



EC Consultation: review of Trade and Sustainable Development in EU FTAs

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Details of the Commission's Consultation Process

Objectives of the consultation:

- review Trade and Sustainable Development (TSD) Policy and review the **EU 15-Point Action Plan**
- action envisaged from the recent **Trade Policy Review**

Deadline is the end of October

Link to consultation:

- https://trade.ec.europa.eu/consultations/index.cfm?consul_id=301

Multilateral

In the WTO, EU is actively engaged and supportive of **specific proposals** on trade and environment.

Work is also aimed to **engrain Sustainable Development** as a key element in all WTO trade discussions (multilateral / plurilateral)

E.g. of proposals discussed: environmental goods and services; trade and labour rights, gender & health; fishery subsidies; circular economy, plastics

Bilaterally

FTAs aim to **promote trade** in green goods and promote green economy / jobs

Include TSD Chapters which cover **environment protection, labour rights and corporate social responsibility**

Provision in FTA **not to lower standards** for competitive gain & avoid a race to the bottom

Protection of **biodiversity**

Objective of making **Paris Climate Change Agreement an essential element** of agreements.

Dispute settlement provides **action plan** for country breaching FTAs TSD provisions

Autonomous measures

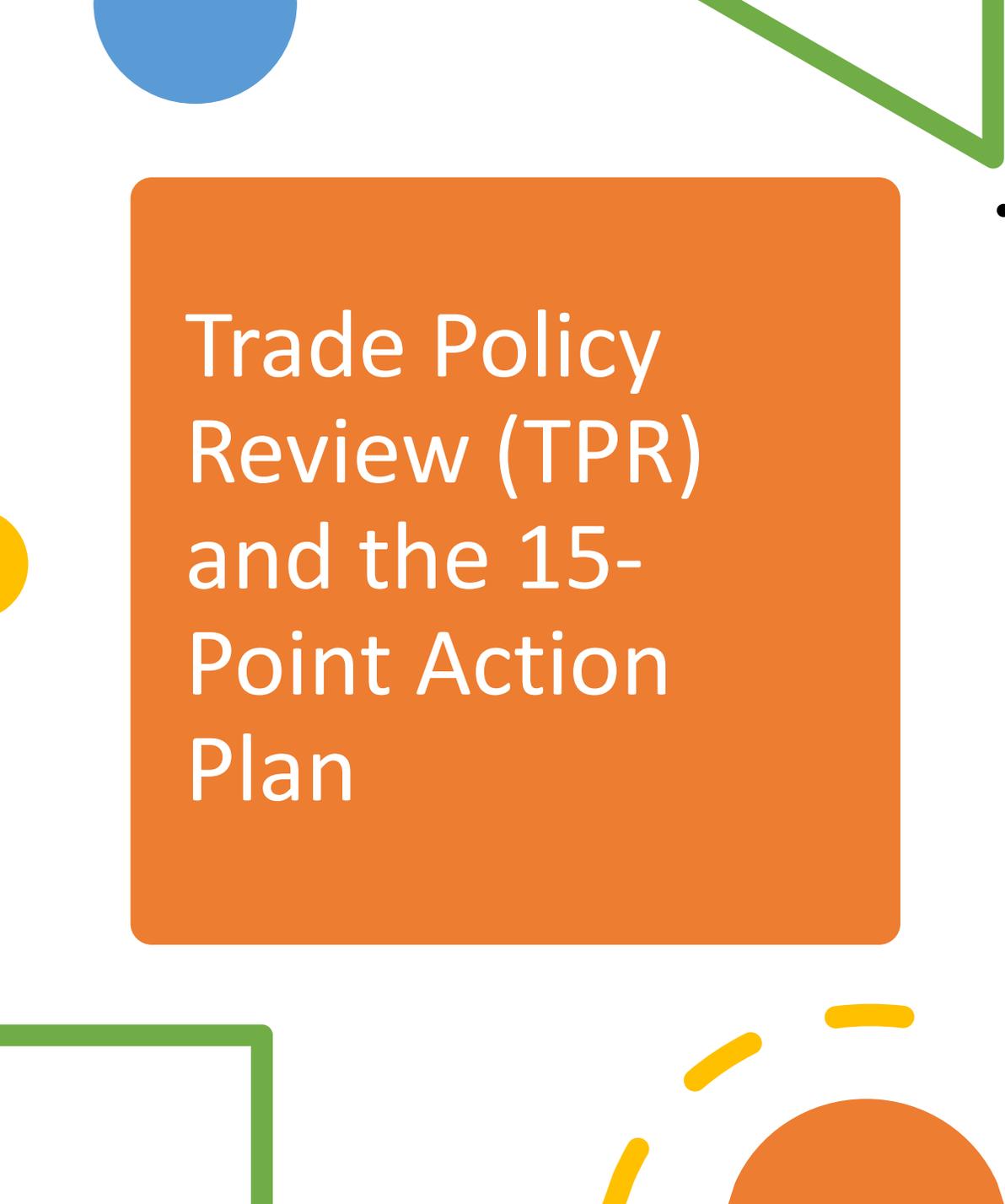
EU is also actively engaged through autonomous measures:

