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 18

INSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS

ARTICLE 18.1

Joint committee

1. The Parties hereby establish a Joint Committee comprising representatives of both Parties.

2. The Joint Committee shall meet no later than one year after the date of entry into force of this Agreement. Thereafter, the Joint Committee shall meet once a year, unless otherwise agreed by the Parties, on a date and with an agenda agreed in advance by the Parties. At the request of either Party, the Parties may decide by mutual agreement to hold a special meeting of the Joint Committee at a mutually convenient date without undue delay.

3. The meetings of the Joint Committee shall take place in the European Union or in India alternately, unless otherwise agreed by the Parties. The Joint Committee may meet in person or by other appropriate means of communication, as agreed by the Parties.

4. The Joint Committee shall be co-chaired by the Member of the European Commission responsible for Trade and the Minister of Commerce and Industry of the Government of India, or their respective designees.

5. The work of the Joint Committee shall be governed by the rules of procedure set out in Annex

18-A.

ARTICLE 18.2

Functions of the joint committee

1. The Joint Committee shall:

(a) ensure the proper and effective functioning of this Agreement;

(b) consider ways to further enhance trade and investment between the Parties, including with regard to market access;

(c) assess, review, and monitor the implementation and overall operation of this Agreement and its effects;

(d) supervise and coordinate the work of all specialised committees and, as appropriate, any other bodies established under this Agreement;

(e) without prejudice to Chapter 17 [Dispute Settlement] seek to prevent or solve problems that may arise in areas covered by this Agreement, or to amicably resolve disputes that may arise regarding the interpretation or application of this Agreement;

(f) consider any proposal for amendments to this Agreement; and

(g) consider any other matter of interest relating to an area covered by this Agreement as the representatives of the Parties may agree.

2. The Joint Committee may:

(a) establish, reorganise, or dissolve specialised committees or other bodies, other than those established pursuant to Article 18.3 (Specialised Committees), and determine their composition, function and tasks in order to improve the functioning of this Agreement;

(b) allocate responsibilities or delegate functions to specialised committees or other bodies under this Agreement;

(c) subject to point (f) of paragraph 1, recommend to the Parties any amendments to this Agreement;

(d) adopt decisions to amend[1]:

(i) Annex XX (Tariff Schedules);

(ii) Chapter 3 [Rules of Origin] and its Annexes;

(iii) the Rules of Procedure referred to in Chapter 17 [Dispute Settlement];

(iv) the Code of Conduct referred to in Chapter 17 [Dispute Settlement];

(v) the Model Mediation Procedures referred to in Chapter 17 [Dispute Settlement];

(vi) the Rules of Procedure referred to in Annex 18-A to this Chapter [Institutional provisions].

(e) consider, and where appropriate, adopt decisions that issue interpretations of the provisions of this Agreement, which shall be binding on the Parties as well as the panels referred to in Chapter 17 [Dispute Settlement];

(f) adopt decisions where provided for in this Agreement;

(g) make appropriate recommendations in respect of all matters covered by this Agreement;

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1 For greater certainty, for India, the adoption of decisions to amend requires prior completion of its domestic legal requirements.

(h) discuss and consider proposals for future cooperation activities, including for facilitating the monitoring and evaluation of this Agreement; and

(i) take any other action in the exercise of its functions as the Parties may agree.

ARTICLE 18.3

Specialised committees

1. The following specialised committees are hereby established under the auspices of the Joint Committee:

(a) the Committee on Trade in Goods;

(b) the Committee on Customs and Rules of Origin;

(c) the Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade;

(d) the Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures;

(e) the Committee on Sustainable Food Systems;

(f) the Committee on Trade in Services and Digital Trade;

(g) the Committee on Intellectual Property Rights; and

(h) the Committee on Trade and Sustainable Development.

2. Unless otherwise provided in this Agreement or agreed by the Parties, the specialised committees shall meet once a year, on a date and with an agenda agreed in advance by the representatives of the Parties. Special meetings may be convened by mutual agreement, at the request of either Party or of the Joint Committee.

3. The meetings of the specialised committees shall take place in the European Union or in India alternately, unless otherwise agreed by the Parties. They may meet in person or by other appropriate means of communication, as agreed by the Parties.

4. The specialised committees shall be co-chaired, at an appropriate level, by representatives of the Parties.

5. Each specialised committee shall adopt its own rules of procedure no later than its first meeting after the entry into force of this Agreement. Pending the adoption of such rules of procedure, the rules of procedure of the Joint Committee in Annex 18-A shall apply, *mutatis mutandis*.

6. Each Party shall ensure that when a specialised committee meets, all the competent authorities for each issue on the agenda are represented, as each Party deems appropriate, and that each issue can be discussed at the adequate level of expertise. Each Party shall be responsible for the composition of its own delegation.

