



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 1.2.2023
C(2023) 864 final*

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Camera Deputaților for its Opinion on the Communication “The power of trade partnerships: together for green and just economic growth” {COM(2022) 409 final}.

The Commission welcomes the Camera Deputaților endorsement of the Communication and takes due note its recommendations.

The Commission agrees with the Camera Deputaților on the important role of the EU Delegations in monitoring the implementation of TSD commitments, given their direct contact with partner countries’ governments as well as local stakeholders, including Domestic Advisory Groups (DAGs). In this context, the Commission further stresses the need for a close cooperation between the Commission and the EU Member States, in the capitals and on the ground through the EU delegations and EU Member States’ embassies in the partner countries.

Equally, the Commission shares the view of the Camera Deputaților on the importance of consulting local stakeholders and recalls that it made strengthening of this dimension one of the Communication priorities under the title of “Reinforcing the role of civil society”. In this context, the Commission also regularly and frequently consults interested parties through a well-established horizontal structure of Civil Society Dialogues where trade and sustainable development issues are routinely raised and discussed.

Furthermore, the Commission has also made increased efforts to reach civil society, including in relation to international trade, more effectively in Member States, including by increasing the number of dedicated events and high-level discussions. In addition, the EU trade agreements provide specifically for civil society involvement during the implementation of TSD commitments, including through the DAGs. Members of national Parliaments are already able to exercise opportunities of contributing to monitoring and implementing TSD commitments through their respective national governments that are closely and regularly involved in the TSD work.

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The Commission recalls, in line with the TSD review Communication, that in addition to providing for ambitious trade and sustainable development chapters, the sustainability dimension will continue to be reflected and strengthened in other aspects of the EU's trade and investment agreements. For instance, the EU supports the transition to sustainable food systems by proposing to our free trade agreements partners to include a new Sustainable Food Systems chapter, through which the EU seeks cooperation with third countries on several key topics, including sustainable methods of food production, healthy diets and animal welfare, the subject matters highlighted by the Camera Deputaților.

The Commission concurs with the Camera Deputaților on the importance of supporting small and medium enterprises, including in international trade. In the EU trade agreements, the parties cooperate in identifying ways for SMEs to benefit from the opportunities offered by those agreements, including in the green and innovative technologies. Also, the sustainability impact assessments accompanying the EU trade negotiations pay special attention to expected impacts on competitiveness and impacts on SMEs.

The Commission looks forward to continuing the political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Valdis Dombrovskis
Executive Vice-President*

*Maroš Šefčovič
Vice-President*