

**DISCLAIMER:** *The Commission and Australia are publishing the texts of the Agreement following the announcement of conclusion of the negotiations on 24 March 2026. The texts are published in view of the public interest in the Agreement, for information purposes only and they may undergo further minor modifications, including as a result of the process of legal and linguistic revision. These texts are without prejudice to the final outcome of the Agreement between the EU and Australia. The texts will be final upon signature. The Agreement will become binding on the Parties under international law only after completion by each Party of its applicable legal requirements and procedures necessary for the entry into force of the Agreement.*

## **ANNEX 22**

### **RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE TRADE COMMITTEE**

#### **RULE 1**

##### **Role of the Trade Committee**

1. The Trade Committee established pursuant to Article 22.1 (Trade Committee) of this Agreement shall undertake its work as provided for in this Agreement.
2. The Trade Committee may undertake its work by electronic means.

#### **RULE 2**

##### **Composition and co-chairs**

1. Pursuant to Article 22.1(1) (Trade Committee), the Trade Committee comprises representatives of the Union and Australia.
2. Pursuant to Article 22.1(4) (Trade Committee), the Trade Committee shall be co-chaired by the Minister for Trade of Australia and the Member of the European Commission responsible for trade, or their respective designees (hereinafter referred to as "co-chairs").

## RULE 3

### Secretariat

1. Officials from the department responsible for trade for each Party shall act together as the Secretariat of the Trade Committee (hereinafter referred to as "Secretariat").
2. Each Party shall notify to the other Party the name, position and contact details of the official who is the member of the Secretariat for that Party (hereinafter referred to as "Secretariat Member").
3. A Party will promptly notify the other Party of any change in the details of its Secretariat Member. Until such notification, the Secretariat Member of a Party is deemed to continue acting in this role.

## RULE 4

### Meetings

1. The Trade Committee shall meet in accordance with Article 22.1(2) (Trade Committee).
2. Pursuant to Article 22.1(3) (Trade Committee), the Trade Committee shall meet in the Union or Australia alternately, unless agreed otherwise by the co-chairs. The Trade Committee may meet in person or by other appropriate means of communication, including videoconference or teleconference, as agreed by the co-chairs.
3. Meetings of the Trade Committee shall be held at the date and time agreed by the co-chairs.
4. The meetings shall be convened by the co-chair of the Party hosting the meeting (hereinafter referred to as "Host Party").

## RULE 5

### Delegations

A reasonable period of time in advance of a meeting, the Secretariat Member of a Party shall inform the Secretariat Member of the other Party of the intended composition of that Party's delegation by providing a list containing the names and functions of each delegation member.

## RULE 6

### Agenda for the Meetings

1. A provisional agenda for each meeting shall be drawn up by the Secretariat on the basis of a proposal made by the Host Party with a deadline for the other Party to provide comments.
2. For meetings of the Trade Committee at ministerial level, the Host Party shall provide a provisional agenda to the other Party at least one month in advance of a meeting. For meetings of the Trade Committee at senior officials level, the Host Party shall provide a provisional agenda to the other Party at least 14 days in advance of a meeting.
3. The agenda shall be adopted by the Trade Committee at the beginning of each meeting. The Trade Committee may, by consensus, place an item on the agenda that does not appear on the provisional agenda.

## RULE 7

### Invitation of experts

1. The co-chairs may, by mutual agreement, invite experts (i.e. non-government officials) to attend the meetings of the Trade Committee in order to provide information on specific subjects.
2. An expert invited pursuant to paragraph 1 may attend only for the parts of the meeting where such specific subjects are discussed.

## RULE 8

### Minutes

1. Draft minutes of each meeting shall be drawn up by the Host Party within 15 days from the end of the meeting, unless otherwise decided by the co-chairs.
2. The minutes shall, as a general rule, summarise each item on the agenda, specifying where applicable:
  - (a) all documents submitted to the Trade Committee, subject to Article 23.4(2) (Disclosure of information);
  - (b) any statement that one of the co-chairs requested to be entered in the minutes; and
  - (c) the decisions taken, recommendations made, statements agreed upon and conclusions adopted by the Trade Committee on specific items.
3. The minutes shall also include:
  - (a) a list of all decisions of the Trade Committee taken by written procedure pursuant to Rule 9.2 since the last meeting of the Trade Committee; and
  - (b) an annex listing the names and functions of all individuals who attended the meeting of the Trade Committee.
4. The Secretariat Member of the Host Party shall transmit the draft minutes to the Secretariat Member of the other Party for comments. The other Party shall provide comments, if any, within seven days of receipt of the draft minutes.
5. The Secretariat shall adjust the draft minutes on the basis of comments received. The revised draft minutes shall be approved by the Parties within 30 days after the date of the meeting, or by

any other date agreed by the co-chairs. Once approved, the Secretariat shall establish two originals of the minutes and provide one original to each Party.

