

## 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Trade Committee of the EU-Chile Interim Trade Agreement

Brussels, 7 November 2025,

### AGREED MINUTES

The meeting was co-chaired by Mr. Paolo Garzotti, Head of Unit, Latin America and Caribbean, DG Trade and Economic Security, European Commission and Mr. Ricardo Mayer, Director-General for Bilateral Economic Relations (SUBREI), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Chile.

#### **1. Adoption of the Agenda**

The agenda was adopted without changes.

#### **2. Opening remarks**

The **EU** welcomed the Chilean delegates and stressed that Chile is a key partner for the EU, with a high degree of trust and like-mindedness. Chile is also a key partner to secure stable, reliable and sustainable supplies of important raw materials, like copper and lithium, and energy sources, like green hydrogen. The new Agreement is a very modern and progressive deal, not only good for trade and investment and our respective economic resilience: it is also a clear message about our joint commitment to shared values, sustainability and our resolve to speed up the green and digital transitions. It complements the very intense bilateral agenda, including the many ongoing investment projects under the Global Gateway initiative.

**Chile** thanked the EU and also stressed the importance and the value of the EU-Chile bilateral relations and the very progressive nature of the new Agreement, the greenest ever signed by Chile.

Both co-Chairs thanked the respective teams for the intense and productive meetings of the technical Sub-committees held over the preceding weeks.

### 3. Evaluation of trade relations

The **EU** stated that Chile and the EU are great partners of choice. With the 2002 Association Agreement the Parties took a quantum leap in the bilateral relationship: trade grew by 160% over the last 20 years. Current bilateral trade in goods and services amounts to about €30bn. The EU is Chile 3rd largest trading partner and the n.1 source of Foreign Direct Investment into Chile. Chile is the EU's top source of imports in 25 products, mainly in mining and agrifood. All this speaks of a healthy, solid, vibrant trade and investment relationship.

The new Interim Trade Agreement has the potential to boost this relationship even further, with the greatest potential in services trade and in bilateral investment (in particular when the investment protection provisions of the Advanced Framework Agreement enter into force). Moreover, companies from both sides can benefit from new public procurement opportunities, given the lowering off the thresholds and the modernised text. Streamlined custom procedures reduce the administrative burden and enhance good governance, cutting red tape. New disciplines covering areas like digital trade represent an opportunity to enhance trade, while the protection of 216 names of EU Geographical Indications (GIs) in Chile as well as 18 GIs for from Chile in the EU also is an important new addition.

**Chile** also highlighted the importance of the EU-Chile bilateral trade and investment relations, with the EU accounting for 11% of Chile's overall trade. Bilateral trade has grown by 2,6 times since 2003. Exports have grown by 1,9 times and imports expanded to an annual average of 6,3%. The new Agreement brings about new opportunities, by translating shared values into shared commitments.

### 4. Exchange of information and views on on-going and future bilateral, plurilateral and multilateral negotiations and processes

The **EU** noted that the rules-based international system has been under growing pressure of late: China's market-distortive trade policies have been compounded by the US's unilateral tariffs.

Amid these increasing geopolitical uncertainties, the EU approach include: a diversification strategy and an active global trade engagement agenda; strengthening cooperation with like-minded partners, reflected in the fast pace of current trade negotiations, with a variety of instruments (FTAs, Digital Trade Agreements, Clean Trade and Investment Partnerships, Investment Facilitation Agreements); and implementing the necessary instruments and measures to ensure the EU's economic security in case of disruptions, which is also important for deterrence.



The EU will continue to be a strong advocate for rules-based trade, to ensure stable and predictable conditions for our international trade relations globally. Current challenges underline the need for partners like EU and Chile to uphold and strengthen the rules-based multilateral trading order, with a reformed WTO at its core.

The EU sought Chile's support for its dialogue and engagement with the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP).

**Chile** informed of the recent developments in its trade agenda, with negotiations with EFTA and Trinidad and Tobago recently concluded, while negotiations are ongoing with South Korea, India, the Philippines. Chile also attaches great importance to preserving and strengthening the multilateral trading system, with the WTO as its centrepiece.

