



Closed door workshop

RETHINKING OF AN EU JUST SUSTAINABLE TRADE POLICY

Monday, 9 March 2026

10:00 – 13:30

Venue:

European Climate Foundation-ECF
Rue de la Science, 23
Brussels, Belgium

Working language: English

As the international order is being undermined by unilateral actions and greater power rivalry, the EU needs to re-imagine its trade policy. Traditionally perceived purely a positive dynamic, trade is being affected by rising fragmentation and great power rivalry. Consequently, decisionmakers increasingly praise economic security and resilience. The Commission has, indeed, launched both defensive initiatives (antidumping investigations, tariffs) as well as proactive initiatives (new FTAs, CTIPs) to redefine its global trade partnerships to shield from disruptive and challenging developments. In this effort, the trade-climate nexus has increasingly become relevant. The EU needs to ensure that its trade relations do not come at the expense of global climate mitigation efforts, but on the contrary, it must ensure that trade is an instrument to foster stronger climate action worldwide. Rising imports from countries with lack of adequate climate ambition could indeed yield higher emissions in trade partners. Understanding co-dependence on embodied emissions in trade relations is a key step for both EU and national stakeholders to achieve their climate, economic and industrial objectives.



Programme

10:00 – 10:30 Registration & Welcome Coffee

10:30 – 10:45 **INITIAL INPUTS**

MR./MRS., (tbc)

10:45 – 12:30 **ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION**

GUIDING QUESTIONS

- How can the EU reset its trade policy amid geopolitical disorder, while promoting emission mitigation with key partners?
- How can the EU fully implement of its key sustainable trade policies, such as the EU CBAM?
- Which sectors do you see more benefits to take into account imported emissions? What are the main constraints and opportunities to integrate such perspective?
- Given great power rivalry, how can the EU foster new trade relations in a sustainable manner?

12:45 – 13:30 Light Networking Lunch