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The
G7 Research Group
at the Munk School of Global Affairs at Trinity College in the University of Toronto
presents the

2017 Taormina G7 Final Compliance Report

27 May 2017 to 25 May 2018

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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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5. Trade: Protectionism and Trade Practices

“We reiterate our commitment to keep our markets open and to fight protectionism, while standing firm against all unfair trade practices.”

G7 Taormina Leaders’ Communiqué

Assessment

Member	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Canada			+1
France		0	
Germany			+1
Italy			+1
Japan			+1
United Kingdom			+1
United States		0	
European Union			+1
Average		+0.75	

Background

The modern world trading system was institutionally established with the Bretton Woods system after the Second World War. This was done through the creation of the International Trade Organization (ITO), a specialized agency to handle trade within the United Nations.⁵⁷⁴ The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) was a multilateral trade agreement, that was concluded in 1948. which directed its signatories to reduce both tariffs and non-tariff trade barriers.⁵⁷⁵ GATT was the main framework on which international trade was based before the creation of the World Trade Organization (WTO).⁵⁷⁶

On 1 January 1995, the WTO was formed in Geneva, Switzerland as a successor to the revised GATT.⁵⁷⁷ The WTO is a unified multilateral trade framework which calls to eliminate tariffs and other trade barriers in trade agreements and in the general conduct of international trade, to settle disputes between parties of a trade agreement, and to monitor trade policies of their members.⁵⁷⁸ The WTO’s goal of reducing trade barriers for goods, services, and intellectual property is currently the centre of the liberal international trading system which aims to fight protectionist trade measures and to keep markets open.⁵⁷⁹

G7/8 members have a long history of making commitments to promote free trade and the fight protectionism. All commitments made by G7/8 members in past summits regarding anti-protectionist trade are listed in the Appendix. The G7/8’s commitments in the 1980s and the early

⁵⁷⁴ The GATT years: from Havana to Marrakesh, World Trade Organization (Geneva) Access Date: 18 March 2018. https://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/whatis_e/tif_e/fact4_e.htm.

⁵⁷⁵ The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT 1947), World Trade Organization (Geneva) Access Date: 17 April 2018. https://www.wto.org/english/docs_e/legal_e/gatt47_01_e.htm.

⁵⁷⁶ What is the WTO? - Who we are, World Trade Organization (Geneva) Access Date: 20 April 2018. https://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/whatis_e/who_we_are_e.htm.

⁵⁷⁷ Overview, World Trade Organization (Geneva) Access Date: 17 April 2018. https://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/whatis_e/wto_dg_stat_e.htm.

⁵⁷⁸ Overview, World Trade Organization (Geneva) Access Date: 17 April 2018. https://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/whatis_e/wto_dg_stat_e.htm.

⁵⁷⁹ What is the WTO? - Who we are, World Trade Organization (Geneva) Access Date: 20 April 2018. https://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/whatis_e/who_we_are_e.htm.

1990s focused broadly on “further opening ... markets”⁵⁸⁰ and the reduction of trade barriers. From the 1996 Lyon Summit onwards, the members’ commitments also included investment as part of trade and economic growth as an objective of the post-1995 world trading system. There was a particular focus on reinforcing the multilateral trading framework of the World Trade Organization (WTO), which was created in 1995.⁵⁸¹

The commitments made in the early and mid 2000s focused on development, economic growth, and market access. Specifically at the 2001 Genoa Summit, G8 leaders fully endorsed “measures already taken to improve market access for the least developed countries (LDCs).”⁵⁸² Commitments during this period continued to emphasize the importance of the multilateral trade system in creating world growth.⁵⁸³

In the summits following the 2007-2008 financial crisis, the focus of their commitments on trade narrowed to reinforcing the established trading system and for barrier-free trade. In the three summits preceding the 2017 G7 Summit in Taormina, G7/8 leaders committed to keeping their markets open and “to fight all forms of protectionism.”⁵⁸⁴ In both the 2015 Schloss Elmau Summit and the 2016 Ise-Shima Summit, leaders committed explicitly to liberalize their economies to improve competitiveness.⁵⁸⁵ The commitment made at the 2017 Taormina Summit is the first that mentioned “unfair trade practices.”⁵⁸⁶

The 2017 G7 Summit in Taormina also marked the first G7 summit US President Donald Trump attended. President Trump expressed his desire to impose unilateral tariffs on Mexico and China, and renegotiate the terms of North American Free Trade Agreement prior to the summit.⁵⁸⁷ President Trump remarked Germany’s trade surplus with the United States as evidence that Germany is “very bad”⁵⁸⁸ on trade.⁵⁸⁹

In this commitment, G7 leaders also recognized that trade has not “worked to the benefit of everyone”⁵⁹⁰ and were committed to creating policies such that firms and citizens can “make the most of opportunities offered by the global economy.”⁵⁹¹

⁵⁸⁰ Declaration of the Seven Heads of State and Government and Representatives of the European Communities, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 9 February 2007. Access Date: 17 April 2018.

<http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/summit/1982versailles/communiqu.html>.

⁵⁸¹ What is the WTO? - Who we are, World Trade Organization (Geneva). Access Date: 17 April 2018.

https://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/whatis_e/who_we_are_e.htm.

⁵⁸² Genoa Summit 2001, Communiqué, G8 Research Group (Toronto) 22 July 2001. Access Date: 17 April 2018.

<http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/summit/2001genoa/finalcommuniqu.html>.

⁵⁸³ 2003 G8 Evian: Co-operative G8 Action on Trade, G8 Research Group (Toronto) 2 June 2003. Access Date: 17 April 2018. http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/summit/2003evian/trade_en.html.

⁵⁸⁴ G7 Ise-Shima Leaders' Declaration, G8 Research Group (Toronto) 27 May 2016. Access Date: 17 April 2018.

<http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/summit/2016shima/ise-shima-declaration-en.html>.

⁵⁸⁵ Leaders' Declaration: G7 Summit, G8 Research Group (Toronto) 8 June 2015. Access Date: 20 April 2018.

<http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/summit/2015elmau/2015-G7-declaration-en.html>.

⁵⁸⁶ G7 Taormina Leaders' Communiqué, G8 Research Group (Toronto) 27 May 2017. Access Date: 17 April 2018.

<http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/summit/2017taormina/communiqu.html>.

⁵⁸⁷ G7 leaders divided on climate change, closer on trade issues, Reuters (Taormina) 25 May 2017. Access Date: 18 March 2018. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-g7-summit/g7-leaders-divided-on-climate-change-closer-on-trade-issues-idUSKBN18L2ZU>.

⁵⁸⁸ G7 leaders divided on climate change, closer on trade issues, Reuters (Taormina) 25 May 2017. Access Date: 18 March 2018. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-g7-summit/g7-leaders-divided-on-climate-change-closer-on-trade-issues-idUSKBN18L2ZU>.

⁵⁸⁹ Trump slams Germany's US trade surplus as 'bad', Deutsche Welle (Bonn) 26 May 2017. Access Date: 20 March 2018. <http://www.dw.com/en/trump-slams-germanys-us-trade-surplus-as-bad/a-38986975>.

⁵⁹⁰ G7 Taormina Leaders' Communiqué, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 27 May 2017. Access Date: 18 March 2018.

<http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/summit/2017taormina/communiqu.html>.

Commitment Features

The G7 has committed to increasing its efforts to keep markets open and to fight protectionism, while standing firm against all unfair trade practices. There are thus three distinct components to this commitment defined as follows.

“Keeping markets open” refers to any government action that endorses an environment where companies and individuals can trade freely without limits, where prices fluctuate according to the quantity of goods and the number of people buying them.⁵⁹²

“Fighting protectionism” refers to any government action that reduces tariffs and taxes on imports into their country or a policy that encourages other countries to reduce their tariffs and taxes on imports to allow for unimpeded trade.⁵⁹³

“Standing firm against unfair trade practices,” while broad, can materialize as the punishment or pursuit of firms or individuals who have subscribed to deceptive, devious, fraudulent or unethical strategies to acquire business. Examples of these strategies include but are not limited to: misrepresentation, scams, and false advertising.⁵⁹⁴

Following through with these three sectors of the commitment in tandem promises to help economic growth and development world round, involving ever more varied and diverse actors strengthening the global economy.

