ICC Global Trade Update

29 October 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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United States of America

Section 338: Canada

- On 23 October, US President Trump signed a Proclamation revising the scope of the 50% Section 338 duty on Canadian goods for the third time in 95 days. It amends Proclamation 11048 (20 July 2026), previously modified by Proclamation 11065 (8 September 2026), removing 22 subheadings and adding 100 with effect from 30 October 2026:

- ***Removed (Annex I, Part A), 22 subheadings:*** plywood not over 6 mm (7); corrugated cartons, paper sacks and coated board (6); food and packaging machinery and refrigeration equipment (5); plastic packaging (3); edible seaweed (1).
- ***Added (Annex I, Part B), 100 subheadings:*** carpets and floor coverings, Chapter 57 (43); chemicals, coatings, plastics and rubber (18); wood and paper products (17); sweetened cocoa powder (13); machinery and instruments, including valves, hand tools, freezers and canoes (9).

- The duty applies regardless of USMCA origin and in addition to Section 232 duties. Municipal waste, sewage sludge and clinical waste (HS 3825.10-3825.30) are now in scope.

- On 20 October, the Liberty Justice Center filed Gellert Global Group Corp. v. Trump at the Court of International Trade (CIT), the first legal challenge to the Section 338 duty, on behalf of a New Jersey food importer and a proposed class of importers. The complaint argues that Section 338 permits duties only to offset foreign discrimination against US commerce, that Section 301 provides the governing procedure, that the statutory 30-day waiting period was not observed for products added on 8 September, and that tariff power rests with Congress. It seeks a declaration that the measure is unlawful, an end to duty collection, and refunds with interest. A motion for a preliminary injunction or summary judgment followed on 23 October.

- The Canada Border Services Agency has updated Customs Notice 26-23, clarifying how Canada's retaliatory surtaxes apply to goods from the US classified under Chapters 98 and 99.

Section 232: Wind Turbines

- A proclamation of 22 October concurs with a Commerce finding that imports of wind turbines and their components threaten national security, citing cybersecurity risks from networked inverters, radar interference, grid burden and import reliance. It imposes no tariff. Commerce and USTR will pursue agreements with trading partners and provide a progress update within 180 days (around 20 April 2027), after which further action, including tariffs, may follow. Existing steel, aluminium and copper duties continue to apply to wind turbine components made largely of those metals.

Section 301: China Maritime Action

- USTR proposes to extend the suspension of port fees and Annex V.A duties under the China maritime, logistics and shipbuilding action from 10 November 2026 to 9 January 2027. The current suspension expires on 9 November. Comments are due by 17:00 eastern time on 30 October.

Outbound Investment: COINS Act Proposed Rules

- The Treasury has proposed regulations implementing the Comprehensive Outbound Investment National Security (COINS) Act, enacted in the FY2026 National Defense Authorization Act. A press release was issued on 22 October and the proposal was published in the Federal Register on 26 October. The proposal covers semiconductors and microelectronics, artificial intelligence, quantum information technologies, high-performance computing, hypersonic systems and biotechnology, with notification and prohibition requirements for US persons. Law firm commentary indicates that Cuba, Iran, North Korea, Russia and Venezuela would join China as countries of concern and that a 50% aggregate ownership test would be added. Comments close on 7 December 2026.

US-Argentina Agreement on Reciprocal Trade and Investment

- The US and Argentina have signed a Protocol of Amendment to their Agreement on Reciprocal Trade and Investment (ARTI), signed in Washington on 5 February 2026. The Protocol adapts the ARTI's tariff provisions to the US Supreme Court ruling against tariffs imposed under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA). It replaces Section 1 on tariffs and quotas and rewrites the General Notes to the US schedule, removing references to the reciprocal tariffs on which the original text relied. Under the revised General Notes:
    - ***MFN treatment:*** the US commits to apply the most-favoured-nation (MFN) rate in effect to originating Argentine goods, consistently with anti-dumping and countervailing duties under Title VII of the Tariff Act of 1930, Section 232, and Sections 201 and 301.
    - ***Future tariff actions:*** the US will take Argentina's commitments into account when considering future tariff actions, except actions under Title VII, Section 232 and Section 201.
    - ***Section 301:*** in any Section 301 action, the US intends to take account of Argentina's efforts to implement its ARTI commitments.

