

ICC Global Trade Update

10 June 2026

DISCLAIMER: Given the fast-moving trade policy environment, please ensure that latest developments have been taken into account in your operations and communications. This update is prepared exclusively for ICC members and National Committees. External sharing or publication is not permitted.

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World Trade Organization

WTO Goods Trade Barometer

- Global merchandise trade has remained resilient in the first half of 2026, despite headwinds from the ongoing conflict in the Middle East. Rising demand for electronic components linked to AI investment has partially offset disruptions. The latest [WTO Goods Trade Barometer](#) provides the most recent quantitative assessment.

Committee on Agriculture

- At the [first Committee on Agriculture meeting](#) since MC14, which took place in Yaoundé on 27–28 May, the US led a coordinated challenge to India’s public stockholding and price support programmes, backed by several Cairns Group members including Pakistan. Washington argued that India is breaching the Bali Peace Clause conditions, including transparency requirements and the condition

against trade distortion, and filed a counter-notification claiming India's rice and wheat subsidies breach WTO bounds by approximately 80%. India disputed the methodology and raised procedural objections, but found limited support from G33 members.

- Separately, the EU, China and the UK challenged US farm subsidy proposals under the “One Big Beautiful Bill,” querying whether approximately \$65.6 billion in new farm spending over a decade would breach the US's \$19.1 billion Bound Total AMS limit. The US stated that it is premature to assess compliance. Several members also raised concerns about the EU Deforestation Regulation's benchmarking system, which classifies all EU member states as low risk.

Committee on Balance-of-Payments

- The US notified the WTO Committee on Balance of Payments (document [WT/BOP/G/25](#)) that it does not currently envisage any progressive relaxation of the 10% Section 122 import surcharge during its 150-day duration (24 February to 24 July 2026). The US justified the measure by reference to a current account deficit of \$1.2 trillion (4.0% of GDP in 2024) and a net international investment position equivalent to -90% of GDP, citing GATT Article XII. WTO members questioned whether the standard Article XII framework, drafted under Bretton Woods fixed-exchange conditions, applies to the world's reserve currency issuer. Several members also noted that the IMF, cited by the US in support, has not recommended import surcharges as a remedy, typically prescribing exchange rate flexibility and fiscal adjustment instead.

Committee on Import Licensing

- At its [second experience-sharing session](#) on 4 June, the Committee on Import Licensing focused on improving transparency and notification compliance. Speakers from Cambodia, the EU, Myanmar, Thailand and the US shared practices on notifications, public-private cooperation and digitisation of licensing procedures. The Committee also addressed 12 specific trade concerns.

WTO Reform

- Congo has circulated a draft proposal ([WT/GC/W/1000](#)) to the General Council calling for the establishment of an ad hoc Working Group on WTO reform, with development as an integral part of any modernisation process. Argentina has separately circulated a proposal ([WT/GC/W/1001](#)) for a procedural mechanism to allow plurilateral agreements to be incorporated into Annex 4 of the Marrakesh Agreement without being blocked by a single dissenting member. Under the proposal, any objection would need to be accompanied by a written submission demonstrating a vital national interest. Threshold criteria for incorporation include consistency with WTO objectives,

support from approximately two-thirds of the membership or 66% of relevant trade, and open accession for all WTO members.

OECD

OECD Ministerial Meeting

- The OECD's annual ministerial meeting took place on 3–4 June in Paris. The [Chair's Statement](#) addressed the role of industrial and trade policies, the second phase of modernisation work under the OECD Arrangement on Officially Supported Export Credits, and the OECD Critical Minerals Forum. The Council also welcomed a new OECD Recommendation on Quantum Technologies. In the margins of the ministerial, Australian Trade Minister Senator Don Farrell hosted a mini-ministerial on WTO reform.
- OECD Secretary-General Mathias Cormann and the Korean Trade Minister launched a new report on [strengthening supply chains through efficiency, resilience, AI and environmental performance](#). The report examines how digital tools, including AI, can support more efficient and resilient supply chains and highlights the role of paperless trade and digital infrastructure in enabling AI at the border. Businesses investing in supply chain digitisation should consider how this framework may inform future OECD guidance and related trade facilitation measures.

