



Report of the 7th round of negotiations on a Free Trade Agreement between the European Union and Thailand

29 September – 3 October 2025, Brussels

The 7th round of negotiations on an EU-Thailand Free Trade Agreement took place in the week of 29 September 2025 in Brussels. 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 chapter on Capital movements was closed in principle, as well as the section on Financial Services in the Trade and Investment chapter. Good progress was also achieved in the texts on Trade in Goods, Government procurement, State-Owned Enterprises, Competition, and Rules of Origin, as well as for the Annex on automotive to the chapter on Technical Barriers to Trade. Text consolidation advanced also in areas which are newer to Thailand, such as Subsidies and Energy and Raw Materials. The Digital Trade negotiating group will meet intersessionally.

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 government procurement. A first in-depth discussion took place on the initial offers for services and investment exchanged ahead of this round.

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 repaired goods. Constructive discussions took place on other open articles, including with respect to export duties, import and export monopolies, and remanufactured goods, with the aim of developing a joint approach to bridge remaining open issues.

In-depth technical discussions also took place on market access, to explore possible improvements on the basis of the initial tariff offers exchanged in the margins of the 5th round, with both sides confirming the intention of reaching an ambitious outcome, while taking into account sensitivities.

Rules of origin

The negotiating group continued discussions on the Rules of Origin Chapter and reached agreement on the majority of the articles, with only a few remaining articles still open for further discussion. The Parties also continued discussing the product-specific rules and could reach an agreement on nineteen additional HS Chapters, including rubber, leather, wood and paper products, as well as some metal products, and several tariff headings. Future discussions will focus on the remaining product-specific rules.

Trade Remedies

The negotiating group addressed the remaining outstanding issues and reached agreement on the provision concerning the bilateral safeguard measure limited to outermost regions of the Union. The issues that remain open, i.e. the transition period and the agricultural safeguard clause, will be closely linked to developments in the market access offers.

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

The negotiating teams made further progress in cleaning the texts, reaching agreement on additional articles in the MAA Protocol, and on some of the provisions on Specific Measures Concerning the Management of Preferential Treatment, on which internal consultations will continue in order to prepare the ground for further progress.

Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) – Automotive annex

The negotiating group made very good progress on the annex on motor vehicles, reaching agreement on most of the open issues, including the scope of the annex, and discussing possible ways to bridge the remaining gaps.

Sanitary and Phyto-sanitary (SPS) matters

The negotiating group had extensive and in-depth discussion on all pending issues, making some progress, namely reaching agreement on provisions related to prelisting of establishments exporting products of animal origin. More discussions are needed with respect to other important elements, such as regionalisation for diseases, approval procedures, audits and certain deadlines intending to bring agility and predictability to the process.

Services and investment

The negotiating group continued discussions, and reached agreement on the Capital movements chapter and the Financial Services section. This comes on top of six sections/sub-sections that are already closed (cross-border trade in services; entry and temporary stay of natural persons; provisions of general application; domestic regulation; telecommunications and international maritime transport services). Further text consolidation was achieved on investment liberalisation, but differences remain particularly on the prohibition of performance requirements.

As regards market access, the negotiating group discussed the initial offers exchanged at the end of July.

Government Procurement (GP)

The negotiating group made good progress in the consolidation of the text, including with respect to some provisions on conditions for participations, technical specifications and tender documentation, time periods, while further discussions are needed on other articles, such as those covering limited tendering.

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

Intellectual Property (IP)

The negotiating group made good progress in the consolidation of text on copyright, trademarks, trade secrets and enforcement, including border measures. Further internal consultations are needed in order to allow to move forward on the few provisions remaining open in those sub-sections of the IP Chapter. The group also discussed technical explanations on the EU systems regarding supplementary protection certificates, regulatory data protection and plant variety rights.

On Geographical Indications (GIs), both sides provided updates on the progress of their internal processes towards the publication for opposition of their respective lists. The negotiating group also continued textual discussions, including on relations with trademarks, criteria for the opposition procedures, general rules and protection of GIs as domain names. The teams also touched upon respective positions on the level of protection and will continue to engage with a view to bridge the identified gaps.

Competition and subsidies

The negotiating group made good progress, with in-depth discussions on possible solutions for the remaining open issues both in the section on anticompetitive conduct and merger control (in relation to exceptions) and in the section on subsidies, with a specific focus on public services obligation and on the scope of the provisions.

State-owned enterprises (SOEs)

The negotiating group made very good progress, focusing on identifying possible ways forward on the few remaining outstanding issues, 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 made good progress, reaching agreement on articles related to definitions, offshore risk and safety, and cooperation on renewable fuels, as well as on some provisions related to authorisations. Further discussions are needed on remaining important elements, including territorial application, pricing, third party access, and some issues related to the scope of certain provisions on raw materials.

Dispute Settlement

The negotiating group discussed in depth all the remaining open articles of the Dispute Settlement Chapter, focusing in particular on provisions related to Trade and Sustainable Development, to timelines, and to transparency.

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

The negotiating group made further progress in consolidating the Initial Provisions and General Definitions and the Exceptions chapters. On Institutional provisions, the negotiating group reached agreement on several articles, and had in-depth discussions to further advance with respect to provisions on civil society mechanisms. On Final provisions, discussions focused on provisions related to the fulfilment of obligations, aiming at identifying possible way forwards on the remaining open issues.