



EUROPEAN UNION

DELEGATION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION TO NEW ZEALAND

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European Union and New Zealand meet for annual trade talks

The EU and New Zealand discuss broad set of issues, underline commitment to the Doha Development Agenda (DDA)

The EU and New Zealand yesterday (7 November) inaugurated their bilateral trade talks in Brussels. The first EU-New Zealand Trade talks, which from now on will take place once a year, included a comprehensive discussion on the Doha Development Agenda (DDA), on bilateral trade policies and on the importance of strengthening EU-New Zealand bilateral trade relations.

The EU and New Zealand delegations were led respectively by the Deputy Director General of the European Commission's General Directorate for Trade, Peter Balas, and Derek Leask, Deputy Secretary of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, in the presence of the New Zealand's Ambassador to the European Union Peter Kennedy. The two sides reiterated the importance attached to the WTO negotiations and agreed on the need to intensify efforts in order to conclude an ambitious DDA deal as soon as possible.

A constructive exchange of views took place on respective FTAs negotiations by the EU and New Zealand, which in some cases involve the same trade partners (i.e. ASEAN and Gulf Cooperation Council countries).

An extensive discussion on trade and investment explored the main multilateral and bilateral tools available for promoting investment liberalisation globally, a natural goal for New Zealand and the EU, which are among the world's most open economies when it comes to investment.

Finally, both parties agreed to work closely to strengthen their bilateral trade relations. They stressed the role that the newly established Trade Talks can play in building a regular and constructive dialogue.

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