United States of America

IEEPA Tariff Refunds

- The Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit (CAFC) granted the Administration's motion to stay a Court of International Trade (CIT) order requiring the CBP Commissioner to testify publicly on tariff refunds. The Department of Justice (DOJ) argued the CIT lacked authority to mandate a public appearance by a senior Administration official. Separately, plaintiffs in the [V.O.S. Selections](#) case argued the CIT can issue a new permanent injunction requiring CBP to make its Customs Automated Processing Environment (CAPE) available to process and issue refunds on all entries on which IEEPA tariffs were paid.
- The DOJ has filed an unopposed motion to consolidate four parallel appeals arising from the Supreme Court's decision in *Learning Resources, Inc. v. Trump* (2026), which invalidated IEEPA tariffs. A Motion for Class Certification has also been filed to resolve ambiguity about whether injunctive relief applies to all importers that paid IEEPA tariffs. Importers should continue to monitor CAPE Phase 1 progress and review their eligibility for refund claims, particularly where entries were liquidated simultaneously with or shortly after the time of importation.

Section 301: Forced Labour

- USTR has [found](#) all 60 investigated economies actionable under Section 301 for failing to impose or effectively enforce bans on imports produced with forced labour. USTR proposes tariffs of 10% on economies with forced labour prohibitions but inadequate enforcement, including the EU, Canada, Mexico and the UK (assessed as having a partial regime under the Modern Slavery Act), and 12.5% on economies with no prohibition in place, including Japan, South Korea, Australia, India, Saudi Arabia, Singapore and Vietnam.
- The investigation was launched in March 2026 following the Supreme Court's invalidation of IEEPA tariffs. Broad exemptions apply, including for goods already subject to Section 232 tariffs, USMCA-qualifying goods, critical raw materials, certain pharmaceuticals (including APIs, vaccines and antibiotics) and agricultural products unavailable from US production. A public consultation is underway, with hearings scheduled for 7 July.

Section 301: Brazil

- USTR has [concluded](#) its Section 301 investigation into Brazil, finding six categories of actionable practices: digital trade and electronic payment services, preferential tariff arrangements with Mexico and India, anti-corruption enforcement, intellectual property protection, ethanol market access and illegal deforestation. USTR has proposed a 25% tariff on Brazilian goods, with exemptions for certain raw materials, aircraft parts and goods already subject to Section 232 tariffs. Written comments are due by 1 July, with a public hearing on 6 July ahead of the 15 July statutory deadline for final action.

Section 232: Steel, Aluminium and Copper

- President Trump [issued a proclamation](#) on 1 June modifying Section 232 tariffs on steel, aluminium and copper, with changes effective from 8 June. Key changes include: agricultural equipment and certain residential HVAC products moving from 25% to a reduced 15% derivative product tariff until 31 December 2027; products in Annex I-C being subject to reduced rates of 15% (from specified partners including Argentina, Japan, South Korea, the UK and EU member states) or 10% where the metal content was melted and poured/smelted and cast in the US; the domestic content threshold for US-origin metal qualification lowered from 95% to 85%; and expanded tariff coverage to include aluminium lithographic plates and steel racks.
- For USMCA-qualifying goods from Canada and Mexico, the 25% tariff applies only to non-US content, with a minimum effective rate of 15%. Rates revert to the Proclamation 11021 schedule from 1 January 2028. CBP has issued [formal customs guidance](#).

Businesses importing steel or aluminium-containing products should review whether any of their product lines fall within Annex I-C and assess the benefit of qualifying for the domestic content reduction.

US-China Board of Trade

- On 2 June, USTR [published](#) a Federal Register Notice inviting public comment on the US-China Board of Trade, announced following President Trump's May visit to Beijing. The Board will function as an "adapter mechanism" to pursue mutual tariff modifications on non-sensitive goods of equal value, with an initial target of \$30 billion of goods. It will focus on non-MFN tariffs, including existing Section 301 tariffs. Comments are due by 10 July via USTR's online portal.
- The Board's scope excludes Section 232 tariffs tied to US national security, and its operation depends on sustained US-China alignment. China has not yet published its own information on the Board. Businesses with significant US-China trade flows should consider making representations during the comment period.