For a G7 country to achieve complete compliance to the commitment to keep markets open, fight protectionism and stand firm against all unfair trade practices it must have made clear efforts to keep markets open, fight protectionism and in restricting unfair trade practices simultaneously. If a member’s efforts have ignored any of the above three elements it can only receive the score of partial compliance. To deserve a “lack of compliance” grading a member must have failed to put effort into any of the three elements of this commitment. A breakdown of this scoring metric can be found below in the scoring guidelines section.

Scoring Guidelines

Score	Description
-1	The G7 member has not taken action in any of the three components: 1) keeping markets open; 2) fighting protectionism; 3) standing firm against all unfair trade practices
0	The G7 member has taken action in one or two of the three components: 1) keeping markets open; 2) fighting protectionism; 3) standing firm against all unfair trade practices
+1	The G7 member has taken action in all three components: 1) keeping markets open; 2) fighting protectionism; 3) standing firm against all unfair trade practices

Lead Analyst: Richard Vogel

Canada: +1

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to keep its markets open and to fight protectionism, while standing firm against all unfair trade practices.

⁵⁹¹ G7 Taormina Leaders' Communiqué, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 27 May 2017. Access Date: 18 March 2018. <http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/summit/2017taormina/communique.html>.

⁵⁹² Open Market, Cambridge Dictionary (Cambridge). 2017. Access Date: 13 October, 2017. <http://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/open-market>.

⁵⁹³ Protectionism, Cambridge Dictionary (Cambridge). 2017. Access Date: 13 October, 2017. <http://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/open-market>.

⁵⁹⁴ Unfair Trade Practice, Investopedia (New York). 2017. Access Date: 31 October, 2017. <http://www.investopedia.com/terms/u/unfair-trade-practice.asp>.

On 21 September 2017, Canada enforced the Canada–European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA).⁵⁹⁵ Under CETA, 98% of EU tariffs lines (9,000) will be duty-free for Canadians and Canadian business owners.⁵⁹⁶

On 24 September 2017, Minister of International Trade François-Phillipe Champagne spoke at the Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce and reaffirmed Prime Minister Justin Trudeau’s commitment to create well paying jobs by opening up new markets. Champagne discussed the importance of free trade and free trade agreements.⁵⁹⁷

On 24 October 2017, Minister of Foreign Affairs Chrystia Freeland spoke in the House of Commons on the subject of supply management and fighting against protectionist administrations. The Minister’s statements were in reference to negotiations on the North American Free Trade Agreement with the United States.⁵⁹⁸

On 5 November 2017, Minister of Foreign Affairs Chrystia Freeland and Minister of International Trade François-Phillipe Champagne traveled to Vietnam to attend the 2017 Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Leaders Week in Da Nang, Vietnam.⁵⁹⁹

On 10 November 2017, at the APEC Leaders Week in Da Nang, the Government of Canada reaffirmed its commitment to free trade. Minister Champagne announced that Canada welcomes progress made on the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Trade Ministerial Meeting on a framework for the new Comprehensive and Progressive Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP).⁶⁰⁰

On 17 November 2017, Minister of International Trade François-Phillipe Champagne, Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development Naveed Bains, and the Minister of Transport Marc Garneau concluded a historic trade mission to India. The trade mission was aimed at diversifying trade markets, by encouraging trade between the two countries. The trade mission included participants included 120 representatives from more than 85 Canadian companies, where more than 300 meetings were facilitated to encourage Canada-India commercial relations.⁶⁰¹

On 14 December 2017, Minister of International Trade François-Phillipe Champagne attended the Eleventh World Trade Organisation Ministerial Conference in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The Minister

⁵⁹⁵ CETA: Tariff plummet to zero today as Canada-European Union deal gets under way, Government of Canada (Montreal), 21 September 2017. Access Date: 12 November 2017. https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2017/09/ceta_tariffs_plummettozerotodayascanada-europeanuniondealgetsund.html.

⁵⁹⁶ CETA: Tariff plummet to zero today as Canada-European Union deal gets under way, Government of Canada (Montreal), 21 September 2017. Access Date: 12 November 2017. https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2017/09/ceta_tariffs_plummettozerotodayascanada-europeanuniondealgetsund.html.

⁵⁹⁷ Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce — The Honourable François-Phillipe Champagne, Minister of International Trade. (New Brunswick), 24 September 2017. Access Date: 12 November 2017. https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2017/09/annual_general_meetingofthecanadianchamberofcommerce-thehonourab.html.

⁵⁹⁸ 42nd Parliament, 1st Session Edited Hansard Number 221, 24 October 2017. Access Date: 12 November 2017. <http://www.ourcommons.ca/DocumentViewer/en/42-1/house/sitting-221/hansard>

⁵⁹⁹ International Trade and Foreign Affairs Ministers to travel to Vietnam to attend APEC Leaders’ Week, Government of Canada (Ottawa), 5 November 2017. Access Date: 12 November 2017. https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2017/11/international_tradeandforeignaffairsministerstotraveltovietnamto.html.

⁶⁰⁰ Minister Champagne Welcomes Progress on the Comprehensive and Progressive Trans-Pacific Partnerships, 10 November 2017, Date of Access: 21 November 2017. https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2017/11/minister_champagnewelcomesprogressonthecomprehensiveandprogressi.html

⁶⁰¹ Historic trade mission to India unleashes new partnerships between Indian and Canadian businesses, 17 November 2017. Access Date: 14 January 2018. https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2017/11/historic_trade_missiontoindianleashesnewpartnershipsbetweenindi.html

led the Canadian delegation and both endorsed and signed a joint statements and declarations that support and promote Canada's progressive trade agenda.⁶⁰²

On 10 January 2018, Canada filed a complaint with the World Trade Organization (WTO) regarding the United States "anti-dumping or countervailing duty investigations, reviews or other proceedings."⁶⁰³ The complaint was a response to "unfair and unwarranted"⁶⁰⁴ tariffs on softwood lumber and related products. Also, the complaint encompassed 200 similar cases with other trading partners of the United States.⁶⁰⁵

On 8 March 2018, Minister Champagne signed the CPTPP in Santiago, Chile.⁶⁰⁶ It comprises of 11 members on both sides of the Pacific Ocean, notably with the exclusion of the United States, and 13% of global gross domestic product. Minister Champagne emphasized the benefits of having "unparalleled access"⁶⁰⁷ to new and dynamic markets around the world.⁶⁰⁸

On 20 March 2018, the Canadian government started the first round of negotiations for a potential comprehensive free trade agreement between Canada and Mercosur countries.⁶⁰⁹ The free trade agreement with the Mercosur countries (Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay) is part of Canada's commitment to have trade policies that "contribute meaningfully to overall economic, social and environmental priorities,"⁶¹⁰ according to the Canadian government.⁶¹¹

Canada has clearly demonstrated its commitment to keep markets open and fight protectionism while standing firm against all unfair trade practices.

⁶⁰² Canada leads the way on progressive trade at the Eleventh WTO Ministerial Conference in Argentina, 14 December 2017. Date of Access 14 January 2018. https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2017/12/canada_leads_thewayonprogressivetradeateleventhwtoministerialcon.html

⁶⁰³ Canada files WTO complaint over US trade remedy measures, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 10 January 2018. Access Date: 1 May 2018. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news18_e/ds535rfc_10jan18_e.htm.

⁶⁰⁴ Canada takes U.S. to WTO, U.S. says case helps China, Reuters (Geneva) 10 January 2018. Access Date: 1 May 2018. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-canada-wto/canada-takes-u-s-to-wto-u-s-says-case-helps-china-idUSKBN1EZ1SE>.