- Argentina's commitments on import licensing, regulatory recognition and critical minerals remain unchanged. Argentine Foreign Minister Pablo Quirno has indicated that the Protocol allows the government to submit the ARTI to Congress. The Protocol enters into force 60 days after both Parties notify the completion of internal procedures, or on the date the ARTI enters into force if it is not already in force.

Russia Sanctions: Graham Act Waiver

- On 16 October, US President Trump signed Executive Order 14436 implementing the Lindsey O. Graham Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act of 2026, enacted on 18 September,

and waiving all duties and specified sanctions under the Act on national interest grounds, so the new measures will not take effect immediately. The waivers have no fixed expiry date and may be lifted at the administration's discretion. USTR must continue monitoring Russian energy purchases and sanctions evasion. Any subsequent imposition of secondary tariffs would require congressional notification at least 10 days in advance. Once imposed, the tariffs would trigger a mandatory review every 180 days of countries importing Russian energy.

Low-Value Shipments: Entry Type 13 Deferred

- US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) announced a 90-day extension of the compliance date for new informal entry procedures for international mail, from 22 October 2026 to 20 January 2027. From that date, CBP will require the new Entry Type 13 (ET13) process for the informal entry of international postal shipments subject to Section 201, 232 or 301 duties. The extension comes alongside the proposed rule on low-value shipments reported in the 15 October edition, on which comments close on 7 December.

USMCA Rapid Response Mechanism

- USTR has invoked the USMCA Rapid Response Labor Mechanism (RRM) to review whether workers at Carolina Performance Fabrics, S.A. de C.V., in Guanajuato, Mexico, are being denied freedom of association and collective bargaining. The US has suspended liquidation of entries from the facility, which manufactures high-performance textiles for the automotive industry.

- The US announced the successful resolution of the RRM matter at the Amphenol Optimize México, S.A. de C.V. facility in Nogales, Sonora, which manufactures automotive and aerospace connectors, cables and components, following a course of remediation addressing employer interference in union activity and retaliatory dismissals. USTR also announced a course of remediation at Minera Peñasquito, S.A. de C.V. (Newmont Peñasquito) in Zacatecas. These actions follow the GLM Components and Corporación de Occidente matters reported in the 15 October edition.

Federal Maritime Commission: Spain

- On 14 October, the Federal Maritime Commission proposed a USD 200,000 per-voyage fee on Spanish-flagged vessels and restrictions on imports of certain Spanish goods, including cosmetics, ceramics, stone products and confectionery. The proposal follows an investigation, opened in December 2024, that found Spain had denied US-flagged vessels access to its ports. The proposal is open for public consultation until 14 December, and Spain has been offered a hearing.

China

Draft Revision of the Technology Export Catalogue

- On 16 October, the Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM) and the Ministry of Science and Technology published draft revisions to the Catalogue of Technologies Prohibited and Restricted from Export, proposing to add 40 technologies across artificial intelligence, biomedicine and photovoltaics. The public consultation period runs from 16 October to 15 November 2026.

    - ***Biomedicine:*** five technologies relating to cell and gene therapy, small nucleic acid drugs and pathogenic microorganisms, with automatic licensing and other facilitation measures for external authorisation models that do not involve transfer of ownership.
    - ***Artificial intelligence:*** 23 technologies relating to large models, intelligent agents, computing power clusters and information processing; technologies already in the public domain through open-source publication or academic publication are excluded.
    - ***Photovoltaics:*** 12 technologies relating to polycrystalline silicon, silicon wafer and battery manufacturing, with controls also extending to key equipment that carries the relevant technologies.

- MOFCOM has also introduced a pre-export registration requirement. Until the Catalogue is formally revised, technology export operators must register technology trade management information on MOFCOM's unified business system platform before exporting any technology listed in the draft annex, including exports already underway. Registration applies to transfers of technology ownership abroad, domestic technology authorised for overseas use, a change in the owner or actual controller of domestic technology to an overseas entity, and any other circumstance specified by MOFCOM.

Dual-Use Export Controls: Drones, Tunnel Boring Machines and Dredger Components

- MOFCOM issued three announcements on 19 October under the Export Control Law, amending the dual-use control list with effect from 18 November 2026: Announcement 49 (drones), Announcement 50 (tunnel boring machines and related equipment) and Announcement 51 (dredger components).