Chile welcomes and support the EU's interest to engage with the CPTPP and hopes that this dialogue will translate into a shared agenda. Regarding the Pacific Alliance, Chile highlighted its importance as a regional bloc and valued the great interest that the EU has always shown in it as a strategic partner.

## 5. Implementation of the Interim Trade Agreement.

### a) Reporting on Sub-Committees meetings:

#### 1. *Sub-Committee on Customs, Trade Facilitation and Rules of Origin*

The meeting took place by videoconference on 20 October 2025. The Parties agreed that the Interim Trade Agreement is being implemented smoothly and effectively in this area, including as regards the implementation of the new rules of origin and the verification of proofs of origin, with a few issues raised in the weeks immediately after entry into force of the ITA rapidly resolved thanks to the good cooperation by the Parties. The implementation of the Protocol on Mutual Administrative Assistance (MAA) in Customs Matters was also considered to be smooth.

The Parties also exchanged information on recent developments in their respective regimes. The EU informed on the proposal for a reform of the Union Customs Code; on the proposal for WCO HS modernization; and on the implementation of its Import Control System 2 (ICS2). Chile provided an overview of recent reforms enacted through Law N° 21.723, which

modernises customs and tax procedures. The EU presented the customs-related aspects of the European Ports Alliance, a flagship initiative of the EU roadmap to fight drug trafficking and organised crime, with Chile interested to follow up.

## 2. *Sub-Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures*

The meeting took place on 30 October 2025, in Brussels. During a very comprehensive and constructive meeting, the Parties discussed and agreed on a number of items meant to facilitate and speed up bilateral trade in the agri-food sector.

It was agreed that the market opening requests made by the EU to Chile would be prioritised on a first-come, first-served basis and Chile proposed that the requests from EU Member States be routed through the European Commission, rather than bilaterally. The parties reviewed and took stock of the pending applications for the market opening of products of animal origin and of plant origin (in particular apples) from the EU Member States to Chile.

Chile requested the evaluation of its application to transit bee packages through the EU. The EU took note of this request, and committed to evaluate it and to explore how to proceed on this matter.

Chile requested technical assistance to review its traceability system. The EU took note of the request and will be awaiting a detailed request in writing.

The Parties agreed to establish an Action Plan with the actions identified during the Subcommittee.

## 3. *Sub-Committee on Sustainable Food Systems*

The meeting took place on 31 October 2025, in Brussels. The Parties exchanged information on recent developments and best practices in a number of areas, including: the sustainability of food chain and reduction in food loss and waste; the reduction in the use of fertilizers and chemical pesticides; the reduction of food loss and waste; the fight against fraud along the food chain; and fighting antimicrobial resistance.

Chile requested the creation of a Technical Working Group on Animal Welfare, as envisaged in the Sustainable Food Systems Chapter of the Interim Trade Agreement. The Trade Committee agreed to the establishment of this Working Group, pursuant to Article 33.4(2) of the Interim Trade Agreement.

#### 4. *Sub-Committee on Intellectual Property*

The meeting took place on 6 November 2025, in Brussels. The Parties exchanged views on the implementation of the Intellectual Property (IP) chapter of the Interim Trade Agreement, with the EU having completed the requisite steps and Chile indicating that a number of legislative measures remain to be completed, notably as regards Resale rights; Protection of technological measures; Enforcement; and Protection of plant variety rights. Chile informed that work is well under way in all these areas.

The EU inquired about the state of play of a number of issues, some of which are also related to the implementation of the IP Chapter, notably: Possible plans to ratify The Hague Agreement (under consideration); Patent examination backlog, in particular on pharmaceutical products; and Well-known trademarks.

The Parties also exchanged views on the challenges related to enforcement of IPR, in particular online and at the border and the EU transmitted information from EU stakeholders related to challenges faced at the border.

As regards Geographical Indications, Chile acknowledged that work remains pending to set up an effective system of administrative enforcement of the obligations under the Interim Trade Agreement. Chile confirmed that it intends to ensure full compliance with its obligations. The EU presented a number of examples of alleged breaches as spotted on the Chilean market, and Chile pledged to look closely into them.

