 2027 remains the more realistic target for concluding the agreement.

The [elections of 8 February in Thailand](#) will likely result in a pro-FTA government in power, although the formal constitution of the new government may take several months.

In parallel, the Sustainability Impact Assessment (SIA) supporting the EU-Thailand FTA negotiations has entered its stakeholder [consultation](#) phase with the launch of an Open Public Consultation (until 27 April 2026) and a Business Survey (until 8 May 2026). The consultation aims to assess the potential economic, social, environmental and human rights impacts of the future agreement. The consultation results will feed into the ongoing EU–Thailand FTA negotiations and the Commission's internal assessment process.

Next steps: the 9th negotiating round is scheduled for the week of 22 June 2026, in Brussels.

[Link](#) to the FTA documents.

Malaysia – 3rd round of FTA negotiations takes place in Brussels

9-13 February

The [third round of negotiations on an FTA between the EU and Malaysia](#) took place between 9 and 13 February 2026 in Brussels.

The third round focused on consolidating draft texts across chapters, with overall satisfactory progress and initial engagement on more sensitive areas, including TBT, Government Procurement and motor vehicles. Most negotiating groups met, covering a wide range of topics. Particularly good progress was reported on SMEs, Good Regulatory Practices, Trade Remedies and Digital Trade, where most provisions are agreed or close to conclusion.

Next steps: Inter-sessional meetings will continue ahead of Round 4 to advance discussions and support internal consultations. The fourth round of negotiations is scheduled to take place in Malaysia in June 2026.

[Link](#) to the FTA documents.

Philippines – European Parliament delegation to Manila to support FTA talks

16-18 February

A [European Parliament delegation visited Manila](#) to discuss political, economic, trade and investment relations between the EU and the host country. The mission aimed to build upon the recent good progress in negotiations on a Free Trade Agreement between the EU and the ASEAN country and demonstrate the Parliament's commitment to supporting the conclusion of a comprehensive agreement by the end of the year. The delegation, composed of six INTA Members, including its Chair MEP Bernd Lange, and accompanied by the DASE Chair, met with civil society, business, the Chief Negotiator of the Philippines, presidential advisors and other relevant actors.

In a recent meeting with the INTA Committee on 24 February, Commissioner for Trade Šefčovič informed that talks with the Philippines were advancing and he hoped this FTA could be concluded this year.

Next steps: the fifth round of negotiations takes place this week from 2-6 March.

[Link](#) to the FTA documents.

Mercosur – EU to provisionally apply Mercosur trade agreement

27 February

The [European Commission announced it will provisionally apply the trade elements of the EU-Mercosur partnership agreement](#) in the coming months. This comes after two of the Mercosur member states — Uruguay and Argentina — ratified the pact last week.

Provisional application would cover only the EU and those Mercosur countries that have notified the bloc of the completion of their ratification procedures. [Argentina and Uruguay](#) are expected to do so in the coming days. A Commission spokesperson said the other two Mercosur members — Brazil and Paraguay — were now pursuing their own ratification procedures at a rapid pace. Under the terms of the agreement, provisional application can begin from the first day of the second month following notification from at least one of the Mercosur countries that it has completed its ratification process. That country must also formally agree to provisional application of the treaty.

Next steps: The Commission first needs to adopt a delegated act to implement and partition the import quotas within the agreement. Provisional application cannot take place until this act is adopted. The EU and Mercosur are discussing 1 June 2026 as the date for provisional application.

10 February

The [European Parliament approved the Regulation to establish safeguard clauses](#) for the protection of sensitive agricultural products from Mercosur imports. The Regulation establishes procedures for monitoring imports, initiating investigations, and imposing safeguard measures where increased imports cause or threaten injury to Union producers. Products covered include poultry, beef, eggs, citrus and sugar.

Next steps: The Council is expected to approve the Parliament's position. Following formal adoption and publication in the Official Journal, the Regulation will apply once the Mercosur Interim Trade Agreement enters into force.

Union Customs Code

EU Customs Reform – Deal on customs authority seat marks step towards closing the broader package

25 February

The European Parliament and the Council have [agreed on the procedure for selecting the seat of the future EU Customs Authority \(EUCA\)](#). The final decision on the host city will be taken on 25 March during an informal inter-institutional meeting at political level. On that day, both institutions will each select two preferred candidates from the nine member states that applied (Belgium – Liège; Croatia – Zagreb; France – Lille; Italy – Rome; Netherlands – The Hague; Poland – Warsaw; Portugal – Porto; Romania – Bucharest; Spain – Málaga). If there is overlap between the two shortlists, the city will be automatically designated; if not, joint voting rounds will take place to determine the location.

