

## Agreements under negotiation

- Azerbaijan
- Caribbean
- Central Africa
- Eastern and Southern Africa
- India
- Malaysia
- Philippines
- Thailand
- Tunisia
- United States
- United Arab Emirates

Agreement type	Country	General Overview		Aspects related to GIs
		Launching of negotiations	Key issues	GIs issues
<b>COMPREHENSIVE AGREEMENT</b>	Azerbaijan <sup>1</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Directives for the negotiation of a Comprehensive Agreement between the EU and Azerbaijan were adopted by the Council on 7 November 2016, to enhance and replace the current Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA) in force.</li> <li>- Negotiations were launched in February 2017.</li> <li>- In 2018, the EU and Azerbaijan agreed on their new partnership priorities.</li> </ul> <p>The talks are on hold since February 2022.</p>	<p>Negotiations on the agricultural side of the agreement has been agreed. The discussions on the trade part are still ongoing.</p>	<p>All EU GIs will be covered by this agreement and 13 GIs from Azerbaijan will be protected in the EU.</p>
<b>AGREEMENT ON AGRI AND CI GI</b>	Caribbean <sup>2</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Economic and Partnership agreement was signed in 2008. The European Parliament approved the text in 2009.</li> <li>- A separate agreement on GIs is being negotiated.</li> <li>- In January 2025, the <a href="#">Council</a> approved the extension of scope of negotiations to craft and industrial GIs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Conclusion are close but a lot of countries are part of Caribbean which can complicate to agree for the conclusion.</li> </ul> <p>Pending question on whether a registration fee will be apply to EU GI to register in Caribbean countries.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- According to the EPA (<a href="#">Article 145 - E</a>), the EU and the Caribbean countries shall start negotiations aimed at an agreement to protect GIs.</li> </ul> <p>In the GI agreement, the EU list will cover 177 names and the Caribbean one 13. They will add provisions on the protection of GIs in the existing EPA.</p>
<b>ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT</b>	Central Africa <sup>3</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Central African countries updated their negotiation mandate in March 2014;</li> <li>- The only country which has ratified the interim EPA for Central Africa is Cameroon. It entered into provisional application on August 2014.</li> </ul>	<p>The 9th EPA Committee between Cameroon and the EU took place in <a href="#">July 2025</a>.</p>	<p>The interim EPA does not cover GIs. However, <a href="#">article 58</a> calls for cooperation on IPRs.</p>

<sup>1</sup> [https://policy.trade.ec.europa.eu/eu-trade-relationships-country-and-region/countries-and-regions/azerbaijan\\_en](https://policy.trade.ec.europa.eu/eu-trade-relationships-country-and-region/countries-and-regions/azerbaijan_en)

<sup>2</sup> [https://policy.trade.ec.europa.eu/eu-trade-relationships-country-and-region/countries-and-regions/caribbean\\_en](https://policy.trade.ec.europa.eu/eu-trade-relationships-country-and-region/countries-and-regions/caribbean_en)

<sup>3</sup> Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo (Brazzaville), Congo Democratic Republic of (Kinshasa), Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, São Tomé & Príncipe : [https://policy.trade.ec.europa.eu/eu-trade-relationships-country-and-region/countries-and-regions/central-africa\\_en](https://policy.trade.ec.europa.eu/eu-trade-relationships-country-and-region/countries-and-regions/central-africa_en)