⁶⁰⁵ Canada takes U.S. to WTO, U.S. says case helps China, Reuters (Geneva) 10 January 2018. Access Date: 1 May 2018. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-canada-wto/canada-takes-u-s-to-wto-u-s-says-case-helps-china-idUSKBN1EZ1SE>.

⁶⁰⁶ Canada signs revised TPP with sights set on new deal in South America, CBC News (Toronto) 8 March 2018. Access Date: 1 May 2018. <http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/cptpp-mercosur-champagne-1.4567284>.

⁶⁰⁷ Minister Champagne to travel to Chile and Paraguay to help create jobs for Canada's middle class by expanding access to international markets, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 6 March 2018. Access Date: 1 May 2018. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2018/03/minister-champagne-to-travel-to-chile-and-paraguay-to-help-create-jobs-for-canadas-middle-class-by-expanding-access-to-international-markets.html>.

⁶⁰⁸ Minister Champagne to travel to Chile and Paraguay to help create jobs for Canada's middle class by expanding access to international markets, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 6 March 2018. Access Date: 1 May 2018. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2018/03/minister-champagne-to-travel-to-chile-and-paraguay-to-help-create-jobs-for-canadas-middle-class-by-expanding-access-to-international-markets.html>.

⁶⁰⁹ Minister of International Trade welcomes first round of negotiations with Mercosur countries in Ottawa, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 20 March 2018. Access Date: 1 May 2018. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2018/03/minister-of-international-trade-welcomes-first-round-of-negotiations-with-mercosur-countries-in-ottawa.html>.

⁶¹⁰ Minister of International Trade welcomes first round of negotiations with Mercosur countries in Ottawa, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 20 March 2018. Access Date: 1 May 2018. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2018/03/minister-of-international-trade-welcomes-first-round-of-negotiations-with-mercosur-countries-in-ottawa.html>.

⁶¹¹ Minister of International Trade welcomes first round of negotiations with Mercosur countries in Ottawa, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 20 March 2018. Access Date: 1 May 2018. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2018/03/minister-of-international-trade-welcomes-first-round-of-negotiations-with-mercosur-countries-in-ottawa.html>.

Thus, Canada receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Steven Camit with Pemasal Banigan

France: 0

France has partially complied with its commitment to keep its markets open and to fight protectionism, while standing firm against all unfair trade practices.

On 27 July 2017, French Minister of the Economy and Finance Bruno Le Maire announced that France would “temporarily” nationalize STX France’s Saint-Nazaire shipyard.⁶¹² STX France was previously co-owned by the government of France and its majority shareholder, the Korean conglomerate STX. When STX collapsed in 2016, its shares were put up for sale and two Italian investors — including state-owned shipbuilding company Fincantieri — reached an agreement in May 2017 to buy a two-thirds share of the company. Italian Minister of Economy Carlo Padoan and Italian Industry Minister Carlo Calenda criticized France’s decision to take a protectionist stance in order to prolong the negotiated deal on STX.⁶¹³

On 27 September 2017, the office of French President Emmanuel Macron announced a new deal in the STX shipyard case, in which Fincantieri would purchase a 50% stake in STX France.⁶¹⁴ The French government has maintained its involvement in the deal, arguing that the shipyard is a strategic military asset. France has agreed to “lend” Fincantieri a 1% stake for 12 years, allowing the Italian company majority control over the shipyard, but reserving the right to revoke this 1% stake at any time.⁶¹⁵

On 15 January 2018, Minister Le Maire delivered a New Year’s greeting where he outlined the state of the French economy and France’s economic goals for 2018, which included “protecting its strategic businesses including digital data storage and artificial intelligence.”⁶¹⁶ Le Maire stressed that France needed to respond to globalization, stating that he saw no contradiction in attempting to make France an open economy while working to prevent the country from being “pillaged”⁶¹⁷ by foreign interests.⁶¹⁸

On 16 February 2018, French Prime Minister Édouard Philippe presented an extension of the 2014 Montebourg decree, which sets conditions limiting foreign investment in key French “strategic

⁶¹² France nationalises shipyard to thwart Italian majority, angering Rome, Reuters (London) 27 July 2017. Access Date: 20 January 2018. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-stx-m-a-fincantieri-france/france-nationalises-shipyard-to-thwart-italian-majority-angering-rome-idUSKBN1AC16H?feedType=RSS&feedName=innovationNews>.

⁶¹³ France nationalises shipyard to thwart Italian majority, angering Rome, Reuters (London) 27 July 2017. Access Date: 20 January 2018. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-stx-m-a-fincantieri-france/france-nationalises-shipyard-to-thwart-italian-majority-angering-rome-idUSKBN1AC16H?feedType=RSS&feedName=innovationNews>.

⁶¹⁴ Italy's Fincantieri to take control of France's STX, ending shipyard row, Reuters (London) 27 September 2017. Access Date: 20 January 2018. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-stx-m-a-fincantieri/italys-fincantieri-to-take-control-of-frances-stx-ending-shipyard-row-idUSKCN1C22NZ>.

⁶¹⁵ Italy's Fincantieri to take control of France's STX, ending shipyard row, Reuters (London) 27 September 2017. Access Date: 20 January 2018. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-stx-m-a-fincantieri/italys-fincantieri-to-take-control-of-frances-stx-ending-shipyard-row-idUSKCN1C22NZ>.

⁶¹⁶ France's economy likely to exceed 1.7 pct forecast in 2018: minister, Xinhua News Agency (Paris) 15 January 2018. Access Date: 17 March 2018. http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2018-01/16/c_136897942.htm.

⁶¹⁷ France’s Economy Picks Up Speed, Financial Tribune, 17 January 2018. Access Date: 17 March 2018. <https://financialtribune.com/articles/world-economy/80172/france-s-economy-picks-up-speed>.

⁶¹⁸ France’s Economy Picks Up Speed, Financial Tribune, 17 January 2018. Access Date: 17 March 2018. <https://financialtribune.com/articles/world-economy/80172/france-s-economy-picks-up-speed>.

sectors.”⁶¹⁹ Under the Montebourg decree, the definition of “strategic sectors”⁶²⁰ was expanded from the 2005 definition of national defense-related companies to the water, health, energy, transportation, and telecommunications sectors; the new PACTE law will add artificial intelligence, space technology, data storage, and semiconductors to the list.⁶²¹ The PACTE law, which will be introduced in April, will also make it easier for the government to create “golden shares”⁶²² in French companies, which will allow the state to have greater control over decisions to transfer intellectual property abroad.⁶²³

On 14 March 2018, Minister Le Maire announced that France would be taking Google and Apple to court over unfair trade practices involving contractual terms with developers and tech entrepreneurs.⁶²⁴ France is seeking EUR2 million from each firm as a sanction against “abusive commercial practices”⁶²⁵ that exploit French start-ups and app developers.⁶²⁶

On 20 April 2018, Minister Le Maire said at an International Monetary Fund meeting in Washington DC that France would not be drawn into a “vain and pointless”⁶²⁷ trade war with China, and would push for a permanent exemption against US steel tariffs.⁶²⁸

On 27 April 2018, Minister Le Maire said at a meeting of EU finance ministers in Sofia that France would support the United States’ desire for reforms in the World Trade Organization if the US agreed to permanently waive its steel tariffs.⁶²⁹

On 2 May 2018, President Macron met with Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull in Sydney and affirmed France’s support for an Australia-EU free trade deal, committing to start negotiations

⁶¹⁹ Le plan d'Édouard Philippe pour protéger le « made in France », Le Point (Paris) 16 February 2018. Access Date: 17 March 2018. http://www.lepoint.fr/politique/le-plan-d-edouard-philippe-pour-protoger-le-made-in-france-16-02-2018-2195461_20.php.

⁶²⁰
⁶²¹ Un nouvel arsenal de protection pour les entreprises « stratégiques », La Croix 18 February 2018. Access Date: 17 March 2018. <https://www.la-croix.com/Economie/France/nouvel-arsenal-protection-entreprises-strategiques-2018-02-18-1200914713>.

