



The G7 Research Group presents the

2020 G7 Virtual Summit Final Compliance Report

17 March 2020 to 6 May 2021

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“We have meanwhile set up a process and there are also independent institutions monitoring which objectives of our G7 meetings we actually achieve. When it comes to these goals we have a compliance rate of about 80%, according to the University of Toronto. Germany, with its 87%, comes off pretty well. That means that next year too, under the Japanese G7 presidency, we are going to check where we stand in comparison to what we have discussed with each other now. So a lot of what we have resolved to do here together is something that we are going to have to work very hard at over the next few months. But I think that it has become apparent that we, as the G7, want to assume responsibility far beyond the prosperity in our own countries. That’s why today’s outreach meetings, that is the meetings with our guests, were also of great importance.”

Chancellor Angela Merkel, Schloss Elmau, 8 June 2015

G7 summits are a moment for people to judge whether aspirational intent is met by concrete commitments. The G7 Research Group provides a report card on the implementation of G7 and G20 commitments. It is a good moment for the public to interact with leaders and say, you took a leadership position on these issues — a year later, or three years later, what have you accomplished?

Achim Steiner, Administrator, United Nations Development Programme,
in G7 Canada: The 2018 Charlevoix Summit

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18. Trade: Supporting Trade and Investment

“We are committed to marshalling the full power of our governments to: Support trade and investment.”

G7 Leaders' Statement

Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Canada			+1
France			+1
Germany			+1
Italy			+1
Japan			+1
United Kingdom			+1
United States			+1
European Union			+1
Average	+1.00 (100%)		

Background

On 16 March 2020, under the U.S. presidency, G7 leaders met virtually to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. At the time, they expected to meet again in three months at their regularly scheduled summit on 10-12 June 2020, which was later postponed indefinitely.

The leaders' statement from the Virtual Summit recognizes that the COVID-19 pandemic “poses major risks for the world economy.”³³⁹³ In response to the economic implication of the COVID-19 pandemic, the G7 leaders have expressed their ongoing commitment to the stability of the global economy, including the facilitation of international trade and investment.³³⁹⁴

The global trading system was established after the Second World War through the Bretton Woods system. The Bretton Woods system established a number of international organizations to facilitate international trade and reduce tariff and non-tariff barriers. For instance, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) was a multilateral trade agreement with a purpose of reducing or eliminating trade barriers including tariffs and quotas.³³⁹⁵

On 1 January 1995, the World Trade Organization (WTO) was established in Geneva Switzerland as a revised version of the GATT.³³⁹⁶ The WTO is a multilateral trade agreement that works to ensure that international rules and regulations surrounding trade are properly applied and enforced.³³⁹⁷ The WTO agreements outline the principles of trade liberalization and broadly cover the trade of goods, services and intellectual properties.³³⁹⁸ One of the fundamental principles of the WTO is to combat protectionist trade measures by reducing or eliminating trade barriers.³³⁹⁹

³³⁹³ G7 Leaders' Declaration, G7 France (Biarritz) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 15 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2019biarritz/declaration-of-leaders.html>.

³³⁹⁴ G7 Leaders' Declaration, G7 France (Biarritz) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 15 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2019biarritz/declaration-of-leaders.html>.

³³⁹⁵ The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT 1947), World Trade Organization (Geneva) Access Date: 15 December 2020. https://www.wto.org/english/docs_e/legal_e/gatt47_01_e.htm.

³³⁹⁶ The WTO, World Trade Organization (Geneva) Access Date: 15 December 2020. https://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/thewto_e.htm.

³³⁹⁷ The WTO, World Trade Organization (Geneva) Access Date: 15 December 2020. https://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/thewto_e.htm.

³³⁹⁸ The WTO, World Trade Organization (Geneva) Access Date: 15 December 2020. https://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/thewto_e.htm.

³³⁹⁹ The WTO, World Trade Organization (Geneva) Access Date: 15 December 2020. https://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/thewto_e.htm.

The facilitation of international trade has been a significant economic priority of the G7/8 since the 1980s. During that period, the G7/8 made broad commitments to encourage the development of free markets and to encourage the reduction of trade barriers. After the establishment of the WTO in 1995, the G7/8 included the multilateral trading framework in a number of its commitments.³⁴⁰⁰ For instance, at the 1996 Lyon Summit, G7 leaders “[reaffirmed] the central role of the WTO and the preeminence of multilateral rules, which should serve as the framework for regional initiative.”³⁴⁰¹ Additionally, after the 1996 Summit the G7/8 members began to include investment and economic growth as an objective of the world trading system.³⁴⁰²

After the 2007-2008 financial crisis, G7/8 leaders focused on reinforcing the established trading system to facilitate barrier-free trade. For instance, at the 2014 Summit in Brussels, the G7 members reaffirmed their “commitment to keep our markets open and to fight all forms of protectionism including through standstill and rollback.”³⁴⁰³ At the 2015 Schloss Elmau Summit and the 2016 Ise-Shima Summit, G7 leaders made similar commitments to liberalize their trade economies and improve international competitiveness.³⁴⁰⁴

At the 2017 Summit in Taormina, the G7 leaders reiterated their “commitment to keep our markets open and fight protectionism,” while also “acknowledging that trade has not always worked for the benefit of everyone.”³⁴⁰⁵ The 2017 Taormina Summit was also the first summit in which US President Donald Trump attended. At the summit, President Trump expressed a desire to impose unilateral tariffs on Mexico and China.³⁴⁰⁶

At 2018 Charlevoix Summit, the G7 leaders “acknowledged that free, fair and mutually beneficial trade and investment, while creating reciprocal benefits are key engines for growth and job creation.”³⁴⁰⁷ The leaders also “underlined the crucial role of a rules-based international trading system and continue to fight protectionism.”³⁴⁰⁸ Then at the 2019 Biarritz Summit the G7 leaders declared that “the G7 is committed to open and fair trade and to the stability of the global economy.”³⁴⁰⁹ The G7 also declared its desire to “overhaul the WTO to improve effectiveness with regard to intellectual property protection, to settle disputes more swiftly and to eliminate unfair trade practices.”³⁴¹⁰

³⁴⁰⁰ Economic Communiqué: Making a Success of Globalization for the Benefit of All, G7 France (Lyon) 18 June 1996. Access Date: 15 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1996lyon/communique.html#eco2>.

³⁴⁰¹ Economic Communiqué: Making a Success of Globalization for the Benefit of All, G7 France (Lyon) 18 June 1996. Access Date: 15 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1996lyon/communique.html#eco2>.

³⁴⁰² Economic Communiqué: Making a Success of Globalization for the Benefit of All, G7 France (Lyon) 18 June 1996. Access Date: 15 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1996lyon/communique.html#eco2>.

³⁴⁰³ G7 Brussels Summit Declaration, G7 Brussels (Brussels) 5 June 2014. Access Date: 15 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2014brussels/declaration.html>.

³⁴⁰⁴ G7 Ise-Shima Leaders’ Declaration, G7 Japan (Ise-Shima) 27 May 2016. Access Date: 15 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2016shima/ise-shima-declaration-en.html#trade>.

³⁴⁰⁵ G7 Taormina Leaders’ Communiqué, G7 201 Italia (Taormina) 27 May 2017. Access Date: 15 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2017taormina/communique.html>.

³⁴⁰⁶ G7 leaders divided on climate change, closer on trade issues, Reuters (Taormina) 25 May 2017. Access Date: 15 December 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-g7-summit/g7-leaders-divided-on-climate-change-closer-on-tradeissues-idUSKBN18L2ZU>.

³⁴⁰⁷ The Charlevoix G7 Summit Communiqué, G7 2018 Charlevoix (La Malbaie) 9 June 2018. Access Date: 15 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/communique.html>.

³⁴⁰⁸ The Charlevoix G7 Summit Communiqué, G7 2018 Charlevoix (La Malbaie) 9 June 2018. Access Date: 15 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/communique.html>.

³⁴⁰⁹ G7 Leaders’ Declaration, G7 France (Biarritz) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 15 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2019biarritz/declaration-of-leaders.html>.

³⁴¹⁰ G7 Leaders’ Declaration, G7 France (Biarritz) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 15 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2019biarritz/declaration-of-leaders.html>.

Commitment Features

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic and the significant economic challenges that the health crisis has created, the G7 members have agreed to “marshalling the full power of our governments to: Support trade and investment.”

The first component of the commitment is “marshalling the full power of [their] governments.” These efforts to marshal the power of their governments must “support trade and investment.” The term “marshalling” refers to the action of bringing together multiple components to achieve a certain goal.³⁴¹¹ The term “support” refers to the action or process of assisting or aiding an initiative, or entity.³⁴¹²

The term “trade” is defined as the trade of goods, services and intellectual properties between nations.³⁴¹³ Examples of actions that would demonstrate a strong commitment to facilitating trade include, but are not limited to, government actions that endorse an environment where companies and individuals can trade freely without limits, that reduce tariffs and taxes on imports on imports to allow for unimpeded trade, that reduce the use of non-trade barriers and trade-distorting practices.

The term “investment” refers to the action or process of allocating capital funds or resources to an organization with the expectation that the investment will deliver defined outputs or outcomes.³⁴¹⁴ The most common form of investments are revenue funding or capital investments.³⁴¹⁵ Some examples of actions that strongly support investment include the establishment of investment funds, the creation of agencies that work to attract foreign investments, and the implementation of trade and investment agreements between parties. Given the significant economic challenges that the COVID-19 pandemic has created, efforts to support trade and investment should be focused on enhancing economic recovery or responding to the global health crisis.

The extent to which a G7 member fulfills this commitment will be measured through a depth analysis. In order to achieve full compliance, the G7 member must strongly support both trade and investment to enhance economic recovery or respond to the global health crisis. Examples of actions that warrant full compliance include domestic and international actions such as launching programs to facilitate trade and investment, enforcing free-trade policies through legislative action, and directly supporting international institutions that facilitate trade and investment. Examples of actions that warrant partial compliance may include only supporting domestic efforts such as referencing components of the commitment in official state remarks, assigning budgetary resources to programs that support the commitment, or changing fiscal or monetary policies in an effort to support trade and investment.

