

EU and Mexico will upgrade their bilateral free trade agreement

The European Commission and the Mexican government have formally announced that they want to upgrade the existing EU-Mexico free trade agreement. Both parties are currently finalising a scoping exercise that had begun in spring 2014. Trade Commissioner Malmström said that the EU “will make the modernised EU-Mexico trade agreement comparable to our deal with Canada and to what TTIP will become. I will request a mandate from the Council to launch negotiations this year and we will prepare the ground for the EU-Mexico Summit on 12 June 2015”.

Unlike other bilateral agreements of the EU, the agreement with Mexico currently does not have a chapter on sanitary and phytosanitary issues. This should be corrected when the agreement is updated. European fruit and vegetable companies have repeatedly mentioned the phytosanitary market access barriers as big entry hurdles to the Mexican market.