⁶²² French Prime Minister announces the extension and diversification of measures to control foreign investments in French companies, Lexology 27 February 2018. Access Date: 17 March 2018. <https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=5a2bc6c4-4213-4fc7-8723-b9c801db14cd>.

⁶²³ French Prime Minister announces the extension and diversification of measures to control foreign investments in French companies, Lexology 27 February 2018. Access Date: 17 March 2018. <https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=5a2bc6c4-4213-4fc7-8723-b9c801db14cd>.

⁶²⁴ France to sue Google, Apple over developer contracts: minister, Reuters (London) 14 March 2018. Access Date: 17 March 2018. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-apple-google-france/france-to-sue-google-apple-over-developer-contracts-minister-idUSKCN1GQ0SP>.

⁶²⁵ France Targets Apple, Google for ‘Abusive Commercial Practices,’ Wall Street Journal (Paris) 14 March 2018. Access Date: 17 March 2018. <https://www.wsj.com/articles/france-targets-apple-google-for-abusive-commercial-practices-1521031428>.

⁶²⁶ France Targets Apple, Google for ‘Abusive Commercial Practices,’ Wall Street Journal (Paris) 14 March 2018. Access Date: 17 March 2018. <https://www.wsj.com/articles/france-targets-apple-google-for-abusive-commercial-practices-1521031428>.

⁶²⁷ France rejects 'vain and pointless' trade fight with China, The Local France (Paris) 21 April 2018. Access Date: 3 May 2018. <https://www.thelocal.fr/20180421/france-rejects-vain-and-pointless-trade-fight-with-china>.

⁶²⁸ France rejects 'vain and pointless' trade fight with China, The Local France (Paris) 21 April 2018. Access Date: 3 May 2018. <https://www.thelocal.fr/20180421/france-rejects-vain-and-pointless-trade-fight-with-china>.

⁶²⁹ France ready to review WTO rules if U.S. agree on tariff waiver, Reuters (London) 27 April 2018. Access Date: 3 May 2018. <https://uk.reuters.com/article/uk-eu-us-trade/france-ready-to-review-wto-rules-if-us-agree-on-tariff-waiver-idUKKBN1HY0PC>.

within a few weeks and framing the announcement as a rejection of rising protectionism in the US and China.⁶³⁰

Although France has been taking a strong stance against unfair trade practices, France has demonstrated a lack of commitment in both keeping markets open and fighting protectionism.

Thus, France receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Bruce Cinnamon

Germany: +1

Germany has fully complied with its commitments to keep its markets open and to fight protectionism, while standing firm against all unfair trade practices.

On 8 June 2017, the federal government of Germany adopted measures from a paper entitled “Economic Development in Africa: Challenges and Options.”⁶³¹ German Minister of Economic Affairs and Energy Brigitte Zypries said the measures reflected Germany’s commitment to “creating an economic partnership of equals between Germany and Africa.”⁶³² The measures consist of improved conditions for issuing Hermes guarantees for African countries, greater opportunities for African clients to access financing and the establishment of start-up funds.⁶³³ The measures also lay out plans for strengthening energy partnerships and dialogue.⁶³⁴

On 20 June 2017, Germany donated EUR 1 million to help developing and least-developed countries to strengthen their trade negotiating skills.⁶³⁵ The contribution went to the financing of training workshops for officials. Speaking on the donation, Germany’s Alternate Ambassador to the World Trade Organization (WTO) Walter Werner stated that Germany cooperates with developing and least-developing countries so that they may be better integrated into the international trade system and reap the gains of global trade.⁶³⁶

On 22 June 2017, Minister Zypries met with EU Trade Commissioner Cecilia Malmström to discuss trade policy. Minister Zypries noted that “The European Union must firmly stand together ... in

⁶³⁰ France warms to Australia-EU trade deal, news.com.au (Sydney) 2 May 2018. Access Date: 3 May 2018. <http://www.news.com.au/national/breaking-news/france-supports-australiaeu-trade-deal/news-story/28024897f11ecfb9a6cc12f239627aed>.

⁶³¹ Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy — Minister Zypries: Cabinet positions itself Pro Africa, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy, 8 June 2017. Date of Access: 16 November 2017. <http://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2017/20170607-zypries-kabinett-positioniert-sich-pro-afrika.html>.

⁶³² Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy — Minister Zypries: Cabinet positions itself Pro Africa, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy, 8 June 2017. Date of Access: 16 November 2017. <http://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2017/20170607-zypries-kabinett-positioniert-sich-pro-afrika.html>.

⁶³³ Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy — Minister Zypries: Cabinet positions itself Pro Africa, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy, 8 June 2017. Date of Access: 16 November 2017. <http://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2017/20170607-zypries-kabinett-positioniert-sich-pro-afrika.html>.

⁶³⁴ Minister Zypries: Cabinet positions itself Pro Africa, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin) 8 June 2017. Access Date: 16 November 2017. <http://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2017/20170607-zypries-kabinett-positioniert-sich-pro-afrika.html>.

⁶³⁵ Germany donates EUR 1 million to help developing countries participate in trade talks, World Trade Organization, 20 June 2017. Date of Access: 18 November 2017. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/pres17_e/pr795_e.htm

⁶³⁶ Germany donates EUR 1 million to help developing countries participate in trade talks, World Trade Organization, 20 June 2017. Date of Access: 18 November 2017. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/pres17_e/pr795_e.htm.

favour of open markets and free and fair trade.”⁶³⁷ Minister Zypries also declared Germany’s support for Commissioner Malström’s efforts to conclude free trade agreements with Japan, Mexico, and Mercosur.⁶³⁸

On 6 July 2017, Germany donated EUR 150,000 to help developing countries comply with international food safety, animal and plant health standards.⁶³⁹ Director of the WTO’s Administration and General Services Division Nthisana Philips stated that Germany’s donation and the resulting improvements to health standards and would allow developing countries’ exports to gain better access to global markets.”⁶⁴⁰

On 18 September 2017, Minister Zypries announced the implementation of many of the measures adopted on 8 June 2017.⁶⁴¹ Among the measures implemented were the expansion export initiatives in energy and health, provision of staff to help companies train workers and advising and supporting companies as they invest in Africa.⁶⁴²

On 10 November 2017, German State Secretary Matthias Machnig talked about the need for Europe to strengthen the WTO.⁶⁴³ Secretary Machnig argued that Europe needed “the WTO and its work to promote open markets and fair and equitable global trade.”⁶⁴⁴ Secretary Machnig went on to say that countries that choose isolate themselves are “mistaken.”⁶⁴⁵ Afterwards, Secretary Machnig noted that Germany was supportive of the efforts the EU took to conclude several free trade agreements like

⁶³⁷ Federal Minister Zypries meets with EU Trade Commissioner Malmström, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy, 22 June 2017. Date of AccessL 18 November 2017.

<http://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2017/20170622-zypries-trifft-eu-handelskomissarin-malmstroem.html>.

⁶³⁸ Federal Minister Zypries meets with EU Trade Commissioner Malmström, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy, 22 June 2017. Date of AccessL 18 November 2017.

<http://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2017/20170622-zypries-trifft-eu-handelskomissarin-malmstroem.html>

⁶³⁹ Germany donates EUR 150,000 to support food safety, animal/plant health standards and trade, World Trade Organization, 6 July 2017. Date of Access: 18 November, 2017.

https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/pres17_e/pr797_e.htm

⁶⁴⁰ Germany donates EUR 150,000 to support food safety, animal/plant health standards and trade, World Trade Organization, 6 July 2017. Date of Access: 18 November, 2017.

https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/pres17_e/pr797_e.htm

⁶⁴¹ Minister Zypries: Pro! Africa concept getting underway — first measures already taken, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin), 18 September 2017. Access Date: 18 November 2017.

<http://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2017/20170918-zypries-pro-africa-concept-getting-underway-first-measures-already-taken.html>

⁶⁴² Germany donates EUR 150,000 to support food safety, animal/plant health standards and trade, World Trade Organization (Geneva), 6 July 2017. Access Date: 18 November 2017.

https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/pres17_e/pr797_e.htm

⁶⁴³ State Secretary Machnig: “Europe must strengthen the WTO”, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin) 10 November 2017. Access Date: 19 March

2018.<http://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2017/20171130-g20-countries-agree-on-a-report-on-steel.html>.