To achieve full compliance, G7 members must take action according to both parts of the commitment by strongly supporting both trade and investment efforts. Partial compliance will be awarded if a G7 member only supports one of the commitment areas – either trade or investment. A G7 member will receive a score of no compliance if they have not demonstrated support for any part of the commitment.

³⁴¹¹ Marshal, Merriam-Webster Dictionary. Access Date: 21 January 2020. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/marshal>.

³⁴¹² Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 6 August 2019. Access Date: 1 January 2021. <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1mArZpxMjf-O9IXEXjcF79Jvzvd97S-9Cs4xb0W4GyXg/edit>.

³⁴¹³ What We Stand For, World Trade Organization (Geneva) Access Date: 15 December 2020. https://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/whatis_e/what_stand_for_e.htm.

³⁴¹⁴ Social Investment and Social Enterprise, United Kingdom presidency of the G8 (Lough Erne) 3 June 2013. Access Date: 1 January 2021. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2013lougherne/factsheet_socialinvestment.html.

³⁴¹⁵ Social Investment and Social Enterprise, United Kingdom presidency of the G8 (Lough Erne) 3 June 2013. Access Date: 1 January 2021. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2013lougherne/factsheet_socialinvestment.html.

Scoring Guidelines

-1	G7 member has failed to take action to strongly support trade or investment.
0	G7 member has taken action to strongly support trade OR investment.
+1	G7 member has taken action to strongly support trade AND investment.

*Compliance Director: Emma Day
Lead Analyst: Matthew Kieffer*

Canada: +1

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to support trade and investment.

On 5 May 2020, Minister of Small Business, Export Promotion and International Trade Mary Ng issued a statement on joint collaboration by members of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum amid the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁴¹⁶ Minister Ng said, “it is imperative that trade remains open and predictable to facilitate the flow of essential goods and services, and to minimize disruptions to global supply chains.”³⁴¹⁷

On 28 May 2020, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, along with the Andrew Holness, Prime Minister of Jamaica, and António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations, launched the Financing for Development in the Era of COVID-19 and Beyond Initiative to find innovative solutions to continue investing in international and domestic areas.³⁴¹⁸

On 25 July 2020, Minister Ng participated in the virtual APEC trade ministers meeting to “discuss strengthening rules-based trade and upholding stable and predictable global supply chains.”³⁴¹⁹ During the meeting, Minister Ng announced that Canada would move to Phase II of the APEC-Canada Growing Business Partnership which will help small businesses by reducing trade barriers.³⁴²⁰ Minister Ng and her Asia-Pacific counterparts also signed onto a joint statement to reaffirm their commitment to collaborating on economic recovery actions amid the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁴²¹

³⁴¹⁶ Statement on joint collaboration by APEC members amid COVID-19 pandemic, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 5 May 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/05/statement-on-joint-collaboration-by-apec-members-amid-covid-19-pandemic.html>.

³⁴¹⁷ Statement on joint collaboration by APEC members amid COVID-19 pandemic, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 5 May 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/05/statement-on-joint-collaboration-by-apec-members-amid-covid-19-pandemic.html>.

³⁴¹⁸ The Secretary-General's press conference with the Prime Ministers of Canada and Jamaica on Financing for Development in the Era of COVID-19 and Beyond, United Nations Secretary General (Ottawa) 28 May 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. <https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/press-encounter/2020-05-28/the-secretary-generals-press-conference-the-prime-ministers-of-canada-and-jamaica-financing-for-development-the-era-of-covid-19-and-beyond>.

³⁴¹⁹ Minister Ng participates in APEC trade ministers meeting and announces expansion of APEC-Canada Growing Business Partnership, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 25 July 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/07/minister-ng-participates-in-apec-trade-ministers-meeting-and-announces-expansion-of-apec-canada-growing-business-partnership.html>.

³⁴²⁰ Minister Ng participates in APEC trade ministers meeting and announces expansion of APEC-Canada Growing Business Partnership, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 25 July 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/07/minister-ng-participates-in-apec-trade-ministers-meeting-and-announces-expansion-of-apec-canada-growing-business-partnership.html>.

³⁴²¹ Minister Ng participates in APEC trade ministers meeting and announces expansion of APEC-Canada Growing Business Partnership, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 25 July 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/07/minister-ng-participates-in-apec-trade-ministers-meeting-and-announces-expansion-of-apec-canada-growing-business-partnership.html>.

On 22 September 2020, Minister Ng participated in the G20 Trade and Investment Ministerial Meeting.³⁴²² During the meeting, Minister Ng committed to implementing the G20 Action Plan on Trade and Investment.³⁴²³ The Action Plan was created in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁴²⁴

On 17 December 2020, Minister Ng announced that the Canada-led Ottawa Group Trade and Health initiative was presented to the World Health Organization Council for discussion.³⁴²⁵ The Trade and Health Initiative includes Canada and 12 other Ottawa Group member nations calling on enhanced cooperation among WTO members to strengthen global supply chains and facilitate the flow of essential medicines amid the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁴²⁶

On 11 January 2021, Minister Ng announced that it has started public consultations with Indonesia for a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement.³⁴²⁷

On 28 January 2021, Minister Ng spoke with Valdis Dombrovskis, European Commission Executive Vice-President and Commissioner for Trade, about the importance of sustaining vaccine and medical supply trade flows.³⁴²⁸ Minister Ng and Mr. Dombrovskis also acknowledged their ongoing collaborative work on reforming the World Trade Organization (WTO) including participation in the Ottawa Group.³⁴²⁹

On 29 January 2021, Minister Ng participated in a virtual WTO meeting of fellow ministers.³⁴³⁰ They discussed key priorities to “strengthen the rules-based multilateral trading system in support of an inclusive,

³⁴²² Canada's support of G20 world trade and investment response to COVID-19, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 22 September 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/international_relations-relations_internationales/g20/2020-09-22-action_plan-plan_action.aspx?lang=eng.

³⁴²³ Canada's support of G20 world trade and investment response to COVID-19, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 22 September 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/international_relations-relations_internationales/g20/2020-09-22-action_plan-plan_action.aspx?lang=eng.

³⁴²⁴ Canada's support of G20 world trade and investment response to COVID-19, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 22 September 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/international_relations-relations_internationales/g20/2020-09-22-action_plan-plan_action.aspx?lang=eng.

³⁴²⁵ Minister Ng announces tabling of Ottawa Group's Trade and Health Initiative at WTO General Council, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/12/minister-ng-announces-tabling-of-ottawa-groups-trade-and-health-initiative-at-wto-general-council.html>.

³⁴²⁶ Minister Ng announces tabling of Ottawa Group's Trade and Health Initiative at WTO General Council, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/12/minister-ng-announces-tabling-of-ottawa-groups-trade-and-health-initiative-at-wto-general-council.html>.

³⁴²⁷ Consulting Canadians on a possible comprehensive economic partnership agreement with Indonesia, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 8 January 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.international.gc.ca/trade-commerce/consultations/consulting-indonesia-consultation-indonesie.aspx?lang=eng>.

³⁴²⁸ Minister Ng speaks with European Commissioner for Trade Valdis Dombrovskis, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 28 January 2021, Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2021/01/minister-ng-speaks-with-european-commissioner-for-trade-valdis-dombrovskis.html>.

³⁴²⁹ Minister Ng speaks with European Commissioner for Trade Valdis Dombrovskis, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 28 January 2021, Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2021/01/minister-ng-speaks-with-european-commissioner-for-trade-valdis-dombrovskis.html>.

³⁴³⁰ Minister Ng Discusses global trade and economic recovery in WTO ministerial meeting, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 29 January 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2021/01/minister-ng-discusses-global-trade-and-economic-recovery-in-wto-ministerial-meeting.html>.

sustainable and resilient global recovery.³⁴³¹ During the meeting, Minister Ng highlighted the Ottawa Group's efforts to keep markets open and to facilitate the distribution of vaccines.³⁴³²

On 5 May 2021, Minister Ng met with Costa Rica's Minister of Foreign Trade, Adrés Valenciano to discuss expanding Canada and Costa Rica's trading relationship. The discussion focused on increasing inclusive trade opportunities and supporting small and medium sized business enterprises.³⁴³³

Canada has taken action and has made collaborative efforts towards supporting both the trade and investment aspects of its commitment in creating strategies adapted to COVID-19.

Thus, Canada receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Katherine Yarrun

France: +1

France has fully complied with its commitment to support trade and investment.

On 30 March 2020, Minister of State Jean-Baptiste Lemoyne participated in a meeting with the G20 Trade and Investment Ministers.³⁴³⁴ The ministers discussed the use of coordinated trade policy measures to combat the economic challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. They agreed on a statement with the following commitments: 1) to ensure the continued flow of essential goods to combat the pandemic (e.g. medical supplies and agricultural goods), 2) to ensure that any export restrictions remain consistent with World Trade Organization (WTO) rules, 3) to ensure an open, free, fair, non-discriminatory, and transparent trade system, 4) to monitor the impact of the epidemic on trade and investment.³⁴³⁵

On 3 September 2020, Minister Delegate for Foreign Trade and Economic Attractiveness Franck Riester spoke to Canada's Minister of Small Business, Export Promotion and International Trade Mary Ng about how to strengthen their countries' economic ties through trade.³⁴³⁶ Minister Riester and Minister Ng also

³⁴³¹ Minister Ng Discusses global trade and economic recovery in WTO ministerial meeting, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 29 January 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2021/01/minister-ng-discusses-global-trade-and-economic-recovery-in-wto-ministerial-meeting.html>.

