



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



Council conclusions on the environmental goods initiative

*FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Trade) Council meeting
Brussels, 8 May 2014*

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

- "1. Recalling paragraph 31 (iii) of the Doha Ministerial Declaration, committing the WTO Members to negotiate "the reduction or, as appropriate, elimination of tariff and non-tariff barriers to environmental goods and services", the Council welcomes the announcement made by fourteen WTO Members, on 24 January 2014 in Davos, to achieve global free trade in environmental goods. This initiative launched by the main players in environmental trade aims to make progress on the DDA agenda on trade and environment. The Council looks forward to the rapid start of the negotiations as the first step in a process towards a multilateral outcome.
2. The Council supports the liberalisation of trade in environmental goods and services, given the important contribution this can make to the international environmental protection agenda and to action on climate change, as well as growth and jobs. The EU will work together on the green goods initiative with WTO Members similarly committed to liberalisation.
3. The Council supports negotiations towards an agreement covering a critical mass of trade in environmental goods, anchored to the WTO rules, applied on a Most Favoured Nation basis and conducive to its future multilateralisation. Building on the September 2012 APEC commitment to reduce tariffs on 54 environmental goods, the Council supports the objective of eliminating tariffs on a broad range of additional products that directly and positively contribute to green growth, environmental protection, and sustainable development. The Council emphasises the need to explore the ground for liberalisation of environmental services, including trade-related services, and to address Non-Tariff Barriers to environmental goods and services.
4. As regards its relationship with the Doha Development Agenda, the Council intends for this initiative to make a positive contribution to the post-Bali agenda and to complement the non-agricultural market access negotiations."

P R E S S