6. Where this Annex applies to the meetings of specialised committees, the minutes of the specialised committee's meeting shall be made available for any subsequent meetings of the Trade Committee.

## RULE 9

### Decisions and recommendations

1. As provided for in point (f) of Article 22.2(2) (Functions of the Trade Committee) and Article 22.4(3) (Decision and recommendations), the Trade Committee shall, by consensus, adopt its decisions in respect of all matters where this Agreement so provides, and make its recommendations in respect of all matters covered by this Agreement.

2. In the period between meetings, the Trade Committee may adopt decisions or make recommendations by written procedure.

3. The text of a draft decision or recommendation shall be proposed in writing by a co-chair to the other co-chair in the working language of the Trade Committee. The other Party shall have one month, or any longer period of time specified by the proposing Party, to express its agreement to the draft decision or recommendation or to make known any concerns or amendments it may wish to make. If the other Party does not express its agreement, the proposed decision or recommendation shall be discussed and may be adopted at the next meeting of the Trade Committee. Draft decisions or recommendations shall be deemed to be adopted once the other Party expresses its agreement and shall be recorded in the minutes of the next meeting of the Trade Committee pursuant to point (a) of Rule 8.2.

4. Decisions or recommendations of the Trade Committee shall be entitled "Decision" or "Recommendation" respectively. The Secretariat shall give any decision or recommendation a progressive serial number, the date of its adoption and a description of its subject matter. Pursuant to Article 25.1(3) (Amendments), each decision shall specify the date of its entry into force.

5. Decisions and recommendations of the Trade Committee shall be established in duplicate, authenticated by the co-chairs and transmitted one to each Party.

## RULE 10

### Transparency

1. The Parties may agree to make a meeting of the Trade Committee open to the public.
2. Each Party may decide on the publication of the decisions and recommendations of the Trade Committee in its respective official publication or online.
3. All documents submitted by a Party to the Trade Committee shall be treated as confidential in accordance with Article 23.4(2) (Disclosure of information).
4. Provisional agendas of the meetings of the Trade Committee as agreed by the representatives of the Parties shall be made public before such meetings take place. The minutes of the meetings shall be made public following their approval in accordance with Rule 8.5.
5. Each Party shall publish the documents referred to in paragraphs 2 and 4 consistently with its data protection or privacy laws and regulations, as applicable.

## RULE 11

### Languages

1. The working language of the Trade Committee shall be English.
2. The Trade Committee shall adopt decisions concerning the amendment or interpretation of the provisions of this Agreement as referred to in points (d) and (e) of Article 22.2(2) (Functions of the Trade Committee) in the languages of the authentic texts of this Agreement as specified in Article 25.10 (Authentic texts). All other decisions of the Trade Committee shall be adopted in the working language referred to in paragraph 1.

3. Each Party shall be responsible for the translation of decisions into its own official language or languages, if required pursuant to this Rule, and it shall meet expenses associated with such translations.

## RULE 12

### Expenses

1. Each Party shall bear any expenses it incurs as a result of participating in the meetings of the Trade Committee, in particular with regard to staff, travel and subsistence expenditure and with regard to video or teleconferences, postal and telecommunications expenditure.

2. The Host Party shall bear any expenses in connection with:

- (a) the organisation of, and reproduction of documents for, meetings of the Trade Committee; and
- (b) the provision of interpretation services to and from the working language of the Trade Committee, if required for the participants at meetings of the Trade Committee shall be borne by the Host Party.

## RULE 13

### Specialised committees

1. Pursuant to point (b) of Article 22.2(1) (Functions of the Trade Committee), the Trade Committee shall supervise, guide and coordinate the work of all specialised committees and other bodies established under or pursuant to this Agreement.

2. Each specialised committee shall inform in writing the Trade Committee of the Secretariat Member or the contact point of each Party for that committee. All relevant correspondence, documents and communications between such persons regarding the implementation of this Agreement shall be forwarded to the Secretariat of the Trade Committee simultaneously.

3. Pursuant to Article 22.5(5) (Specialised Committees), the specialised committees shall inform the Trade Committee of the schedule and agenda of their meetings sufficiently in advance and shall report to the Trade Committee on the results and conclusions from each of their meetings.

4. Unless a specialised committee decides its own rules of procedure pursuant to Article 22.5(5) (Specialised Committees), this Annex shall apply, *mutatis mutandis*, to the specialised committees.