



2026 All DAGs Meeting & Networking lunch

2 July 10-14:00 EESC JDE51

(99 Rue Belliard, 1040 Brussels)

PROGRAMME

INTERPRETATION EN/FR/ES

REGISTRATION STARTS @ 9:00

09:00–10:00: Welcome coffee and croissants, testing of connections (for those joining remotely)
An excellent opportunity to get to know other DAG members before the meeting begins, so take this chance and come early!

10:00–10:10: Opening

Welcoming words by **Stefano Palmieri**, president of the Section for External Relations (REX), EESC

Scene setting by **Tanja Buzek**, vice-president of the EESC REX Section, EESC DAG coordinator and chair of the EU DAG for Canada

10:10–11:10: Opening panel: Advising in times of crisis – the role of the DAGs

Against the backdrop of profound changes in the global trading system, we want to examine the role of the DAGs in the context of emerging challenges. Together with our panelist, we want to take a civil society look at the current state of global trade – faced with the weakening of the multilateral trading system, the rise of unilateral trade measures and tariff disputes, increasing economic coercion and strategic competition. We will also explore how to address the growing gap between the EU's expanding network of trade agreements and the resources available for their effective implementation and modernisation.

- **Bernd Lange MEP**, chair of the European Parliament's Committee on International Trade (INTA)
- **Sofia Muñoz Albarrán**, Director Interinstitutional Relations and Policy Coordination - DG Trade and Economic Security, European Commission

Followed by a discussion

11:15–12:00: Parallel breakout sessions: Finding solutions to make the DAGs more effective in their daily work, improve their outreach and ensure their impact

*Each parallel break-out session will be facilitated by an EU DAG chair or vice-chair and joined by institutional representatives for an open and interactive exchange with all the DAG members. **Only breakout session 1 will be hybrid & provide interpretation.***

Breakout session 1: Making use of the Single Entry Point (SEP) for complaints – updates, lessons learnt and how to best use the tool <i>The Single Entry Point is a cornerstone of a more targeted approach to the TSD chapters. Complaints have been filed signaling problems in Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Vietnam regarding TSD compliance. The session will set out the state of play of the current complaints and discuss challenges and opportunities moving forward.</i>	Breakout session 2: Closing the gap: Civil society impact in different agreement settings – the exemplifying case of critical raw materials <i>At a time when the EU increasingly uses agile 'mini-deals' to pursue strategic objectives, such as securing critical raw materials, questions arise about how civil society can remain effectively involved. These arrangements often lack the structured consultation mechanisms of traditional trade agreements. Using critical raw materials as an example, this session will explore gaps in transparency and engagement and discuss how civil society participation and accountability can be strengthened.</i>
Facilitator: Ben Vanpeperstraete, chair of the EU DAG for the Andean countries	Facilitator: Aurora Rossi, vice-chair of the EU DAG for Korea
With the participation of Peter Berz, head of unit, Single Entry Point for implementation, outreach and transparency, SMEs, DG TRADE, and Benoit Lory, policy officer, Bilateral relations in trade, TSD and GSP, DG TRADE	With the participation of Geraldine Emberger, advisor on simplification and implementation, DG TRADE and Annette Grunberg, deputy head of unit, Single Entry Point for implementation, outreach and transparency, SMEs, DG TRADE
Breakout session 3: Re-thinking the organisation of the DAGs and how to communicate: managing the growing number while elevating the impact <i>As the network of DAGs continues to grow across EU trade agreements, questions are emerging about how to maintain their effectiveness, coherence and visibility. The discussion will focus on practical challenges linked to the expanding number of DAGs, including resource constraints, information-sharing and consistency of practices across agreements. The discussion will also consider how DAGs can take ownership of better communicating their work and strengthen their influence in an increasingly complex trade governance landscape.</i>	Breakout session 4: Partnering with the European Parliament – topics and pathways for closer cooperation for better impact <i>This session will explore how cooperation between DAGs and the European Parliament can be made more regular, practical and impactful, both on working methods and on topics of common interest. The discussion will consider how DAG expertise can support parliamentary scrutiny of trade agreement implementation, including through exchanges with INTA Monitoring Group, parliamentary delegations and relevant MEPs, while also identifying cross-cutting issues where closer EP-DAG cooperation could bring added value.</i>
Facilitator: Tanja Buzek, chair of the EU DAG for Canada	Facilitator: Stuart Newman, chair of the EU DAG for Japan
With the participation of Jörg Wojahn, head of unit, Bilateral relations in trade, TSD and GSP, DG TRADE and Didier Bloch, policy officer, Communications and briefings, DG TRADE	With the participation of EP Monitoring Group member Catarina Vieira MEP, Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance

12:00–13:00: Concluding panel

During the concluding panel the facilitators will bring together and share three key action points from each breakout session. The panel will also provide an opportunity for the participants to reflect on the work of the DAGs since the start of the new term, highlighting progress, lessons learned, best practices, and challenges encountered.

- **Sofia Muñoz Albarrán**, Director Interinstitutional Relations and Policy Coordination – DG Trade and Economic Security, European Commission
- **Saskia Bricmont MEP**, Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance

Concluding remarks by **Tanja Buzek**, DAG Coordinator for the EESC

13:00–14:00: Networking lunch

Networking lunch in the Atrium on the 6th floor of the JDE.
