

## EUROPEAN HIGHLIGHT | 23.01.2019

### EUROPEAN UNION RELEASES DRAFT NEGOTIATING MANDATES FOR TRADE TALKS WITH UNITED STATES

On 18 January 2019, the European Commission adopted proposals for negotiating directives for its trade talks with the US: one on conformity assessment, and one on the elimination of tariffs for industrial goods. These negotiations follow the [Joint Statement](#) agreed by President Juncker and President Trump last July.

As part of its commitment to transparency, the European Commission is publishing the draft mandates at the same time as submitting them to the EU Member States. The Member States must now give their green light to the proposals before negotiations can begin.

The negotiating directives submitted by the Commission to the Council cover two potential agreements with the US:

- A trade agreement strictly focused on the **removal of tariffs on industrial goods**, excluding agricultural products;
- A second agreement, concerns the **conformity assessment**. This agreement would help address the objective of removing non-tariff barriers by making it easier for companies to prove their products meet technical requirements on both sides of the Atlantic.

In particular the second agreement on conformity assessment might be relevant for ADDE and its members, since dental devices are subject to conformity assessments both in the EU and US. With this agreement the EU envisages to reduce the cost of conformity assessments and intends to facilitate the acceptance of the results of conformity assessments carried out by the conformity assessment bodies located in the territory of the exporting party in the territory of the importing party in accordance with the technical requirements of the latter.

The Juncker Commission changed the way trade negotiations are conducted by making them more open and inclusive and by introducing an unprecedented level of transparency. The publication of the draft negotiating mandates, as submitted to Member States, and of any other negotiating proposals are landmark elements of this approach.

The draft mandates and annexes are available via the following links:

- [Conformity assessment](#) and [Annex](#)
- [Industrial tariff elimination](#) and [Annex](#)

We hope this information is useful. You should not hesitate to contact us should you have any questions or require further information.

Kind regards,

Sarah – Evi

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