The seat decision is taking place in parallel with the final trilogue phase of the broader Customs Reform, which will formally establish the Authority. The EUCA is intended to coordinate customs risk management across the Union and oversee the development of a new EU customs data hub. Outstanding issues in the reform include penalties and sanctions, the trust and check status, the handling fee for low-value consignments, and the timeline and access conditions for the data hub.

Next steps: The final trilogue on the customs reform is expected to run in parallel with the seat vote on 25 March.

De minimis customs duty exemption – Council approves eliminating exemption for small parcels

11 February

The Council formally [adopted](#) new rules on customs duties for small parcels entering the EU, abolishing the duty exemption for consignments valued below €150.

The new rules remove the current duty-free threshold for low-value consignments, and when the EU customs data hub becomes operational, currently expected in 2028, regular customs tariffs will apply to all imported goods regardless of value. As an interim measure, Member States agreed to introduce a flat-rate customs duty of €3 per item for parcels valued below €150.

The new rules and the interim measure are intended to address competitive distortions affecting EU sellers, particularly the systematic abuse of the threshold through undervaluing and artificially splitting consignments, largely through e-commerce. The new rules are separate from the proposed handling fee currently under discussion in the broader customs reform package.

The example cited in the press release is as follows: “A parcel contains 1 blouse made of silk and 2 blouses made of wool. Therefore, due to their different tariff sub-headings, the parcel contains two distinct items and €6 in customs duty should be paid.”

Next steps: The interim flat-rate duty will apply from 1 July 2026 until 1 July 2028 and may be extended as appropriate. Once the new EU customs data hub is operational, this interim duty will be replaced by normal customs tariffs.

Link [to Council regulation](#).

US – EU relations

US Supreme Court Ruling on Tariffs – IEEPA tariffs deemed unlawful by US highest court

20 February

The [US Supreme Court delivered its ruling](#) in the case *Learning Resources, Inc. v. Trump* deciding against the tariffs imposed by the Trump Administration under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA), namely:

- The 10% 'baseline' tariff on all trading partners (Liberation Day Tariffs)
- Higher 'reciprocal' tariffs on dozens of countries, e.g., the 15% imposed on EU imports.
- Drug trafficking tariffs on countries like Canada, Mexico, and China

These [have been removed and are no longer collected](#). Other tariffs remain, like Section 232 imposed on the EU automotive sector; or Section 301 tariffs, for example, those imposed on China for unfair trade practices. The court did not resolve the refund question, and it does not set out a refund mechanism, does not order restitution, and does not address the administrative processes by which duties already paid might be recovered.

On the same day, the **US government subsequently announced a contingency measure: replacement of the IEEPA tariffs with a sweeping general tariff of 10% on top of the existing most-favoured nation (MFN) rates applied to all countries**. This would apply for 150 days, i.e. five months, unless extended by Congress. This 10% tariff could be raised to 15%, according to the President, although this has not been implemented. To do this, the [US is resorting to Section 122](#) legislation that aims to tackle balance-of-payments crises. The US also signalled that it may rely more extensively on Section 301 investigations and to revive or relaunch national security Section 232 investigations.

European Parliament delays decision on the implementation of the Turnberry deal

24 February

At the INTA committee meeting on 24 February, Chairman Bernd Lange announced that political groups agreed to postpone the vote in the European Parliament's international trade committee that would move forward the regulations to eliminate tariffs on industrial goods from the United States and establish import quotas for certain agricultural and seafood products. Speaking to the committee, its chair Bernd Lange said: "Nobody knows what will happen after [the 150 days], and it's unclear if there will be additional measures or how the United States will really guarantee that the deal of Turnberry will be respected."

Next steps: Rapporteurs will meet on 4 March to decide way forward and potential voting date in the INTA Committee.

Other EU Market Access Issues

Switzerland – EU and Switzerland sign package to modernise bilateral relations

2 March



The [EU and Switzerland announced the signature of the package of agreements](#) to expand their bilateral relationship. The series of new accords includes an update on trade in agricultural products and new agreements on food safety, health as well as electricity. The package also includes an update on agreements that give Switzerland access to the internal market covering air transport, land transport, the free movement of persons and conformity assessment.

EU member states gave their green light for the signing last week.

EU-Switzerland relations are founded on a suite of agreements on trade and regulations inked in the late 1990s and early 2000s.

Next steps: the European Parliament must give its consent. Switzerland, too, must ratify the pacts.