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- **EU Submits India Free Trade Agreement to Council for Signature**

GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

EU Submits India Free Trade Agreement to Council for Signature

- On September 10, the European Commission [announced](#) it had submitted the EU-India Free Trade Agreement (FTA) to the Council of the European Union for signature and conclusion. Negotiations concluded at the 16th EU-India Summit in January (*BCI Monitor* 1-27-26).
- The agreement is not yet in force; it requires Council authorization, European Parliament consent, and parallel ratification by India, with entry into force (EIF) expected in the first half of 2027.
- Once in force, the agreement would eliminate or reduce tariffs on most goods traded between the two markets, with duties on many products eliminated immediately upon EIF and others phased out over transition periods of up to eight years (or, in India's schedule, up to eleven years). Certain sensitive products are excluded from liberalization or subject to tariff-rate quotas.
- Of interest to CCB, the treatment of cherries differs by direction of trade:
 - For EU exports to India, fresh sweet cherries (HS 0809.29) are excluded from any tariff commitment and would remain subject to India's applicable rate, currently 30 percent.
 - For Indian exports to the EU, the ad valorem duty on cherries, currently 12 percent for most of the year, would be eliminated upon EIF. The EU would retain its Entry Price System, a seasonal price-floor mechanism (in effect from late May through mid-August) under which a specific duty applies only when the import price falls below a set threshold, rising in steps from zero up to a maximum of EUR 27.4 per 100 kg net as the price drops further below that threshold.

**A REPORT FOR
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