    - ***Drones:*** controls cover complete drones by endurance, range and spraying capacity, high-altitude and higher-power engines, communications equipment, autopilots, and key components such as high-performance brushless motors, electronic speed controllers and carbon-fibre propeller blades, together with

flight control, autonomous navigation and counter-drone technology. Facilitation measures include registration-based certificates for some items, exemption of toy and competition models, and general licences for compliant exporters. Press reporting indicates the payload threshold for the spraying exemption rises from 20 to 80 litres.
    - ***Tunnel boring machines and related equipment:*** full-face tunnel boring machines and key components, walking excavators above specified performance thresholds and high-altitude wet-spray machines. A licence is required only for exports to sensitive countries and regions involved in disputes with China; exports to other destinations may proceed through a registration process subject to non-transfer undertakings. No destinations are named.
    - ***Dredger components:*** large dredge pumps, pump casings and impellers, drag heads and cutterheads above specified dimensions, subject to licensing.

- Customs declarations must state the control code, and uncontrolled items close to a threshold must be declared as not controlled with their parameters. The MOFCOM spokesperson (drones; tunnel boring machines and dredgers) stated that compliant applications will be approved and that countries participating in export control dialogue mechanisms were notified in advance.

European Union

European Council and EU-China

- EU leaders discussed their economic relationship with China at the European Council on 15 and 16 October. This follows the 5 October publication of a Franco-German paper on trade that supports a firmer stance, without naming China, and the second meeting of the EU-China TIC reported in the 15 October edition. In their conclusions, leaders called on the Commission to continue dialogue on global economic imbalances while making full use of existing trade defence instruments and urgently proposing new ones.

Informal Foreign Affairs Council (Trade), Dublin

- EU trade ministers met in Dublin on 22 and 23 October under the Irish Presidency, with Commissioner Šefčovič. According to the Presidency report, discussion covered EU-China trade and investment, the EU-US relationship (two-way trade of EUR 1.8 trillion a year), negotiations with the Philippines, Malaysia, Thailand and the UAE, and ten years of CETA, with Canada's trade minister joining a side panel. No decisions were taken. The next formal FAC (Trade) meets in Brussels on 30 November.

Customs Reform: Union Handling Fee

- Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2026/2152, published in the Official Journal on 22 October, fixes the Union handling fee at EUR 2 per item from 1 November 2026. It supplements Regulation (EU) 2026/2108 establishing the Union Customs Code and the EU Customs Authority and applies under Article 20(2) to goods sold through distance sales to customers in the EU and released for free circulation. The amount reflects the estimated cost of data verification, risk analysis and controls. The fee is separate from, and additional to, the EUR 3 customs duty per item that has applied to low-value consignments since 1 July 2026; DG TAXUD has updated its guidance for Member States and traders.

- Separately, Italy has reportedly postponed its own EUR 2 levy on low-value parcels from non-EU countries to 1 January 2027, the fourth postponement since its creation in the 2026 Budget Law.

EU CBAM

- The Commission has published an updated version of its CBAM Q&As, dated 15 October 2026, replacing the 27 May version. The substantive changes are in the Northern Ireland part of the customs section. Legal references now cite the Windsor Framework rather than the Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland and clarify that CBAM does not apply to Northern Ireland. The question on goods moving to the EU through Northern Ireland now covers third-country goods transiting via Northern Ireland, which are subject to CBAM when released for free circulation in the EU, in addition to goods of GB origin. A new sentence confirms that goods produced and/or released for free circulation in Northern Ireland are not subject to CBAM. The separate question requiring companies established in Northern Ireland to use an indirect customs representative has been removed, without changing the general rules on customs representation.

Critical Raw Materials Act: Parliament Position

- The European Parliament adopted its mandate on 20 October by 470 votes to 83, with 108 abstentions (rapporteur Mohammed Chahim, S&D, Netherlands). Key amendments include granting the Commission a conditional power to restrict exports of permanent magnet scrap and waste; a standalone EU critical raw materials centre for market intelligence, stockpiling and joint purchasing, with access to a proposed EUR 2 billion fund in the 2028 to 2034 budget; supply chain resilience obligations for large companies in strategic sectors; and calls for strategic projects at least twice a year. Negotiations with the Council now begin.

Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation

- On 21 October, the Council of the EU set its position on the proposal to suspend certain extended producer responsibility (EPR) rules under the Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR), notably the requirement for packaging producers established in the EU to appoint an authorised representative in each Member State where they place packaging on the market.

- The Commission has published guidance on EPR obligations for businesses placing less than 10 tonnes of packaging a year on the market. Member States may offer reduced fees, flat-rate contributions and lighter record-keeping, but national EPR registration remains mandatory, and the 10-tonne threshold is not an automatic exemption. Pending the suspension proposal, the Commission has asked Member States to refrain from sanctioning operators over authorised representative requirements. Harmonised EU registration and reporting rules are planned, with Member States being given 18 months to adapt national registers, after which sellers will need to provide their EPR registration number to online marketplaces.

- On 16 October, PostEurop, the European Express Association, CLECAT and ECSLA sent the Commission a joint letter listing 17 open questions on the PPWR. Customs-related questions include how importer obligations interact with the customs importer of record, the position of forwarders and customs representatives where a producer has not registered, and the treatment of reusable pallets moving between the UK and the EU.

Investment Screening

- The Commission's sixth annual report on foreign direct investment screening shows that notifications from Member States increased by 40% in 2025, reaching 667 cases. All Member States now have screening frameworks in place.

EU-Türkiye High-Level Dialogue on Trade

- The EU and Türkiye held their third High-Level Dialogue on Trade in Brussels, reviewing bilateral trade relations and market access and customs issues. Outcomes include removing import-control barriers associated with Türkiye's TAREKS system.

United Kingdom

UK CBAM

- On 14 October, the House of Commons voted 319 to 115 to approve the UK CBAM rate and carbon price relief regulations (SI 2026/809), ahead of the UK CBAM start on 1 January 2027.

- On 16 October, HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) published illustrative UK CBAM rates for the five covered sectors. The illustrative rates per tonne of CO2 equivalent (tCO2e) are £9.69 for iron and steel, £9.79 for aluminium, £8.78 for cement, £9.24 for hydrogen and £1.45 for fertiliser. Each rate applies the average UK Emissions Trading Scheme (UK ETS) auction price for July to September 2026 (£58.15) to the share of sectoral emissions not covered by free allocation, after a 2027 phase-out reduction factor of 97.5%. HMRC states that the figures create no tax liability and should not be read as forecasts. Rates for the first quarter of 2027 will be published before the end of 2026 and updated quarterly. HMRC also published sector-specific default values, in tCO2e per tonne of product, which importers may use instead of verified actual emissions data. The low rates reflect high free allocation in 2027, but quarterly price movements and the progressive phase-out of free allocation will increase exposure over time.

Export Controls

- The Export Control Joint Unit (ECJU) has published Notice to Exporters 2026/24, giving advance information on proposed amendments to the UK strategic export control framework. Subject to Ministerial and Parliamentary approval, regulations are expected to be laid in November 2026 and come into force in early December 2026. The changes would update military and dual-use control lists, including controls on certain advanced and emerging technologies; amend country listings in Schedule 4 to reflect changes to sanctions regimes; and revoke General Export Authorisation No 001 (GEA001) for Great Britain, superseded by the Dual-Use Open General Export Licence.

Import VAT: Method 2 Rates

- On 21 October, HMRC updated the nationally agreed Method 2 rates for incidental costs (such as transport, insurance and handling to the first UK destination). Group A (air freight): 55p per chargeable kilo, minimum £135. Group B (surface groupage or consolidation): £125 per gross weight tonne plus £110 per consignment for other ancillaries, minimum £235. Group C (surface full load): £760 per consignment. Method 1 (actual costs) remains available where it gives a more accurate valuation. Importers and customs agents using Method 2 should update declaration templates and confirm the effective date with HMRC.

UK-India JETCO

- On 12 October, the UK and India held the first Joint Economic and Trade Committee (JETCO) meeting since their trade agreement entered into force and issued a joint statement highlighting implementation progress and business uptake. The two sides agreed annual monitoring of preference utilisation, stronger business feedback mechanisms and faster resolution of implementation issues, alongside deeper cooperation on services, procurement, innovation and science.

UK-China Policy Audit

- On 14 October, the Inter-Parliamentary Alliance on China launched a cross-party UK-China Audit, backed by opposition frontbenchers and senior government MPs. It supports continued engagement with China but argues that past engagement has increased UK exposure to economic and security risks, and calls for clearer red lines, stronger legislative tools and greater China expertise across government.