³⁴³² Minister Ng Discusses global trade and economic recovery in WTO ministerial meeting, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 29 January 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2021/01/minister-ng-discusses-global-trade-and-economic-recovery-in-wto-ministerial-meeting.html>.

³⁴³³ Minister Ng speaks with Costa Rica's minister of foreign trade, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 6 May 2021. Access Date: 6 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2021/05/readout-minister-ng-speaks-with-costa-ricas-minister-of-foreign-trade.html>.

³⁴³⁴ G20 - Jean-Baptiste Lemoyne's participation in the telephone meeting between the G20 trade and investment ministers (30 Mar. 20), France Diplomacy (Paris) 30 March 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/economic-diplomacy-foreign-trade/news/article/g20-jean-baptiste-lemoyne-s-participation-in-the-telephone-meeting-between-the>.

³⁴³⁵ G20 - Jean-Baptiste Lemoyne's participation in the telephone meeting between the G20 trade and investment ministers (30 Mar. 20), France Diplomacy (Paris) 30 March 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/economic-diplomacy-foreign-trade/news/article/g20-jean-baptiste-lemoyne-s-participation-in-the-telephone-meeting-between-the>.

³⁴³⁶ Readout: Minister Ng speaks with France's Minister Delegate for Foreign Trade and Economic Attractiveness, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 3 September 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/09/readout-minister-ng-speaks-with-frances-minister-delegate-for-foreign-trade-and-economic-attractiveness.html>.

discussed ways to promote new opportunities for Canadian and French businesses amid the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁴³⁷

On 3 September 2020, Prime Minister Jean Castex announced the key priorities of France's economic recovery plan.³⁴³⁸ He announced that the European Union will contribute 40 percent of France's recovery plan and that the European funding will be "awarded to support investments and reforms which have a lasting effect on productivity, support and drive forward the energy and digital transition and facilitate the convergence of European economies."³⁴³⁹

On 1 March 2021, Minister Riester spoke with German Minister for the Economy and Energy Peter Altmaier about the new trade policy presented by the European Commission.³⁴⁴⁰ The new trade policy aims to address a number of challenges including COVID-19 economic recovery and reforming the WTO.³⁴⁴¹

France has demonstrated support for trade and investment in both international and domestic contexts.

Thus, France receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Joy Fan

Germany: +1

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to marshal the full power of its government to support trade and investment.

On 30 March 2020, the German government provided federal export credit guarantees in response to the global health crisis.³⁴⁴² This supported trade by preventing possible bottlenecks in the private export credit insurance market.³⁴⁴³

On 8 April 2020, the German cabinet amended the Foreign Trade Act to tighten rules on investment from non-EU countries.³⁴⁴⁴ Transactions with implications on German security will now be provisionally put on

³⁴³⁷ Readout: Minister Ng speaks with France's Minister Delegate for Foreign Trade and Economic Attractiveness, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 3 September 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/09/readout-minister-ng-speaks-with-frances-minister-delegate-for-foreign-trade-and-economic-attractiveness.html>.

³⁴³⁸ European aspects of France's recovery plan, Government of France (Paris) 3 September 2020. Access Date: Access Date: 13 March 2021. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/european-aspects-of-france-s-recovery-plan>.

³⁴³⁹ European aspects of France's recovery plan, Government of France (Paris) 3 September 2020. Access Date: Access Date: 13 March 2021. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/european-aspects-of-france-s-recovery-plan>.

³⁴⁴⁰ International trade – Conversation between Franck Riester and Germany's minister for the economy and energy (1 March 2021), France Diplomacy (Paris) 1 March 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/economic-diplomacy-foreign-trade/news/article/international-trade-conversation-between-franck-riester-and-germany-s-minister>.

³⁴⁴¹ Questions and Answers: An open, sustainable and assertive trade policy, European Commission (Brussels) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/qanda_21_645.

³⁴⁴² Bund erweitert Möglichkeiten für Exportkreditgarantien als Reaktion auf Corona-Pandemie, BMWi (Berlin) 30 March 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.bmw.de/Redaktion/DE/Pressemitteilungen/2020/20200330-bund-erweitert-moeglichkeiten-fuer-exportkreditgarantien-als-reaktion-auf-corona-pandemie.html>.

³⁴⁴³ Bund erweitert Möglichkeiten für Exportkreditgarantien als Reaktion auf Corona-Pandemie, BMWi (Berlin) 30 March 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.bmw.de/Redaktion/DE/Pressemitteilungen/2020/20200330-bund-erweitert-moeglichkeiten-fuer-exportkreditgarantien-als-reaktion-auf-corona-pandemie.html>.

³⁴⁴⁴ Germany tightens rules on foreign takeovers, Reuters (Berlin) 8 April 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-germany-mergers-idUSKBN21Q0VI>

hold pending final decision, and a review can be undertaken if there is assessed to be “likely harm” to the public system or security.³⁴⁴⁵

On 14 May 2020, Economic Affairs Minister Peter Altmaier and his colleagues adopted a number of short and long-term measures to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on global trade during the G20's Trade and Investment Ministers conference.³⁴⁴⁶ Minister Altmaier said “we need to work even more closely together at international level to jointly tackle the negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on trade flows and investment.”³⁴⁴⁷

On 20 May 2020, the German cabinet approved new powers to veto foreign takeovers in the healthcare sector.³⁴⁴⁸ This allows the German government to “block takeovers of makers of vaccines, precursor chemicals, medicines, protective equipment or medical machinery such as ventilators,” and allows it to examine the security implications of non-EU bids as soon as a buyer owns more than 10 percent of a healthcare company's shares.³⁴⁴⁹

On 7 July 2020, the German government announced a five-point package of measures to support the export industry.³⁴⁵⁰ The package supported exporters affected by the global health crisis by providing financing options and creating incentives abroad to import German goods and services.³⁴⁵¹

On 25 August 2020, Germany agreed on an administrative agreement with Serbia.³⁴⁵² The agreement serves to strengthen supply chains, further connect Serbia to the EU internal market, and opens the door for future investments.³⁴⁵³

³⁴⁴⁵ Germany tightens rules on foreign takeovers, Reuters (Berlin) 8 April 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-germany-mergers-idUSKBN21Q0VI>.

³⁴⁴⁶ G20 Trade and Investment Ministers agree on international measures to tackle the coronavirus pandemic, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin) 15 May 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2020/20200515-g20-trade-and-investment-ministers-agree-on-international-measures-to-tackle-the-coronavirus-pandemic.html>.

³⁴⁴⁷ G20 Trade and Investment Ministers agree on international measures to tackle the coronavirus pandemic, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin) 15 May 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2020/20200515-g20-trade-and-investment-ministers-agree-on-international-measures-to-tackle-the-coronavirus-pandemic.html>.

³⁴⁴⁸ Germany approves new powers to block foreign takeovers in healthcare, Reuters (Berlin) 20 May 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-germany-m-a/germany-approves-new-powers-to-block-foreign-takeovers-in-healthcare-idUKKBN22W14J>.

³⁴⁴⁹ Germany approves new powers to block foreign takeovers in healthcare, Reuters (Berlin) 20 May 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-germany-m-a/germany-approves-new-powers-to-block-foreign-takeovers-in-healthcare-idUKKBN22W14J>.

³⁴⁵⁰ Altmaier: Mit 5-Punkte Maßnahmenpaket unterstützen wir deutsche Exportwirtschaft als wichtigen Pfeiler unserer Wirtschaft, BMWi (Berlin) 7 July 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/DE/Pressemitteilungen/2020/20200707-altmaier-mit-5-punkte-massnahmepaket-unterstuetzen-wir-deutsche-exportwirtschaft.html>.

³⁴⁵¹ Altmaier: Mit 5-Punkte Maßnahmenpaket unterstützen wir deutsche Exportwirtschaft als wichtigen Pfeiler unserer Wirtschaft, BMWi (Berlin) 7 July 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/DE/Pressemitteilungen/2020/20200707-altmaier-mit-5-punkte-massnahmepaket-unterstuetzen-wir-deutsche-exportwirtschaft.html>.

³⁴⁵² Bundeswirtschaftsminister Altmaier und der serbische Staatspräsident Vučić vereinbaren Partnerschaft zur Verbesserung des Geschäftsumfeldes in Serbien, BMWi (Berlin) 25 August 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021.

<https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/DE/Pressemitteilungen/2020/20200825-bundeswirtschaftsminister-altmaier-und-der-serbische-staatspraesident-vucic-vereinbaren-partnerschaft-zur-verbesserung-des-geschaefsumfeldes-in-serbien.html>

³⁴⁵³ Bundeswirtschaftsminister Altmaier und der serbische Staatspräsident Vučić vereinbaren Partnerschaft zur Verbesserung des Geschäftsumfeldes in Serbien, BMWi (Berlin) 25 August 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021.

<https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/DE/Pressemitteilungen/2020/20200825-bundeswirtschaftsminister-altmaier-und-der-serbische-staatspraesident-vucic-vereinbaren-partnerschaft-zur-verbesserung-des-geschaefsumfeldes-in-serbien.html>

On October 7 2020, the German cabinet amended the Foreign Trade Ordinance in accordance with the EU-wide cooperation mechanism.³⁴⁵⁴ This amendment strengthens cooperation among EU members regarding non-EU foreign investment.³⁴⁵⁵

On 14 October 2020, the German Development Ministry signed an agreement to invest in new digital systems and e-commerce platforms in developing countries and emerging economies in Africa.³⁴⁵⁶ The scheme seeks to use “digital solutions to break down barriers to trade,” and will “act as a springboard for development.”³⁴⁵⁷

On 26 January 2021, Chancellor Angela Merkel gave a speech at the World Economic Forum's Davos Dialogue.³⁴⁵⁸ During her speech, Chancellor Merkel recognized the need to support and reinforce international trade structures outlined by the World Trade organization.³⁴⁵⁹

On 12 April 2021, Parliamentary State Secretary Elisabeth Winkelmeier-Becker signed a declaration of intent with Indonesia regarding bilateral dialogue on infrastructure. This dialogue seeks to break down technical trade barriers and encourage investment.³⁴⁶⁰

Germany has demonstrated strong support for trade and investment to enhance economic recovery or respond to the global health crisis.

