

APEC Seminar on Environmental Provisions in FTAs/RTAs  
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# Environmental provisions in FTAs/RTAs: Russia's perspective

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# RUSSIA AS A MEMBER OF THE EURASIAN ECONOMIC UNION



Free movement of goods, services, capital and labour + Coordinated, agreed or common policy in different areas

**Unified trade regime with third countries**

Negotiations on trade in goods - supranational competence

Negotiations on services and investment - national competence

**In force since 2015**

# EAEU's FTAs

## In force



Viet Nam  
(since October 2016)

## Under negotiation/soon to be negotiated



Singapore



India



Israel



Egypt



Iran\*

\* interim agreement on the establishment of FTA



Several other FTAs at the  
prenegotiation stage



Trade and Economic Cooperation  
Agreement with China  
(under negotiation)

# ENVIRONMENTAL PROVISIONS IN THE EAEU-VIET NAM FTA

✔ EPs are included in the Sustainable Development Chapter

✔ Relevant provisions in SPS, TBT and IP chapters

**SD Chapter contains the most common types of environment-related provisions (mostly “best-endeavor” clauses with strong focus on cooperation):**

Recognition of <b>the right to regulate</b> and set the level of environmental protection as well as “ <b>the importance of efforts</b> ” to improve <b>environmental protection</b>	Not using environmental laws for <b>trade protectionism</b> (“endeavor to ensure”)	<b>Not encouraging trade/investment advantage by weakening or failing to enforce environmental laws</b> in a manner affecting trade between the Parties	<b>Consultations</b> , but EPs cannot be subject to the general dispute settlement mechanism of the Agreement	Periodical <b>review of sustainability impacts</b>
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# AREAS OF INTEREST

## **General issues:**

- Environmental standards
- Multilateral environmental agreements

## **Sectoral issues:**

- Biodiversity
- Waste management
- “Green” investment and finance
- Environmental technology

## **Other issues:**

EPs implementation experience, environmental impact assessment

# ENVIRONMENTAL PROVISIONS AND THE WTO

- EPs should be coherent with/ complimentary to existing WTO rules
- When negotiating EPs, the parties should take into account ongoing WTO discussions on the issues relevant to the trade-environment nexus



WORLD TRADE  
ORGANIZATION

# APEC's CONTRIBUTION

## **Further discussion is important:**

- Environmental goods and services
- Green supply chains
- Fisheries subsidies
- Fuel subsidies etc.

**Capacity-building activities are crucial as well**



**Asia-Pacific  
Economic Cooperation**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
ATTENTION!