**DRAFT**

**Proposals for agendas**

**EU-Korea 2016 meetings under the TSD chapter of the EU-Korea FTA, Brussels**

**Introduction**: The 2016 EU-Korea meetings under the Trade and Sustainable Development chapter of the EU-Korea FTA will take place in Brussels.

Following the discussion and conclusions of the EU-Korea Civil Society Forum (CSF) held in 2015 in Seoul, the EU DAG would like to propose that two meetings are organised with the participation of the EU DAG and Korea DAG members. These would be as follows:

* A **workshop on Corporate Social Responsibility** (CSR) attended by the EU DAG, the Korea DAG and other guests and speakers. These may include representatives of the EU Member States, the National Contact Points under the OECD Guidelines, civil society organisations, the European Commission, the Korean Government and others.
* The **EU-Korea CSF**, starting with the Joint Statement of the Co-Chairs of the TSD Committee, followed by Q&A session, as well as a debate on three topics and a discussion on and adoption of the CSF Conclusions.

In addition, we have been informed by the European Commission that in line with the established practice and the respective responsibilities, the officials in charge of the Trade and Sustainable Development chapter from the European Commission and the Korean Government will prepare the meeting of the Committee on TSD and will inform the EU DAG and the Korea DAG about the date and the agenda for that meeting.

Below, follow the proposed agendas and topics for the workshop and the EU-Korea CSF.

**Proposals for workshop on Corporate Social Responsibility**

*(based on the 2015 EU-Korea CSF Conclusions)*

1. Introduction *(e.g. by the Commission representative)* about the EU strategy in the area of CSR and division of competencies between the EU, the Member States and the relevant stakeholders
2. Exchange of information and examples of good practice, including National Action Plans or strategies, related to the existing policy in the area of CSR in the EU Member States and the Republic of Korea

*A number of EU Member States have developed and implement the national policy (including Action Plans or strategies) in the area of CSR and can share with the participants the related experience. Some EU Member States (e.g. Denmark and Sweden) have developed CSR Action Plans with environmental elements and can present them as well in order to follow the Korea DAG request to include more environmental elements into our discussions. We would also be glad to learn about the Korea policy and measures in the area of CSR.*

*This point of the agenda may include a few presentations delivered by the EU Member States' representatives and the representatives of the Republic of Korea presenting the existing policy and measures in the area of CSR. Presentations can also be delivered by EU DAG and Korea DAG members and representatives of other civil society organizations. They would be followed by a discussion.*

1. Exchange of information and examples of good practice related to the existing policy and measures in the area of Business and Human Rights, including the national Action Plans where they exist.

*Presentations and discussion under this agenda item will follow request expressed in the 2015 EU-Korea CSF Conclusions. Some EU Member States have developed and currently implement diverse measures in the area of Business and Human Rights, including National Action Plans to implement the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. Presentations under this agenda item can be delivered e.g. by representatives of governments of two out of the EU Member States which already have such Action Plans, as well as by a representative of the Korean Government, EU DAG and Korea DAG members or other civil society representatives. Presentations would be followed by a discussion.*

1. National Contact Points (NCPs) under the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, structure and operation

*Presentations and discussion under this agenda item will follow request expressed in the 2015 EU-Korea CSF Conclusions. Presentations can be delivered e.g. by an OECD representative and by representatives of 2-3 NCPs from the EU Member States. They would be followed by a discussion.*

*The main conclusions from the workshop could be reflected in the EU-Korea CSF conclusions.*

**Proposals for the EU-Korea Civil Society Forum**

1. **Joint Statement of the Co-Chairs** of the EU-Korea Trade and Sustainable Development Committee *(this agenda item will be organised and coordinated with the CTSD contact points from the European Commission and the Government of the Republic of Korea and is planned to be followed by Q&A session)*
2. **Economic topic** led by the business / employers’ sub-groups of the EU DAG and Korea DAG
* Option 1: The CSF could discuss **the consequences of the digitisation of the economy for the EU-Korea trade relationship**. Such a discussion could include the issue of cross-border data flows and all related matters, such as the EU and Korea policy and regulations on data privacy and security; adequacy of such regulations, and how inadequate regulations can affect trade between the two parties. The CSF could also discuss, what kind of barriers the companies encounter in doing business when wishing to move, store and process data of customers, etc. abroad, when they aim at optimising the benefit of the digitalisation of their activities in the framework of the global value chains. The state of regulation in the EU and Korea in various economic sectors that affect data flows, the possible local requirements, their reasons, their efficiency, their costs, etc. could also be discussed. The possibilities or areas for a related regulatory cooperation and dialogue between the EU and Korea may be addressed as well.
* Option 2: Debate may focus on **public and private (voluntary) sustainability standards**, including environmental ones, which are applied to diverse products in their access to the Korean and the EU markets respectively. The EU DAG and the Korea DAG could agree to choose some groups of products (they could include food and non-food products) and then discuss the applicable sustainability standards, and share the examples of practice how to comply with them. Sharing information about such standards and ways to comply with them would promote sustainable development and trade flows between the EU and Korea.
1. **Labour-related topic** led by trade unions’ sub-groups of the EU DAG and the Korea DAG

Discussion on **labour standards** would be based on the document promised in the 2015 CTSD Statement by the Korean Government, outlining steps towards ratification of the remaining ILO fundamental conventions. ILO representative would be invited to participate in that discussion.

1. **Environment-related** topic led by NGOs (environmental part of the DAG) or in a possible cooperation by business and NGOs’ sub-groups of the EU DAG and the Korea DAG

The CSF could discuss **chosen aspects of green economy.** For example, urban policy in the EU and Korea, the air quality in the cities and measures, which have already been taken or can be taken in the near future in the area of transport (including uptake of alternative fuels and vehicles) to improve air quality and to reduce the transport-related greenhouse gas emissions. Such a discussion would be relevant for the trade and sustainable development chapter at least for two reasons. Development of new policies, solutions and technologies in the area of transport in the EU and Korea may have an impact on trade and investment flows between the Parties in the sector of cars and other vehicles. In addition, the theme is relevant from the environment and climate change point of view, including the air quality and greenhouse gas emissions, and the international commitments (including under the EU-Korea FTA) of the EU and Korea in these areas.

1. Discussion on and adoption of the **EU-Korea CSF Conclusions**