Thus, Germany receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Erfan Ehsan

Italy: +1

Italy has fully complied with its commitment to marshal the full power of its government to support trade and investment.

³⁴⁵⁴ Bundeskabinett verabschiedet novellierte Außenwirtschaftsverordnung zur Einführung des neuen EU-weiten Kooperationsmechanismus, BMWi (Berlin) 7 October 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.bmw.de/Redaktion/DE/Pressemitteilungen/2020/10/20201007-bundeskabinett-verabschiedet-novellierte-aussenwirtschaftsverordnung.html>.

³⁴⁵⁵ Bundeskabinett verabschiedet novellierte Außenwirtschaftsverordnung zur Einführung des neuen EU-weiten Kooperationsmechanismus, BMWi (Berlin) 7 October 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.bmw.de/Redaktion/DE/Pressemitteilungen/2020/10/20201007-bundeskabinett-verabschiedet-novellierte-aussenwirtschaftsverordnung.html>.

³⁴⁵⁶ Deutsche Post DHL Group and German Development Ministry will promote e-commerce in developing countries and emerging economies, BMZ (Berlin) 14 October 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. https://www.bmz.de/en/press/aktuelleMeldungen/2020/oktober/201014_pm_033_Achieving-prosperity-through-trade-Deutsche-Post-DHL-Group-and-German-Development-Ministry-will-promote-e-commerce-in-developing-countries-and-emerging-economies/index.html.

³⁴⁵⁷ Deutsche Post DHL Group and German Development Ministry will promote e-commerce in developing countries and emerging economies, BMZ (Berlin) 14 October 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. https://www.bmz.de/en/press/aktuelleMeldungen/2020/oktober/201014_pm_033_Achieving-prosperity-through-trade-Deutsche-Post-DHL-Group-and-German-Development-Ministry-will-promote-e-commerce-in-developing-countries-and-emerging-economies/index.html.

³⁴⁵⁸ Speech by Federal Chancellor Dr Angela Merkel at the World Economic Forum's Davos Dialogue on 26 January 2021 (video conference), The Federal Government (Berlin) 26 January 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/speech-by-federal-chancellor-dr-angela-merkel-at-the-world-economic-forum-s-davos-dialogue-on-26-january-2021-video-conference--1846772>.

³⁴⁵⁹ Speech by Federal Chancellor Dr Angela Merkel at the World Economic Forum's Davos Dialogue on 26 January 2021 (video conference), The Federal Government (Berlin) 26 January 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/speech-by-federal-chancellor-dr-angela-merkel-at-the-world-economic-forum-s-davos-dialogue-on-26-january-2021-video-conference--1846772>.

³⁴⁶⁰ Hannover Messe: Germany and partner country Indonesia agree on cooperation in quality infrastructure Introduction, BMWi (Berlin) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 22 April 2021. <https://www.bmw.de/Redaktion/DE/Pressemitteilungen/2021/04/20210412-hannover-messe-deutschland-und-partnerland-indonesien-vereinbaren-zusammenarbeit.html>.

On 14 May 2020, Undersecretary Ivan Scalfarotto attended a meeting of the G20 Trade Ministers to discuss the response to the COVID-19 pandemic initiated by the Trade and Investment Working Group.³⁴⁶¹ The working group was tasked with identifying short and long-term collective initiatives to relaunch multilateral trade cooperation and to accelerate economic recovery.³⁴⁶²

On 20 July 2020, Undersecretary Scalfarotto met with his Spanish counterpart to discuss trade policy issues.³⁴⁶³ At the meeting, Scalfarotto affirmed the importance of Airbus subsidy reform in line with the provisions of the World Trade Organization (WTO).³⁴⁶⁴ Additionally, both undersecretaries agreed on the importance of European coordination for negotiations to the digital service tax and WTO reform.³⁴⁶⁵

On 19 November 2020, Deputy Minister Manilo Di Stefano attended the web making festival for digital and social innovation.³⁴⁶⁶ The deputy minister encouraged investment in hydrogen, block chain, start-ups, and cloud technologies, announcing the expansion of the 394/81 Fund which provides subsidized loans for investments in internationalisation and digitisation projects.³⁴⁶⁷

On 10 December 2020, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Luigi di Maio met with the Turkish minister of trade, Rushar Peckan for the Joint Italy-Turkey Economic and Trade Commission.³⁴⁶⁸ The minister of foreign affairs recognized the importance of increasing the bilateral flow of investment, and the ministers signed a Memorandum of Understanding between the Italian Trade Agency and its Turkish counterpart in order to “strengthen cooperation between the two agencies.”³⁴⁶⁹

³⁴⁶¹ Scalfarotto at the G20 Trade Ministers Meeting, Government of Italy (Rome) 14 May 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021.

https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/05/scalfarotto-alla-riunione-ministri-del-commercio-g20.html.

³⁴⁶² Scalfarotto at the G20 Trade Ministers Meeting, Government of Italy (Rome) 14 May 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021.

https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/05/scalfarotto-alla-riunione-ministri-del-commercio-g20.html.

³⁴⁶³ Undersecretary Scalfarotto with the Spanish Secretary of State for Trade, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 20 July 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021.

https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/07/colloquio-del-sottosegretario-scalfarotto-con-la-sottosegretaria-di-stato-al-commercio-spagnola-xiana-mendez-bertolo.html.

³⁴⁶⁴ Undersecretary Scalfarotto with the Spanish Secretary of State for Trade, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 20 July 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021.

https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/07/colloquio-del-sottosegretario-scalfarotto-con-la-sottosegretaria-di-stato-al-commercio-spagnola-xiana-mendez-bertolo.html.

³⁴⁶⁵ Undersecretary Scalfarotto with the Spanish Secretary of State for Trade, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 20 July 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021.

https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/07/colloquio-del-sottosegretario-scalfarotto-con-la-sottosegretaria-di-stato-al-commercio-spagnola-xiana-mendez-bertolo.html.

³⁴⁶⁶ Web Marketing Festival: investing on internationalisation and digitisation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 19 November 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/11/di-stefano-a-web-marketing-festival-investire-su-internazionalizzazione-e-digitalizzazione.html.

³⁴⁶⁷ Web Marketing Festival: investing on internationalisation and digitisation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 19 November 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/11/di-stefano-a-web-marketing-festival-investire-su-internazionalizzazione-e-digitalizzazione.html.

³⁴⁶⁸ Italy-Turkey joint Economic and Trade Commission (JETCO) meeting, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and international cooperation (Rome) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021.

https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/12/seconda-sessione-in-formato-virtuale-della-joint-economic-and-trade-commission-jetco-italia-turchia.html.

³⁴⁶⁹ Italy-Turkey joint Economic and Trade Commission (JETCO) meeting, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and international cooperation (Rome) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/12/seconda-sessione-in-formato-virtuale-della-joint-economic-and-trade-commission-jetco-italia-turchia.html.

On 15 January 2021, Deputy Minister Di Stefano met with the Foreign Investment Attraction Committee to discuss investment projects in the health sector and the creation of a legal framework more conducive to foreign direct investment.³⁴⁷⁰

On April 17 2021, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Luigi di Maio and US trade representative Katherine Tai met for a video conference last week which resulted in positive results for Italy-US trade relations. Topics discussed pertained to the suspension of duties relevant to the Airbus/Boeing dispute damaging important industrial sectors, as well as duties imposed on Steel and Aluminum.³⁴⁷¹

On 23 April 2021, Deputy Minister Di Stefano inaugurated the first “sectoral task force” between the Italian and German trade fair systems. The task force will coordinate various trade sectors to enhance international trade between Italy and Germany.³⁴⁷²

Italy has demonstrated support for both trade and investment by implementing programs and seeking partnerships and remains committed to marshalling the full power of trade and investment.

Thus, Italy receives a score of +1

Analyst: Bianca Costantino

Japan: +1

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to marshalling the full power of the government to support trade and investment.

On 8 May 2020, amendments made to Japan’s Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act came into effect. The changes lowered the threshold of screening of foreign direct investments from 10 percent to 1 per cent for certain sectors.³⁴⁷³

On 11 May 2020, Japan extended its time limits for customs procedures, and exempted, reduced, or refunded custom fees due to the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁴⁷⁴

On 13 May 2020, Japan signed a joint statement at the General Council Committee on Agriculture of the World Trade Organization (WTO).³⁴⁷⁵ The statement included a call to “mitigate the impact of COVID-19

³⁴⁷⁰ Ministry of Foreign Affairs at the forefront of the Foreign Investment Attraction Committee, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 01 January 2021. Access Date: 25 February 2021. https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2021/01/farnesina-in-prima-linea-al-comitato-attrazione-investimenti-esteri-caie.html.

³⁴⁷¹ A virtual meeting was held between minister Di Maio and the U.S Trade Representative (USTR) Katherine Tai, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 17 April 2021. Access Date: 22 April 2021. https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/incontro-virtuale-tra-il-ministro-di-maio-e-la-rappresentante-usa-per-il-commercio-ustr-katherine-tai.html.

³⁴⁷² Deputy Minister Di Stefano inaugurates the first "sectoral task force" between Italian and German trade fair systems, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 7 May 2021. https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/sottosegretario-di-stefano-inaugura-prima-task-force-settoriale-tra-sistemi-fieristici-italiano-e-tedesco_0.html.

³⁴⁷³ Factors to be considered in authorities’ screening of foreign direct investment, Ministry of Finance (Tokyo) 8 May 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. https://www.mof.go.jp/english/international_policy/fdi/gaitamehou_20200508.htm.

³⁴⁷⁴ COVID-19 Temporary Trade Measures, International Trade Centre (Geneva) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 25 February 2021. https://macmap.org/OfflineDocument/Covid19/COVID_FRA_1.pdf.

