



Report of the 9th round of negotiations on a Free Trade Agreement between the European Union and Thailand

22-26 June 2026, Brussels

The 9th Round of negotiations on an EU-Thailand Free Trade Agreement (FTA) took place in the week of 22 June 2026 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 open chapters, reaching provisional agreement on the chapters on Anticompetitive conduct, merger control and subsidies; State-owned enterprises (SOEs); Institutional Provisions; Dispute Settlement; as well as on the Automotive annex to the TBT chapter, the Protocol on mutual administrative assistance in customs matters, and annexes to the Trade in Goods chapter.

Good progress was also achieved in the texts on Services and Investment, Intellectual Property including GIs, Government Procurement, Initial and Final provisions, 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 and on services and investment, on the basis of the initial offers exchanged in previous rounds. Both sides exchanged views on their respective expectations on future improvements for the preparation of revised offers. On government procurement, negotiating teams continued to engage in discussions on the preparation of their respective offers, with a first exchange planned ahead of the next round.

The 10th negotiating round is scheduled for the week of 28 September 2026, in Thailand.

Details per negotiating area

Trade in Goods

The negotiating group reached agreement on the annexes on export duties and on import and export monopolies, which are now provisionally closed.

On market access, in-depth technical discussions continued to focus on exploring possible improvements to the initial tariff offers that had been exchanged by the 5th round. Both sides confirmed their intention of reaching an ambitious outcome, while taking into account their respective sensitivities.

Rules of origin

The negotiating group made good progress on the chapter, finalising most of the key elements of the text, which is now largely agreed with only a few issues remaining under discussion. Agreement was also reached on several product-specific rules (PSRs), including those related to machinery, toys and sport equipment. The group also discussed PSRs related to areas that remain more complex, such as certain agricultural products, fisheries, textiles, and some metals, on which further work is needed.

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

On the Protocol on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Customs Matters (MAA), the negotiating teams reached agreement on the outstanding issues. The Protocol is now therefore provisionally closed.

Good progress was made in the consolidation of the text on Specific Measures Concerning the Management of Preferential Treatment. Discussions will continue intersessionally to bridge the remaining gaps.

Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) – Automotive annex

The negotiating group agreed on the remaining open issues in the annex on motor vehicles, namely with respect to regulatory measures and recognition of EU type approvals and rest reports. The text is therefore now provisionally closed.

Sanitary and Phyto-sanitary (SPS) matters

The negotiating group reviewed all open issues in the chapter. However, positions remain divergent on key elements, including regionalisation for diseases, approval procedures, audits and the establishment of timelines for the conduct of procedures. Further discussions will need to take place during intersessional meetings.

Services and investment

The negotiating group continued discussing the text and advanced towards closing remaining gaps. Most of the chapter is provisionally agreed (e.g. the sections on capital movements; financial services; cross-border trade in services; entry and temporary stay of natural persons; provisions of general application; domestic regulation; telecoms; delivery services; and international maritime transport services). The main pending issue concerns provisions on performance requirements.

Both sides also engaged in detail discussions on their market access offers, offering clarifications and formulating requests for further liberalisation.

Government Procurement (GP)

The negotiating group made very good progress in the consolidation of the text, reaching agreement on several open issues, such as provisions on award information and review procedures. Discussions will continue intersessionally with a view to bridge the remaining gaps.

Technical discussions also addressed the preparation of government procurement offers, with both sides exchanging views on respective expectations regarding their coverage. It was agreed to exchange initial offers ahead of the next round.

Intellectual Property (IP)

The negotiating group continued constructive discussions on the remaining issues in the IP Chapter. Agreement was reached on the trademark Sub-Section and on general and procedural provisions relating to undisclosed information as well as on civil and administrative enforcement provisions. In addition, significant progress was made on general provisions and copyright and related rights. Work will continue intersessionally.

Regarding Geographical Indications (GIs), the negotiating group discussed the preliminary outcome of the opposition procedure on EU GIs carried out by Thailand. Very good progress was made in the text-based discussions, including with respect to relationship to trademarks and on levels of protection.

Competition and subsidies

The negotiating group managed to agree on the outstanding issues, namely commitments in relation to subsidies for services and dispute settlement. The chapter is therefore now provisionally closed.

State-owned enterprises (SOEs)

The negotiating group reached an agreement on the outstanding issues, namely the revenue threshold and transition periods. The chapter is therefore now provisionally closed.

Energy and Raw Materials (ERM)

The negotiating group held in-depth discussions on all open issues in the chapter, with a view to clarifying mutual positions and bridge the respective gaps on outstanding provisions, such as pricing, access to grids, and regulatory independence.

Initial Provisions and General Definitions, Final Provisions

The negotiating group made very good progress on the Initial provisions, where only one definition remains open, and on the Final provisions, where the only open issues concern the territorial application of the FTA.

Institutional Provisions

The negotiating group reached an agreement on the outstanding issues, namely the structure for the specialised committees to be established under the FTA. The chapter is therefore now provisionally closed.

Dispute Settlement

The negotiating group agreed on the remaining issues, namely the timeframe for amicus curiae and the rules of interpretation. The chapter is therefore now provisionally closed.
