Disclaimer: *In view of the European Commission's transparency policy, the Commission is publishing the texts of the EU-India FTA further to the conclusion of negotiations on 27 January 2026. These texts are published for information purposes only and may undergo further modifications, including as a result of the process of legal revision. These texts are without prejudice to the outcome of the Agreement between the EU and India. The texts will be final upon signing. The Agreement will become binding on the Parties under international law only after completion by each Party of its internal legal procedures necessary for the entry into force of the Agreement.*

CHAPTER 14

GOOD REGULATORY PRACTICES AND REGULATORY COOPERATION

ARTICLE 14.1

General principles

1. Each Party is free to determine its approach to good regulatory practices and regulatory cooperation under this Agreement in a manner consistent with its own legal framework, political and institutional structures and practice, fundamental principles including the precautionary principle, and public policy objectives, underlying its regulatory system.

2. The provisions in this Chapter shall not be construed as to require a Party to:

(a) deviate from its domestic procedures for identifying its regulatory priorities and preparing and adopting regulatory measures,

(b) take actions that would undermine or impede the timely adoption of regulatory measures to achieve its public policy objectives, or

(c) achieve any particular regulatory outcome.

3. This Chapter does not apply to regulatory authorities and regulatory measures, practices or approaches of:

(a) For EU: the Member States of the European Union, and

(b) For India: States, local governments, and Union Territories.

ARTICLE 14.2

Definitions

For the purposes of this Chapter:

(a) "regulatory authority" means:

(i) for the European Union: the European Commission;

(ii) for India: a Ministry or Department at the central level of government.

(b) "regulatory measures" means:

(i) for the European Union:

(A) regulations and directives, as provided in Article 288 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU);

(B) delegated and implementing acts, as provided in Article 290 and Article 291 TFEU, respectively;

(ii) for India: an Act of the Indian Parliament and rules enacted pursuant to such Act.

ARTICLE 14.3

Scope

1. This Chapter shall apply to regulatory measures as prepared or implemented by regulatory authorities in respect to matters covered by this Agreement, excluding emergency measures.

2. Specific rules in other Chapters of this Agreement regarding the subject matter of this Chapter shall prevail to the extent that they differ from the provisions of this Chapter.

ARTICLE 14.4

Internal coordination of regulatory development

1. Each Party shall maintain processes or mechanisms for internal coordination of its regulatory measures under preparation by its regulatory authorities.

2. Each Party shall endeavour to provide processes or mechanisms that, inter alia, seek to:

(a) foster good regulatory practices, including those set forth in this Chapter;

(b) identify and avoid unnecessary duplication and inconsistent requirements in the Party's regulatory measures;

(c) ensure compliance with the Party's international trade and investment obligations; and

(d) promote the consideration of the impacts of the regulatory measures under preparation, including the impacts on small and medium-sized enterprises.

ARTICLE 14.5

Regulatory processes and mechanisms

Each Party shall make available publicly the descriptions of the existing processes and mechanisms employed by its regulatory authority to prepare, evaluate or review regulatory measures in accordance with its applicable domestic laws and regulatory framework. Those descriptions shall refer to relevant guidelines, rules or procedures, including those regarding opportunities for the public to provide comments.

ARTICLE 14.6

Early information on planned regulatory measures

1. The regulatory authority of each Party shall endeavour to make publicly available on at least an annual basis a list of planned regulatory measures that are reasonably expected to be adopted within a year.

2. With respect to each major[1] regulatory measure included in the list referred to in paragraph 1, each Party shall endeavour to make publicly available, as early as possible:

(a) a brief description of its scope and objectives; and

(b) if available, the estimated timing for its adoption, including opportunities for public consultations.

ARTICLE 14.7

Public consultations

1. When preparing a major regulatory measure, each Party shall, to the extent possible, publish either the draft regulatory measures or consultation documents providing sufficient details about the regulatory measures under preparation to allow any person to assess whether and how that person's interests might be significantly affected.

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1 The regulatory authority of each Party may determine what constitute "major" regulatory measures for the purposes of its obligations under this Chapter.

2. Each Party shall endeavour to provide a reasonable opportunity for any person, on a non-discriminatory basis, to provide comments on the publicly available information concerning the proposed measure.

3. Each Party shall endeavour to consider the comments received.

4. The regulatory authority of each Party shall endeavour to make use of electronic means of communication and to make information related to public consultation freely and publicly available online, including information on how to provide comments, preferably on a single electronic portal.

ARTICLE 14.8

Impact assessment

1. The Parties recognise that regulatory impact assessment is beneficial in developing regulatory measures.

2. Each Party shall promote that its regulatory authority, in accordance with the applicable rules and procedures, carries out impact assessment when proposing major regulatory measures.

3. If carrying out an impact assessment, the regulatory authority of each Party shall promote the consideration of the following factors:

(a) the need for the regulatory measure, including the nature and the significance of the problem the regulatory measure intends to address;

(b) feasible and appropriate regulatory and non-regulatory alternatives (including the option of not regulating), if any, that would achieve the Party's public policy objective;

(c) to the extent possible and relevant, the potential social, economic and environmental impact of those alternatives, including on international trade and investment and on small and medium-sized enterprises; and

(d) to the extent possible, relevant international standards, if any.

4. If carrying out an impact assessment, the regulatory authority of each Party shall publish a report of its assessment and its relevant findings.

ARTICLE 14.9

Retrospective evaluation

1. The Parties recognise the positive contribution of periodic retrospective evaluations of existing regulatory measures in effect to reducing unnecessary regulatory burden, including on small and medium-sized enterprises, and to achieving public policy objectives more effectively.

2. The Parties shall endeavour to promote the use of periodic retrospective evaluations in their regulatory systems.

ARTICLE 14.10

Regulatory register

Each Party shall ensure that regulatory measures that are in effect are published in a designated register that identifies regulatory measures by topic and that is publicly available on a single, freely accessible, and searchable website. Each Party shall periodically update its register.

ARTICLE 14.11

Exchange of information on good regulatory practices

The Parties shall endeavour to exchange information on their good regulatory practices as set out in this Chapter.

ARTICLE 14.12

Regulatory cooperation

1. Each Party, upon request of the other Party, shall give positive consideration to proposals for cooperation in areas of mutual interest to facilitate the implementation of this Chapter in order to maximise the benefits arising from it.

2. Regulatory cooperation activities under this Chapter may include:

(a) information exchanges, dialogues, or meetings with the other Party, including in particular:

(i) exchanging experiences on regulatory impact assessments, retrospective reviews, and any other matter covered by this Chapter;

(ii) exchanging information on good regulatory practices relating to existing regulatory measures;

(b) workshops, seminars, and other relevant activities; and

(c) other activities that the Parties may agree.

ARTICLE 14.13

Dispute settlement

Chapter X (Dispute Settlement) shall not apply to this Chapter.