



Foreign Affairs Council (Trade) **27 November 2023**

The Foreign Affairs Council, in its Trade configuration, will hold a meeting on Monday 27 November **2023**, which is expected to start at **09.30** and will be chaired by the Spanish Secretary of State for Trade, **Xiana Méndez**. The Commission will be represented by Commissioner **Valdis Dombrovskis**.

Ministers will first discuss the state of play of the preparations for the **13th Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organisation**, which is scheduled to take place from 26 to 29 February 2024 in Abu Dhabi.

The Presidency will inform ministers of the timeline for the adoption and signature of the interim **trade agreement with Chile**.

Ministers will also discuss the state of play in **EU-US trade relations**.

On the basis of a Commission report, ministers will be also informed about the implementation and **enforcement of the EU's trade policy**.

Over a working lunch, ministers will discuss the state of play of **ongoing trade negotiations** and the agreements already negotiated and still pending.

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[Foreign Affairs Council \(Trade\) - meeting page](#)

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¹ This note has been drawn up under the responsibility of the press office.

World Trade Organisation

Ministers will first discuss the state of play of the preparations for the **13th Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organisation**, which is scheduled to take place from 26 to 29 February 2024 in Abu Dhabi.

Commissioner Dombrovskis will focus on the EU's four key priorities for the MC13:

- restoring a fully functioning Dispute Settlement Mechanism/Appellate Body (DSM/AB)
- concluding the second phase of the Fisheries Subsidies negotiations
- the extension of the e-commerce moratorium and the e-commerce work programme
- launching a dedicated space for deliberation on state intervention and environmental sustainability

Other potential deliverables for MC13 would include: agriculture - focusing on food security; and development.

[WTO Ministerial Conferences](#)

Trade agreement with Chile

The timeline for the adoption and signature of the interim **trade agreement with Chile** is also on the agenda.

The Spanish Presidency will inform ministers about the preparations for the adoption of the Council decision concerning the interim Trade Agreement (ITA) with Chile.

Both agreements are expected to be signed before the end of this year.

Coreper has recently confirmed the Council decision texts on the signing and the conclusion of both deals and the forwarding of the draft Council decision on the conclusion to the European Parliament for its consent.

This landmark agreement is of key geopolitical importance. It is also a crucial element of the strengthening and renewal of relations between the EU and the Latin American and Caribbean countries.

Closer economic ties between the EU and Chile will allow both parties to diversify and strengthen their economic security, while increasing opportunities for exports and investments. Better access and sustainable investment in critical raw materials such as lithium will contribute to advancing our shared ambition for a green transition.

[EU-Chile agreement \(background information\)](#)

EU-US trade relations

Ministers will also discuss the state of play of the key issues in EU-US trade relations after the recent bilateral summit, as well as the way forward.

Ministers are likely to address the Global Arrangement on Sustainable Steel and Aluminium, on which it will be necessary to find a way forward that works for both sides. In this context, ministers are also likely to touch upon the issue of the continuation of the suspension of US "Section 232" measures and EU counterbalancing measures as well as the related issue of the functioning of the US steel and aluminium quota regime. A decision regarding the extension of the suspension of EU counterbalancing measures is to be taken later in December, in the comitology context.

Ministers are also expected to address the state of play in negotiations on the **Critical Minerals Agreement**. The EU negotiating mandate was adopted by the Council on 20 July 2023 and considerable progress has been made in the negotiations since then. Once concluded, this

Agreement should allow the EU to be treated as a “free trade agreement” partner for the purpose of US Inflation Reduction Act sourcing requirements for critical minerals used in electric vehicles.

The EU remains committed to advancing a positive, forward-looking transatlantic trade agenda, and the EU-US Trade and Technology Council (TTC) is of key importance in this respect. Ministers are likely to focus on possible deliverables for the upcoming meetings(s) of the TTC as well as on more strategic aspects of the TTC. The exact date of the next (5th) meeting has yet to be determined.

Ministers might also raise other topics of interest at this juncture in our trade relations with the US.

[EU-US trade relations](#)

[EU-US summit, 20 October 2023](#)

[EU-US TTC](#)

[Joint EU-US Statement](#)

Any Other Business

On the basis of a Commission report, ministers will be also informed about the implementation and **enforcement of the EU's trade policy**.

Ongoing trade negotiations

Over a working lunch, ministers will discuss the state of play of **ongoing trade negotiations** and the agreements already negotiated and still pending.
