



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
 DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
 Directorate G – International  
 G.3 – Asia and Australasia

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## Meeting with CEELCA

EU-India FTA Negotiations

10 January 2023 - Hybrid

### Minutes

#### Participants:

Art 4(1)(b)	DG AGRI - Art 4(1)(b)
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Art 4(1)(b)	DG AGRI - Art 4(1)(b)
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Art 4(1)(b)	DG TRADE - Art 4(1)(b)
Art 4(1)(b)	EU DELEGATION in India - Art 4(1)(b)
Art 4(1)(b)	DG GROW - Art 4(1)(b)
Art 4(1)(b)	CELCAA - Art 4(1)(b)
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Art 4(1)(b)	DHWV - German Hops Association - Art 4(1)(b)
Art 4(1)(b)	UECBV - Union Européenne du Commerce du Bétail et de la Viande - Art 4(1)(b)
Art 4(1)(b)	UECBV - Union Européenne du Commerce du Bétail et de la Viande - Art 4(1)(b)
Art 4(1)(b)	CFFV - Comité Européen des Entreprises Vins - Art 4(1)(b)
Art 4(1)(b)	EUWEP - EU of Wholesale with Eggs, Egg Products, Poultry and Game - Art 4(1)(b)
Art 4(1)(b)	Eucolait - Art 4(1)(b)
Art 4(1)(b)	Eucolait - Art 4(1)(b)
Art 4(1)(b)	THIE - Tea & Herbal Infusions Europe - Art 4(1)(b)

CELCAA, the European Liaison Committee for Agricultural and Agri-Food Trade, is the umbrella organisation representing at European level associations and companies active in the sector of agricultural and agri-food trading.

### Introduction by Art 4(1)(b)

Presentation of the EU-India FTA negotiations state of play.

In the past, between 2007 and 2013, there were already negotiations between EU and India but they collapsed ten years ago, due to the lack of ambition on Indian side.

Today we are in a three-track negotiation:

- FTA
- Investment protection Agreement
- GIs Agreement

There have been already three rounds of negotiations, but we are not yet at the stage of exchanging market access offers. Round 1 was held in India in June/July 2022, where the EU tabled the text of the various chapters. Round 2 was held in Brussels in October 2022, where there was the presentation of the Indian reaction and counterproposal. Round 3 was held in New Delhi in November/December 2022, with the goal to reconcile the different positions. Unfortunately, the two positions are still far away and there are many gaps. The next round will be held mid-March in Brussels, whereas in the course of January there will be a stocktaking meeting between the Director General of DG TRADE and the Indian Secretary of Trade.

India has recently concluded FTAs with Australia and the Emirates and is currently negotiating with UK and Canada. The Commission is keeping an eye on those as they could set important benchmarks for negotiations.

Regarding agricultural products, there are concerned by many chapters, in particular Trade in Goods, Rules of Origin, Sustainable Food Systems, SPS, Trade and Sustainable Development.

When it comes to GIs, India is in the process of revising their GI legislation, therefore changes might come and influence the negotiations. The Commission's objective is to obtain a high level of protection. The list of European GIs is not ready yet, as it is being discussed with the MS. On their hand India has shown a clear interest in non-agri GIs, for which there is no legal framework in the EU yet.

The Commission's goal is to improve its access to this huge Indian market, with which the EU is in a big trade deficit. Our offensive interests are mainly in the dairy, wines and spirits, animal products sectors. From a defensive perspective, the Commission is well aware of the preoccupations of EU producers in the concerned sectors and will try to apply them the usual treatment of sensitive products (exclusion from liberalisation and/or specific TRQs). Another important objective is to lower entry tariffs, which are extremely high for some sectors.

Ann 4(1)(b) introduced the role of DG GROW, which focus on Processed Agricultural Products (starting from chapter 15) with many offensive interests in this negotiation. Chapters that are relevant for DG GROW are mainly RoO and Market access negotiations. DG GROW is constantly in contact with DG AGRI.

### **Exchange of views agri-food trade**

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➤ EUCOLAIT

India is the biggest milk producer in the world, applying a self-sufficient strategy. A large share of the Indian production is informal and destined to on-farm consumption, only 25% of the milk being processed. Dairy is a highly strategic sector, strongly protected from imports, apart for some niche products.

The dairy sector representatives expressed their interest in getting larger access to the Indian market in general but would like to focus more on the value-added products such as lactose for food and pharmaceutical sector. The biggest categories of exports are whey derivatives, protein concentrates, cheeses, and other dairy lines. Importing into the EU is not possible now for health reasons but anyway India is not a big player on the global market. For their sectors, issues with SPS are not as bad as for others, but with the new certificates, there have been cases of MS veterinary services not ready to sign.

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➤ **CELCAA**

See power point presentation.

CELCAA presented slides on trade flows, showing the evolution of EU imports/exports with India.

CELCAA is very much interested in progress in the FTA negotiation.

They have proposed to be active in B2B relationships, linked to Commissioner political events.

Answer from DG AGRI: In 2023 there will be a High Level Mission (HLM) in India, ideally linked with a agri-food fair. The date still has to be decided but it could be in September or December (nothing confirmed yet).

Regarding B2B, we welcome the initiative, it will help us in the organisation of the HLM, Celcaa can freely organise exchanges, and we are happy to help if needed.

Annexes:

- Celcaa presentation on EU-India FTA negotiations
- Eucolait considerations on EU-India negotiations
- CEEV Position on EU-India FTA

Authors : **Art 4(1)(b)** and **Art 4(1)(b)**