

***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 24-B**

CODE OF CONDUCT  
FOR PANELLISTS AND MEDIATORS

I. Governing principles

1. In order to preserve the integrity and impartiality of the dispute settlement mechanism, each candidate and panellist shall:

- (a) get acquainted with this Annex;
- (b) be independent and impartial;
- (c) avoid direct or indirect conflicts of interests;
- (d) avoid impropriety and the appearance of impropriety or bias;
- (f) observe high standards of conduct; and
- (e) not be influenced by self-interest, outside pressure, political considerations, public clamour, and loyalty to a Party or fear of criticism.

2. A panellist shall not, directly or indirectly, incur any obligation or accept any benefit that would in any way interfere, or appear to interfere, with the proper performance of their duties.

3. A panellist shall not use their position on the panel to advance any personal or private interests. A panellist shall avoid actions that may create the impression that others are in a special position to influence him or her.
4. A panellist shall not allow past or existing financial, business, professional, personal, or social relationships or responsibilities to influence their conduct or judgement.
5. A panellist shall avoid entering into any relationship or acquiring any financial interest that is likely to affect their impartiality or that might reasonably create an appearance of impropriety or bias.

## II. Disclosure obligations

6. Prior to the acceptance of their appointment as a panellist under Article 24.6 (Establishment of a panel), a candidate requested to serve as a panellist shall disclose any interest, relationship or matter that is likely to affect the panellist's independence or impartiality or that might reasonably create an appearance of impropriety or bias in the proceedings. To this end, a candidate shall make all reasonable efforts to become aware of any such interests, relationships and matters, including financial interests, professional interests, or employment or family interests.
7. The disclosure obligation under paragraph 6 is a continuing duty which requires a panellist to disclose any such interests, relationships or matters that may arise during any stage of the proceedings.
8. A candidate or a panellist shall communicate to the Trade Committee for consideration by the Parties any matters concerning actual or potential violations of this Annex, including by other candidates or panellists, at the earliest time he or she becomes aware of them.

## III. Duties of panellists

9. On acceptance of their appointment, a panellist shall be available to perform and shall perform their duties thoroughly and expeditiously throughout the proceedings, and with fairness and diligence.

10. A panellist shall consider only the issues raised in the proceedings and necessary for a decision and shall not delegate this duty to any other person.

11. A panellist shall take all appropriate steps to ensure that their assistants and administrative staff are aware of, and comply with, the obligations incurred by panellists under Parts I, II, III and V of this Annex.

#### IV. Obligations of former panellists

12. Each former panellist shall avoid actions that may create the appearance that he or she was biased in carrying out the duties or derived advantage from the decision of the panel.

13. Each former panellist shall comply with the obligations in Part V of this Annex.

#### V. Confidentiality

14. A panellist shall not, at any time, disclose any non-public information concerning the proceedings or acquired during the proceedings for which he or she has been appointed. A panellist shall not, in any case, disclose or use such information to gain personal advantage or advantage for others or to adversely affect the interest of others.

15. A panellist shall not disclose a decision of the panel or parts thereof prior to its publication in accordance with Chapter 24 (Dispute settlement).

16. A panellist shall not, at any time, disclose the deliberations of a panel, or any panellist's view, nor make any statements on the proceedings for which he or she has been appointed or on the issues in dispute in the proceedings.

#### VI. Mediators

17. This Annex shall apply to mediators, *mutatis mutandis*.