

## R6 Holding EU Trading Partners Accountable. - Les Jeunes Écologistes

Proposer: Les Jeunes Écologistes  
Agenda item: 8. Resolutions

### Motion text

1 Holding EU Trading Partners Accountable: Prioritising Human Rights Over  
2 Corporate Profit

#### 3 Preamble

4 **The Federation of Young European Greens (FYEG)...**

- 5 • **Is deeply concerned** by the European Union's continued perpetuation of  
6 trade agreements that actively infringe upon our foundational political  
7 values and human rights commitments.
  
- 8 • **Acknowledges** that the international rules-based order is rapidly eroding  
9 as current economic policies consistently prioritize profit and market  
10 access over the well-being and fundamental rights of populations. As young  
11 greens, we have a profound responsibility to challenge this structural  
12 injustice.
  
- 13 • **Demands** an intersectional, values-based approach to international  
14 relations where human rights conditionality is absolute, and where the EU  
15 utilizes its vast economic leverage to protect the vulnerable rather than  
16 rewarding authoritarianism.

17 This motion addresses the systemic failure of the EU to hold its international  
18 trading partners accountable. The current geopolitical landscape demonstrates a  
19 clear overestimation of the importance of trade over the good quality of life of  
20 citizens, benefiting a few wealthier actors at the expense of marginalized  
21 communities.

22 The hypocrisy of our current system is glaringly evident in our bilateral  
23 relations. The EU remains Israel's biggest trading partner, with bilateral trade  
24 in goods amounting to €42.6 billion in 2024.

25 Rather than leveraging the overarching EU-Israel Association Agreement to demand  
26 an end to human rights violations, the EU relies on a weak "Technical  
27 Arrangement" that merely denies tariff preferences to settlement goods based on  
28 postal codes.

29 Similarly, the EU eagerly concluded the Comprehensive Agreement on Investment  
30 (CAI) with China in principle in December 2020, ignoring alleged severe human  
31 rights abuses in Xinjiang. The deal was only halted after China imposed direct  
32 counter-sanctions on European Parliament members.

33 Furthermore, in the proposed EU-US Agreement on Reciprocal, Fair, and Balanced  
34 Trade, the EU explicitly committed to ensuring that critical accountability  
35 frameworks, such as the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive  
36 (CSDDD), the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD), and the  
37 Regulation on Deforestation-free Products (EUDR), would not pose "undue  
38 restrictions" on transatlantic trade. This demonstrates a systemic willingness  
39 to trade away our environmental and human rights standards for tariff  
40 reductions.

#### 41 Political Analysis

42 **The Structural Injustice of Profit-Driven Trade** The core structural injustice  
43 driving our trade policy is the blatant subordination of human rights and  
44 environmental limits to corporate interests. The neoliberal framework assumes  
45 that unhindered market access is the ultimate political goal. By actively  
46 agreeing to provide "flexibilities" for US companies regarding our Carbon Border  
47 Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) and corporate accountability directives, the EU  
48 proves that its theoretical hard lines are easily erased by the prospect of  
49 economic gain. This system concentrates wealth and power while exporting the  
50 violence of climate degradation and human rights abuses to those least able to  
51 defend themselves.

52 **The Illusion of Technical Accountability** Current mechanisms for holding trading  
53 partners accountable are superficial and administratively focused, rather than  
54 politically transformative. The EU's reliance on postal codes to differentiate  
55 between products originating in Israel and those from occupied settlements is a  
56 technical fix for a profound moral failing. Such arrangements utterly fail to  
57 address the reality that these massive economic ties normalize, facilitate, and  
58 fund systemic oppression. Similarly, the CAI negotiations revealed that EU  
59 leaders were naive or willfully ignorant regarding China's human rights record,  
60 proving that current diplomatic dialogues do not produce tangible protections  
61 for oppressed populations.

62 **The Youth Perspective on International Law** For young people witnessing the  
63 global rise of authoritarianism, values are the core of our political

64 resistance. International human rights and environmental laws only function if  
65 every actor believes they have a tangible, enforceable impact on international  
66 relations. When the EU actively compromises these values in major trade deals,  
67 it erodes public trust and renders international law ineffective. True security  
68 and prosperity require a systemic change that centers climate justice,  
69 democracy, and anti-racism over unrestricted economic growth.

70 Call to Action

71 We demand concrete, decisive action from European institutions and our political  
72 family to restore accountability:

- 73 • **We urge the European Commission and the European Council** to immediately  
74 suspend the EU-Israel Association Agreement. We note that technical  
75 arrangements regarding settlement tariffs are vastly insufficient; all  
76 trade privileges must be revoked until international human rights laws are  
77 fully respected.
- 78 • **We call on the European Parliament** to officially and permanently terminate  
79 the ratification process of the EU-China CAI. The EU must not ratify any  
80 investment pact with a state actively committing systemic human rights  
81 abuses.
- 82 • **We demand that the European Commission** refuses to implement the EU-US  
83 trade agreement unless critical legislation like the CSDDD, CSRD, and EUDR  
84 are fully enforced without exceptions for US corporations.
- 85 • **We call upon the Green political family** to integrate strict, binding human  
86 rights and climate conditionality clauses into all future and existing  
87 trade agreements within their political programmes, and to act  
88 aggressively in legislative processes to enforce these red lines.
- 89 • **We commit FYEG Member Organisations (MOs)** to advocate nationally for  
90 values-based trade policies. MOs will work alongside local civil society  
91 to share best practices, expose the structural injustices of current  
92 bilateral agreements, and mobilize youth across Europe to demand trade  
93 justice.

94 In conclusion, the FYEG stands for a world where international trade is a  
95 powerful tool for global equity, not a convenient shield for human rights  
96 abusers. The current structural failure, prioritizing corporate profit and  
97 market access over human lives and our ecological boundaries, must end. To  
98 secure a just and sustainable future, the European Union must aggressively  
99 utilize its economic leverage to hold trading partners accountable, thereby

100 defending and strengthening the international rules-based order for generations  
101 to come.

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