Mexico

Electronic Customs Valuation Declaration

- Mexico's Tax Administration Service (SAT) has again deferred mandatory electronic filing of the customs valuation declaration (Manifestación de Valor Electrónica, MVE), replacing the single 30 September 2026 deadline with a schedule phased by customs regime. Under the MVE, importers must transmit the valuation declaration and supporting documentation through the foreign trade Single Window (VUTCE, formerly VUCEM) before goods can be cleared. The current transitional scheme remains available until 31 October 2026. The obligation then applies from:

    - 1 November 2026 for processing, transformation or repair in bonded facilities;
    - 15 November 2026 for strategic bonded facilities;
    - 1 December 2026 for customs transit;
    - 15 December 2026 for bonded warehousing (depósito fiscal);
    - 1 January 2027 for temporary imports, including IMMEX operations; and
    - 15 January 2027 for definitive imports.

- Importers and customs brokers should confirm which implementation date applies to each customs regime they use and complete VUTCE testing beforehand.

India

National Strategic Trade Command Centre

- Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal launched a National Strategic Trade Command Centre at Vanijya Bhawan, as reported on 16 October. The platform provides a consolidated view of trade performance, export promotion schemes and regulatory approvals, and includes a SCOMET dashboard for dual-use export licensing.

Switzerland

Consultation on Customs Ordinances

- On 14 October, the Federal Council opened a consultation on the ordinance package implementing the total revision of Swiss customs law, part of the DaziT digitalisation programme. It includes a new Customs Duty Ordinance and a BAZG Enforcement Tasks Ordinance, together with revisions of the tobacco, beer, automobile, mineral oil and alcohol tax ordinances. The consultation closes on 28 January 2027.

New Zealand

Electronic Transferable Records

- The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) is consulting on four options to give electronic bills of lading, bills of exchange, promissory notes and warehouse receipts the same legal effect as paper, ranging from limited reform to adoption of the UNCITRAL Model Law on Electronic Transferable Records. Submissions close at 17:00 on 6 December 2026.

Free Trade Agreements

EFTA-Viet Nam

- On 18 October EFTA and Viet Nam signed a comprehensive Free Trade Agreement (FTA) in Hanoi, covering trade in goods, trade in services, rules of origin, intellectual property rights, and small and medium-sized enterprises, among other areas.

India-New Zealand

- The New Zealand-India FTA entered into force on 20 October 2026.

Australia-EU

- The legal text of the Australia-EU FTA has been published, following the announcement of the conclusion of negotiations on 24 March 2026.

Future of Investment and Trade Partnership

- Fiji has joined the Future of Investment and Trade (FIT) Partnership as its 20th member. Founded by New Zealand, Singapore, Switzerland and the UAE, the FIT Partnership is a platform for small and medium-sized economies to address emerging trade issues and generate trade and investment opportunities.

World Trade Organization

WTO Reform

- On 22 October General Council Chair Ambassador Clare Kelly (New Zealand) circulated the second round of facilitators' reports on the four reform tracks (foundational issues, decision-making, development and level playing field (LPF)) as restricted document JOB/GC/REFORM/10, following JOB/GC/REFORM/7 of 4 August 2026. At the informal Heads of Delegation transparency meeting on 23 October, she asked delegations to comment on process rather than substance. Several delegations noted that the reports arrived too late to be examined. The US reportedly said the four-track structure was producing repetition and little progress, and proposed that members select specific topics to take forward; Australia and Norway likewise highlighted recurring issues across the four tracks. Pakistan argued for a balanced package, possibly anchored in a negotiating mandate at the 15th Ministerial Conference (MC15). India proposed a common three-step sequence for every proposal: establish the problem with evidence, test whether existing rules suffice, then assess development impact and the balance of rights and obligations.

