



Negotiations for a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area between the European Union and Tunisia

## The EU Proposal Concerning Trade in Agricultural, Processed Agricultural and Fisheries Products

### FACTSHEET

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The present document aims at providing a general overview of the European Union's (EU) proposal for a chapter on trade in agricultural, processed-agricultural and fisheries products in the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA) envisaged between the EU and Tunisia. The text of the EU proposal was presented to Tunisian experts in October 2015 and is now available on the website [\[link\]](#) of the European Commission.

#### Rationale

The EU and Tunisia are bound by an Association Agreement signed 20 years ago. That agreement established a free trade area which focusses on reducing or eliminating customs duties for industrial products. It also provides for some limited liberalisation of trade in agricultural, processed agricultural and fisheries products on a reciprocal but asymmetric basis. The Association Agreement envisages that the EU and Tunisia undertake further negotiations to extend trade liberalisation in respect of agricultural, processed agricultural and fisheries products. Given that these negotiations have not yet taken place, the EU and Tunisia have decided instead to include them within the broader DCFTA exercise. The European Union will also

support Tunisia in upgrading priority sectors identified by Tunisia, within the boundaries of available resources.

#### Main goals and negotiation parameters

The DCFTA aims at reaching a higher level of ambition in trade liberalisation, while taking into account sensitivities on both sides.

The negotiation parameters include:

- A list of sensitive products and specific treatment for those products, e.g. tariff quotas;
- Implementation schedules including transitional periods for Tunisia and the rate of increase of the tariff quota;
- The adjustment of the entry price regime;

Non-tariff barriers (sanitary and phytosanitary measures as well as technical barriers to trade) are to be covered in other relevant chapters of the DCFTA.