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GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

UK, India Resume FTA Negotiations

- On February 24, the United Kingdom (UK) and India issued [a joint statement](#) on the resumption of free trade agreement negotiations. The negotiations were paused in 2024 while the UK went through an election cycle.
- Notably, fresh cherries were not mentioned in the press release. However, BCI will continue to monitor the progress of the talks.

EU Publishes New ‘Vision for Agriculture and Food’

- On February 19, the European Union (EU) [published](#) its new [Vision for Agriculture and Food](#) (The Vision), setting the EU’s proposed policy roadmap for the next five years.
- The Vision focuses on the simplification of agricultural policy, while also emphasizing the economic durability and viability of the EU’s agricultural sector in the face of mounting headwinds both domestically and abroad.
- Of potential interest, the EU will seek a “...stronger alignment of production standards applied to imported products, notably on pesticides and animal welfare.” To advance this aim, the EU “...will establish a principle that the most hazardous pesticides banned in the EU for health and environmental reasons are not allowed back to the EU through imported products.” Later in 2025, the Commission will launch an impact assessment to better understand how the EU might approach this issue.
- The EU’s Vision does not enact or draft any immediate regulations. However, BCI will continue to monitor developments stemming from the EU’s new strategy.

USTR Opens Consultation on Unfair and Non-Reciprocal Foreign Trade Practices

- On February 20, the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) [announced](#) a [public consultation](#) seeking comments on unfair and non-reciprocal foreign trade practices.
- The consultation relates to the Trump Administration’s recently announced [reciprocal trade practices plan](#).
- Comments can be submitted through the [USTR comment portal](#) by March 11, 2025.

**A REPORT FOR
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