



# Trade and Aid for Trade DG INTPA Perspective

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# Trade and Aid for Trade DG INTPA Perspective

- *Ensuring policy coherence between the EU Trade Policy and other policies affecting trade and Development;*
- *Coordination and monitoring of the EU Aid for Trade*

## What is Aid for Trade

Aid for Trade (AfT) is an initiative led by the World Trade Organisation (launched at the WTO Ministerial Conference in 2005) and supported by the EU amongst other organisations.



## The 2017 EU Joint Aid for Trade Strategy

Commission Communication COM (2017) 667 of  
13 November 2017: **‘Achieving Prosperity  
through Trade and Investment. Updating the  
2007 Joint EU Strategy on Aid for Trade’**

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Council Conclusions 15573/17 of 11 December  
2017:

**‘Achieving Inclusive and Sustainable Prosperity  
through Trade and Investment. Updating the  
2007 Joint EU Strategy on Aid for Trade’**

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**Joint EU and Member States  
Updated 2017 Aid for Trade Strategy**



# The 2017 EU Joint Aid for Trade Strategy

## The renewed approach principles:

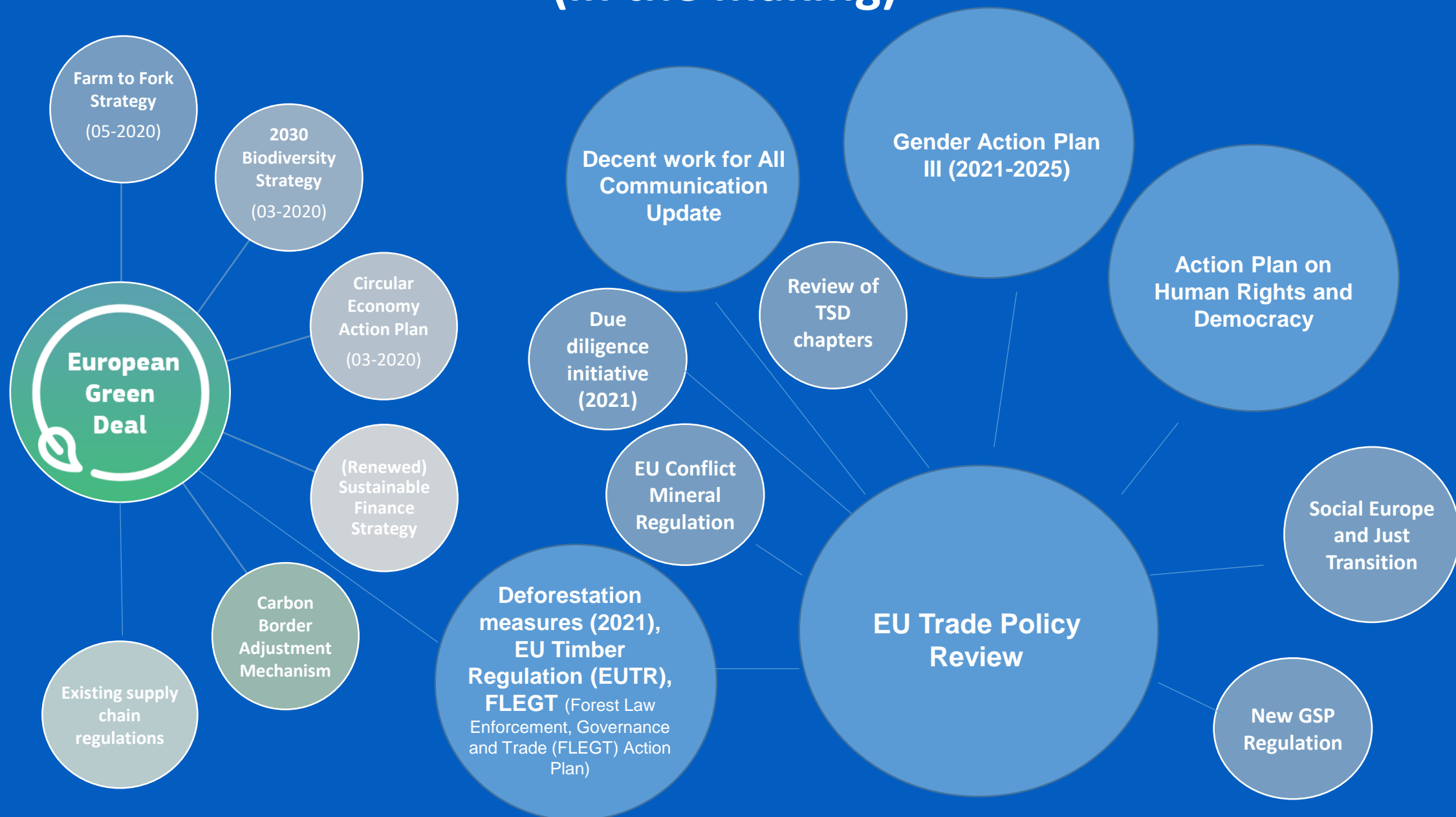
1. Reducing fragmentation, integrating development tools, increasing leverage of AfT through better informed and coordinated delivery;
2. Scaling up impact – making the most of instruments across EU external policies, in particular: the External Investment Plan, trade agreements (EPAs, FTAs, DCFTAs, etc.), trade schemes (GSP, EBA);
3. Stronger focus on **social** and **environmental** sustainability and inclusive economic growth;
4. Better, differentiated approach to countries, with increased focus on Least Developed countries (LDCs);
5. Improved monitoring and reporting



