

# EU SME Chapter:

ensuring that FTAs work for SMEs

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*“Every positive step to support SMEs is a step in the right direction for Europe.*

*Supporting SMEs will be one of my top priorities.”*

*EVP Dombrovskis, 13 October 2020*

## SMEs are the lifeblood of our economy

In Denmark (2019 figures):

- 84% SMEs in total exporting companies; (EU average: 93%);
- Exporting SMEs account for 31% exports value (EU average: 31%)

## FTAs help SMEs

- Lower or zero tariffs
- Predictable & comprehensive regulatory framework
- Easier and faster customs procedures
- Access to public tenders
- Better protection of IPR
- Setting-up institutional mechanisms

## SME Chapter:

- Raises awareness of SMEs of agreement's benefits
- Ensures transparency of all kind of import requirements
- Establishes an appropriate institutional set-up in the implementation of the agreement
- Enhances cooperation between Parties on matters of relevance to SMEs

**Two main features:** a) Information sharing; b) SME Contact Points

## ***SME Chapter: Article 2-Parties should provide information on access to each other's market***

**Information Sharing:** each Party is responsible to set up and maintain an own single SME website with updated, preferably in English:

- 1) Relevant information for SMEs about the **agreement**
- 2) Links to **websites of authorities** with specific market information: importation regulations & procedures, IPR regulations and procedures, technical regulations & obligatory conformity assessment procedures, SPS measures, rules on public procurement, business registration, customs fees,, etc;
- 3) **Electronically searchable database** by tariff nomenclature: customs duties and quotas, taxes, rules of origin, information for import procedures, non-tariff measures/regulations, etc

## SME Chapter: Article 3 – SME Contact points

Appropriate institutional set-up to handle SME issues which are of a horizontal nature

One (or more) official(s) would act as a designated SME Contact Point on each side:

**The tasks** of SME Contact points include, *inter alia*:

- Ensuring that information sharing is accurate
- Ensuring that SME interests are taken into account in implementing the Agreement
- Report to Trade Committee on SME related matters

# In practice

## FTAs with SME Chapter

EU-Japan EPA

CETA SME Recommendation

EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement

## In the pipeline:

Mercosur, Chile, Mexico, Australia.

**Ongoing:** Indonesia



Mange tak!

Thank you!