

AFTINET Trade Deals Summary August 2017

1) Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP): attempts to proceed without the US

Countries involved: Australia, US and 10 Pacific Rim countries

Major issues: rights for foreign companies to sue governments (ISDS), expanded medicine monopolies and increased numbers of temporary workers vulnerable to exploitation, without testing if local workers were available. See more detail [here](#).

Current status: The withdrawal of the US in January 2017 killed the 12 nation TPP, since the current text cannot proceed without the US. The [Australian Senate inquiry report](#) said no to the implementing legislation, so it has not been endorsed by the Australian Parliament. However, Japan is now leading a push for a [revived TPP-11](#) without the US, supported by Australia and NZ. Any proposal will need to be renegotiated, signed and go through the Parliamentary Inquiry process again. Ministers will meet in November 2017 to review proposals.

Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP): aim to finish end 2017

Countries involved: 10 ASEAN countries plus India, China, Japan, South Korea, Australia, New Zealand (16 countries in total)

Major issues: Japan and Korea are pushing for TPP-like proposals on **ISDS**, and **stronger medicine monopolies** while India and some ASEAN countries are resisting these. There are also proposals for increased numbers of **temporary workers**, and **government procurement**. See background [here](#), and reports from July negotiations including [protests](#) and [analysis](#).

Current status: Next negotiations scheduled for October in Singapore, with aim to finish end of 2017, but delays now likely.

2) Trade in Services Agreement (TISA): negotiations on hold but may resume in 2017

Countries involved: US, EU, Australia and about 20 other mostly industrialised countries with developed service export industries.

Major issues: secrecy, restrictions on government regulation of services, data regulation, pressure for privatisation of services. The aim is to deregulate trade in services further than can be achieved through the WTO General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS). The negotiations are taking place outside the WTO, with less transparency, being driven by global services corporations, and being used as a [model](#) in other trade deals. See background [here](#) and leaked documents [here](#).

Current status: Negotiations began in 2012 but the aim to finish by the end of 2016 was abandoned because of European popular opposition and US suspension under Trump.

3) Australia-Indonesia FTA: aim to finish late 2017

Major issues: Australia may push for **ISDS** provisions similar to those in the TPP. Indonesia is likely to want expanded access for **temporary workers** in Australia. Indonesia [wants Australia](#) to import more **palm oil**, controversial for environmental reasons, and **paper**, controversial because Indonesia has been accused of dumping paper products in Australia. Australian and Indonesian business groups have made a [submission](#) which supports zero tariffs, rapid deregulation of services, ISDS, and increased numbers of temporary migrant workers, and describes Australia's tobacco plain packaging law as a barrier to trade. See AFTINET submission which criticises these proposals [here](#).

Current status: This is now a major priority for government. Aim to finish by end of 2017.

4) Australia-Hong Kong FTA ongoing negotiations

These talks were announced in May 2017 and are likely to use TPP text as a model. See background and issues [here](#).

5) Peru Australia FTA ongoing negotiations

These talks were announced in May 2017, and will use TPP text as a model, since Peru was part of the TPP. See background and issues [here](#).

6) Pacific Alliance- Australia FTA ongoing negotiations

Talks for an agreement with the Pacific Alliance, comprising Chile, Peru, Colombia and Mexico were announced in June 2017, using the TPP text as a model. See background [here](#).

7) Australia-India FTA: negotiations on hold, RCEP priority

Major issues: Australia wants **TPP model of ISDS**, but India wants more limited version and is also reluctant to move to **zero tariffs**. India is seeking expansion of temporary workers with less [labour market testing](#) and other changes.. See background [here](#)

Current status: Negotiations since 2012, accelerated from 2014 but now at another standstill since late 2016. India is focussed on RCEP.

8) PACER-Plus: signed June 2017 but not yet tabled in parliament

Countries involved: Eight of original 14 Pacific Island countries, Australia and New Zealand

Major issues: The agreement is heavily skewed towards the interests of Australia and New Zealand despite original rhetoric that the deal would meet development needs of Pacific Islands. **Tariff reductions** would lead to loss of infant industries and significant **revenue losses** for Pacific Islands which reduce **essential services**.

Current status: PACER-plus negotiations began in 2009 with 14 Pacific Island countries. But the three largest economies, PNG, Fiji and Vanuatu and the three smallest have not signed, leaving only eight Pacific Island signatories, which severely weakens the agreement. See background [here](#) and petition [here](#). Tabling of the agreement in the Australian Parliament in August or September will trigger an inquiry by the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties.

9) Australia-EU FTA: talks to begin 2017

Major issues: Response to EU-Canada FTA and US-EU TTIP. See more information [here](#).

Current status: current scoping study for negotiations to begin in 2017. A possible separate FTA with Britain cannot begin until Brexit completed, 2019 at the earliest.

10) Three ongoing WTO negotiations:

These are the Information Technology Agreement, Environmental Goods Agreement. Australia is also seeking to join the WTO Government Procurement Agreement, which would lock in restrictions on local content (see AFTINET submission to government procurement inquiry [here](#)).