US Customs Enforcement

- President Trump [signed an executive order](#) on 3 June directing CBP to strengthen customs enforcement. Measures include tighter entry requirements for foreign importers of record, enhanced vetting, additional supply chain disclosure obligations, higher bonding requirements and a new "good standing" system. The order also increases scrutiny of forced labour, transshipment and undervaluation. Agencies are required to develop implementing regulations, enforcement changes and legislative proposals over the next 45 to 180 days.
- Separately, the House Judiciary Committee approved legislation that would create a new DOJ task force to enforce trade-related crimes committed by Chinese companies, including tariff evasion, trade-based money laundering and smuggling.

AI Export Controls

- The Commerce Department's Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) has clarified that US export controls on advanced computing items apply to entities headquartered in China (Country Group D:5) or Macau, or whose ultimate parent is headquartered there, even where the receiving entity is incorporated or operating outside those jurisdictions. The requirement was first introduced in November 2023 under EAR § 744.23(a)(3), covering ECCNs 3A090, 4A090 and related items. Exporters are instructed to continue seeking BIS licences for covered transactions unless a specified licence exception applies.

USMCA

- The US and Mexico concluded the first bilateral round of the USMCA Joint Review on 29 May. Negotiators discussed automotive rules of origin, steel and aluminium, and economic security. They agreed to advance regulatory compatibility work in medical devices, pharmaceuticals, cosmetics and other sectors. The next round is scheduled for 16–17 June in Washington DC.

European Union

EU-US Turnberry Trade Deal

- The INTA Committee approved the legislative package implementing the EU-US “Turnberry” trade deal on 2 June. The text includes safeguards permitting the European Commission to suspend tariff concessions if the US fails to reduce duties on European steel and aluminium by the end of 2026, a sunset clause causing the agreement to expire in December 2029, and a requirement for investigations into whether US imports threaten European industries. The European Parliament is scheduled to vote at its plenary on 16 June.

EU Steel Overcapacity Regulation

- On 8 June, the Council formally [adopted](#) the regulation establishing a new framework to address the trade-related effects of global steel overcapacity, completing the legislative process ahead of the 30 June expiry of the current safeguard measure. The regulation introduces a revised tariff-rate quota (TRQ) system setting annual import volumes at 18.3 million tonnes (a reduction of approximately 47% against 2024 safeguard quota levels), with a 50% out-of-quota duty across 30 product categories.
- The regulation introduces a “melt and pour” requirement to establish where steel was first solidified. The Commission must adopt implementing rules on documentary evidence by 31 August 2026 and must assess within two years whether the country of melt and pour should become the basis for country-specific quota allocations. A [targeted consultation](#) on appropriate documentation for the melt and pour traceability requirements is open until 2 July 2026. The regulation applies from 1 July 2026.

EU De Minimis Customs Duty

- The European Commission published [additional guidance](#) on 2 June on the removal of the de minimis threshold for customs duty, which takes effect on 1 July 2026.

EU Technology Sovereignty Package

- The Commission released its [European Semester Spring Package](#) on 2 June alongside the [Technological Sovereignty Package](#), targeting strategic sectors including semiconductors, AI and cloud infrastructure. For semiconductors, the package introduces a new framework for “risk-prone sectors” considered particularly vulnerable to supply disruptions, including automotive. Where the Commission identifies significant semiconductor supply chain risks, it may adopt implementing acts requiring mitigation measures, including supply chain mapping, diversification, dual sourcing and strategic stockpiles. Specific obligations will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

EU-China Trade

- On 5 June, EU Trade Commissioner Šefčovič publicly stated that the Commission is reviewing existing trade defence tools and potential gaps in addressing Chinese trade practices, with Member States expected to provide political guidance at the European Council on 18–19 June. New measures targeting Chinese overcapacity could follow. The Commission also indicated it is developing a diversification strategy to reduce EU industry dependence on single sources of supply in sensitive sectors, including chips and rare earths.

CBAM and EU Deforestation Regulation

- The European Commission [published](#) an updated CBAM FAQ on 27 May, providing additional information on declarant authorisation and registry access, certificate purchasing, embedded emissions calculation methodology and sector-specific rules.
- The Commission also [published](#) the third edition of its EUDR Supply Chain Infographics, setting out due diligence obligations by company role, supply chain position and size.