Finally, the Parties discussed possible cooperation activities, with capacity building for customs official dealing with IP enforcement identified as a possible area of interest.

#### 5. *Sub-Committee on Trade and Sustainable Development*

The meeting took place on the 4 November 2025, in Brussels. Both sides agreed that the promotion of sustainability goals is a key tenet of the Interim Trade Agreement and reiterated the importance of the exchanges with the civil society organisations and exchanged on their experiences in that respect.

The Parties confirmed the joint commitment to continue the exchanges under the 2022 Joint Statement on Trade and Sustainable Development (review), following the first technical meeting held in October.

On substantive matters, the Parties exchanged on the latest developments in each domestic framework. For each topic it was also agreed to look at possible cooperation activities and to reinforce those that are already in place.

In the field of labour, the Parties updated each other on topics including child labour, non-discrimination, labour inspection and informalities. On forced labour discussions focused on the possibility to develop a cooperation and agreed on a follow-up technical discussion. The Parties also had a fruitful exchange on gender equality as well as on responsible business practices. In particular, Chile gave a presentation on how they are advancing in implementing the trade and gender equality chapter, listing initiatives such as the National Gender Equality Policy, the Women's Economic Autonomy Strategy, and the National System for Care and Support, and programmes to improve women's digital skills and access to online business and e-commerce platforms. These exchanges showed lots of similarities between respective practices. The EU gave details on the on-going process to simplify the criteria for companies to comply with the EU directive on due diligence.

On climate change, the Parties updated each other on the respective domestic discussion on the new NDCs in view of the COP30 in Brazil. The EU introduced its EU Climate Dialogue Programme where cooperation with Chile has already started. The EU also presented the on-going simplification process on CBAM. Chile presented the recent changes in the climate law to keep the goal of carbon neutrality by 2050. Chile proposed to cooperate on methane emission and on adapting measures for an early warning system on climate change.

On environment, both sides updated on recent development in circular economy and plastic pollution, and biodiversity. Both sides expressed their willingness to reinforce their already important cooperation in international fora such as for CITES on endangered species. The EU welcomed the proposal from Chile to further cooperate on circular economy and waste management. The EU presented on-going bilateral or regional cooperation projects to reinforcing climate governance or to sustain development and growth such as Euroclima+, AL Invest Verde or cooperation on hydrogen.

Finally, on fisheries, both sides updated each other on recent developments and agreed to continue enhancing cooperation regarding international instruments and conventions.

## 6. *Sub-Committee on Trade in Goods*

The meeting took place by videoconference on 16 October 2025 (on Chapter 2 of the ITA) and in Brussels on 6 November 2025 (on Chapter 8 of the ITA).

As regards Chapter 2 of the ITA, the parties agreed to exchange the notification of existing export licencing procedures as stipulated in Article 2.14 (3) no later than 20 November. The Parties further agreed to meet and prepare an exchange of statistics in March 2026 on preference utilisation according to Article 2.16.

As regards Chapter 8 of the ITA, both sides held an informative discussion on their respective Energy and Raw Material policies.

#### *7. Sub-Committee on Public Procurement*

The meeting took place by videoconference on 22 October 2025. On a number of points raised by the EU (rules on consortia; evaluation of experience abroad/sister companies; recognition of professional qualifications; certificates of achieved projects and of good conduct; translation of official documents) Chile informed that work was ongoing towards possible/progress solutions. On others (e.g. use of criteria other than price in tenders), Chile expressed readiness to continue the dialogue with the EU.

The Parties discussed the possibility of holding a webinar on the EU procurement platform and cooperation on identifying and disseminating special opportunities in specific sectors.

#### *8. Sub-Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade*

The meeting took place on 17 October 2025 by videoconference. The EU explored Chile's interest to enhance cooperation on conformity assessment in line with the Parties' commitments under the Interim Trade Agreement. The EU invited Chile to consider accepting EU suppliers' declarations of conformity or conformity assessment results issued by EU conformity assessment body (CABs).

For products such as cosmetics and electronics, the EU asked Chile to simplify its conformity assessment procedures and select those procedures that are proportionate to the risk posed by the products concerned.