		Contacts are ongoing between the region and the EU on accession to this EPA by other Central African countries.		
<b>POSSIBLE DEEPENING OF THE CURRENT ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT</b>	Eastern and Southern Africa (ESA) <sup>4</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mauritius, Seychelles, Zimbabwe and Madagascar signed the interim EPA in 2009. The European Parliament gave its consent in January 2013.</li> </ul> <p>Work on the deepening of the EPA to add a chapter on the protection of GIs. Comoros won't be part of it.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A transition period for the protection of GI will be applied.</li> </ul> <p>The conclusion of the negotiation should be done in the coming months.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The <a href="#">interim EPA</a> calls for cooperation and further negotiations on IPRs with a focus on GIs (article 53).</li> </ul>
<b>AGREEMENT ON GIs</b>	India <sup>5</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The EU and India concluded the negotiations of the negotiations on 27 January 2026. This agreement does not have provisions on GIs.</li> <li>A separate agreement on GIs is under negotiations.</li> </ul> <p>The report of the last round of negotiation in 2024 is available <a href="#">here</a>.</p>	<p>Before continuing the negotiations, the Indian GI system must be reviewed in order to align with the EU system. Once this is done, the negotiation will advance.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The EU seeks protection of a list of EU GIs through the specific agreement on GIs. India seeks protection for its long list of non-agricultural GIs.</li> <li>A list of GIs was exchanged in spring 2024.</li> </ul>
<b>FREE TRADE AGREEMENT</b>	Malaysia <sup>6</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Negotiations were launched in October 2010.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>In January 2025, the Commission <a href="#">announced</a> the relaunch of negotiations</li> </ul> <p>The <a href="#">3<sup>rd</sup> round</a> of negotiation took place in February 2026.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Negotiations cover the following fields: IPRs (including GIs), market access for goods, services and investment, customs and trade facilitation, rules of origin, SPS and TBT measures, trade remedies, public procurement, sustainable development, dispute settlement and institutional issues;</li> </ul> <p>A Partnership and Cooperation Agreement is being negotiated in parallel.</p>	<p>First discussions on GIs are complicated, the negotiations must continue</p>
<b>FREE TRADE AGREEMENT</b>	Philippines <sup>7</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Negotiations were launched in December 2015, on hold between 2017-2024.</li> <li>In March 2024 the negotiations were relaunched.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This agreement covers a broad range of issues, including elimination of customs duties and other barriers to trade, services and investment, access to public procurement markets, as well as additional</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The EC proposal for the <a href="#">IP chapter</a> is available. The Sub Section 4 is dedicated to the protection of GIs.</li> <li>The EU will propose a list of around 200 EU GIs.</li> </ul>

<sup>4</sup> Comoros, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Seychelles, Sudan, Zambia, Zimbabwe : [https://policy.trade.ec.europa.eu/eu-trade-relationships-country-and-region/countries-and-regions/eastern-and-southern-africa-esa\\_en](https://policy.trade.ec.europa.eu/eu-trade-relationships-country-and-region/countries-and-regions/eastern-and-southern-africa-esa_en)

<sup>5</sup> [https://policy.trade.ec.europa.eu/eu-trade-relationships-country-and-region/countries-and-regions/india/eu-india-agreement\\_en](https://policy.trade.ec.europa.eu/eu-trade-relationships-country-and-region/countries-and-regions/india/eu-india-agreement_en)

<sup>6</sup> [https://policy.trade.ec.europa.eu/eu-trade-relationships-country-and-region/countries-and-regions/malaysia\\_en](https://policy.trade.ec.europa.eu/eu-trade-relationships-country-and-region/countries-and-regions/malaysia_en)

<sup>7</sup> [https://policy.trade.ec.europa.eu/eu-trade-relationships-country-and-region/countries-and-regions/philippines/eu-philippines-agreement\\_en#:~:text=The%20second%20round%20of%20negotiations,free%20trade%20agreement%20\(FTA\).](https://policy.trade.ec.europa.eu/eu-trade-relationships-country-and-region/countries-and-regions/philippines/eu-philippines-agreement_en#:~:text=The%20second%20round%20of%20negotiations,free%20trade%20agreement%20(FTA).)

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The <a href="#">5<sup>th</sup> round</a> of negotiation took place in March 2026.</li> </ul> <p>The negotiations should be concluded soon.</p>	<p>disciplines in the area of competition and protection of intellectual property rights.</p> <p>The prospective agreement will also include a comprehensive chapter that will ensure that closer economic relations between the EU and the Philippines go hand in hand with environmental protection and social development.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Philippines have already shared with the EU the list of GIs they would like to see protected in the EU.</li> </ul>
<p><b>FREE TRADE AGREEMENT</b></p>	<p>Thailand<sup>8</sup></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Negotiations were launched in March 2013 and put on hold in 2014.</li> <li>- In March 2023, relaunch of the negotiations.</li> <li>- The <a href="#">8th round of</a> negotiation took place in February 2026.</li> <li>- The negotiations are expected to be concluded by the end of 2026, beginning of 2027.</li> </ul>	<p><u>Issues addressed:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Draft text proposals have been submitted;</li> <li>- Negotiators have addressed issues related to goods, rules of origin, services, investment, public procurement, intellectual property (including GIs), trade remedies and trade and sustainable development;</li> <li>-</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Negotiators have already addressed aspects related to the protection of GI and found some convergence.</li> <li>- Some Thai GIs are already protected in the EU (direct registration);</li> <li>-</li> </ul>
<p><b>DEEP AND COMPREHENSIVE FREE TRADE AGREEMENT</b></p>	<p>Tunisia<sup>9</sup></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The first negotiating round for a DCFTA between the EU and Tunisia took place in April 2016.</li> <li>- The fourth round took place in 28-30 April/1-2 May 2019 in Tunis.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The objective of the DCFTA negotiations is to extend the scope of the existing Association Agreement and bring about the better integration of Tunisia's economy into the EU single market.</li> <li>- An important objective of the DCFTA is to support ongoing economic reforms in Tunisia and bring Tunisian legislation closer to that of the EU in trade-related areas.</li> <li>- After the fourth round good progress was made in several areas. Some texts have been practically closed at technical level (GIs and most of the IP text. However negotiations have been</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- This <a href="#">Agreement</a> shall apply to the recognition and protection of the GIs) originating in the territory of the parties.</li> <li>-</li> </ul>