China

Outbound Investment Regulations

- China issued the [Regulations of the State Council on Foreign Investment](#) on 1 June, effective 1 July 2026. The regulations extend data security, export control and personal information protection obligations to outbound investment by Chinese-domiciled enterprises, organisations and individuals. Key provisions prohibit the export of state-restricted or prohibited goods, technologies, services and data through outbound investment channels without required approvals, including via cross-border personnel dispatch or technical guidance (Article 13). The regulations also provide for the imposition of bans or restrictions on foreign organisations that take discriminatory

measures against Chinese investors or suspend normal transactions in breach of market principles (Article 25).

United Kingdom

Steel Tariffs

- The UK government has published [additional information](#) on its replacement to the steel safeguards, taking effect from 1 July 2026, including implementation notifications on the transitional exemption, quota administration and the Ukraine exclusion. Businesses importing steel products into the UK should review the new quota structure and the conditions for any transitional exemptions before 1 July.

UK-EU SPS Agreement

- On 28 May, the UK Government [published](#) updated business guidance on the planned UK-EU sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) agreement. Once implemented, most agrifood products moving between Great Britain, Northern Ireland and the EU would no longer require export health certificates, phytosanitary certificates or SPS border checks, with the UK dynamically aligning with relevant EU SPS rules. The Government continues to target implementation from mid-2027, although negotiations remain ongoing and the agreement has not been formally confirmed.

Tariff Consultations

- The UK government issued a [consultation on tariff suspensions](#) for agricultural goods, fertilisers and kerosene to help mitigate the consumer impact of the conflict in the Middle East. The consultation closed on 24 June 2026.

Standard for Customs Intermediaries

- BSI published a new [Standard for Customs Intermediaries](#), developed through collaboration with industry. The Standard applies to intermediaries submitting customs declarations. Businesses using third-party customs agents should verify that their providers are aware of and working towards compliance with the new standard.

Free Trade Agreements

ASEAN Digital Economy Framework Agreement

- ASEAN member states [concluded negotiations](#) on the ASEAN Digital Economy Framework Agreement (DEFA) on 29 May, at the Second Meeting of the 57th ASEAN

Senior Economic Officials Meeting in Manila. DEFA is the world's first region-wide digital economy agreement, covering digital trade, cross-border e-commerce, data governance and privacy, electronic payments, cybersecurity, digital identity systems, online safety and emerging technologies including AI. Studies project that full implementation could double ASEAN's digital economy to US\$2 trillion by 2030. The agreement is scheduled for formal signature at the 49th ASEAN Summit in November 2026.

Argentina Applies to Join CPTPP

- Argentine Foreign Minister Pablo Quirno announced on 3 June that Argentina will formally apply to join the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP). Argentina's accession would expand the CPTPP's presence in Latin America and further integrate the country into major international trade frameworks.

Philippines-New Zealand Economic Agreement

- The Philippines and New Zealand signed a new Joint Economic Commission (JEC) arrangement, [announced](#) on the sidelines of the 2026 APEC Ministers Responsible for Trade meeting in Suzhou. The JEC targets a 50% increase in two-way trade by 2030, with cooperation areas including trade facilitation, green energy and broader economic partnership.

Trade Remedies

EU Measures

- **PBAT:** The European Commission opened an anti-dumping investigation on 4 June into Chinese imports of polybutylene adipate terephthalate (PBAT) and related copolyesters, following a complaint from EU producers led by BASF.
- **Aliphatic-aromatic copolyesters:** The Commission separately [initiated](#) an anti-dumping investigation into certain aliphatic-aromatic copolyesters from China.

Ukraine Measures

- **Steel bars:** Ukraine [launched](#) an anti-dumping investigation into imports of steel bars (wire rods) originating in China.

New Zealand Measures

- **Aluminium extrusions:** On 27 May 2026, New Zealand [notified](#) the WTO Committee on Safeguards of the initiation on 28 May of a safeguard investigation on imports of certain aluminium extrusions.

ICC News & Publications

- **Podcast:** [How can business shape the future of multilateral cooperation?](#) (2 June 2026)
- **News:** [Digital ATA Carnet launches in 30 countries](#) (1 June 2026)
- **Guide:** [AI self-assessment guide: Helping businesses assess AI compliance, IP protection and risk](#) (27 May 2026)

What We're Reading

- From the Federal Reserve Bank of New York: [Global Supply Chain Pressure Index, May 2026](#).
- From the OECD: [OECD MAGIC Database of Industrial Subsidies](#).
- From Trade Treasury Payments: [Trade Finance Guide 2026](#).

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