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Organisation de Coopération et de Développement Économiques  
Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

**17-Jun-2015**

**English - Or. English**

**COUNCIL**

**Council**

**DRAFT RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL REVISING THE MANDATE OF THE TRADE  
COMMITTEE**

**(Note by the Secretary-General)**

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## Background

1. The Trade Committee (hereafter “the Committee”) was created by Ministerial Resolution on 23 July 1960, coinciding with the inception of the OECD [OECD(60)9(Final)]. Its mandate was first revised in 2006 for a two-year duration [[C\(2006\)6](#) and [C/M\(2006\)2/PROV](#), Item 16] and then renewed in 2008 for a five-year duration (until 31 December 2013) [[C\(2008\)177](#) and [C/M\(2008\)20/PROV](#), Item 287].

2. The Council decided on 19 September 2013 to extend the mandate of the Trade Committee, on a temporary basis, until 31 July 2015 to enable the In-depth Evaluation (IDE) process of the Committee to be completed and its results communicated to the Trade Committee to inform its reflections [[C\(2013\)85](#) and [C/M\(2013\)16](#), Item 150]. The Council noted the IDE report at its meeting on 19 January 2015 [[C\(2015\)4](#) and [C/M\(2015\)1](#), Item 3].

3. During its 21-22 April 2015 meeting, the Trade Committee discussed and approved its revised mandate [[TAD/TC\(2015\)3/REV1](#)]. The outcomes of the Committee’s discussion on its mandate are set out in document [TAD/TC/M\(2015\)1](#).

## Mandate Revision

4. The main revisions to the mandate as outlined in the Annex include:

- Presentation adjustments and restructuring to reflect the current standard for similar Resolutions (moving the Committee’s objective from the preamble to a new dedicated section on objectives; creation of a section on co-operation arrangements);
- Highlighting the increased role of the Committee’s contributions to increasing understanding of evolving trade policy issues;
- Taking into account the relevance of trade in services as a key driver of growth;
- Taking into account the increased relevance of bilateral and plurilateral trade initiatives in addition to the multilateral trading system;
- Adding an objective concerning communication and dissemination of the results of the Committee’s work to relevant stakeholders;
- Specifying the areas of close collaboration of the Committee with other relevant bodies of the OECD on cross-cutting issues related to trade, including on investment, competition, environment, development and agriculture;
- Referencing the Committee’s Global Relations Strategy and the outreach priorities agreed OECD-wide in the context of engaging Partners in the analytical work and policy dialogue of the Committee.

5. The Committee agreed to submit to the Council a proposal to revise the Committee’s mandate and extend it until 31 December 2019. A draft text of the revised mandate is set out in the Annex to this document.

## Evaluation of the Substructure

6. In accordance with Rule 21 c) of the Rules of Procedure, during its April 2015 meeting the Committee also evaluated the continuing relevance of its substructure. The Committee's sub-structure consists of the Working Party of the Trade Committee (WPTC), the Joint Working Party on Agriculture and Trade (JWPAT), the Joint Working Party on Trade and Environment (JWPTE) and the Working Party on Export Credits and Credit Guarantees (ECG).

7. The Committee approved the continuing relevance of its substructure and agreed that the mandates of its subsidiary bodies would accordingly also be renewed until 31 December 2019.

8. Concerning the Joint Working Party on Agriculture and Trade (JWPAT), the Committee decided to discuss any change to the status or mandate of the JWPAT at a later date in the light of the upcoming results of the IDE of the Committee for Agriculture (COAG) and COAG's subsequent discussion of its own mandate and substructure. As the IDE of the COAG is currently underway and is not expected to be completed until early 2016, the intention is to consult the Trade Committee again on this issue at a later date.

9. Concerning the mandates of the other subsidiary bodies of the Trade Committee, and following consultations with those subsidiary bodies or with their Bureaux, the Committee agreed to renew, without any changes, the mandates of the WPTC [as set out in Annex 2 of document [TAD/TC\(2015\)3/REV1](#)] and of the JWPTE [as set out in Annex 3 of document [TAD/TC\(2015\)3/REV1](#)]. The Trade Committee had already agreed changes to the mandate of the ECG in 2013 and these changes will become effective at the same time as the revised Trade Committee mandate and for the same term [[TAD/TC\(2013\)13](#) and [TAD/TC/M\(2013\)2/ANN](#)].

