



JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ

6th EU-CA Association Committee Meeting Brussels, 26 November 2020

The sixth Association Committee of the Trade Pillar under the European Union and Central America Association Agreement met on 26 November 2020 being the European Union the host of the meeting. Discussions were however held, for the first time, by videoconference due to sanitary restrictions related to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Among the achievements of this meeting, the Parties were pleased to announce the signature of the Protocol of Croatia's Accession to the Association Agreement between the European Union and Central America. With this signature, all Parties will initiate their necessary internal procedures for entry into force of the Protocol.

Additionally, the Association Committee endorsed the text of the decisions on rules of origin proposed to the Association Council. The parties agreed to continue working on proceedings towards the adoption and signing of these decisions in the first three months of 2021. With these decisions, trade operators would have support information and certainty when undergoing customs procedures related to their exports.

The Association Committee welcomed the resilience of EU-CA bilateral trade during the time of Covid-19 and discussed trade and investment opportunities to support the economic reactivation and regional economic integration in a post Covid-19 context.

At the same time, the Association Committee made a broad review of issues related to the implementation of the Agreement. The Committee was preceded by meetings of the subcommittees and technical groups in the different areas covered by the Agreement, such as Market Access, Sanitary and Phytosanitary issues, Customs and Trade Facilitation, Technical Barriers to Trade, Intellectual Property Rights, Trade and Sustainable Development as well as the Civil Society Dialogue Forum. The substantial progress made across different topics of particular interest to the parties with regard to bilateral trade and investment was highlighted and will be followed with priority.

The next meeting of the Association Committee is in principle slated to take place in June 2021, in Costa Rica.