

Committee on International Trade
The Chair

EXPO-COM-INTA D(2025) 13962

D 303715 15.05.2025

Mr Maroš Šefčovič
Commissioner for Trade and Economic Security
European Commission

Subject: Review of the EU-Ukraine Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area

Dear Commissioner,

As you are aware, the European Union's current autonomous trade measures (ATMs) for Ukraine are set to expire on 5 June. These measures have been a vital component of the EU's response to Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine. By suspending import duties and quotas, the ATMs have enabled Ukraine to maintain a functioning economy and stable trade flows.

In a statement made on the occasion of the adoption of the current ATM Regulation, which was agreed already in April 2024, the Commission committed that "as soon as the new ATMs are adopted by the co-legislators, it would "take the necessary steps under Article 29 of the Association Agreement to pursue, through consultations with Ukraine, the process of reciprocal tariff liberalisation".

Regrettably, we understand that a year after the adoption of the ATMs and despite their imminent expiry, the consultations with Ukraine on the review of the EU-Ukraine Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA) have yet to commence. Instead, a representative of DG TRADE explained to us during the INTA meeting of 14 May that the Commission is preparing for a return to the DCFTA rules with Ukraine as of 6 June, which would result in significant losses of export and tax revenues for Ukraine at a critical juncture for the country's economic and political survival. We find this development deeply concerning, as it calls into question the EU's solidarity with Ukraine. This sentiment was widely shared among INTA Members, who expressed disappointment with the lack of progress on the review of the DCFTA.

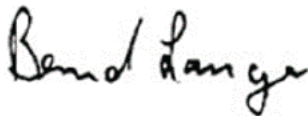
We urge the Commission to initiate the consultations with Ukraine on the review of the DCFTA without further delay, with the aim of agreeing on a permanent reciprocal trade liberalisation based on the current ATMs. This would provide certainty to economic operators and allow Ukraine to continue exporting to the EU, while taking into consideration the relevant

sensitivities. The Commission should ensure that the new arrangements are in place as soon as possible to guarantee uninterrupted trade flows. If necessary, the Commission should consider the introduction of bridging solutions going beyond the mere re-introduction of the DCFTA quotas in order to facilitate a smooth transition from the ATMs to the revised DCFTA.

We firmly believe that a comprehensive and reciprocal further liberalisation of trade between the EU and Ukraine would yield significant mutual benefits. By deepening trade ties with Ukraine, the EU can facilitate the country's progressive integration into the internal market, fostering closer economic cooperation and strengthening its prospects for future membership.

Finally, we would like to remind you of the Commission's commitment to "closely involve the European Parliament and (...) keep it informed of the progress of those consultations with Ukraine." We will continue to follow the situation very closely, and we count on you and your services to keep us abreast of all relevant developments in a timely manner.

Yours sincerely,



Bernd Lange
INTA Chair



Karin Karlsbro
INTA Standing Rapporteur for Ukraine

Cc: Pekka Toveri, Chair of the Delegation to the EU-Ukraine Parliamentary Association Committee