- The reports show convergence on methodology, including evidence-based diagnosis, member-driven stocktakes and thematic sessions, and divergence on substance:
    - ***Decision-making:*** members accept that plurilaterals form part of the WTO architecture. Proponents (the US, the EU, the UK, Switzerland and Japan) want concluded agreements to be easier to incorporate under Article X:9 of the Marrakesh Agreement; Brazil, India and others hold that no threshold can replace consensus.
    - ***Foundational issues:*** proposals to widen MFN exceptions for supply-chain resilience and economic security drew concerns about discretionary discrimination and reduced predictability.
    - ***Development:*** facilitator Ambassador Nthisana Motsete-Phillips (Botswana) consulted all 166 members. Income-based differentiation for special and

differential treatment (S&DT), such as GDP per capita, remains contentious. LDC preferences appear to be the only area of probable common ground.
    - ***LPF:*** China rejected the premise that state ownership is inherently distortive. Brazil and Paraguay pressed for agriculture to be included, which the US, the EU and the G10 resist. Brazil and the African Group warned against counter-notifications based on unilaterally generated data.

- Earlier in the period, members questioned the US, China and the UK on their reform proposals in the foundational-issues track (facilitator Ambassador Sumathi Balakrishnan, Malaysia). US Ambassador Joseph Barloon defended the US proposal on transparency and notification, ending self-designation for S&DT, creating a more flexible pathway for plurilaterals, strengthening the role of the Secretariat and rethinking the relationship between MFN and reciprocity, while stressing that the US had no predetermined outcome. A Brazilian question on whether the reciprocal deals concluded since April 2025 will be notified to the WTO was reportedly not addressed. The EU and Norway supported retaining MFN, most developing countries opposed the US proposal, and China described MFN as a cornerstone whose exceptions should remain limited. In the LPF track, submissions from Australia (WT/GC/REFORM/W/16) and Paraguay (WT/GC/REFORM/W/17) were taken up, and members remain split on whether a mapping exercise on asymmetries should draw on Secretariat or external data.

- On 16 October, Lesotho circulated a communication on behalf of the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group (WT/GC/REFORM/W/20). It rejects recasting MFN under GATT Article I as conditional on reciprocity, opposes criteria for determining developing-country status or access to S&DT, rules out any qualified consensus, and states that Annex 4 incorporation of plurilaterals requires consensus under Article X:9. It proposes a provision-by-provision S&DT implementation stocktake coordinated by the Committee on Trade and Development, and an LPF framework covering agriculture and fisheries alongside industrial subsidies.

- Two procedural changes have been made. Ambassador Kairat Torebayev (Kazakhstan) replaces Ambassador Elmer Schialer Salcedo (Peru) as LPF facilitator, and the November schedule is reduced to one meeting per track after The Gambia, speaking for the least-developed countries (LDCs), raised capacity constraints.

Committee on Trade Facilitation

- Members meeting in the Committee on Trade Facilitation on 21 and 22 October advanced the second review of the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) and reaffirmed their commitment to completing it by the end of the year. They also exchanged experiences on implementation, reviewed specific trade facilitation matters and discussed technical assistance needs.

Committee on Market Access

- The WTO Secretariat has published a report on the resolution of market access trade concerns, highlighting the role of committee work in helping members settle differences without resorting to dispute settlement. The report was presented at the 12 and 13 October meeting of the Committee on Market Access (CMA), which also reviewed a record 36 trade concerns, eight of them raised for the first time. Businesses facing market access barriers can raise them with their governments for discussion in the CMA.

Committee on Import Licensing

- At its 15 October meeting, the Committee on Import Licensing examined challenges in preparing notifications, reviewed members' notification practices, considered a range of trade concerns and reflected on experience-sharing sessions on public-private engagement and access to information on licensing procedures.

Committee on Government Procurement

- At the Committee on Government Procurement on 14 October, parties to the Government Procurement Agreement (GPA) 2012 welcomed Timor-Leste's submission of the documents required to begin negotiations on its accession. The Committee also reviewed regulatory developments, received updates on other accessions and, for the first time, held a dialogue with the private sector on the Agreement.

Council for Trade in Services

- At meetings held from 7 to 9 October, the Council for Trade in Services and the Committee on Trade in Financial Services reviewed services discussions from the 2026 Public Forum, continued work on transparency in the recognition of foreign service suppliers' qualifications, and discussed digital payment systems, remittance costs, LDC participation in services trade and specific trade concerns.

Agreement on Electronic Commerce

- The European Parliament's Committee on International Trade (INTA) will further examine the plurilateral Agreement on Electronic Commerce (ECA) before any decision on ratification. Brando Benifei (S&D) stated that the committee should undertake serious political scrutiny of the ECA and that he would present a report to INTA during its meetings on 4-5 November. The Commission sent its proposal on the conclusion of the agreement to the Council of the EU on 13 July. The Council of the EU and the European Parliament must each approve the text before the EU can ratify the ECA.

