



# **Bilateral Negotiations (except TTIP)**

**Civil Dialogue Group  
International Aspects of Agriculture  
Brussels – 8 October 2015**

**John Clarke  
European Commission  
DG Agriculture and Rural Development  
Director – International Bilateral Relations**

# Current negotiation partners

## 1. The Americas (except USA, TTIP subject of agenda point 11)

- *Mexico*
- *Peru-Colombia*
- *Chile*
- *Mercosur*

## 2. Asia

- *Vietnam*
- *Japan*
- *China*

## 3. ACP

## 4. EU Neighborhood

# The Americas (except USA)

## EU-Mexico: Modernisation of the existing FTA

- The EU-Mexico Global Agreement dates from 1997.
- Already in 2012 parties expressed their wish to update it and preparatory work has taken place since then.

### Outcome of the June 2015 EU-Mexico summit:

- Announcement of the conclusion of the scoping exercise (Joint Vision Report): common understanding of the scope and level of ambition of a modernised agreement
- Formal agreement to launch, in 2015, the process of starting negotiations, "according to the legal framework of each side"

# EU-Mexico: Modernisation of the current FTA

## On process:

- The preparation of an Impact Assessment by the Commission is very advanced. This followed consultations with stakeholders. An online public consultation was carried out on the DG Trade website
- Drafting of negotiating directives will follow
- The Commission then needs to obtain a mandate from the Council to start negotiations
- Subject to the successful completion of this step, negotiations may start in 2016

## EU-Peru & Colombia FTA: 2<sup>nd</sup> year of implementation

1/2

- The second Trade Committee and the eight subcommittees took place in Bogotá, Colombia, on 11-19 June 2015. The meetings marked the **second year of the provisional application** of the Trade Agreement- which started in March 2013 with Peru and in August 2013 with Colombia.
- Discussion on **Geographical Indications** was prominent in the agenda of the IPR Subcommittee.
- The Subcommittee on **Agriculture** (12 June) addressed the difficulties identified on the area of spirit drinks in Colombia and, to a lesser extent, in Peru. Most notably:

## EU-Peru & Colombia FTA:

2/2

### Difficulties identified on the area of spirit drinks addressed by the Subcommittee on Agriculture (12 June)

- These **discriminatory practices for spirit drinks**- related to taxation and anti-competitive practices- represent a clear violation of the commitments in the Agreement. The Commission is evaluating all possible measures to redress the situation, including formal dispute settlement.
- The **stabilisation mechanism for bananas**: Peru overshoot trigger volumes for the year 2014. Temporary suspension of the preferential customs duty was judged not necessary as no notable changes in the EU market were registered.

# Chile - Modernisation of the EU-Chile Association Agreement

- EU-Chile Association Agreement dates back to 2002
- First meeting of the working group that will evaluate the possible added value of a modernised FTA will be held late October in Santiago de Chile
- First step of the process, to be possibly followed by a scoping exercise if working group registers convergence of parties' ambitions.
- Similar exercise as the one that has been carried out with Mexico in 2013/2014
- Current agricultural trade balance is clearly in favour of Chile: in 2014 EU imports from Chile amounted to EUR 2,121 billion, while exports to Chile were limited to EUR 451 million.



## EU-Mercosur negotiations: update 1/2

- The process of negotiating with **Mercosur** began in 1995.
- **Offers** were exchanged in 2004. The negotiations, suspended after this exchange, resumed in 2010, and nine rounds have been held since then.
- The Mercosur summit on 29 July 2014 confirmed the preparation of a joint offer on the side of 4 Mercosur countries i.e. **Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay**.
- Parties met at Ministerial level on 11 June 2015 at the margins of the EU-CELAC summit in Brussels and re-iterated their commitment to the negotiations.

## EU-Mercosur negotiations: update 2/2

- Ministers agreed to an exchange of information at Chief Negotiators level, as to gauge ambitions of respective market access offers. This took place early October 2015.
- The outcome is now submitted for the consideration of the political level on each side, with the view to define next steps.
- Mercosur is a very competitive trade partner in agriculture. The EU is approaching the agricultural chapter with considerable caution.



