



Statement on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States

**75th Session of the FAO Committee on Commodity Problems
(13-15 July 2022)**

**Item 3.2: Update on the World Trade Organization (WTO) agricultural negotiations
and developments in regional trade agreements related to agriculture**

Madam/Mr Chair,

1. I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States.
2. The candidate countries Albania, Republic of Moldova, Türkiye and Ukraine and the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina align themselves with this statement.
3. We thank the FAO Secretariat for the update on the World Trade Organization agricultural negotiations and developments in regional trade agreements related to agriculture.
4. We would like to ask for FAO document CCP 22/5 to be updated or, at least, for the CCP 75th session report to include an updated state of play on the agricultural negotiations at the World Trade Organization, following the outcomes of the 12th Ministerial Conference that took place between 12 and 16 June 2022 in Geneva.

5. The EU welcomes the successful results achieved in key areas at the 12th WTO Ministerial Conference. We commend the WTO for having shown its ability to respond to today's challenges – including the pandemic, food insecurity and sustainability – and its readiness to equip itself for the future so that it can take forward the WTO reform process. These positive results were achieved against a backdrop of heightened global trade tensions and a food security crisis compounded by Russia's unprovoked and illegal war of aggression against Ukraine.
6. Trade Ministers of the 164-member organisation met for the first time after almost five years, after the Conference was postponed twice due to COVID-19 restrictions.
7. Let me highlight the historic package that WTO Members agreed on:
 - a significant multilateral agreement to end harmful fisheries subsidies^[1];
 - specific next steps towards WTO reform, including restoring a fully functioning dispute settlement function for the organisation^[2];
 - a declaration on pandemic response and future preparedness, together with a waiver of certain intellectual property obligations in relation to COVID-19 vaccines^[3].
 - as a joint response to the current dramatic food situation resulting from Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, WTO members agreed to exempt World Food Programme humanitarian purchases from export restrictions^[4].
 - an extension of the moratorium on customs duties on e-commerce until the next WTO Ministerial Conference^[5].
 - a sanitary and phytosanitary declaration entitled 'Responding to modern SPS challenges'.
8. The issue of food insecurity was also at the heart of a separate Ministerial Declaration on the Emergency Response to food insecurity^[6], setting out the WTO's response to countries facing food crises. It underlines the importance of open food trade and functioning markets. It also calls on Members to avoid export restrictions and commits the WTO membership to supporting agricultural production in the developing world.
9. Finally, we recognise the greater role of regional and trade agreements in reducing trade costs and barriers and addressing environmental sustainability.

10. The EU will continue to be committed and constructive in further work with other WTO Members aimed at reaching balanced outcomes in the run up to the next 13th WTO Ministerial Conference.

Thank you, Madam/Mr Chair.

[\[1\]](#) WT/MIN(22)/33.; [\[2\]](#) WT/MIN(22)/24.; [\[3\]](#) WT/MIN(22)/31 and WT/MIN(22)/30.; [\[4\]](#) WT/MIN(22)/29.; [\[5\]](#) WT/MIN(22)/32.; [\[6\]](#) WT/MIN(22)/28.