³⁴⁷⁵ Responding to the COVID-19 Pandemic with Open and Predictable Trade in Agriculture and Food Products, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 13 May 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/proposals_e.htm.

on agriculture trade and food security.”³⁴⁷⁶ The statement also encouraged members of the WTO to “implement temporary working solutions to facilitate trade.”³⁴⁷⁷

On 14 May 2020, Japan signed a joint statement at the WTO General Council highlighting the importance of small and medium-sized enterprises in economies.³⁴⁷⁸ The statement reaffirmed the role of the WTO in international trade and committed the signatories to “work together to deliver a free, fair, predictable, and stable trade environment and to keep our markets open with a view to support the global recovery.”³⁴⁷⁹

On 28 May 2020, Japan signed a joint statement at the WTO General Council about COVID-19 and the multilateral trading system.³⁴⁸⁰ As a signatory, Japan pledged to “refrain from raising new unjustified barriers to investment or to trade in goods and services.”³⁴⁸¹

On 15 June 2020, the Ministry of Finance announced that the Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act would be further expanded to include “manufacturing industries related to pharmaceuticals” and “manufacturing [industries] related to highly-controlled medical devices.”³⁴⁸²

On 23 October 2020, Japan signed the UK-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement, designed to strengthen mutual trade between the two countries. The agreement includes a commitment from Japan to support the UK joining the Trans-Pacific Partnership.³⁴⁸³

On 26 October 2020, Japan signed a joint statement at WTO Committee on Trade Facilitation.³⁴⁸⁴ The statement recognized that “Cross-border trade is a critical channel for getting essential products to those who need them” and “as WTO members, we are called to demonstrate leadership by ensuring the smooth and continuous trade in goods.”³⁴⁸⁵ The statement also committed its signatories to accelerating the implementation of the Trade Facilitation Agreement in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁴⁸⁶

³⁴⁷⁶ Responding to the COVID-19 Pandemic with Open and Predictable Trade in Agriculture and Food Products, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 13 May 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/proposals_e.htm.

³⁴⁷⁷ Responding to the COVID-19 Pandemic with Open and Predictable Trade in Agriculture and Food Products, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 13 May 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/proposals_e.htm.

³⁴⁷⁸ Statement on highlighting the importance of MSMEs in the time of COVID-19, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 14 May 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/proposals_e.htm.

³⁴⁷⁹ Statement on highlighting the importance of MSMEs in the time of COVID-19, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 14 May 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/proposals_e.htm.

³⁴⁸⁰ Statement on COVID-19 and the multilateral trading system by ministers responsible for the WTO, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 28 May 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/proposals_e.htm.

³⁴⁸¹ Statement on COVID-19 and the multilateral trading system by ministers responsible for the WTO, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 28 May 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/proposals_e.htm.

³⁴⁸² Twenty-fourth Report on G20 Investment Measures, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (Paris) 18 November 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/g20_oecd_unctad_report_nov20_e.pdf.

³⁴⁸³ UK and Japan sign free trade agreement, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 23 October 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-japan-sign-free-trade-agreement>.

³⁴⁸⁴ Supporting the timely and efficient release of global goods through accelerated implementation of the WTO trade facilitation agreement, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 26 October 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/proposals_e.htm.

³⁴⁸⁵ Supporting the timely and efficient release of global goods through accelerated implementation of the WTO trade facilitation agreement, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 26 October 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/proposals_e.htm.

³⁴⁸⁶ Supporting the timely and efficient release of global goods through accelerated implementation of the WTO trade facilitation agreement, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 26 October 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/proposals_e.htm.

On 24 November 2020, Japan signed a joint statement at the WTO General Council about international trade and health.³⁴⁸⁷ The statement included specific policy proposals relating to export restrictions, trade facilitation, technical regulations, tariffs, transparency, and review.³⁴⁸⁸

Japan has taken steps to strongly support trade and investment both domestically and internationally through its cooperation with multilateral organizations.

Thus, Japan receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Joy Fan

United Kingdom: +1

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to marshal the full power of its government to support trade and investment.

On 19 May 2020, the Government of the United Kingdom announced the UK Global Tariff.³⁴⁸⁹ It aims to “scrap red tape and other unnecessary barriers to trade, reduce cost pressures and increase choice for consumers and back UK industries to compete on the global stage.”³⁴⁹⁰

On 21 May 2020, Minister for Exports Graham Stuart announced the UK’s commitment to support the development of the Solidarity Transport Hub, a major infrastructure project in Poland.³⁴⁹¹ The project will boost regional connectivity and enhance trade.³⁴⁹²

On 7 August 2020, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster Michael Gove and Secretary of State for Northern Ireland Brandon Lewis announced a new, free-to-use Trader Support Service to support traders in Northern Ireland.³⁴⁹³ It will “provide vital support and guidance to traders” by completing digital processes on their behalf.³⁴⁹⁴

On 29 September 2020, the Department of International Trade launched a Trade Hub to support businesses in Scotland.³⁴⁹⁵ The Trade Hub provides governmental support to ensure that businesses in Scotland can take full advantage of trade agreements with the UK.³⁴⁹⁶

³⁴⁸⁷ COVID-19 and Beyond: Trade and Health, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 24 November 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/proposals_e.htm.

³⁴⁸⁸ COVID-19 and Beyond: Trade and Health, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 24 November 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/proposals_e.htm.

³⁴⁸⁹ UK Global Tariff backs UK businesses and consumers, Department for International Trade (London) 19 May 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-global-tariff-backs-uk-businesses-and-consumers>.

³⁴⁹⁰ UK Global Tariff backs UK businesses and consumers, Department for International Trade (London) 19 May 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-global-tariff-backs-uk-businesses-and-consumers>.

³⁴⁹¹ UK-Poland agreement to deliver major infrastructure project, Department for International Trade (London) 21 May 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-poland-agreement-to-deliver-major-infrastructure-project>.

³⁴⁹² UK-Poland agreement to deliver major infrastructure project, Department for International Trade (London) 21 May 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-poland-agreement-to-deliver-major-infrastructure-project>.

³⁴⁹³ Major £650 million investment for Northern Ireland, Cabinet Office (London) 7 August 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/major-650-million-investment-for-northern-ireland>.

³⁴⁹⁴ Major £650 million investment for Northern Ireland, Cabinet Office (London) 7 August 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/major-650-million-investment-for-northern-ireland>.

³⁴⁹⁵ UK Government Trade Hub launched to support Scottish businesses, Department for International Trade (London) 29 September 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-government-trade-hub-launched-to-support-scottish-businesses>.

³⁴⁹⁶ UK Government Trade Hub launched to support Scottish businesses, Department for International Trade (London) 29 September 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-government-trade-hub-launched-to-support-scottish-businesses>.

On 7 October 2020, the Government of the United Kingdom outlined its plans for the creation of Freeports, set to open by the end of 2021.³⁴⁹⁷ The Freeports are meant to “create national hubs for trade, innovation and commerce,” and “attract investment from around the world.”³⁴⁹⁸

On 8 October 2020, the UK signed a Political, Free Trade, and Strategic Partnership Agreement with Ukraine.³⁴⁹⁹ The agreement will “strengthen the political and trade ties between the two countries.”³⁵⁰⁰

On 9 October 2020, the Department for International Trade announced several new investment opportunities and programmes across the UK.³⁵⁰¹ The initiatives are designed to encourage foreign investment into the UK and “help the country build back better.”³⁵⁰²

On 15 October 2020, the UK signed an Economic Partnership Agreement with the Côte d’Ivoire.³⁵⁰³ The agreement maintains existing trade agreements, and prevents additional barriers or tariffs.³⁵⁰⁴

On 22 October 2020, the UK signed the UK-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement.³⁵⁰⁵ This agreement goes beyond the EU-Japan deal, with enhancements in “areas such as digital and data, financial services, food and drink, and creative industries.”³⁵⁰⁶

On 9 November 2020, Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced the new Office for Investment.³⁵⁰⁷ The Office will connect the public and private sector and be “a major addition to the UK government’s ability to attract foreign investment.”³⁵⁰⁸

On 10 November 2020, International Trade Secretary Liz Truss announced that preferential tariffs would continue for developing countries.³⁵⁰⁹ The trade preference scheme will support economic development by liberalizing trade.³⁵¹⁰

³⁴⁹⁷ Government outlines new plans for Freeports to turbo-charge post-Brexit trade, HM Treasury (London) 7 October 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-outlines-new-plans-for-freeports-to-turbo-charge-post-brexit-trade>.

³⁴⁹⁸ Government outlines new plans for Freeports to turbo-charge post-Brexit trade, HM Treasury (London) 7 October 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-outlines-new-plans-for-freeports-to-turbo-charge-post-brexit-trade>.

³⁴⁹⁹ UK and Ukraine sign Political, Free Trade and Strategic Partnership Agreement, Foreign, Commonwealth, & Development Office (London) 8 October 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-ukraine-sign-political-free-trade-and-strategic-partnership-agreement>.

³⁵⁰⁰ UK and Ukraine sign Political, Free Trade and Strategic Partnership Agreement, Foreign, Commonwealth, & Development Office (London) 8 October 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-ukraine-sign-political-free-trade-and-strategic-partnership-agreement>.

³⁵⁰¹ Regional investment projects announced to boost local economies, Department for International Trade (London) 9 October 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/regional-investment-projects-announced-to-boost-local-economies>.

³⁵⁰² Regional investment projects announced to boost local economies, Department for International Trade (London) 9 October 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/regional-investment-projects-announced-to-boost-local-economies>.

³⁵⁰³ The United Kingdom and Côte d’Ivoire sign Economic Partnership Agreement, Department for International Trade (London) 15 October 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/the-united-kingdom-and-cote-divoire-sign-economic-partnership-agreement>.