# AfT and ambitious global sustainability goals




# Numerous Sustainability Initiatives with an External Dimension (in the making)





# Three objectives of EU trade policy

## 18.02.2021 Trade Policy Review

- ➔ 1. Supporting the recovery and fundamental transformation of the EU economy in a way that is consistent with our **green** and **digital** ambitions.
  - ➔ 2. Shaping global rules for a more sustainable and fair globalisation.
  - ➔ 3. Increasing our capacity to pursue our interests and enforce our rights, autonomously if necessary.
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# Six critical areas in the medium term

Reform the WTO

Support the green transition and promote responsible and sustainable value chains

Support the digital transition and trade in services

Strengthen the EU's regulatory impact

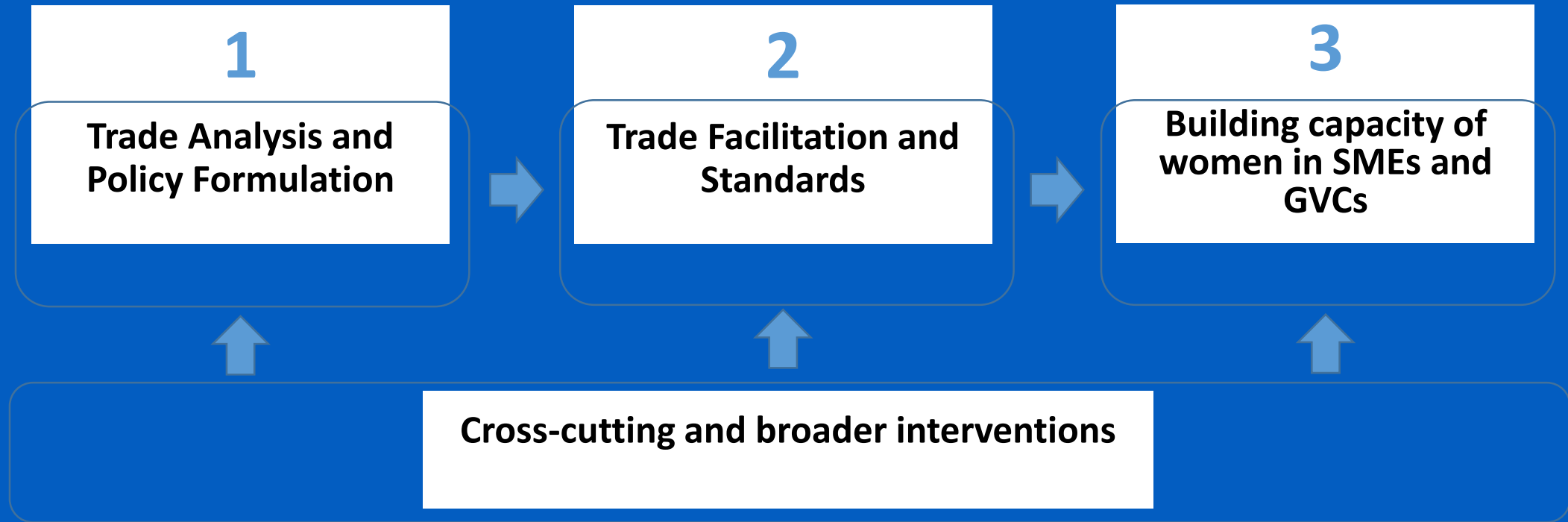
Strengthen the EU's partnerships with neighbouring, enlargement countries and Africa

Strengthen the EU's focus on implementation and enforcement of trade agreements, and ensure a level playing field

# Trade, AfT and gender in the EU

- The EU actively supported the adoption of the WTO Joint Declaration on Trade and Women's Economic Empowerment (Buenos Aires Declaration) in December 2017.
- The Gender Action Plan III (2021-2025) – EU's commitment towards gender equality and women's empowerment.
- EU FTAs:
  - TSD Chapters with ILO conventions relevant to gender equality in employment i.e. equal remuneration and non-discrimination (ILO Conventions 100 and 111)
  - Trade and gender to be included in the context of the modernisation exercise of the EU-Chile FTA, EU-New Zealand FTA
- GSP+: 27 core conventions - CEDAW and ILO conventions concerning equal remuneration
- EU trade assessments always include gender dimension: (sustainability) impact assessments, ex-post evaluations.
- EU Aid for Trade plays a crucial role mainstreaming gender in AfT programmes

# Gender mainstreaming in AfT: an overview





## Aid for Trade and **the European Green Deal**

- EU trade = “a platform to engage with trading partners on climate and environmental action”
- promote climate action, environmental sustainability, biodiversity, sustainable value chains, circular economy, farm-to-fork (F2F) sustainable food system
- stimulate green investment (public & private): energy, agriculture, production...
- facilitates trade and investment in green goods and services
- promotes climate-friendly public procurement
- enhance regulatory cooperation and promote EU standards: capacity building and support to help meet EU environmental standards
  - => avoid perception of European Green Deal as protectionist barrier
- address harmful practices such as illegal logging /deforestation (e.g. FLEGT): promote deforestation-free value chains
- help implement and enforce the sustainable development commitments (Chief Trade

# The EU AfT Progress Report 2020

This is the third report with this expanded emphasis on the qualitative results achieved.

It has two main parts:

- The **Qualitative** section which explains what has been achieved across all the countries concerned, with many practical examples
- The **Quantitative** section which outlines in great detail the AfT contributions, broken down by individual countries; regions and types of aid



# Thank you



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