## Proposal for mandate revision

10. It is proposed that the revised mandate of the Trade Committee, as set out in the draft Resolution in the Annex remains in force until 31 December 2019. The draft Resolution would supersede all previous provisions concerning the mandate of the Committee. The Committee would return to the Council to propose a revision of its mandate should there be any major developments that would warrant such a change.

## Proposed Action

11. In the light of the preceding, the Secretary-General invites the Council to adopt the following draft conclusions:

### THE COUNCIL

- a) noted document [C\(2015\)86](#);
- b) adopted the draft Resolution of the Council revising the mandate of the Trade Committee as set out in the Annex to document [C\(2015\)86](#), which will enter into force on 1 August 2015.

ANNEX

**DRAFT RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL REVISING  
THE MANDATE OF THE TRADE COMMITTEE**

THE COUNCIL,

Having regard to Articles 1 and 2 of the Convention on the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development of 14 December 1960;

Having regard to the Rules of Procedure of the Organisation;

Having regard to the Resolution of the Council on Partnerships in OECD Bodies [[C\(2012\)100/FINAL](#)];

Having regard to the Ministerial Resolution of 23 July 1960 [OECD(60)9(Final)] and to paragraph 16 of the Report of the Preparatory Committee concerning the creation of a Trade Committee, whose mandate was last revised in 2008 [[C\(2008\)177](#) and [C/M\(2008\)20](#), Item 287] and renewed in 2013 [[C\(2013\)85](#) and [C/M\(2013\)16](#), Item 150];

Having regard to the results of the In-depth Evaluation of the Trade Committee [[C\(2015\)4](#) and [C/M\(2015\)1](#)];

Having regard to the proposal to revise the mandate of the Trade Committee [[C\(2015\)86](#)];

Considering that international trade is essential for growth and sustainable economic development;

DECIDES:

A. The Trade Committee (hereafter the “Committee”) is renewed with the following revised mandate:

**I. Objectives**

1. The overarching objective of the Committee is to help countries benefit fully from trading opportunities and adjust to changing trade patterns by providing a forum for international co-operation, dialogue and policy analysis, as encompassed in Article 1 of the OECD Convention.

2. The mid-level objectives of the Committee are to:

- a) Encourage frank and open dialogue among OECD Members and undertake and disseminate rigorous, objective analysis of trade policy, in order to:
  - i) increase understanding of evolving trade policy issues, including on controversial subjects;

- ii) build support for liberalised trade in goods and services as a key driver of growth within a strengthened multilateral, rules-based trading system and improve understanding of how bilateral, plurilateral and regional agreements can help advance that goal;
  - iii) contribute objective information and analysis in support of multilateral trade negotiations to advance the on-going and future agenda of the World Trade Organization (WTO);
  - iv) facilitate the promotion of coherence between trade policy and other related domestic and international policies.
- b) Support the work on establishing common guiding principles and exchange of information in respect of Members' official export credit systems.
  - c) Improve understanding of open trade and markets as an important driver of growth by communicating and disseminating, as appropriate, the results of the Committee's work to the relevant stakeholders.

## **II. Co-operation arrangements**

- 3. The Committee shall:
  - a) Collaborate closely with other relevant bodies of the OECD on cross-cutting issues related to trade, including on investment, competition, environment, development and agriculture.
  - b) Engage Partners in the analytical work and policy dialogue of the Committee as appropriate in accordance with the Committee's Global Relations Strategy and the outreach priorities agreed OECD-wide.
  - c) Consult and share information, as appropriate, with the Business and Industry Advisory Committee (BIAC) and the Trade Union Advisory Committee (TUAC), as well as the civil society and academia.
  - d) Co-operate with other international organisations, such as the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and others as determined by the needs of the Committee's work and its Global Relations Strategy.
- B. The mandate of the Trade Committee shall remain in force until 31 December 2019.