⁶⁴⁴ State Secretary Machnig: “Europe must strengthen the WTO”, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin) 10 November 2017. Access Date: 19 March

2018.<http://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2017/20171130-g20-countries-agree-on-a-report-on-steel.html>.

⁶⁴⁵ State Secretary Machnig: “Europe must strengthen the WTO”, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin) 10 November 2017. Access Date: 19 March

2018.<http://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2017/20171130-g20-countries-agree-on-a-report-on-steel.html>.

the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement, a free trade deal between Canada and the EU.⁶⁴⁶

On 30 November 2017, The Global Forum on Steel Excess Capacity, headed by Minister Zypries, agreed on recommendations for action on reducing steel capacity.⁶⁴⁷ Minister Zypries commented on the recommendation stating that “overcapacities in the steel sector are a global phenomenon that require a global answer.”⁶⁴⁸ Minister Zypries further emphasized that the world needs “open markets and fair trade that is based on a level playing field across all industries.”⁶⁴⁹

On 2 March 2018, the German Government released a statement responding to the United States tariff on imported steel and aluminium.⁶⁵⁰ Government Spokesperson Steffen Seibert noted Germany’s rejection of the planned tariffs saying that the problem of overcapacity can not be solved by isolationism and protectionism.⁶⁵¹ Government Spokesperson Steffen Seibert added that Germany will “work for free trade and open markets.”⁶⁵²

Germany has fully complied with its commitments to keep markets open and to fight protectionism while standing firm against all unfair trade practices by creating economic and trade partnerships with developing countries, supporting efforts to conclude free trade agreements with numerous states, and rejecting the US tariffs on imported steel and aluminum,

Thus, Germany receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Reuben Aboye

Italy: +1

Italy has fully complied with its commitment to keep its markets open and to fight protectionism, while standing firm against all unfair trade practices.

On 30 May 2017, Italian President of the Chamber of Deputies Laura Boldrini and President of the Senate at the Chamber of Deputies Pietro met with the Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau in the Sala della Regina. The Italian parliamentarians supported Canada–European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement and described it as a mean to create jobs and

⁶⁴⁶ State Secretary Machnig: “Europe must strengthen the WTO”, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin) 10 November 2017. Access Date: 19 March 2018.<http://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2017/20171130-g20-countries-agree-on-a-report-on-steel.html>.

⁶⁴⁷ Minister Zypries said: “G20 countries agree on a report on steel and on concrete recommendations for action for reducing capacities”, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin) 30 November 2017. Access Date: 19 March 2018.<http://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2017/20171130-g20-countries-agree-on-a-report-on-steel.html>.

⁶⁴⁸ Minister Zypries said: “G20 countries agree on a report on steel and on concrete recommendations for action for reducing capacities”, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin) 30 November 2017. Access Date: 19 March 2018.<http://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2017/20171130-g20-countries-agree-on-a-report-on-steel.html>.

⁶⁴⁹ Minister Zypries said: “G20 countries agree on a report on steel and on concrete recommendations for action for reducing capacities”, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin) 30 November 2017. Access Date: 19 March 2018.<http://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2017/20171130-g20-countries-agree-on-a-report-on-steel.html>.

⁶⁵⁰ German government advocates free trade, The Federal Government (Berlin) 2 March 2018. Access Date: 19 March 2018.https://www.bundesregierung.de/Content/EN/Artikel/2018/03_en/2018-03-02-strafoelle_en.html?nn=709674.

⁶⁵¹ German government advocates free trade, The Federal Government (Berlin) 2 March 2018. Access Date: 19 March 2018.https://www.bundesregierung.de/Content/EN/Artikel/2018/03_en/2018-03-02-strafoelle_en.html?nn=709674.

⁶⁵² German government advocates free trade, The Federal Government (Berlin) 2 March 2018. Access Date: 19 March 2018.https://www.bundesregierung.de/Content/EN/Artikel/2018/03_en/2018-03-02-strafoelle_en.html?nn=709674.

economic growth. The parliamentarians and Trudeau expressed their concerns on the increasing rate of the isolationism and protectionism.⁶⁵³

On 22 August 2017, Italy expressed its concerns to the European Commission to block foreign acquisitions of European companies. Previously the European Commission has considered screening investments by state-owned Chinese firms and blocking Chinese investments, Italy has supported these two ideas. The Italian Industry Minister, Carlo Calenda, described this move as a an opportunity to monitor operations that are incompatible with European rules. Italy along with France and Germany suggested that all corporate investments outside the bloc should be front to the notice of the commission.⁶⁵⁴

On 13 October 2017, the Italian Cabinet passed a decree that forces investors that constitute minority stakes of at least 10% in Italian-listed companies to disclose what their intentions are on final ownership. This decree aims to avoid and prevent hostile takeovers by foreign companies on Italian companies. This signals that foreign companies have taken advantage of Italians open approach to foreign investments. Italian Industry Minister Carlo Calenda stated that investors should respect Italy's openness to foreign investments. The decrees also goes on to restrict takeovers by non-EU companies to high-technology sectors.⁶⁵⁵

On 30 October 2017, Italian Prime Minister Paolo Gentiloni met with the Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The Italian Prime Minister also stated that both the countries, Italy and India, oppose the increasing rate of protectionism. He also stated that relationship between developed and developing economies should be strengthened by policies that support social inclusion and growth.⁶⁵⁶

On 21 November 2017, a four-day convention was organized by the ICE Agency to attract foreign investments in Italy, in Singapore. The idea of the event was to create a platform where Italian companies can interact with potential investors, local universities, agencies and ploy technologists dedicated to supporting technological innovation.⁶⁵⁷

On 19 January 2018, Prime Minister Gentiloni along with leaders from Brazil, India and Canada stood against the anti-free trade rhetoric coming from the US. While Donald Trump was against the multilateral trade, Italian Prime Minister Paolo Gentiloni stressed the need to "mix"⁶⁵⁸ free trade and fair trade.⁶⁵⁹

Italy has kept its markets open and has taken a firm stance against unfair trade practices and protectionism. Significant turmoil was generated by Italy's general elections that resulted in a hung

⁶⁵³Canada, Italy, Embrace EU trade deal as response to US isolationism, CBC News, May 30, 2017. Date of Access: 17th November, 2017. <http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/trudeau-italy-trade-ceta-1.4137299>

⁶⁵⁴Italy, France, Germany ask EU to boost powers to block foreign acquisitions, The Reuters, August 22, 2017. Date of Access: 17th November, 2017. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-europe-m-a-regulations-idUSKCN1B20IP>

⁶⁵⁵Italy Passes decree to ward off foreign takeovers, The Reuters, October 13, 2017. Date of Access: 16th November, 2017. <https://uk.reuters.com/article/uk-italy-m-a-decree/italy-passes-decree-to-ward-off-foreign-takeovers-idUKKBN1C12PW>

⁶⁵⁶Italy, India together in opposing protectionism: Italian PM, The Statesman, 31 October 2017. Date of Access: 13th November 2017.<http://www.thestatesman.com/india/italy-india-together-opposing-protectionism-italian-pm-1502520055.html>

⁶⁵⁷Italian Innovation Days — From 21 To 24 November In Singapore To Enter Foreign Investments In Italy, 21 November 2017. Date of Access: 3 January 2017. <http://www.ice.gov.it/it/sala-stampa/italian-innovation-days-dal-21-al-24-novembre-singapore-attrarre-investimenti-esteri>.

⁶⁵⁸"World leaders rally against 'protectionism' before Trump gets to Davos." 24 Jan. 2018, Access Date: 18 February 2018 <https://www.cnn.com/2018/01/24/world-leaders-rally-against-protectionism-before-trump-gets-to-davos.html>.