³⁵⁰⁴ The United Kingdom and Côte d’Ivoire sign Economic Partnership Agreement, Department for International Trade (London) 15 October 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/the-united-kingdom-and-cote-divoire-sign-economic-partnership-agreement>.

³⁵⁰⁵ UK and Japan sign historic free trade agreement, Department for International Trade (London) 22 October 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-japan-sign-historic-free-trade-agreement>.

³⁵⁰⁶ UK and Japan sign historic free trade agreement, Department for International Trade (London) 22 October 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-japan-sign-historic-free-trade-agreement>

³⁵⁰⁷ New Office for Investment to drive foreign investment into the UK, Department for International Trade (London) 9 November 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-office-for-investment-to-drive-foreign-investment-into-the-uk>.

³⁵⁰⁸ New Office for Investment to drive foreign investment into the UK, Department for International Trade (London) 9 November 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-office-for-investment-to-drive-foreign-investment-into-the-uk>.

On 24 November 2020, UK Export Finance signed a cooperation agreement with its counterpart in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Etihad Credit Insurance.³⁵¹¹ The agreement will “strengthen trade cooperation and boost investment between the UK and UAE.”³⁵¹²

On 3 December 2020, the British High Commissioner to Bangladesh Robert Chatterton Dickson formally proposed the establishment of a UK-Bangladesh Trade and Investment Dialogue.³⁵¹³ The Trade and Investment Dialogue will deepen the UK’s “already strong trading relationship with Bangladesh by developing a trade partnership that builds on our shared trade and investment interests.”³⁵¹⁴

On 3 December 2020, the UK signed a Partnership, Trade, and Cooperation Agreement with North Macedonia.³⁵¹⁵ The agreement strengthens the “already substantial ties in trade and investment” between the countries.³⁵¹⁶

On 5 December 2020, the UK signed an Association Agreement with Egypt.³⁵¹⁷ The agreement provides “tariff-free trade on industrial products, as well as liberalisation of trade in agriculture, agri-foods and fisheries.”³⁵¹⁸

On 7 December 2020, UK Export Finance launched the new General Export Facility.³⁵¹⁹ The scheme will support trade by giving “exporting SMEs [small and medium-sized enterprises] access to working capital they need to recover from COVID-19.”³⁵²⁰

On 8 December 2020, the UK signed an Economic Partnership Agreement with Kenya.³⁵²¹ This trade agreement ensures the continuation of “duty-free access to the UK market.”³⁵²²

³⁵⁰⁹ Preferential tariffs continue for eligible developing countries, Department for International Trade (London) 10 November 2020.

Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/preferential-tariffs-continue-for-eligible-developing-countries>.

³⁵¹⁰ Preferential tariffs continue for eligible developing countries, Department for International Trade (London) 10 November 2020.

Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/preferential-tariffs-continue-for-eligible-developing-countries>.

³⁵¹¹ UKEF signs new export partnership with the UAE, UK Export Finance (London) 24 November 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ukef-signs-new-export-partnership-with-the-uae>.

³⁵¹² UKEF signs new export partnership with the UAE, UK Export Finance (London) 24 November 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ukef-signs-new-export-partnership-with-the-uae>.

³⁵¹³ UK proposes establishment of a UK-Bangladesh Trade and Investment Dialogue, British High Commission Dhaka (Dhaka) 3 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-proposes-establishment-of-a-uk-bangladesh-trade-and-investment-dialogue>.

³⁵¹⁴ UK proposes establishment of a UK-Bangladesh Trade and Investment Dialogue, British High Commission Dhaka (Dhaka) 3 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-proposes-establishment-of-a-uk-bangladesh-trade-and-investment-dialogue>.

³⁵¹⁵ North Macedonia and UK sign Partnership, Trade and Cooperation Agreement, Foreign, Commonwealth, & Development Office (London) 3 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/north-macedonia-and-uk-sign-partnership-trade-and-cooperation-agreement>.

³⁵¹⁶ North Macedonia and UK sign Partnership, Trade and Cooperation Agreement, Foreign, Commonwealth, & Development Office (London) 3 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/north-macedonia-and-uk-sign-partnership-trade-and-cooperation-agreement>.

³⁵¹⁷ UK and Egypt sign Association Agreement, Foreign, Commonwealth, & Development Office (London) 5 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-egypt-sign-association-agreement>.

³⁵¹⁸ UK and Egypt sign Association Agreement, Foreign, Commonwealth, & Development Office (London) 5 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-egypt-sign-association-agreement>.

³⁵¹⁹ Radical shake up to government export finance support for small businesses, UK Export Finance (London) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/radical-shake-up-to-government-export-finance-support-for-small-businesses>.

³⁵²⁰ Radical shake up to government export finance support for small businesses, UK Export Finance (London) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/radical-shake-up-to-government-export-finance-support-for-small-businesses>.

On 8 December 2020, the UK signed a trade continuity agreement with Norway and Iceland.³⁵²³ The agreement ensures tariff-free trade for 90 per cent of the goods traded with Iceland, and 95 per cent of the goods traded with Norway.³⁵²⁴

On 8 December 2020, the UK announced an independent approach to resolving EU-US trade conflicts around steel, aluminium, and aerospace tariffs.³⁵²⁵ International Trade Secretary Liz Truss will roll over “tariffs in response to the unjustified ‘Section 232’ tariffs imposed by the US on aluminium and steel imports,” and suspend retaliatory tariffs resulting from the Boeing dispute.³⁵²⁶ These actions are “part of the government’s strategy to de-escalate trade tensions so the US and UK can move forward to the next phase of their trading relationship.”³⁵²⁷

On 9 December 2020, the Deputy High Commissioner for Canada David Reed signed the UK-Canada Trade Continuity Agreement.³⁵²⁸ The agreement reduces tariffs and “secures transatlantic trade.”³⁵²⁹

On 10 December 2020, the UK signed the UK-Singapore Free Trade Agreement.³⁵³⁰ This agreement calls for tariff elimination on goods, reduction of non-tariff barriers, increased access to services and government procurement markets, and support for financial services trade and investment.³⁵³¹

On 11 December 2020, the UK concluded the UK-Viet Nam Free Trade Agreement.³⁵³² This agreement will “liberalise goods and services trade” between the countries.³⁵³³

On 14 December 2020, the UK signed a Services Mobility Agreement with Switzerland.³⁵³⁴ The agreement will “support trade in vital industries of the UK economy, including finance, legal services, consultancy, the tech sector and the creative industries.”³⁵³⁵

³⁵²¹ UK and Kenya sign trade agreement, Department for International Trade (London) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-kenya-sign-trade-agreement>.

³⁵²² UK and Kenya sign trade agreement, Department for International Trade (London) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-kenya-sign-trade-agreement>.

³⁵²³ United Kingdom, Norway and Iceland sign trade continuity agreement, Department for International Trade (London) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/united-kingdom-norway-and-iceland-sign-trade-continuity-agreement>.

³⁵²⁴ United Kingdom, Norway and Iceland sign trade continuity agreement, Department for International Trade (London) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/united-kingdom-norway-and-iceland-sign-trade-continuity-agreement>.

³⁵²⁵ UK announces new approach on US tariffs, Department for International Trade (London) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-announces-new-approach-on-us-tariffs>.

³⁵²⁶ UK announces new approach on US tariffs, Department for International Trade (London) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-announces-new-approach-on-us-tariffs>.

³⁵²⁷ UK announces new approach on US tariffs, Department for International Trade (London) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-announces-new-approach-on-us-tariffs>.

³⁵²⁸ UK and Canada sign trade agreement, Department for International Trade (London) 9 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-canada-sign-trade-agreement>.

³⁵²⁹ UK and Canada sign trade agreement, Department for International Trade (London) 9 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-canada-sign-trade-agreement>.

³⁵³⁰ Joint statement by the UK and Singapore, Department for International Trade (London) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/joint-statement-by-the-uk-and-singapore>.

³⁵³¹ Joint statement by the UK and Singapore, Department for International Trade (London) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/joint-statement-by-the-uk-and-singapore>.

³⁵³² Joint statement by the UK and Viet Nam, Department for International Trade (London) 11 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/joint-statement-by-the-uk-and-viet-nam>.

³⁵³³ Joint statement by the UK and Viet Nam, Department for International Trade (London) 11 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/joint-statement-by-the-uk-and-viet-nam>.

³⁵³⁴ UK and Switzerland sign services agreement, Department for International Trade (London) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-switzerland-sign-services-agreement>.

On 15 December 2020, the UK signed the UK-Mexico Trade Continuity Agreement.³⁵³⁶ The agreement allows the two countries to “go much further in areas such as data, digital trade, investment, intellectual property and services.”³⁵³⁷

On 17 December 2020, the UK Internal Market bill passed into law.³⁵³⁸ The law ensures no new barriers to trade across all four parts of the UK, and enables the government “to boost the UK’s economic recovery, increase investment across the whole country, create new jobs and emerge stronger from the pandemic.”³⁵³⁹

On 24 December 2020, the UK signed a Strategic Partnership, Trade and Cooperation Agreement with Moldova.³⁵⁴⁰ The agreement “provides stability to the trade between Britain and Moldova” and “creates a firm foundation for even more trade and investment in the future.”³⁵⁴¹

On 29 December 2020, the UK signed the UK-Turkey Free Trade Agreement.³⁵⁴² The deal ensures “continued tariff-free flow of goods.”³⁵⁴³

On 30 December 2020, the UK secured an Economic Partnership Agreement with Cameroon.³⁵⁴⁴ The deal allows for continued free trade without additional tariffs or barriers.³⁵⁴⁵

On 31 December 2020, the European Union (Future Relationship) bill was passed into law.³⁵⁴⁶ This ratifies the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement.³⁵⁴⁷

On 18 January 2021, Prime Minister Johnson launched the Build Back Better Council.³⁵⁴⁸ The Build Back Better Council will “unlock investment, boost job creation, promote Global Britain and level up the whole of the UK.”³⁵⁴⁹

³⁵³⁵ UK and Switzerland sign services agreement, Department for International Trade (London) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-switzerland-sign-services-agreement>.

