



HORIZON
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Redesign Trade Agreements for Sustainability

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The Case for Change

- EU trade agreements aim to promote both trade and sustainability.
- Current liberalization increases food access but lacks alignment with SDGs.
- Emissions and inequality can rise without supporting policies.

Social and Economic Insights

- Social Aspects:
 - Declining relevance of agriculture in the economy.
 - Trade liberalization tends to increase income inequality.
- Economic Aspects:
 - Trade alone doesn't bring the world closer to SDGs.
 - EU case: Higher dairy production & exports.
 - More fallow land = ↓ GHG emissions + ↑ biodiversity.

Key Challenges

- Policy incoherence reduces impact.
 - Unequal benefits along agri-food chains.
 - Limited sustainability role of regional trade agreements.
 - Overlooked value chains limit transformative impact.

Strategic Insights from Trade4SD

- Trade should foster balanced food systems.
- Carbon tariffs on all goods can cut emissions.
- Promote participatory policy-making.
- Invest in human capital & local contexts.

Seven Recommendations for Future Agreements

1. SDG Proofing – Ensure triple-bottom-line gains
2. Policy Coherence – Harmonize EU-wide policies
3. Monitoring & Reporting – Impact assessments & follow-up
4. Whole Value Chain Focus – Inclusive trade benefits
5. Legal Standards & Due Diligence – Raise compliance norms
6. Carbon Tariffs – Tackle environmental externalities
7. Support for Partners – Capacity-building & tailored aid

Conclusion

- EU trade policy must evolve for sustainability.
- A coherent, inclusive, and SDG-proofed approach is essential.
- Trade agreements should be tools to combat climate change, inequality, and unsustainable food systems.

Thanks for your attention!

- Project's website
 - <https://www.trade4sd.eu/>
- LinkedIn
 - <https://www.linkedin.com/company/trade4sd>



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