⁶⁵⁹"World leaders rally against 'protectionism' before Trump gets to Davos." 24 Jan. 2018, Access Date: 18 February 2018 <https://www.cnn.com/2018/01/24/world-leaders-rally-against-protectionism-before-trump-gets-to-davos.html>.

parliament. Therefore, further material on Italy's commitment towards free and fair trade was unavailable.

Thus, Italy receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Krishna Moda

Japan: +1

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to keep its markets open and to fight protectionism, while standing firm against all unfair trade practices by advancing free-trade agreements such as the Japanese-European Economic Partnership Agreement (JEPA) and Agreement on the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) while affirming its opposition to protectionism and unfair trade practice in multiple settings.

On 5 July 2017 the European Union trade commissioner, and the Japanese foreign minister declared a consensus on a long discussed Japan-EU Economic Partnership Agreement.⁶⁶⁰ The EU is expected to scrap a 10% tariff on passenger cars made in Japan, over a period of seven years. The Japanese have agreed to reduce tariffs on the import of European foods in return.⁶⁶¹

On 14 September 2017 Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in a dialogue in Gandhinagar as part of the India-Japan Annual Summit. A joint statement released after the event declared that the two committed to combating protectionism and unfair trade practices while achieving consensus on the importance of rules-based multilateral trading.⁶⁶²

On 19 September 2017 Prime Minister Shinzo Abe hosted a meeting with fifteen world-renowned business leaders to have a dialogue about private sector investment in Japan. Abe discussed the value of free trade and committed to realizing the TPP.⁶⁶³

On 11 November 2017, after pressure from the Japanese and Australian governments, 11 countries achieved consensus via-à-vis a number of essential components of the TPP. The agreement seeks to eliminate barriers to trade and tariffs on products in industry and agriculture.⁶⁶⁴

On 13 January 2018, the Japanese government announced a trade agreement with the Baltic states to improve political and economic ties. In particular, Japan seeks to improve economic ties in the arena of transportation technology and products.⁶⁶⁵

⁶⁶⁰ A new trade deal between the EU and Japan, The Economist (London) 8 July 2017. Access Date: 18 November 2017. <https://www.economist.com/news/finance-and-economics/21724830-besides-slashing-tariffs-cheese-and-cars-it-sends-message-donald-trump>.

⁶⁶¹ The E.U.-Japan Trade Deal: What's in It and Why It Matters, The New York Times (New York) 6 July 2017. Access Date: 18 November 2017. <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/07/06/business/economy/japan-eu-trade-agreement.html>.

⁶⁶² India-Japan Annual Summit: Modi, Abe commit to resist protectionism, livemint (Delhi) 14 September 2017. Access Date: 18 November 2017. <http://www.livemint.com/Politics/sJFAe6EOCLRcakMy1BBvBP/IndiaJapan-Annual-Summit-Modi-Abe-commit-to-resist-protect.html>.

⁶⁶³ Japan Has Changed, More Changes to Come, The Government of Japan (Tokyo) Autumn/Winter 2017. Access Date: 18 November 2017. https://www.japan.go.jp/tomodachi/2017/autumn-winter2017/japan_has_changed.html.

⁶⁶⁴ Trans-Pacific trade pact revived despite Trump withdrawal, The Guardian (London) 11 November 2017. Access Date: 18 November 2017. <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2017/nov/11/trans-pacific-trade-deal-salvaged-despite-canada-u-turn-reports-say>.

⁶⁶⁵ Japan announced three-way pact with Baltic countries as Abe tours Eastern Europe, Japan Times (Tokyo). 14 January 2018. Access Date: January 15, 2018. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2018/01/14/nationa/politics-diplomacy/japan-announces-three-way-pact-baltic-countries-abe-tours-europe/#.WlzqRExFxeU>

On 14 January 2018, Prime Minister Abe and Prime Minister Borisov of Bulgaria agreed to seek an early implementation of the JEEPA.⁶⁶⁶

On 10 March 2018, Japanese Trade Commissioner Hiroshige Seko met with EU Trade Commissioner Cecilia Malmström and US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer in Brussels to advance trilateral efforts at tariff reduction. Commissioner Seko and Commissioner Malmström both emphasized that they believe the EU and Japan should be exempt from American steel and aluminum tariffs put in place.⁶⁶⁷ The meeting also resulted in the three parties agreeing to fight against “distorted market practices, including stronger rules on subsidies and more sharing of information about market abuse.”⁶⁶⁸

On 11 March 2018, eleven countries signed the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), which will reduce import tariffs in over 40% of countries worldwide. Japan was one of the leaders of the agreement along with Canada and Australia; the three countries assumed leadership after the United States’ withdrawal from the previous TPP in January 2017. The agreement guarantees the ability of investors to launch investor-state dispute settlements in the event that branches of the pact are violated.⁶⁶⁹

On 1 April 2018, Japan restored its tariff on imported US beef from 50% to 38.5%. The tariff was raised between 1 August 2017 and 30 April 2018 as an emergency safeguard mechanism to protect the domestic beef industry.⁶⁷⁰

Japan’s efforts to advance the JEEPA, to initiate a number of multilateral free-trade agreements, to lead the CPTPP, and to participate in multilateral efforts to reduce tariffs are evidence of its commitment to keep its markets open and combat protectionism with its explicit opposition unfair trade practices.

Thus, Japan receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Armin Safavi-Naini

United Kingdom: +1

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to keep its markets open and to fight protectionism while standing firm against all unfair trade practices.

On 22 September 2017, UK Prime Minister Theresa May urged the European Union to retain current trade terms for two years after the UK officially leaves the EU.⁶⁷¹ She stated that there was “no need to impose tariffs where there are none now.”⁶⁷² Rather than adopting an existing trade

⁶⁶⁶ Japan, Bulgaria agree to seek early implementation of joint-EU EPA, The Yomiuri Shimbun (Tokyo). 15 January 2018. Access Date: January 15, 2018. the-japan-news.com/news/article/0004181397

⁶⁶⁷ EU, Japan and US met in Brussels to discuss overcapacity, steel, European Commission (Brussels) 10 March 2018. Access Date: 15 May 2018. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-18-1781_en.htm.

⁶⁶⁸ EU, Japan start push for exemptions from Trump tariffs, Reuters (London) 10 March 2018. Access Date: 15 May 2018. <https://af.reuters.com/article/worldNews/idAFKCN1GMOQM>.

⁶⁶⁹ How An Australia-Canada-Japan Led TPP-11 Trade Deal Compares to China’s Alternative, Forbes Magazine (New York) 13 March 2018. Access Date: 19 March 2018. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/ralphjennings/2018/03/13/how-japan-australia-and-nine-friends-will-resist-china-in-world-trade/#5ed03adb7dd6>.

⁶⁷⁰ Japan to resume normal beef import tariffs after emergency hike ends, Reuters (London) 29 March 2018. Access Date: 1 May 2018. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-japan-beef/japan-to-resume-normal-beef-import-tariffs-after-emergency-hike-ends-idUSKBN1H608I>.

⁶⁷¹ Theresa May urges EU to retain trade terms for two years after Brexit, BBC News (London) 22 September 2017. Access Date: 13 November 2017. <http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-41355642>.