Conflict Minerals Regulation, Anti-Torture Regulation

European Green Deal, Fit for 55, CBAM

Sustainable corporate governance

Introduction of mandatory and horizontal environment, human and labour rights due diligence requirements in supply chains of EU companies



Trade Policy Review (TPR) and the 15-Point Action Plan

- **Commission's objectives:**
 - Reinforce sustainability dimension of existing and future FTAs in **implementation** of all chapters
 - Strengthen **enforcement** of TSD commitments following complaints made to **Chief Trade Enforcement Officer (CTEO)**
 - Early **review in 2021 of the 15-Point Action Plan** and the outcome of the review will **feed into ongoing and future negotiations**



EU 15-Point Action Plan

Partnering with Member States and the European Parliament

Working with international organisations

Facilitate the monitoring role of civil society including the

Extend scope for civil society, including Social Partners, to

Take action regarding responsible business conduct

Country priorities

Assertive enforcement

Encourage early ratification of core international agreements

Reviewing the TSD implementation effectiveness

Handbook for implementation

Step up resources

Climate action

Trade and labour

More transparency and better communication

Time-bound response to TSD submissions

Some key
questions
that the
survey
addresses

How should MS, CION and EP work together on TSD?

What is the role and contribution of Domestic Advisory Groups (DAGs)?