Trade Remedies

US Measures

- ***Softwood lumber (Canada):*** Commerce raised the combined anti-dumping and countervailing duty rate on Canadian softwood lumber to 24.75% in its seventh annual review, covering lumber imported in 2024.

- ***Crystalline silicon photovoltaic cells (India, Indonesia, Laos):*** the US International Trade Commission (USITC) issued affirmative final injury determinations, following Commerce findings of dumping and subsidisation. Commerce will issue anti-dumping and countervailing duty orders.

- ***Truck bed covers (China):*** Commerce issued a final affirmative countervailing duty determination on 19 October, with subsidy rates of 77.17% for Changzhou Sunwood and 11.60% for Hangzhou Golden Sun. Six non-cooperating companies were assigned a rate of 142.11%, while all others received 43.43%. The USITC final injury determination is pending.

- ***Corrugated die-cut cardboard boxes (China, Malaysia, Türkiye):*** Commerce initiated anti-dumping investigations into all three countries and a countervailing duty investigation into Türkiye on 26 October. The petition alleges dumping margins ranging from 97.71% to 297.26% for China, 83.72% to 116.58% for Malaysia and 51.27% to 92.81% for Türkiye.

- ***Amine compounds (China):*** Commerce initiated anti-dumping and countervailing duty investigations on 26 October into imports from China. The petition alleges dumping margins of 244.94% to 352.32%.

- ***Seamless line and pressure pipe (Georgia, India):*** the USITC instituted anti-dumping and countervailing duty investigations on 20 October.

- ***Van-type trailers (China):*** the USITC issued an affirmative final injury determination, published on 20 October, clearing the way for Commerce to issue orders.

- ***Linear hydraulic cylinders (Canada, China, India, Mexico, South Korea):*** the USITC issued an affirmative preliminary injury determination, and the investigations move to the final phase.

- ***Large diameter graphite electrodes (China, India):*** Commerce postponed its final anti-dumping determination on China and extended provisional measures. The USITC has scheduled the final phase of the China and India investigations.

- ***Administrative reviews:*** Commerce published final results for steel nails from Taiwan (78.17% for two non-cooperating companies), forged steel fluid end blocks from Italy (Lucchini, 58.48%), prestressed concrete steel wire strand from Spain (TYCSA, 13.57%), welded stainless pressure pipe from India (0.74%) and carbazole violet pigment 23 from India (2.81%). Preliminary results include fine denier polyester staple fibre from India (Bombay Dyeing, 21.43%).

- ***Orders continued:*** following sunset reviews, orders will remain in place on oil country tubular goods from India, Korea, Türkiye, Vietnam and Ukraine, and on small vertical shaft engines and non-refillable steel cylinders from China.

EU Measures

- ***Furfuryl alcohol (China):*** on 16 October, the Commission initiated an anti-dumping investigation (AD763). Provisional measures could be imposed within seven to eight months.

UK Measures

- ***Excavators (China):*** on 15 October, the Trade Remedies Authority (TRA) published notices of definitive anti-dumping and countervailing duties.

Japanese Measures

- ***Rutile titanium dioxide pigments (China):*** on 16 October, the Ministry of Finance and METI initiated an anti-dumping investigation following an application from the Japan Titanium Dioxide Industry Association.

South African Measures

- ***Newsprint:*** on 16 October, the general rate of duty on newsprint (HS 4801.00) rose from zero to 5%, following ITAC Report 784 (SARS notice R.8025).

ICC News & Publications

- Report: Chamber Pulse 2026 (22 October 2026)
- News: Electronic Bill of Lading adoption grows as focus shifts to interoperability (21 October 2026)
- News: ICC highlights trade and finance priorities at IMF-World Bank Annual Meetings (16 October 2026)
- News: Maritime piracy incidents remain at historic lows despite Somali piracy concerns (15 October)

What We're Reading

- **From the IMF:** EU Trade Diversification Through Regional Trade Agreements and the new Trade Nowcast.
- **From ECIPE:** The Real-World Economic Impact of the Cloud and AI Development Act (CADA) and Customs Policy and Trade Defence: When Supply Chain Decisions Become Tax Avoidance.

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