

Report of the 6th round of negotiations on a Free Trade Agreement between the European Union and Thailand

23-27 June 2025, Bangkok

The 6th round of negotiations on an EU-Thailand Free Trade Agreement took place in the week of 23 June 2025 in Bangkok. This round built upon the positive dynamics of the previous round (March-April 2025), with constructive discussions on the full range of areas under the scope of the future agreement. The respective negotiating teams were led by Mr Christophe Kiener (Directorate General for Trade and Economic Security of the European Commission) and Ms Chotima Iemsawasdikul (Ministry of Commerce of Thailand).

Negotiating teams continued to engage in text-based work across all chapters, making progress in terms of consolidation of texts. The chapters on Technical Barriers to Trade, Trade and Sustainable Development, and Small- and Medium-Sized Enterprises were closed in principle, as well as the section on Telecommunication Services in the Trade and Investment chapter. Good progress was also achieved in the texts on State-Owned Enterprises, Competition, Capital movements, Dispute Settlement and Rules of Origin, as well as for the Annex on automotive. Text consolidation advanced also in areas which are newer to Thailand, such as Digital trade, Subsidies and Energy and Raw Materials.

Constructive discussions also took place on tariff liberalisation, on the basis of the initial offers tabled in the context of the 5th round, and on preparations for a future first exchange of market access offers for services and investment and for government procurement.

The 7th round is planned for the week of 29 September 2025 in Brussels.

Details per negotiating area

Trade in Goods

The negotiating group discussed all open issues in the text. Provisional agreement was reached on the provisions concerning articles on remanufactured goods and origin marking. In-depth discussions took place on other open articles, including with respect to export duties, import and export monopolies, and repaired goods, with the aim of developing a joint approach to bridge remaining open issues.

Constructive technical discussions also took place on market access, on the basis of the initial tariff offers exchanged in the margins of the previous round, with both sides confirming the intention of reaching an ambitious outcome.

Rules of origin

The negotiating group engaged in further discussions on the Rules of Origin Chapter, reaching agreement on several articles and key principles, including claims for preferential treatment, record-keeping requirements, and waiver of procedural requirements, and making very good progress on others.

The negotiating group also continued discussing the product-specific rules, focusing on dairy, fishery products, textiles, agriculture and processed agricultural products (PAPs) as well as some chemicals, rubber and precious stones and metals, and machinery and electronics and automotive industry, reaching agreement on several headings. Discussions contributed to further clarify the proposed rules for other HS chapters.

Trade Remedies

The negotiating group discussed the few outstanding issues and in particular the outmost regions provisions, on which discussions will continue in an intersessional meeting before the next round. The transition period and the agricultural safeguard clause remain linked to the developments in the market access offers.

Specific measures concerning the management of preferential treatment and Mutual Administrative Assistance (MAA)

The negotiating teams continued to engage in text-based work, reaching agreement on several articles in the MAA Protocol, and on some of the provisions on Specific Measures Concerning the Management of Preferential Treatment, on which discussions will continue intersessionally.

Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT)

The negotiating group discussed all remaining open issues and reached agreement in principle on the chapter.

Discussions will continue in the next round on the annex on motor vehicles, where good advancements were made in this round.

Sanitary and Phyto-sanitary (SPS) matters

The negotiating group continued to engage in text-based discussions, making good progress on articles related to trade facilitation and bridging differences on provisions related to procedures for listing of establishments. Positions remain different on other provisions, such as on approval procedures. Intersessional discussions will focus on a review of the proposed timelines to be set out in the chapter.

Services and investment

The negotiating group continued to make good progress in text-based discussions, reaching agreement on one more sub-section (Telecommunications Services). The sub-sections on capital movements and financial services remain open with a couple of issues pending. On investment, differences remain in Parties' approaches, including with regard to national treatment and the prohibition of performance requirements.

As regards market access, the negotiating group exchanged further information and views in preparation for a future exchange of initial offers.

Government Procurement (GP)

The negotiating group made good progress in the consolidation of the text, including with respect to some provisions on time periods, review procedures, and cooperation, while further discussions are needed on other articles, such as those covering limited tendering and on transparency.

Technical discussions continued on the approach for the preparation of government procurement offers, to be further discussed intersessionally.

Intellectual Property (IP)

The negotiating group made significant progress in consolidating provisions related to enforcement, including border measures. The negotiating group also continued to engage in text-based discussions and made some progress on copyright and related rights, trade marks and industrial designs. Both sides continued to provide providing explanations on their respective IP systems and explored further proposals to bridge the gaps in the text.

The negotiating group exchanged information on developments in their internal processes towards the publication for opposition of their respective lists of Geographical Indications (GIs), and made progress on the consolidation of some provisions and as regards criteria for the

opposition procedure. They also touched upon their respective positions on the level of protection and agreed to continue to engage constructively to bridge the gaps.

Competition and subsidies

The negotiating group made very good progress, focusing on possible ways to close the remaining open issues related to exemptions in the section on anticompetitive conduct and merger control, and continuing to cleaning text in the section on subsidies, as well as providing explanations to support further internal consultations on the remaining open issues.

State-owned enterprises (SOEs)

The negotiating group made very good progress, cleaning most of the provisions in the chapter. Discussions also allowed to better identify possible ways forward to bridge the gaps, notably with respect to the duration of the transition period and to thresholds for the entities to be covered.

Energy and Raw Materials (ERM)

The negotiating group advanced at a slower pace, due to ongoing internal consultations on several issues, notably on raw materials. Still, the discussions allowed to make progress on some important provisions, and to prepare the ground for bridging some gaps in the coming round

Digital Trade

The negotiating group continued to make very good progress on the text, reaching agreement on provisions related to source code and cross-border data flows. Further discussions will be needed in areas where the two sides have different perspectives, such as on the scope of the chapter and on customs duties on electronic transmissions, on which discussions will continue intersessionally.

Trade and Sustainable Development (TSD)

The negotiating group discussed all remaining open issues and reached agreement in principle on the chapter.

Small- and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs)

The negotiating group discussed all remaining open issues and reached agreement in principle on the chapter.

Dispute Settlement

The negotiating group continued to have constructive discussions, making substantive progress in the provisions on mediation and on rules of procedure, and starting to consolidate text on the provisions concerning procedures related to TSD.

Initial Provisions and General Definitions, Institutional Provisions, Final Provisions and Exceptions

The negotiating group made very good progress in bridging remaining gaps in each chapter, building on in-depth exchanges held intersessionally, with only a limited number of provisions remaining open.
