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Questionnaires on Free Trade Agreement with the Philippines

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EU and the Philippines launch negotiations for a free trade agreement

EU Trade Commissioner Cecilia Malmström and Philippine Secretary of Trade and Industry Gregory Domingo agreed to start negotiations for an EU-Philippines free trade agreement (FTA).

Both sides share the ambition to conclude an agreement that covers a broad range of issues, including elimination of customs duties and other barriers to trade, services and investment, access to public procurement markets, as well as additional disciplines in the area of competition and protection of intellectual property rights. The prospective agreement will also include a comprehensive chapter that will ensure that closer economic relations between the EU and the Philippines go hand in hand with environmental protection and social development.

DG Trade has prepared two questionnaires to give stakeholders and interested parties the opportunity to provide information on trade matters in the agreement between the EU and the Philippines (FTA): one general for Industry and one specific on fisheries issues. Your reply to these questionnaires will be important in establishing priorities and taking decisions throughout the negotiating process and we thank you in advance for your contribution.

The general questionnaire is divided into the following sections:

1. Trade in Goods
2. Trade in Services and Investment
3. Regulatory Issues (Intellectual Property Rights, Competition, Government Procurement)
4. Other issues

In addition, where possible, we would appreciate receiving as specific information as possible (substantiated where possible by economic indicators and/or data) of respondents' interests, prioritization within sectors, and any proposals for solution, where problems have been identified.

The Commission, subject to the application of the EU's rules on access to documents (Regulation No 1049/2001), will treat the information that you provide as confidential. EU rules on access to documents allow the Commission to withhold access to a document where disclosure would undermine the commercial interests of a natural or legal person or harm the EU's relations with third countries, unless there is an overriding public interest in disclosure.

The Commission would welcome your input and comments on these questionnaires by **30th April 2016**. For any question you can write at the following e-mail address: trade-industry@ec.europa.eu

Direct links to the questionnaires:

- <https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/PhilippinesFTA>
- <https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/FIshandfisheryproducts>



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