European  
Commission

# ASIA

## EU-Vietnam FTA negotiations

- 04.08.2015 - agreement in principle on the conclusion of the negotiations for an FTA.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> country in S-E Asia with whom EU will close an FTA.
- Ambitious and balanced agreement.

# EU-Vietnam FTA negotiations

## *Results -Tariffs:*

- Opening of the EU and VN markets by liberalizing 99% of trade (all sectors) within max. 10 years,
- VN offers full liberalisation for all EU offensive sectors: wines and spirits (7y), dairy (3-5y), meats (3-10y), fruits and vegetables (3-5y), processed agricultural products (5-7y).
- EU gave TRQs for its defensive sectors: rice, starch, sugar, sweetcorn, ethanol, mushrooms, garlic, eggs.

# EU-Vietnam FTA negotiations

## *Results – GIs, RoO, SPS*

- GIs: Protection of 169 EU GIs with a high level of protection directly through the agreement. Co-existence with prior trade marks. EU GIs cannot become generic. Solutions for 5 conflicts (Asiago, Fontina, Gorgonzola, Feta and Champagne).
- RoO: Strict rules of origin for agricultural products
- SPS: VN will treat the EU as a single entity and will accept pre-listing. Principle of regionalisation recognised.

# EU-Vietnam FTA negotiations

## *Next steps*

- Official conclusion expected in Autumn 2015.
- EIF probably end of 2017 / early 2018.

# EU-Japan FTA

## *Process:*

- 12 rounds since 2013 – next end October
- Leaders agreed to conclude "preferably by 2015"
- Delay in TPP

## *Substance:*

- EU: aiming at ambitious outcome in agriculture, including on non-tariff measures
- Market Access: EU offensive interest vs. Japan sensitive products
- Geographical Indications (GIs): protection of EU GIs; new Japanese GI law for foodstuff