⁶⁷² Theresa May urges EU to retain trade terms for two years after Brexit, BBC News (London) 22 September 2017. Access Date: 13 November 2017. <http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-41355642>.

model, Prime Minister May called for a new economic partnership that would be both “comprehensive and ambitious”⁶⁷³ and ensures the prosperity of both sides through free trade and fair competition.⁶⁷⁴

On 10 October 2017, UK Business Secretary Greg Clark condemned the increased tariff the US government imposed on the manufacturer Bombardier in the UK. Secretary Clark described the US government’s decision as “totally unjustified,”⁶⁷⁵ and stated that the UK government is committed to pushing for the removal of the tariff.⁶⁷⁶

On 7 November 2017, the UK government published a trade bill that details its post-Brexit trade policy. It includes provisions for the UK to implement existing EU trade agreements, establishment of an independent trade remedies body to defend UK firms against unfair trade practices, and continued access to foreign government contracts for UK businesses.⁶⁷⁷ International Trade Secretary Liam Fox stated that the UK wanted to negotiate “more liberal”⁶⁷⁸ trade agreements to provide “even better market access”⁶⁷⁹ to what the UK previously had as part of the EU.⁶⁸⁰

On 24 November 2017, Prime Minister May attended the Eastern Partnership Summit to advance progress on the negotiation regarding open trade with the EU. May repeated her wish for the UK and the EU to “step forward together,”⁶⁸¹ and has prepared a financial offer of GBP40 billion to the EU to open up free trade talks.⁶⁸²

On 12 December 2017, Secretary Fox spoke at the World Trade Organization (WTO) Ministerial Conference, calling for countries to “update and strengthen”⁶⁸³ the international trading system.⁶⁸⁴

⁶⁷³ PM's Florence speech: a new era of cooperation and partnership between the UK and the EU, The UK Government (London) 22 September 2017. Access Date: 17 January 2018.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/pms-florence-speech-a-new-era-of-cooperation-and-partnership-between-the-uk-and-the-eu>.

⁶⁷⁴ PM's Florence speech: a new era of cooperation and partnership between the UK and the EU, The UK Government (London) 22 September 2017. Access Date: 17 January 2018.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/pms-florence-speech-a-new-era-of-cooperation-and-partnership-between-the-uk-and-the-eu>.

⁶⁷⁵ International Investment: The Secretary of State of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (Greg Clark), The UK Parliament Hansard (London) 17 October 2017. Access Date: 17 January 2018.
<https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2017-10-17/debates/E97358C7-04C3-4B06-B9D3-C3B59CA723F9/InternationalInvestment>.

⁶⁷⁶ International Investment: The Secretary of State of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (Greg Clark), The UK Parliament Hansard (London) 17 October 2017. Access Date: 17 January 2018.
<https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2017-10-17/debates/E97358C7-04C3-4B06-B9D3-C3B59CA723F9/InternationalInvestment>.

⁶⁷⁷ Information about the Trade Bill, The UK Government (London) 7 November 2017. Access Date: 17 January 2018.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/information-about-the-trade-bill>.

⁶⁷⁸ Brexit: Ministers publish post-EU trade legislation, BBC News (London) 7 November 2017. Access Date: 18 November 2017. <http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-41895387>.

⁶⁷⁹ Brexit: Ministers publish post-EU trade legislation, BBC News (London) 7 November 2017. Access Date: 18 November 2017. <http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-41895387>.

⁶⁸⁰ Brexit: Ministers publish post-EU trade legislation, BBC News (London) 7 November 2017. Access Date: 18 November 2017. <http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-41895387>.

⁶⁸¹ May wants EU, UK to 'move together' to Brexit trade talks, Reuters (London) 24 November 2017. Access Date: 24 November 2017. <https://www.reuters.com/article/uk-britain-eu-may-together/may-wants-eu-uk-to-move-together-to-brexit-trade-talks-idUSKBN1DO0PP>.

⁶⁸² Theresa May's cabinet agrees to pay £40 billion Brexit divorce bill, Business Insider (New York) 21 November 2017. Access Date: 24 November 2017.

<http://www.businessinsider.com/theresa-may-cabinet-agrees-40-billion-brexit-divorce-bill-2017-11>.

⁶⁸³ UK statement to the WTO 11th Ministerial Conference by the Secretary of State for International Trade, The UK Government (London) 12 December 2017. Access Date: 17 January 2018.

He highlighted UK's "unwavering"⁶⁸⁵ commitment to free trade, and stated that the UK will continue to fill its commitment and possibly take a larger role at the WTO as it leaves the EU. He emphasized trade as an important tool for development, and called for countries to do more in domestic policies and non-tariff measures to promote free and fair trade practices.⁶⁸⁶

On 9 January 2018, the Trade Bill has passed its second reading in the House of Commons.⁶⁸⁷ Secretary Fox emphasized that maintaining the flow of free trade in both directions as UK leaves the EU is the priority of the Department for International Trade, and that the bill will "provide maximum certainty and continuity for business and consumers."⁶⁸⁸

On 16 April 2018, Prime Minister May spoke at the Commonwealth Business Forum on opportunities to boost free trade and economic growth by the UK government. May highlighted the UK's support for "free and inclusive" trade, new opportunities in UK-Commonwealth partnerships as the UK leaves the EU, and the benefits of free trade among Commonwealth countries.⁶⁸⁹ May further emphasized the huge potentials of shared standards to stimulate trade, supported new programs to boost women's participation in business, and announced the UK's funding for an all-new Commonwealth Standards Network to establish a common standard for goods and services to help increase trade.⁶⁹⁰

The UK has taken actions to keep markets open, fight protectionism, and stand firm against unfair trade practices.

Thus, the UK receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Bonnie Li

United States: 0

The United States has partially complied with its commitment to keep its markets open and to fight protectionism while standing firm against all unfair trade practices.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/uk-statement-to-the-wto-11th-ministerial-conference-by-the-secretary-of-state-for-international-trade>.

⁶⁸⁴ UK statement to the WTO 11th Ministerial Conference by the Secretary of State for International Trade, The UK Government (London) 12 December 2017. Access Date: 17 January 2018.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/uk-statement-to-the-wto-11th-ministerial-conference-by-the-secretary-of-state-for-international-trade>.

⁶⁸⁵ UK statement to the WTO 11th Ministerial Conference by the Secretary of State for International Trade, The UK Government (London) 12 December 2017. Access Date: 17 January 2018.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/uk-statement-to-the-wto-11th-ministerial-conference-by-the-secretary-of-state-for-international-trade>.

⁶⁸⁶ UK statement to the WTO 11th Ministerial Conference by the Secretary of State for International Trade, The UK Government (London) 12 December 2017. Access Date: 17 January 2018.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/uk-statement-to-the-wto-11th-ministerial-conference-by-the-secretary-of-state-for-international-trade>.

⁶⁸⁷ Trade Bill second reading, The UK Government (London) 12 December 2017. Access Date: 16 March 2018.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/trade-bill-second-reading>.

⁶⁸⁸ Trade Bill second reading, The UK Government (London) 12 December 2017. Access Date: 16 March 2018.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/trade-bill-second-reading>.

⁶⁸⁹ PM speaks at the Commonwealth Business Forum: 16 April 2018, The UK Government (London) 16 April 2018. Access Date: 29 April 2018, 2018. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/pm-speaks-at-the-commonwealth-business-forum-16-april-2018>

⁶⁹⁰ PM speaks at the Commonwealth Business Forum: 16 April 2018, The UK Government (London) 16 April 2018. Access Date: 29 April 2018, 2018. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/pm-speaks-at-the-commonwealth-business-forum-16-april-2018>

On 26 June 2017, the Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross imposed additional tariffs on Canadian exports of softwood lumber, bringing duties on these goods to between 17.41% to 30.88%.⁶⁹¹ The US Department of Commerce asserts this “affirmative preliminary antidumping duty determination”⁶⁹² was in response to its findings that imported Canadian softwood lumber products were sold between 4.59% and 7.72% less than their “fair value based on factual evidence provided by the interested parties.”⁶⁹³

On 12 July 2017, the US trade representative, Ambassador Robert Lighthizer wrote a letter to South Korean Minister of Trade Joo Hyung-Hwan expressing the Trump administration’s desire to reduce the “significant trade imbalance”⁶⁹⁴ of the United States with Korea by convening a special session of the Joint Committee under the U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement (KORUS).⁶⁹⁵ U.S. actions to achieve a “more balanced trade relationship”⁶⁹⁶ aims to close its 20-year-long trade deficit with Korea.⁶⁹⁷

On 14 August 2017, President Donald Trump issued a memorandum asking Ambassador Robert Lighthizer to investigate “China’s laws, policies, practices, or actions that may be unreasonable or discriminatory and that may be harming American intellectual property rights, innovation, or technology development.”⁶⁹⁸

On 17 November 2017, Ambassador Lighthizer released updated negotiating objectives for the fourth round of negotiations of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) which called to eliminate the third-party dispute settlement mechanism outlined in Chapter 19 of the agreement and the preservation of domestic preferential purchasing programs.⁶⁹⁹ The dispute settlement

⁶⁹¹ U.S. Department of Commerce Issues Affirmative Preliminary Antidumping Duty Determination on Softwood Lumber from Canada, Office of Public Affairs, Department of Commerce (Washington DC). 26 June 2017. Access Date: 19 November 2017. <https://www.commerce.gov/news/press-releases/2017/06/us-department-commerce-issues-affirmative-preliminary-antidumping-duty>.