³⁵³⁶ UK and Mexico sign trade deal, Department for International Trade (London) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-mexico-sign-trade-deal>.

³⁵³⁷ UK and Mexico sign trade deal, Department for International Trade (London) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-mexico-sign-trade-deal>.

³⁵³⁸ UK Internal Market Bill becomes law, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (London) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-internal-market-bill-becomes-law>.

³⁵³⁹ UK Internal Market Bill becomes law, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (London) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-internal-market-bill-becomes-law>.

³⁵⁴⁰ UK and Moldova sign Strategic Partnership, Trade and Cooperation Agreement, Foreign, Commonwealth, & Development Office (London) 24 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-moldova-sign-strategic-partnership-trade-and-cooperation-agreement>.

³⁵⁴¹ UK and Moldova sign Strategic Partnership, Trade and Cooperation Agreement, Foreign, Commonwealth, & Development Office (London) 24 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-moldova-sign-strategic-partnership-trade-and-cooperation-agreement>.

³⁵⁴² UK and Turkey sign trade deal, Department for International Trade (London) 29 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-turkey-sign-trade-deal>.

³⁵⁴³ UK and Turkey sign trade deal, Department for International Trade (London) 29 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-turkey-sign-trade-deal>.

³⁵⁴⁴ United Kingdom and Cameroon secure Economic Partnership Agreement, Department for International Trade (London) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/united-kingdom-and-cameroon-secure-economic-partnership-agreement>.

³⁵⁴⁵ UK and Cameroon secure Economic Partnership Agreement, Department for International Trade (London) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/united-kingdom-and-cameroon-secure-economic-partnership-agreement>.

³⁵⁴⁶ Boris Johnson's post-Brexit trade deal passes into UK law, The Guardian (London) 31 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2020/dec/31/post-brexit-trade-deal-boris-johnson-thanks-mps-and-peers-for-passing-bill>.

³⁵⁴⁷ Boris Johnson's post-Brexit trade deal passes into UK law, The Guardian (London) 31 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2020/dec/31/post-brexit-trade-deal-boris-johnson-thanks-mps-and-peers-for-passing-bill>.

On 1 February 2021, Secretary Truss formally requested to commence negotiations on UK accession to the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership.³⁵⁵⁰ UK accession would “send a powerful signal about the importance placed on free trade.”³⁵⁵¹

On 4 February 2021, the UK and Ghana finalised negotiations on an Interim Ghana-UK Trade Partnership Agreement.³⁵⁵² The agreement provides “duty free and quota free access for Ghana to the UK market and preferential tariff reductions for UK exporters to the Ghanaian market.”³⁵⁵³

On 5 February 2021, the UK signed a Partnership, Trade and Cooperation Agreement with Albania.³⁵⁵⁴ The agreement allows the UK and Albania to “build on their trading relationship going forward.”³⁵⁵⁵

On 8 February 2021, the UK agreed to deepen its trading relationship with India through an Enhanced Trade Partnership.³⁵⁵⁶ The partnership improves bilateral trade and investment and lays the groundwork for a future comprehensive Free Trade Agreement.³⁵⁵⁷

On 23 February 2021, UK Export Finance launched the Standard Buyer Loan Guarantee.³⁵⁵⁸ The scheme supports trade by helping “importers of UK goods and services obtain the financing they need, unlocking trade and boosting exports.”³⁵⁵⁹

On 19 April 2021, the Department for International Trade announced an export support package for the UK's fintech sector. This package provides support on issues such as “legal, tax, regulatory, accounting and market entry” to facilitate exports.³⁵⁶⁰

³⁵⁴⁸ Prime Minister and Chancellor launch new Business Council, Prime Minister's Office (London) 18 January 2021. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/prime-minister-and-chancellor-launch-new-business-council>.

³⁵⁴⁹ Prime Minister and Chancellor launch new Business Council, Prime Minister's Office (London) 18 January 2021. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/prime-minister-and-chancellor-launch-new-business-council>.

³⁵⁵⁰ Formal Request to Commence UK Accession Negotiations to CPTPP, Department for International Trade (London) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/formal-request-to-commence-uk-accession-negotiations-to-cptpp>.

³⁵⁵¹ Formal Request to Commence UK Accession Negotiations to CPTPP, Department for International Trade (London) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/formal-request-to-commence-uk-accession-negotiations-to-cptpp>.

³⁵⁵² Ghana-UK Joint Statement: Ghana-UK Trade Partnership Agreement, Department for International Trade (London) 4 February 2021. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ghana-uk-joint-statement-ghana-uk-trade-partnership-agreement>.

³⁵⁵³ Ghana-UK Joint Statement: Ghana-UK Trade Partnership Agreement, Department for International Trade (London) 4 February 2021. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ghana-uk-joint-statement-ghana-uk-trade-partnership-agreement>.

³⁵⁵⁴ UK and Albania sign Agreement to deepen economic relationship and political efforts to tackle serious organised crime, Foreign, Commonwealth, & Development Office (London) 5 February 2021. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-albania-sign-agreement-to-deepen-economic-relationship-and-political-efforts-to-tackle-serious-organised-crime>.

³⁵⁵⁵ UK and Albania sign Agreement to deepen economic relationship and political efforts to tackle serious organised crime, Foreign, Commonwealth, & Development Office (London) 5 February 2021. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-albania-sign-agreement-to-deepen-economic-relationship-and-political-efforts-to-tackle-serious-organised-crime>.

³⁵⁵⁶ Joint UK-India statement on Enhanced Trade Partnership progress, Department for International Trade (London) 8 February 2021. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/joint-uk-india-statement-on-enhanced-trade-partnership-progress>.

³⁵⁵⁷ Joint UK-India statement on Enhanced Trade Partnership progress, Department for International Trade (London) 8 February 2021. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/joint-uk-india-statement-on-enhanced-trade-partnership-progress>.

³⁵⁵⁸ UKEF overhauls buyer finance support to boost SME exports, UK Export Finance (London) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ukef-overhauls-buyer-finance-support-to-boost-sme-exports>.

³⁵⁵⁹ UKEF overhauls buyer finance support to boost SME exports, UK Export Finance (London) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ukef-overhauls-buyer-finance-support-to-boost-sme-exports>.

³⁵⁶⁰ Exporting boost to UK FinTech sector to help build back better, Department for International Trade (London) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 22 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/exporting-boost-to-uk-fintech-sector-to-help-build-back-better>.

On 19 April 2021, the UK and Serbia signed a Partnership, Trade and Cooperation Agreement. This agreement “secures continued preferential trade” between the countries.³⁵⁶¹

The United Kingdom has demonstrated strong support for trade and investment to enhance economic recovery or respond to the global health crisis.

Thus, the United Kingdom receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Erfan Ehsan

United States: +1

The United States has fully complied with its commitment to marshal the full power of its government to support trade and investment.

On 13 May 2020, the United States signed a joint statement at the General Council Committee on Agriculture of the World Trade Organization (WTO).³⁵⁶² The statement included a call to “mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on agriculture trade and food security.”³⁵⁶³ The statement also encouraged members of the WTO to “implement temporary working solutions to facilitate trade.”³⁵⁶⁴

On 26 October 2020, the United States signed a joint statement at the WTO Committee on Trade Facilitation.³⁵⁶⁵ The statement recognized that “Cross-border trade is a critical channel for getting essential products to those who need them” and “as WTO members, we are called to demonstrate leadership by ensuring the smooth and continuous trade in goods.”³⁵⁶⁶ The statement also committed its signatories to accelerating the implementation of the Trade Facilitation Agreement in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁵⁶⁷

On 24 February 2021, President Joseph R. Biden signed an executive order on America’s trade and supply chains.³⁵⁶⁸ The order outlined necessary several actions including “reforms to domestic and international trade rules and agreements to support supply chain resilience, security, diversity, and strength.”³⁵⁶⁹

³⁵⁶¹ Serbia: UK and Serbia sign Partnership, Trade and Cooperation Agreement, Foreign, Commonwealth, & Development Office (London) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 22 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/serbia-uk-and-serbia-sign-partnership-trade-and-cooperation-agreement>.

³⁵⁶² Responding to the COVID-19 Pandemic with Open and Predictable Trade in Agriculture and Food Products, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 13 May 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/proposals_e.htm

³⁵⁶³ Responding to the COVID-19 Pandemic with Open and Predictable Trade in Agriculture and Food Products, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 13 May 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/proposals_e.htm

³⁵⁶⁴ Responding to the COVID-19 Pandemic with Open and Predictable Trade in Agriculture and Food Products, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 13 May 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/proposals_e.htm.

³⁵⁶⁵ Supporting the timely and efficient release of global goods through accelerated implementation of the WTO trade facilitation agreement, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 26 October 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/proposals_e.htm.

³⁵⁶⁶ Supporting the timely and efficient release of global goods through accelerated implementation of the WTO trade facilitation agreement, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 26 October 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/proposals_e.htm.

³⁵⁶⁷ Supporting the timely and efficient release of global goods through accelerated implementation of the WTO trade facilitation agreement, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 26 October 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/proposals_e.htm.

³⁵⁶⁸ Executive Order on America’s Supply Chains, The White House, (Washington D.C.) 24 February 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/02/24/executive-order-on-americas-supply-chains/>.

³⁵⁶⁹ Executive Order on America’s Supply Chains, The White House, (Washington D.C.) 24 February 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/02/24/executive-order-on-americas-supply-chains/>.