<sup>8</sup> [https://policy.trade.ec.europa.eu/eu-trade-relationships-country-and-region/countries-and-regions/thailand\\_en](https://policy.trade.ec.europa.eu/eu-trade-relationships-country-and-region/countries-and-regions/thailand_en)

<sup>9</sup> [https://policy.trade.ec.europa.eu/eu-trade-relationships-country-and-region/countries-and-regions/tunisia/eu-tunisia-dcfta-documents\\_en](https://policy.trade.ec.europa.eu/eu-trade-relationships-country-and-region/countries-and-regions/tunisia/eu-tunisia-dcfta-documents_en)

			<p>effectively brought to a standstill due to a change of government in Tunisia as well as to strong civil society protest. Their critics focused essentially on the potential risks regarding the removal of tariff barriers for agricultural goods and the supposedly opacity of the negotiations. The potential relaunching of the negotiations is occurring during a delicate political period as the country is just managing to install a new government. The new executive power in Tunisia has not yet spoken on the issue of the DCFTA, but the EU is ready and willing to relaunch the negotiations in a real intention to reach a mutually benefiting agreement, provided the new government demonstrate a real ownership on the process. If these conditions are met, negotiations could be resumed during the first semester and a political stocktaking exercise could also be envisaged.</p>	
<p><b>FREE TRADE AGREEMENT</b></p>	<p>United Arab Emirates<sup>10</sup></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Negotiations started in May 2025.</li> <li>- The <a href="#">4<sup>th</sup> round</a> of negotiation took place in December 2025.</li> </ul>	<p>-</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- An IPR chapter is included in the agreement</li> <li>- The EU sent in September 2025 a list of around 200 EU GIs to be protected</li> <li>- On UAE side there is no GI registered but is in the process to register 2 agri GIs and 2 CIGIs.</li> <li>- However, the UAE is opposed to the idea of protecting a GI list in an FTA.</li> </ul>

<sup>10</sup> [https://policy.trade.ec.europa.eu/eu-trade-relationships-country-and-region/countries-and-regions/gulf-region/eu-united-arab-emirates-agreement/eu-united-arab-emirates-documents\\_en](https://policy.trade.ec.europa.eu/eu-trade-relationships-country-and-region/countries-and-regions/gulf-region/eu-united-arab-emirates-agreement/eu-united-arab-emirates-documents_en)

<p><b>FREE TRADE AGREEMENT</b></p>	<p>United States<sup>11</sup></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Negotiations were launched in February 2013.</li> <li>- Negotiations 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 summer 2018, the EU and the USA decided to start negotiating a new trade agreement, however agricultural products are out of the scope.</li> <li>-</li> </ul>	<p><u>Issues addressed:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In 2014, discussions moved into textual proposals;</li> <li>- Negotiators mainly deal with regulatory aspects (TBT, SPS and specific sectors), rules pillars (IPRs, energy, SMEs) and services;</li> <li>- Preliminary discussions on GIs.</li> </ul> <p><u>Controversial issues:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Agriculture: MEPs and the civil society fear that the TTIP will change EU's legislation on GMOs;</li> <li>- European standards: There is concern about a potential reduction of the level of protection of EU environmental and public health;</li> <li>- Transparency: The EU negotiation mandate was made public on the 9 October 2014;</li> <li>- Investments protection: Strong division concerning the need to include the ISDS mechanism within the TTIP;</li> <li>- GIs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- European Commission's mandate on GIs mentions the need to seek a high level of protection for European GIs;</li> <li>- The US opposes the phasing out of semi-generic names as defined in the EC/USA 2006 Agreement on trade in wine (which affects 16 EU GIs wines);</li> <li>- The US, which protects GIs through trademarks, offers GI protection compatible to the US TM system and refuses to recognise a list of EU GIs without national scrutiny. Moreover, the US refuses the principle of coexistence between a GI and an existing TM and considers that a number of EU GIs are generic in the US.</li> <li>-</li> </ul>
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<sup>11</sup> [https://policy.trade.ec.europa.eu/eu-trade-relationships-country-and-region/countries-and-regions/united-states\\_en](https://policy.trade.ec.europa.eu/eu-trade-relationships-country-and-region/countries-and-regions/united-states_en)