Decision by the Commission of the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership regarding the Philippines' Formal Request to Commence the Accession Process

27 November 2026

In light of the formal request to commence negotiations on acceding to the *Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership* (herein after referred to as "CPTPP") received from the Philippines on 19 August 2025; and

Pursuant to Article 5 (Accession), Article 27.2 (Functions of the Commission), Article 27.3 (Decision Making) and Article 27.4 (Rules of Procedure of the Commission) of the CPTPP, and the Accession Process in the Annex to the Decision of 19 January 2019 CPTPP/COM/2019/D002 (hereinafter referred to as "Accession Process") adopted by the CPTPP Commission (hereinafter referred to as "the Commission");

The Commission decides as follows:

Commencement of the Accession Process

1. Further to Subsection 2.1 (Request to commence accession process) of the Accession Process, the accession process requested by the Philippines as an aspirant economy is hereby commenced.[1]

Establishment of an Accession Working Group

2. A working group to negotiate the accession of the Philippines (herein after referred to as "Accession Working Group") is hereby established with the following terms of reference and composition:

> Terms of Reference: "Pursuant to Article 5 (Accession) of the CPTPP and Sections 3 and 5 of the Accession Process: (i) to examine the request of the Philippines to accede to the CPTPP, including documentation provided by the Philippines to demonstrate its ability to comply with the terms of the CPTPP and any other information from the Philippines as requested by the CPTPP Parties; (ii) to conduct negotiations on the Philippines' accession to the CPTPP; and (iii) to submit to the Commission, after finalising negotiations, a written report on terms and conditions for the Philippines' accession to the CPTPP."
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> Membership: The Accession Working Group will comprise government representatives from each Party.
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> Chairing arrangements: United Kingdom. The responsibilities of the Chair include: coordinating the overall conduct of the Accession Working Group, including its organisational matters; presiding over all meetings of the Accession Working Group; and coordinating the drafting of a written report of the Accession Working Group.

[1] For greater certainty, this Decision is without prejudice to each Party's domestic procedures regarding the accession of the Philippines to the CPTPP.

3. Pursuant to Article 27.4.4 (Rules of Procedure of the Commission) of the CPTPP and the Accession Process, the Accession Working Group may, as appropriate, establish its rules of procedure and timetable for the conduct of its work.

4. The Accession Working Group may, as appropriate, establish subsidiary groups to carry out its functions.

5. While the Accession Working Group does not include government representatives from the Philippines, it may invite the Philippines to its meetings to negotiate the accession terms and conditions, or for any other reasons.

This Decision is effective as of the date of adoption by the Commission and shall be made publicly available by the Chair of the Commission.