On 26 February 2021, Vice President Kamala Harris spoke with President Tshisekedi of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.³⁵⁷⁰ During their meeting, Vice President Harris and President Tshisekedi committed to work together to strengthen regional trade and investment.³⁵⁷¹

On 5 March 2021, President Biden spoke with European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen about US-EU economic relations.³⁵⁷² During the meeting, President Biden emphasized his commitment to “repair and revitalize the U.S.-EU partnership.”³⁵⁷³ President Biden noted the leaders’ agreement to suspend tariffs related to the WTO aircraft disputes and the desire to work toward resolving long running disputes at the WTO.³⁵⁷⁴

On 10 March 2021, United States Congress passed a USD 1 trillion relief package to boost the U.S. economy in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁵⁷⁵ The economic relief package includes financial investment in education, social supports, and industry supports for small businesses and the transportation sector.³⁵⁷⁶

The United States has demonstrated strong support for trade and investment to enhance economic recovery or respond to the global health crisis.

Thus, the United States receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Malgorzata Poweska

European Union: +1

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to support trade and investment.

On 28 April 2020, the EU and Mexico finalized negotiations of their new trade agreement.³⁵⁷⁷ The agreement removes duties on almost all goods traded between the EU and Mexico and marks the first time the EU and a Latin American country have reached an agreement on investment protection policies.³⁵⁷⁸

On 13 May 2020, the EU signed a joint statement at the General Council Committee on Agriculture of the World Trade Organization (WTO).³⁵⁷⁹ The statement included a call to “mitigate the impact of COVID-19

³⁵⁷⁰ Readout of Vice President Kamala Harris Call with President Felix Tshisekedi of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, The White House (Washington D.C.) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/02/26/readout-of-vice-president-kamala-harris-call-with-president-felix-tshisekedi-of-the-democratic-republic-of-the-congo/>.

³⁵⁷¹ Readout of Vice President Kamala Harris Call with President Felix Tshisekedi of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, The White House (Washington D.C.) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/02/26/readout-of-vice-president-kamala-harris-call-with-president-felix-tshisekedi-of-the-democratic-republic-of-the-congo/>.

³⁵⁷² Readout of President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. Call with European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, The White House (Washington D.C.) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/03/05/readout-of-president-joseph-r-biden-jr-call-with-european-commission-president-ursula-von-der-leyen/>.

³⁵⁷³ Readout of President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. Call with European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, The White House (Washington D.C.) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/03/05/readout-of-president-joseph-r-biden-jr-call-with-european-commission-president-ursula-von-der-leyen/>.

³⁵⁷⁴ Readout of President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. Call with European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, The White House (Washington D.C.) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/03/05/readout-of-president-joseph-r-biden-jr-call-with-european-commission-president-ursula-von-der-leyen/>.

³⁵⁷⁵ Biden's \$1.9 Trillion Rescue Plan Set to Turbocharge U.S. Economy, NPR (Washington D.C.) 10 March 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. <https://www.npr.org/2021/03/10/975617565/bidens-1-9-trillion-rescue-plan-set-to-turbocharge-u-s-economy>.

³⁵⁷⁶ Biden's \$1.9 Trillion Rescue Plan Set to Turbocharge U.S. Economy, NPR (Washington D.C.) 10 March 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. <https://www.npr.org/2021/03/10/975617565/bidens-1-9-trillion-rescue-plan-set-to-turbocharge-u-s-economy>

³⁵⁷⁷ EU and Mexico conclude negotiations for new trade agreement, European Commission (Brussels) 28 April 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_756.

³⁵⁷⁸ EU and Mexico conclude negotiations for new trade agreement, European Commission (Brussels) 28 April 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_756.

on agriculture trade and food security.”³⁵⁸⁰ The statement also encouraged members of the WTO to “implement temporary working solutions to facilitate trade.”³⁵⁸¹

On 14 May 2020, the EU signed a joint statement at the WTO General Council highlighting the importance of small and medium-sized enterprises in economies.³⁵⁸² The statement reaffirmed the role of the WTO in international trade and committed the signatories to “work together to deliver a free, fair, predictable, and stable trade environment and to keep our markets open with a view to support the global recovery.”³⁵⁸³

On 31 July 2020, the EU-Vietnam free trade agreement and investment protection entered into force.³⁵⁸⁴ The agreement removed duties on 99 per cent of goods traded between the two regions and ensures that European companies and local Vietnamese competitors will have an equal opportunity to compete for government contracts in Vietnam.³⁵⁸⁵ The EU-Vietnam free trade agreement is the most comprehensive trade agreement between the EU and a developing country.³⁵⁸⁶

On 21 September 2020, the European Investment Bank (EIB) announced an expected EUR1 billion in support for investment in Ireland in response to COVID-19 and Brexit.³⁵⁸⁷ Additionally, EIB advisory teams are working alongside Irish partners to enhance investment and support Ireland’s National Recovery Plan.³⁵⁸⁸

On 24 November 2020, the EU signed a joint statement at the WTO General Council about international trade and health.³⁵⁸⁹ The statement included specific policy proposals relating to export restrictions, trade facilitation, technical regulations, tariffs, transparency, and review.³⁵⁹⁰

On 15 December 2020, the EIB and Raiffeisenlandesbank Niederösterreich-Wien allocated EUR150 million each towards providing loans for small and medium-sized enterprises to invest in sustainable projects.³⁵⁹¹

³⁵⁷⁹ Responding to the COVID-19 Pandemic with Open and Predictable Trade in Agriculture and Food Products, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 13 May 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/proposals_e.htm.

³⁵⁸⁰ Responding to the COVID-19 Pandemic with Open and Predictable Trade in Agriculture and Food Products, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 13 May 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/proposals_e.htm.

³⁵⁸¹ Responding to the COVID-19 Pandemic with Open and Predictable Trade in Agriculture and Food Products, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 13 May 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/proposals_e.htm.

³⁵⁸² Statement on highlighting the importance of MSMEs in the time of COVID-19, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 14 May 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/proposals_e.htm.

³⁵⁸³ Statement on highlighting the importance of MSMEs in the time of COVID-19, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 14 May 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/proposals_e.htm.

³⁵⁸⁴ EU-Vietnam trade agreement enters into force, European Commission (Brussels) 31 July 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_1412.

³⁵⁸⁵ EU-Vietnam trade agreement enters into force, European Commission (Brussels) 31 July 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_1412.

³⁵⁸⁶ EU-Vietnam trade agreement enters into force, European Commission (Brussels) 31 July 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_1412.

³⁵⁸⁷ Irish Finance Minister welcomes expected EUR 1 billion EIB support for new investments, European Investment Bank (Krichberg) 21 September 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2020-244-irish-finance-minister-welcomes-expected-eur-1-billion-eib-support-for-new-investment-in-2020-and-accelerated-support-for-covid-19-business-financing>.

³⁵⁸⁸ Irish Finance Minister welcomes expected EUR 1 billion EIB support for new investments, European Investment Bank (Krichberg) 21 September 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2020-244-irish-finance-minister-welcomes-expected-eur-1-billion-eib-support-for-new-investment-in-2020-and-accelerated-support-for-covid-19-business-financing>.

³⁵⁸⁹ COVID-19 and Beyond: Trade and Health, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 24 November 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/proposals_e.htm.

³⁵⁹⁰ COVID-19 and Beyond: Trade and Health, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 24 November 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/proposals_e.htm.

³⁵⁹¹ Austria: EIB and RLB NO-Wein promote environmental investments with EUR300 million, European Investment Bank (Krichberg) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2020-364-eib-and-rlb-no-wien-promote-environmental-investments-with-eur300-million>.

On 30 December 2020, negotiations on the EU-China Comprehensive Agreement on Investment concluded, granting EU investors easier access to China's market.³⁵⁹² The agreement ensures fairer treatment for EU companies competing in China and includes rules on transparency.³⁵⁹³

On 31 December 2020, the EIB provided Banque Misr with a EUR425 million credit line to support Egyptian SMEs impacted by the coronavirus pandemic, designed to finance investment projects.³⁵⁹⁴

On 1 January 2021, the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement came into effect, establishing the economic partnership between the EU and UK following Brexit.³⁵⁹⁵ The Free Trade Agreement component dictates zero tariffs and zero quotas on goods that "comply with the appropriate rules of origin."³⁵⁹⁶ The agreement ensures a level playing field, going beyond traditional free trade agreements.³⁵⁹⁷

On 11 March 2021, the Board of Directors of the EIB approved EUR2.4 billion for "business investment and ensuring economic resilience to COVID-19."³⁵⁹⁸

The European Union has initiated several bilateral agreements that support both trade and investment in response to the global health crisis.

Thus, the European Union receives a score of +1.

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³⁵⁹² EU-China Comprehensive Agreement on Investment, European Commission (Brussels) 25 January 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://ec.europa.eu/trade/policy/in-focus/eu-china-agreement/>.

³⁵⁹³ The EU-China agreement explained, European Commission (Brussels) 22 January 2021. Access date: 12 March 2021. <https://ec.europa.eu/trade/policy/in-focus/eu-china-agreement/agreement-explained/>.

³⁵⁹⁴ Egypt: Team Europe - EIB and Banque Misr work together to support private businesses, European Investment Bank (Krichberg) 31 December 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2020-409-team-europe-eib-and-banque-misr-work-together-to-support-private-businesses-and-speed-up-the-recovery-of-smes-from-covid-19-in-egypt#>.

³⁵⁹⁵ The EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement, European Commission (Brussels) 31 December 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/info/relations-united-kingdom/eu-uk-trade-and-cooperation-agreement_en#freetradeagreement.

³⁵⁹⁶ The EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement, European Commission (Brussels) 31 December 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/info/relations-united-kingdom/eu-uk-trade-and-cooperation-agreement_en#freetradeagreement.

³⁵⁹⁷ The EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement, European Commission (Brussels) 31 December 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/info/relations-united-kingdom/eu-uk-trade-and-cooperation-agreement_en#freetradeagreement.

³⁵⁹⁸ EIB backs EUR3.7 billion COVID-19 business support, European Investment Bank (Krichberg) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2021-092-eib-backs-eur-3-7-billion-covid-19-business-support-renewable-energy-internet-health-education-and-sustainable-urban-investment>.