Open and sustainable trade: our EU policy agenda 2024
We believe that open and sustainable trade is a major driver towards meeting the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to achieve a better future for all.

To reach that future, partnerships and coherence between social, environmental and economic policies are essential.

The EU is a major influential trading block that upholds high standards and therefore is an ideal partner for us. By working together, we can improve the sustainability of supply chains and deliver benefits for everyone.

To achieve this goal, we are proposing several policy initiatives and ideas to be considered by the Commission and European Parliament.

amfori is the leading business association for open and sustainable trade. We help our members manage their supply chains to deliver social, environmental and economic benefits for everyone. We call this Trade with Purpose.

Delivering social, environmental and economic benefits for everyone:

Social

Harmonised human rights due diligence in the EU
A harmonised approach on human rights due diligence will maximise the protection of workers and will ensure clarity and a level playing field across businesses of all sectors and supply chains.

Sustainable public procurement & responsible business conduct
Public authorities should favour sustainable procurement as part of a “smart policy mix” that advances responsible business conduct while also contributing to meeting the Sustainable Development Goals.

Transparency in supply chains
Greater transparency in supply chains, whilst ensuring that confidentiality of business information is preserved, should be promoted. Any information provisions should be meaningful for the target audience and proportionate to the desired objective.

Empowering women
Closing the gender gap will maximise the gains achieved through trade agreements. Promoting women empowerment at the international level through trade instruments and engagement at the UN is therefore essential. We strongly believe that the EU can make a difference by including a gender lens in all of its policy making processes.

Workers’ rights and living wage
A living wage, along with other labour conditions, can be achieved if the right to freedom of association and collective bargaining is respected. Social dialogue between local stakeholders is an essential element of achieving this goal.
Environmental

Chemicals in the supply chain
amfori stresses the need for an inclusive process in the making of policies that ensure safe products on the EU market. We call for a science based approach to policies; chemical policies can only be effective if companies’ resources and the complexity of their supply chain are taken into consideration.

An adaptable model for circular economy
The EU institutions should create incentives for companies to replace their linear model with circularity. Policies should provide a framework that is sufficiently adaptable to suit companies’ various strategies. We call for greater policy coherence and the removal of barriers to businesses that affect their transition to a circular economy.

A coordinated response to climate action
Creating the right regulatory framework at the EU level will enable companies to adapt and take action to mitigate climate change. Policies should encourage innovation and fit with different approaches to reduce stress on the climate and environment, with clear and measurable objectives and implementation within a realistic timeframe. On the international level, all key players need to ensure a coordinated approach to reducing impact on the climate and environment by delivering on the Paris Agreement.

Cooperation on deforestation
The EU should take a leading role in cooperating with international partners on deforestation and degradation and, via its trade agreements and other political instruments, promote the sustainable management of forests. We call for a comprehensive policy framework that strengthens transparency and traceability of timber supply chains.

Economic

Ambitious Trade and Investment Agreements
We trust the EU will prioritise the conclusion of trade and investment agreements with strategic partners such as ASEAN countries, China, India, Mercosur, Australia, and New Zealand and engage meaningfully on sustainable development with these partners. Trade and sustainable development chapters should be concluded with each trading partner who commits to implementing the Paris Agreement, and core ILO conventions.

Global trade rules giving benefits for all
The EU has a vital role to play in encouraging reform of the WTO so that it continues to deliver a predictable and rules-based trading system, with reliable legal enforcement procedures. Without such a system protectionist forces could undo decades of economic development that would impact everyone.

Simplified rules of origin
The rules of origin should be simplified, harmonised (ideally at the global level) and updated to properly reflect modern global value chains. This would encourage higher participation of our members in diverse sourcing markets and the promotion of sustainable development.

An integrated approach to sustainable finance
We support the European Commission’s push for greater and improved use of private capital to meet the EU’s sustainability goals, and call on it to provide clear, fair and harmonised criteria for sustainable financial products.

Unilateral trade preferences
When preferences are conditional upon third countries’ adherence to international human rights and environmental conventions (such as with GSP and EBA), we encourage the EU to monitor closely the level of commitment to those conventions in cooperation with the UN and ILO and take appropriate action.
At amfori we believe in a world where all trade delivers social, environmental and economic benefits for everyone. We call this *Trade with Purpose*.

We advocate at a local and global level to shape an environment where companies can trade openly and sustainably and offer our members a practical framework to manage the social and environmental performance of their supply chains.

**Key Numbers**

- Over **2,400** retailers, importers, brands and national associations
- Representing **1.5** trillion euro
- Representatives in **14** countries worldwide
- Over **40** years of experience

Find out more: [www.amfori.org](http://www.amfori.org)