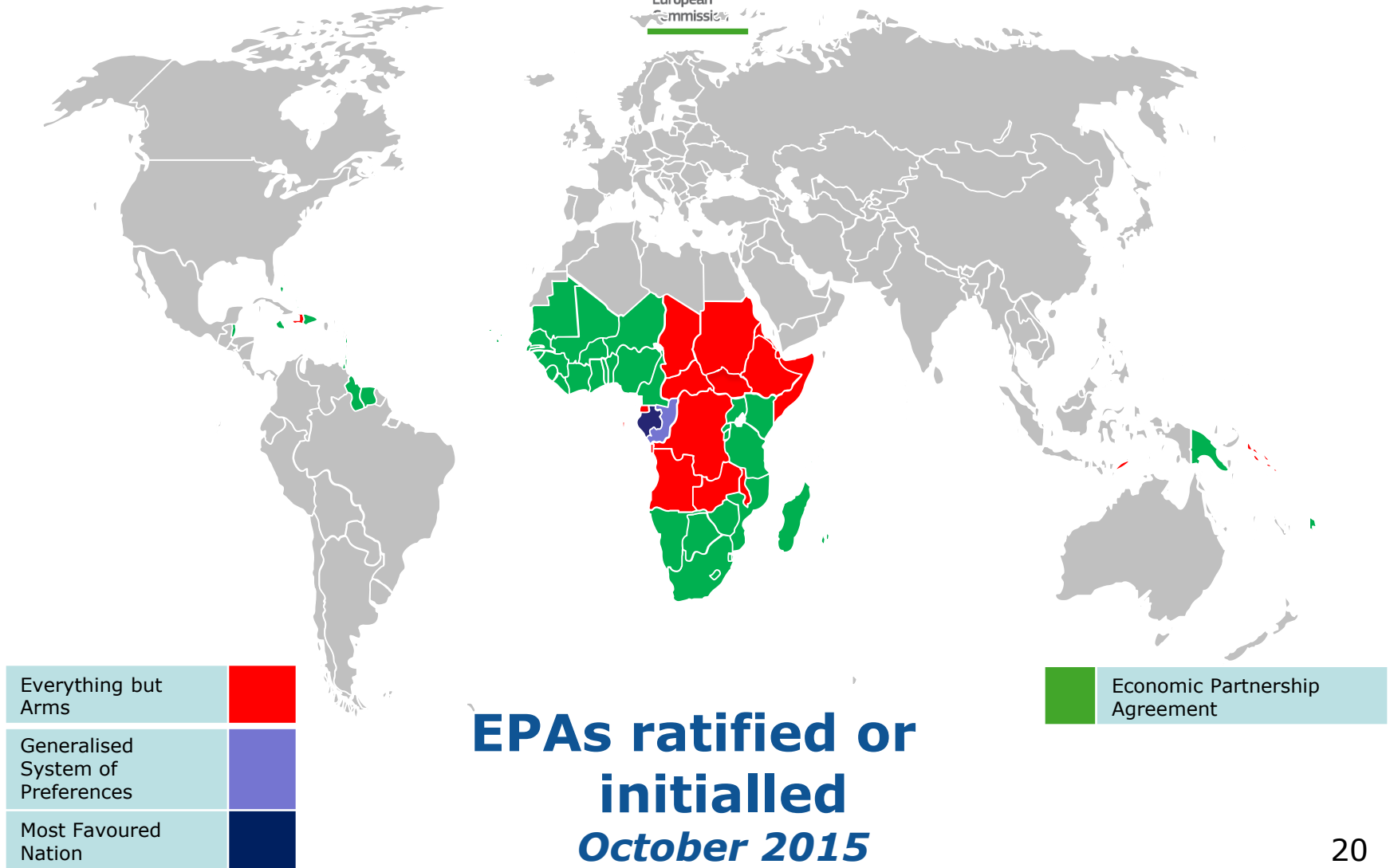
# EU-China GIs negotiations

- **Negotiations on going**
- **EU objectives:** ambitious outcome
- **Draft text** stable: direct protection of our GI names and high level of protection
- **Political results:**
  - Rule-making agreement for Asia
  - One of the first deliverables in EU-China Relations

