



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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*Mr Ludovic ORBAN
President of the Camera Deputaților
Palace of the Parliament
Str. Izvor nr. 2-4, sector 5
RO – 050563 BUCHAREST*

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Camera Deputaților for its Opinion on the Communication from the Commission “Trade Policy Review - An Open, Sustainable and Assertive Trade Policy {COM(2021) 66 final}”. The Commission appreciates the interest and support expressed by the Camera Deputaților for the themes covered by this Communication, which was based on a wide and inclusive public consultation.

The Commission welcomes the Camera Deputaților’s support to the general directions of the EU’s trade and investment policy as presented in the Trade Policy Review Communication.

The Commission notably agrees with the Camera Deputaților regarding the need to ensure a level playing field for EU companies, and in particular for European SMEs. This is precisely why the Trade Policy Review Communication identifies as one of EU’s trade policy’s core objectives the need to increase the EU’s capacity to pursue its interests and enforce its rights, including autonomously where needed. This is very much in line with our clear shift towards stronger implementation and enforcement, notably with the creation of the post of Chief Trade Enforcement Officer, and with the new instruments that we are proposing, such as the foreign subsidies instrument and the future anti-coercion instrument.

Regarding the transatlantic partnership, the EU has adopted, on 2 December 2020, a Communication on an EU-US Agenda for global change, describing its proposal for cooperation with the US in the years to come¹. During the first months of the Biden administration, important progress has been achieved, as reflected in the EU-US Joint

¹ [Joint-communication-eu-us-agenda_en.pdf \(europa.eu\)](#)

Summit Statement² that was adopted on 15 June 2021. In addition to the announcements on the creation of the Trade and Technology Council (TTC), leaders also agreed to cooperate on other trade priorities, including the reform of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), unfair trade practices and a sustainable trade agenda. We have therefore agreed on an ambitious transatlantic agenda, opening opportunities for the EU and US to work together to address shared challenges and opportunities in the months and years to come.

We fully share the Camera Deputaților’s assessment regarding the need for the EU to make a vital contribution to the maintenance of the rules-based international order and to the reform of the WTO. WTO reform is at the centre of our priorities and we very much appreciate the Camera Deputaților’s support on this. We indeed need to update the multilateral trade rules to bring them in line with the modern economy and the much-changed global context. Restoring a fully functioning WTO dispute settlement system will be key in this regard and constitutes the most urgent of WTO reforms. More generally, a reformed multilateral trading system is by far the best option to bring the stability and predictability that is necessary to avoid trade tensions, fuel economic growth and bring together the contribution of trade policy to the key challenges of our times. The recent EU initiatives at the WTO on trade and climate or on trade and health are good examples in this regard.

Africa’s prosperity and stability are at the core of the EU’s Africa policy. In the economic and trade area, the Trade Policy Review Communication singles out Africa as a geographical focus. Among the four headline actions proposed, the document stresses “enhancing political dialogue and cooperation with the African Union and its Members and the smooth implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area, including engagement with the private sector”. The European Commission is currently exploring specific ways of developing and deepening these dialogues.

The Commission hopes that these clarifications address the issues raised by the Camera Deputaților and looks forward to continuing the political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Janusz Wojciechowski
Member of the Commission*

² <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/50758/eu-us-summit-joint-statement-15-june-final-final.pdf>