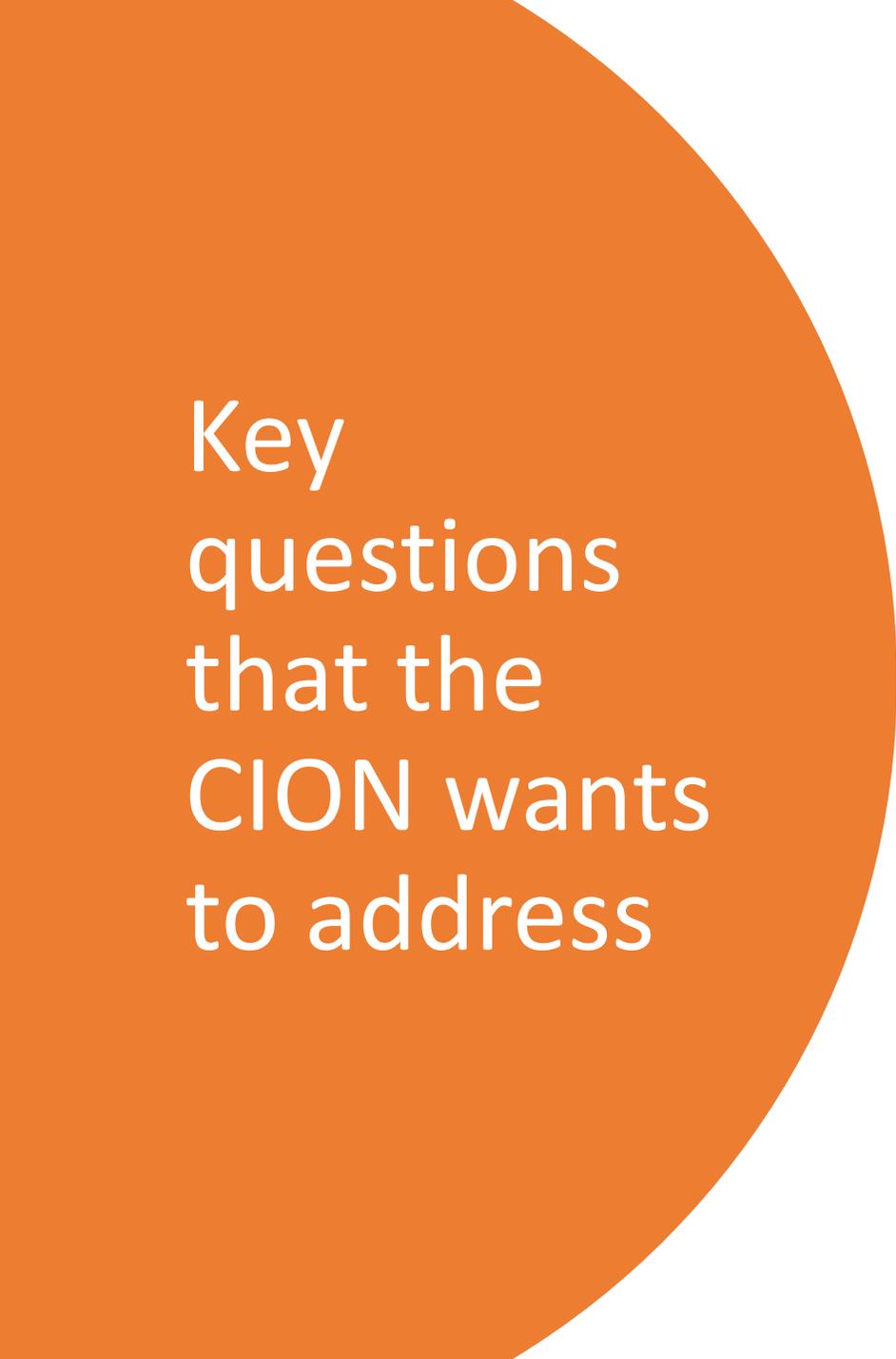
How can DAGs contribute to monitor and implement TSD chapters?

What are the main achievements / shortcomings of EU approach?

How can we improve the synergy between TSD chapters and development cooperation?

Is current dispute settlement mechanism in FTAs suitable / effective?

How is the contribution of Chief Trade Enforcement Officer to implementation / enforcement of EU's TSD chapters viewed?

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Key questions that the CION wants to address

Is level of transparency sufficient for civil society to follow? Are there gaps and how would you address these?

For enforcement, do TSD chapters need something else? What remedies or targeted approach are needed?

What is the Impact of additional remedies for enforcement of TSD, including on cooperation and engagement on the ground?

Are there remedies by other countries that could be adopted?

Are there other commitments (related to green agenda of decent work) that TSD chapters should shoulder?

How can EU implement TSD chapters to contribute to greener, socially just and more resilient post-Covid 19 global economic recovery?

What areas on TSD implementation should EU prioritize?

Are there other topics that should be covered by TSD chapters?

Links

- Link to Consultation Webpage:

https://trade.ec.europa.eu/consultations/index.cfm?consul_id=301

- EU 15 Point Action Plan on trade and sustainable development:

https://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2018/february/tradoc_156618.pdf