



Report of the 8th round of negotiations on a Free Trade Agreement between the European Union and Thailand

2 – 6 February 2026, Chiang Mai

The 8th round of negotiations on an EU-Thailand Free Trade Agreement took place in the week of 2 February 2026 in Chiang Mai (Thailand). 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 main text of the Trade in Goods chapter, the chapters on Trade remedies and on Exceptions, and the section on Delivery Services in the Services and Investment chapter were closed in principle, as well as the provisions on the establishment of the Paris Agreement as an essential element in the Final Provisions chapter.

Good progress was also achieved in the texts on Government Procurement, Dispute Settlement, State-Owned Enterprises, Energy and Raw Materials, and the Annex on automotive, as well as in the discussions on Product-Specific Rules of Origin. Discussions remained challenging in the area of Sanitary and Phyto-sanitary matters.

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

The negotiating groups for Digital Trade will meet intersessionally.

The 9th negotiating round is scheduled for the week of 22 June 2026, in Brussels.

Details per negotiating area

Trade in Goods

The negotiating group reached agreement on all open issues in the main text, which is now provisionally closed.

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 focused discussions on the product-specific rules (PSRs) and could reach agreement on seventeen additional HS Chapters, including mineral fuels and oils, most chapters related to chemical and allied products, as well as some base metal products, and on several tariff headings such as certain furniture articles. The group also discussed more

complex PSR areas, including agricultural products, fisheries, clothing, machinery and electronics, and vehicles, on which further work is needed.

Trade Remedies

The negotiating group reached agreement on the remaining open issues, i.e. the transition period and the agricultural safeguard clause, and the chapter is now provisionally closed.

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

The negotiating teams made substantive progress on the Protocol on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Customs Matters (MAA). Remaining open issues are mainly linked to institutional matters, the use of information as evidence, and experts and witnesses.

Further discussions will be needed on the provisions on Specific Measures Concerning the Management of Preferential Treatment.

Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) – Automotive annex

The negotiating group made further progress in solving the remaining open issues in the annex on motor vehicles. Discussions will continue intersessionally to bridge the last outstanding gaps.

Sanitary and Phyto-sanitary (SPS) matters

The negotiating group reviewed all open issues in the chapter, making some progress in provisions related to institutional matters and to import checks and fees. Positions remain divergent on several other points, including key elements such as regionalisation for diseases, approval procedures, audits and certain deadlines intending to bring agility and predictability to the process.

Services and investment

Discussions on the text of the services and investment chapter focused on the few open issues, notably on the general provisions, on the delivery services section, and on investment liberalisation. Further discussions are needed, in particular on performance requirements, to bridge the remaining outstanding matters.

The negotiating group also continued discussions on market access, reviewing areas for improvements compared to the initial offers tabled ahead of the 7th round.

Government Procurement (GP)

The negotiating group made further progress in the consolidation of the text, including with respect to some provisions concerning transparency and review procedures, and will continue to discuss possible ways to bridge the remaining gaps.

Technical discussions continued on the preparation of government procurement offers, with both sides providing information on the possible coverage of entities, goods and services.

Intellectual Property (IP)

The negotiating group continued discussions on the remaining open issues and made good progress in the consolidation of text on copyright and related rights, industrial design, border measures as well as on general and final provisions. The group also discussed possible ways forward on plant variety rights protection and on cooperation, and exchanged further technical explanations on the EU systems regarding supplementary protection certificates and regulatory data protection, and on the Thai marketing authorization procedures for certain products.

On Geographical Indications (GIs), the negotiating group exchanged views on developments following the adoption of Thailand's Ministerial Regulation on the registration of foreign GIs, and discussed in detail the registration process, opposition procedures, and next steps for the

publication of the EU GIs list. The negotiating group also continued textual discussions, including on how to bridge the gap on the level of protection.

Competition and subsidies

The negotiating group held in-depth discussions on possible solutions for the remaining open issues both in the section on anticompetitive conduct and merger control and in the section on subsidies, reaching agreement in principle on the public services obligation and engaging in technical clarifications on other outstanding points.

State-owned enterprises (SOEs)

The negotiating group made further progress in cleaning the text, reaching provisional agreement on some of the remaining exceptions and moving forward in the identification of a possible outcome 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 provisions related to environmental impact assessment, offshore risk, and cooperation, and narrowing down the scope of open issues. Further discussions are needed on the remaining, more complex elements, in particular with respect to energy, including pricing, access to grids, regulator independence, and to some issues related to the scope of certain provisions on raw materials.

Dispute Settlement

The negotiating group made very good progress towards closing the remaining open articles of the Dispute Settlement chapter, in particular with respect to provisions related to Trade and Sustainable Development, as well as to timelines and to transparency.

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

The negotiating group reached agreement on the Exceptions chapter, which is now provisionally closed, and made further progress in consolidating the Initial Provisions and General Definitions chapter, which is largely agreed. On Institutional provisions, the negotiating group reached agreement on several articles, including all provisions related to mechanisms for civil society involvement. Significant progress was made on Final provisions, with agreement reached on provisions related to the fulfilment of obligations, including the establishment of the Paris Agreement as an essential element of the FTA.
