



Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

**C(2019)166**

**For Official Use**

**English - Or. English**

**21 November 2019**

**COUNCIL**

**Council**

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

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

**JT03455100**

1. This document sets out, in its Annex, a proposal to renew the mandate of the Trade Committee, as approved by the Committee on 21 October 2019 [[TAD/TC\(2019\)8](#)], as well as the results of the Committee's review of the continuing relevance of its substructure and of the relevance and impact of the legal instruments under its responsibility.
2. The Trade Committee was created by Ministerial Resolution on 23 July 1960, coinciding with the inception of the OECD [[OECD\(60\)9\(Final\)](#)]. Its current mandate [[C\(2015\)86](#)] expires on 31 December 2019.

### Proposed Mandate Revision

3. While no substantive changes are proposed to the current mandate, a number of minor amendments are proposed to update document references.
4. It is proposed that the Council renew the Trade Committee mandate with the proposed minor amendments, as set out in the draft Resolution in the Annex therein, for a period of five years, i.e. until 31 December 2024. 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 to its mandate should there be any major developments that warrant such a change.

### Review of the Continued Relevance of the Substructure

5. In accordance with Rule 21 c) of the OECD Rules of Procedure, the Trade Committee considered the relevance of its existing substructure. The Trade Committee currently has four subsidiary bodies:
  - the Working Party of the Trade Committee (WPTC);
  - the Working Party on Export Credits and Credit Guarantees (ECG);
  - the Joint Working Party on Agriculture and Trade (JWPAT) - joint body with the Committee for Agriculture; and
  - the Joint Working Party on Trade and Environment (JWPTE) – joint body with the Environment Policy Committee.
6. The Trade Committee found this substructure to remain relevant and agreed to renew the mandates of all four subsidiary bodies, with minor amendments to the mandates of the ECG and JPTWE, until 31 December 2024, subject to approval from the Council of the renewal of its own mandate.

### Review of the Relevance and Impact of Legal Instruments

7. As part of the OECD-wide Standard-Setting Review [[C/MIN\(2018\)11](#)], committees are invited to assess the relevance and impact of the instruments under their responsibility and identify possible follow-up actions to be undertaken as part of the process for renewing their mandate.
8. The Trade Committee approved its Standard-Setting Action Plan on 10 March 2017 [[TAD/TC\(2017\)2/FINAL](#)]. At that time, it was proposed to abrogate three of the four

instruments and this was done on 12 July 2017 [[C\(2017\)80](#)]. With respect to the fourth, the Declaration on Trade Policy, it was concluded that its objective is still pertinent and that no action is required. With this in mind, the Committee envisages no new actions at this stage.

### Proposed Action

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

#### THE COUNCIL

- a) noted document [C\(2019\)166](#);
- b) adopted the draft Resolution of the Council renewing the mandate of the Trade Committee, as set out in the Annex to document [C\(2019\)166](#), which will enter into force on 1 January 2020.

**ANNEX**  
**DRAFT RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL RENEWING 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 Revised Resolution of the Council on Partnerships in OECD Bodies [[C\(2012\)100/REV1/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 2015 [[C\(2015\)86](#)];

Having regard to the proposal to renew the mandate of the Trade Committee [[C\(2019\)166](#)];

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 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 2024.

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