

Sustainability Assessment Systems in Hong Kong and Overseas

	Hong Kong	United Kingdom	European Commission	Directorate-General of Trade, EC
Name of system	Sustainability assessment (SA)	Integrated policy appraisal (IPA)	Impact assessment (IA)	Sustainability impact assessment (SIA)
Purpose	To integrate sustainable development into the decision-making process	To integrate sustainable development into the decision-making process	To integrate sustainable development into the decision-making process	To integrate sustainability development into the trade policy- making process
Mandatory / Non-mandatory	Mandatory	Non-mandatory – still under pilot	Non-mandatory - still under pilot	Mandatory in selected negotiations or agreements
Scope	New and major initiatives and programmes – each proposal submitted to the Executive Council or Policy Committee must set out the SA findings to be ‘audited’ by the Sustainable Development Unit	Major policies or where significant conflicting impacts are identified	Major initiative included in the Annual Policy Strategy and the Working Programme	World Trade Organization (WTO) negotiations and bilateral trade initiatives

	Hong Kong	United Kingdom	European Commission	Directorate-General of Trade, EC
Who to conduct the assessment	The proponent bureaux or departments	The proponent departments	The lead Directorate-General	Independent consultants commissioned by DG Trade
Assessment methodology (indicator/checklist/others)	Screening according to a set of characterisation questions, and assessment according to a set of prescribed sustainability indicators or social checklist questions (under the improved SA system)	Screening and assessment of impacts according to a set of checklist questions. Separate detailed assessments to be carried out as appropriate	Filtering based on preliminary assessment, and extended assessment of selected proposal according to a series of checklist questions	Screening and scoping, assessment of impacts, and identifying mitigation and enhancement measures according to a set of checklist questions and indicators More technical assessment methods may be used where necessary
Consultation	Consultation with departments concerned and the public should be conducted, and SA findings should be presented with the proposal as appropriate (under the improved SA system)	The resulting appraisal could be included in consultation papers to facilitate public discussions	Consultation within the European Commission and the public is mandatory	Consultation within the European Commission, and with stakeholders and experts should be carried out as appropriate