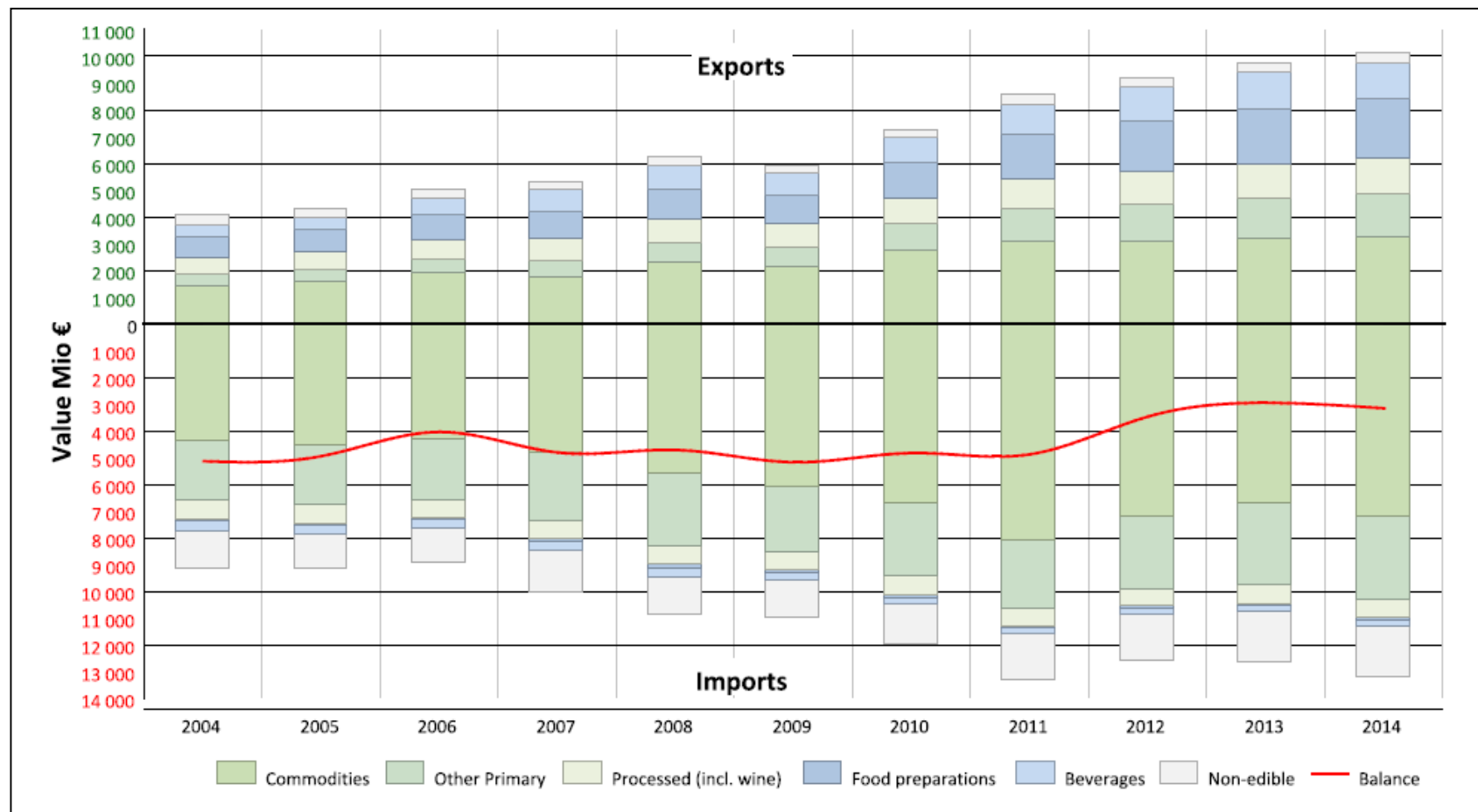
# ACP countries

## **UN Agenda 2030 adopted in September 2015**

- Commits global community to end extreme poverty and hunger by 2030
- Tangible targets specified in new Sustainable Development Goals
- Substantial role for agricultural policy
- Second of 4 major agreements slated for adoption this year (Addis Ababa on financing development in July; DDA in Nairobi and Climate change agreement in Paris in December 2015.)



## EU28: Structure of agri-food trade with ACP 2004-2014



## Update on EPAs

- *West Africa EPA in process of being signed.*
- *EAC and SADC EPA are at completion of legal scrubbing.*
- *Lengthy processes post-Lisbon*
- *Turning into preparations for implementation – policy cooperation on domestic support, value adding and trade.*
- *Encouragement of private investment.*
- *CARIFORUM and Pacific: No new developments*



# EU Neighbourhood

# European Neighbourhood Policy Overview

1/4

- No active negotiations for the time being for the ENP Eastern countries
- launch of DCFTA with Tunisia (ENP South)
- ENP review process ongoing – proposals in autumn 2015



# European Neighbourhood Policy

## ENP East

2/4

### Ukraine:

- Provisional application of the Association Agreement as of 1 November 2014
- ATMs until 31 December 2015
- DCFTA entry into force on 1 January 2016

# European Neighbourhood Policy 3/4

## ENP East

### **Georgia, Moldova:**

- provisional application of AA/DCFTA as from 1/09/14
- GIs agreements were already in force since 2012 and 2013, respectively

**Moldova:** Autonomous Trade Preferences until 31/12/2015

**Armenia:** talks on a new Agreement are reactivated

**Azerbaijan and Belarus:** no agreement in sight

# European Neighbourhood Policy

## ENP South

4/4

**Morocco:** GIs agreement – College adopted the proposals on Signature and Conclusion on 15 September for transmission to Council and EP

**Tunisia:** DCFTA negotiations to be launched in October 2015, covering agriculture trade, PAPs, fisheries and GIs

**Jordan:** Negotiations in sight – preparation on-going

**Egypt:** Slow progress in the case of