

(English version)

**Priority question for written answer P-002010/26
to the Commission
Saskia Bricmont (Verts/ALE)
(13 May 2026)**

Subject: Follow-up to the Santa Marta Conference on Transitioning Away from Fossil Fuels and implications for EU trade policy

Following up on COP28 in Dubai, a group of countries, including the EU, representing one third of global GDP convened for the first Conference on Transitioning Away from Fossil Fuels ⁽¹⁾. The conference took place in Santa Marta, Colombia, on 28 and 29 April 2026. It aimed to facilitate a planned, just and sustainable phase-out of fossil fuels, to address the need for a structural shift in our socioeconomic model and to advance international cooperation in this regard.

The Santa Marta conference will be followed by a conference to be held in 2027 in Tuvalu.

1. Since the EU has trade arrangements (free trade agreements, sustainable investment facilitation agreements, economic partnership agreements, generalised scheme of preferences) or is concluding negotiations with 39 of the countries participating in the conference, how does the Commission intend to continue the discussion with them, and in particular with Canada, Chile, the UK, Mexico and Vietnam, and with Angola and Nigeria, Africa's top oil producers? To what end?
2. Considering the fact that EU free trade agreements contain a provision calling for 'the Parties, recognising the importance of working together on trade-related aspects of sustainable development ... [to] work together in ... international fora', what is the Commission doing to encourage the EU's trading partners not yet participating in the process to join and actively contribute in the future?

Submitted: 13.5.2026

**Answer given by Mr Šefčovič on behalf of the European Commission
(9 June 2026)**

The Santa Marta Conference was an important event to advance discussions on transitioning away from fossil fuels. The EU is committed to the process, which was also shown by the participation of the Commissioner for Climate, Net Zero and Clean Growth in the event.

The EU has an increasing number of trade agreements with provisions on trade and sustainable development. These agreements provide a platform for dialogue and cooperation on trade and sustainable development matters, for instance in the Trade and Sustainable Development (TSD) and similar committees under the agreements with Canada, Chile, Mexico, UK and Vietnam.

The Commission is committed to continuing discussing the effective implementation of the Paris Agreement and the mutual supportiveness of trade and climate policies as a contribution to the transition to a low greenhouse gas emission, resource-efficient economy and to climate-resilient development, as part of these committees.

They can be used to discuss respective policy approaches and initiatives and to cooperate, as appropriate, on trade-related aspects of sustainable development, including in international fora.

The specific topics to be discussed in the TSD committees, including areas of cooperation, are agreed between the partners on a case-by-case basis-

¹ <https://transitionawayconference.com/>.