Chile requested information on the classification of lithium products as class 1A reproductive toxicants under Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council

of 16 December 2008 on classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures (CLP Regulation). Chile sought a reply to their previous enquiries about this measure, which the EU pledged to submit shortly.

#### 9. *Sub-Committee on Services and Investment and Sub-Committee on Financial Services.*

The joint meeting of the Subcommittee on Services and Investment and the Subcommittee on Financial Services was held on 3 November 2025 by videoconference. It focused on information sharing, as there were no specific problems identified by either Party with respect to the implementation of the Interim Trade Agreement in the areas covered by the two Sub-committees.

The Parties exchanged views on some ongoing multilateral investment initiatives taking place within the framework of the WTO (incorporation of the Investment Facilitation for Development Agreement into the WTO *acquis*), the OECD (attempts to modernise the stock of investment protection treaties), and the UNCITRAL (efforts to reform the investment dispute resolution system). This exchange confirmed that both the EU and Chile are important proponents supporting the three initiatives and share the ultimate objectives for their swift and effective accomplishment.

At the EU's request, Chile provided information on the recently adopted Permit Law (Law No. 21.770, the Framework Law on Sectoral Authorizations, enacted on 29/09/2025). The law is part of the Chile's State modernization agenda. The EU welcomed this important policy development and referred to other pending initiatives in Chile (environmental permits law).

At Chile's request, the EU presented the main features of the current EU framework for FDI screening, as well as explained the main elements of the Commission proposal to strengthen the system, such as mandatory nature of national screening mechanisms by Member States, more harmonised national screening rules, minimum sectorial coverage applicable to mandatory screening, coverage of intra-EU investment ultimately owned by foreign entities. Given the ongoing internal reflections regarding the possible establishment of an investment screening system, Chile expressed interest in closer cooperation/capacity building with the EU on FDI screening, in particular regarding sectorial scope, procedural features and institutional arrangements for FDI screening. The EU expressed readiness to follow up on Chile's request

once the legislative process for the EU modernised screening framework is sufficiently advanced.

**b) State of play and next steps of the TSD Review**

The EU stressed the importance of the ongoing review process, also in the context of the process of ratification of the Advanced Framework Agreement by EU national and regional Parliaments. It recalled that the EU circulated textual proposals in May 2025, that a first technical virtual meeting took place in October and that, in principle, the Review should be finalised within 12 months of entry into force of the Interim Trade Agreement. While the EU is fully aware of Chile's electoral calendar, it requested to hold a second technical virtual meeting immediately after the presidential elections.

Chile agreed on the importance of the ongoing process and agreed to holding a technical meeting after the elections, but suggested that an extension of the 12-month deadline may prove necessary.

**6. Any other business**

**a) Global trade/tariffs tensions**

The Parties updated each other on their respective ongoing negotiations and processes with the US.

**b) New Classification of lithium products by the EU**

Chile expressed concerns on the classification of lithium products as class 1A reproductive toxicants under Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2008 on classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures (CLP Regulation). Chile also sought a reply to their previous written enquiries about this measure.

The EU reiterated the commitment to ensure a robust, scientific and transparent classification of lithium salts and stated that this classification will not endanger the joint endeavour to secure a reliable value chain related to lithium that is economically, socially, and environmentally sustainable for the European Union, as well as for Chile, as key supplying partner for lithium. The process is still ongoing and in due time will be notified to the WTO, so Chile will have plenty of chances to comment. The EU pending reply to Chile's Note Verbale on this topic would be issued shortly.

- c) EU Deforestation Regulation and
- d) EU Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM)

Regarding the EU Deforestation Regulation and the EU Carbon Boder Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), Chile stated that both regulations are sensitive and that the private and public sectors have expressed their concerns about them. Chile stated that both regulations are being closely monitored.

## 7. Conclusions

The Parties confirmed the tentative date of 27 November for the 1<sup>st</sup> EU-Chile Trade Council under the Interim Trade Agreement and agreed on a tentative agenda.

The EU informed that it has launched the internal process for the selection of the roster of Panellists pursuant to Article 31.8 of the Interim Trade Agreement. Chile informed that it will do likewise shortly.

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