ARTICLE 18.4

Functions of the specialised committees

1. With respect to issues pertaining to chapters for which they are responsible, and in addition to the specific functions set out in the relevant chapters of this Agreement, the specialised committees shall:

(a) monitor and review their implementation and ensure their proper functioning;

(b) assist the Joint Committee in the performance of its tasks, in particular by reporting to the Joint Committee and carrying out any task assigned by the Joint Committee;

(c) conduct the preparatory technical work necessary to support the functions of the Joint Committee, including for the adoption of decisions or recommendations by the Joint Committee;

(d) provide a forum for the Parties to exchange information, discuss best practices and share implementation experience;

(e) inform the Joint Committee of the date and agenda of their meetings sufficiently in advance; and

(f) report to the Joint Committee on the results and conclusions from each of their meetings.

2. With respect to issues pertaining to chapters for which they are responsible, and in addition to the specific functions set out in the relevant chapters of this Agreement, the specialised committees may:

(a) discuss technical issues, without prejudice to Chapter 17 [Dispute Settlement]; and

(b) adopt decisions where provided for in this Agreement, or make recommendations.

ARTICLE 18.5

Decisions and recommendations of the joint committee and specialised committees

1. Decisions and recommendations shall be adopted by mutual agreement.

2. Decisions of the Joint Committee shall be binding on the Parties, as well as the panels referred to in Chapter XX (Dispute settlement). Decisions of specialised committees pertaining to chapters for which they are responsible shall be binding on the Parties.

3. Recommendations shall have no binding force.

ARTICLE 18.6

Participation of stakeholders

Each Party shall promote the participation of relevant non-governmental stakeholders in the implementation of this Agreement, in particular through engagement with their respective Domestic Consultative Mechanisms referred to in Articles 18.7 (Domestic consultative mechanisms).

ARTICLE 18.7

Domestic consultative mechanism

1. Each Party shall create a new or designate an existing domestic consultative mechanism to advise that Party on issues covered by this Agreement within a year after the date of entry into force of this Agreement. Each Party shall facilitate adequate and balanced representation of relevant non-governmental stakeholders on matters covered by this Agreement. The domestic consultative mechanism may be convened in different configurations to discuss the implementation of different chapters and provisions of this Agreement.

2. Each Party shall regularly, and normally at least once a year, meet with its domestic consultative mechanism, which may provide views concerning the implementation of this Agreement to that Party.

3. Each Party shall make publicly available information on its domestic consultative mechanism and designate a contact point to facilitate stakeholder engagement.

ARTICLE 18.8

Rapid reaction mechanism

1. In respect of the areas covered by this Agreement, the Parties hereby establish a dedicated and expedited mechanism to:

(a) address questions or concerns arising from measures of general application that create or threaten to create significant disruption or impediment to trade between the Parties;

(b) address and seek to resolve questions or concerns on future or planned regulatory initiatives or developments in a Party that create or threaten to create a significant disruption or impediment to trade between the Parties; or

(c) discuss major implementation issues related to this Agreement that have a significant effect on bilateral trade between the Parties.

2. The Parties recognise the need to avoid duplication of processes under the Agreement. To this end, a Party may resort to this mechanism if the matter is urgent or is not satisfactorily addressed through the regular work of the specialised committees established under this Agreement.

3. In the situations envisaged in paragraph 1, a Party may address a request to the other Party, through its contact point, to convene an urgent meeting of the relevant specialised committee. Such request shall include sufficient details of the measure, regulatory initiative or implementation issue, the actual or expected impact on trade and the specific questions or concerns to be discussed. If the request is beyond the domain of the concerned specialised committee, each Party shall ensure an adequate level of expertise.

4. The requested Party shall reply no later than 10 days from the date of receipt of the request referred to in paragraph 3 with a view to agreeing on the date and format of a meeting of the relevant specialised committee. The meeting shall be held within 45 days from the date of the requested Party's reply or at such other date as mutually agreed.

5. The relevant specialised committee shall consider the matter based on the information exchanged between the Parties. Following the consideration of the matter, it shall send a detailed report which may include findings and recommendations, including any proposed action, to the Joint Committee within 30 days after the date of the meeting.

6. If after the relevant specialised committee has sent the report pursuant to paragraph 5, a Party considers that the matter requires further consideration, it may request the Joint Committee consisting of the designees referred to in Article 18.1(4)[Joint Committee-Institutional Provisions] to consider the matter. The Joint Committee shall meet within 30 days or such other date as

mutually agreed to consider the report and to take any action in the exercise of its functions that may be agreed by the Parties.

7. If no mutually agreed solution is found at the meeting referred to in paragraph 6, on request of a Party, the Joint Committee at the Ministerial level referred to in Article 18.1(4) [Joint Committee-Institutional Provisions] shall meet to review the matter within 45 days after the date of the meeting referred to in paragraph 6 or such other date as mutually agreed.

8. If the Joint Committee at the Ministerial level reaches an understanding on the steps to be taken on the matter, the Party concerned shall, within 60 days, inform the other Party of the intended follow up.

9. This article is without prejudice to the rights or obligations of a Party under Chapter 17 [Dispute Settlement].

ARTICLE 18.9

Contact points

Within 60 days after the date of entry into force of this Agreement, each Party shall designate a contact point to facilitate communication between the Parties on matters covered by this Agreement and shall notify the other Party of the contact details for the contact point. Each Party shall promptly notify the other Party of any change of those contact details.