⁶⁹² U.S. Department of Commerce Issues Affirmative Preliminary Antidumping Duty Determination on Softwood Lumber from Canada, Office of Public Affairs, Department of Commerce (Washington DC). 26 June 2017. Access Date: 19 November 2017. <https://www.commerce.gov/news/press-releases/2017/06/us-department-commerce-issues-affirmative-preliminary-antidumping-duty>.

⁶⁹³ U.S. Department of Commerce Issues Affirmative Preliminary Antidumping Duty Determination on Softwood Lumber from Canada, Office of Public Affairs, Department of Commerce (Washington DC). 26 June 2017. Access Date: 19 November 2017. <https://www.commerce.gov/news/press-releases/2017/06/us-department-commerce-issues-affirmative-preliminary-antidumping-duty>.

⁶⁹⁴ Full Text of the USTR Letter to the Republic of Korea, Office of the United States Trade Representative (Washington DC). 12 July 2017. Access Date: 19 November 2017. <https://ustr.gov/sites/default/files/files/Press/Releases/USTR%20KORUS.pdf>.

⁶⁹⁵ Full Text of the USTR Letter to the Republic of Korea, Office of the United States Trade Representative (Washington DC). 12 July 2017. Access Date: 19 November 2017. <https://ustr.gov/sites/default/files/files/Press/Releases/USTR%20KORUS.pdf>.

⁶⁹⁶ Full Text of the USTR Letter to the Republic of Korea, Office of the United States Trade Representative (Washington DC). 12 July 2017. Access Date: 19 November 2017. <https://ustr.gov/sites/default/files/files/Press/Releases/USTR%20KORUS.pdf>.

⁶⁹⁷ Full Text of the USTR Letter to the Republic of Korea, Office of the United States Trade Representative (Washington DC). 12 July 2017. Access Date: 19 November 2017. <https://ustr.gov/sites/default/files/files/Press/Releases/USTR%20KORUS.pdf>.

⁶⁹⁸ Presidential Memorandum for the United States Trade Representative, The White House, Office of the Press Secretary (Washington DC). 14 August 2017. Access Date: 16 November 2017. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2017/08/14/presidential-memorandum-united-states-trade-representative>.

⁶⁹⁹ Summary of Objectives for the NAFTA Renegotiation: November 2017, Office of the United States Trade Representative (Washington DC). 17 November 2017. Access Date: 19 November 2017. <https://ustr.gov/sites/default/files/files/Press/Releases/Nov%20Objectives%20Update.pdf>.

mechanism in NAFTA is subject to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, overseen by the World Trade Organization.⁷⁰⁰

On 29 January 2018, Ambassador Lighthizer declared that the NAFTA chapter on anti-corruption was completed after the sixth round of NAFTA renegotiations.⁷⁰¹ Ambassador Lighthizer declared this round as a “watershed moment.”⁷⁰² At the same time, an agreement was made on efforts to clamp down on unfair trade practices, in particular bribery and graft.⁷⁰³

On 8 March 2018, President Trump signed proclamations that imposed 25% and 10% tariffs on steel and aluminum imports respectively. Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross issued a statement claiming that “the President’s decision regarding the steel and aluminum Section 232 reports are the result of a long and well-thought-out process led by the Commerce Department.”⁷⁰⁴ Canada and Mexico were exempt from the tariffs due to the ongoing NAFTA negotiations.⁷⁰⁵

On 28 March 2018, Press Secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders announced that the United States and Korea had reached an agreement, in principle, on a revised version of KORUS, stating that “this is a big deal for the American automotive industry. It’s a big deal for our parts manufacturers. It’s a big deal for our pharmaceutical companies. And ultimately, it’s a big deal and a major win for American workers and American businesses.”⁷⁰⁶ While details on the revised agreement have yet to be released by the Office of the United States Trade Representative, the deal is expected to address the US’s trade deficit with Korea, and exempt Korea from President Trump’s steel tariffs.⁷⁰⁷

On 27 April 2018, the eighth round of NAFTA negotiations concluded, with many unresolved questions looming as to whether or not an agreement will be achieved in the near future. Issues such as dairy, dispute-resolution mechanisms, and a proposed five-year sunset clause, and intellectual property are all areas that remain unsolved.⁷⁰⁸

⁷⁰⁰ North American Free Trade Agreement, The NAFTA Secretariat. 2014. Access Date: 19 November 2017.

<https://www.nafta-sec-alena.org/Home/Texts-of-the-Agreement/North-American-Free-Trade-Agreement?mvid=1&secid=e1fad86-4937-4fd0-b4fd-b28d531d0aba>.

⁷⁰¹ Nafta Said to Gain Steam With Agreement on Anti-Corruption Moves, Bloomberg Politics (New York) 15 March 2018. Access Date: 18 March 2018. <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2018-01-27/nafta-said-to-gain-steam-with-agreement-on-anti-corruption-moves>.

⁷⁰² Closing Statement of USTR Robert Lighthizer at the Sixth Round of NAFTA Renegotiations, Office of the United States Trade Representative (Washington, DC) 29 January 2018. Access Date: 18 March 2018. <https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/fact-sheets/2018/january/closing-statement-ustr-robort>.

⁷⁰³ Nafta Said to Gain Steam With Agreement on Anti-Corruption Moves, Bloomberg Politics (New York) 15 March 2018. Access Date: 18 March 2018. <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2018-01-27/nafta-said-to-gain-steam-with-agreement-on-anti-corruption-moves>.

⁷⁰⁴ Secretary Ross Statement on President Trump’s Decision to Impose Tariffs on Imported Steel and Aluminum, Office of Public Affairs, Department of Commerce (Washington, DC) 8 March 2018. Access Date: 18 March 2018. <https://www.commerce.gov/news/press-releases/2018/03/secretary-ross-statement-president-trumps-decision-impose-tariffs>.

⁷⁰⁵ Trump’s steel, aluminum tariffs exempt Canada, Mexico, Reuters (London) 8 March 2018. Access Date: 18 March 2018. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-trade-tariffs/trumps-steel-aluminum-tariffs-exempt-canada-mexico-idUSKCN1GK2W6>.

⁷⁰⁶ Press Briefing by Press Secretary Sarah Sanders, The White House, Office of the Press Secretary (Washington, DC) 28 March 2018. Access Date: 29 April 2018. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/press-briefing-press-secretary-sarah-sanders-032818/>

⁷⁰⁷ U.S., South Korea revise trade deal, Korean steel faces quota, Reuters (London) 25 March 2018. Access Date: 15 May 2018. <https://uk.reuters.com/article/uk-southkorea-trade-usa/u-s-agrees-to-exempt-south-korea-from-steel-tariffs-but-imposes-import-quota-south-korea-idUKKBN1H206N>.

⁷⁰⁸ Ministers head home, plan to reconvene NAFTA trade talks in a week’s time, CBC News (Washington DC) 27 April 2018. Access Date: 29 April 2018. <http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/nafta-negotiators-discuss-through-weekend-1.4638368>.

The United States has not demonstrated its commitment to keep its markets open and to fight protectionism. However, the United States still demonstrates its commitment to stand firm against all unfair trade practices.

Thus, the United States receives a score of 0.

Analysts: Nicholas Di Marco with Steven Camit

European Union: +1

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to keep its markets open and to fight protectionism while standing firm against all unfair trade practices.

On 1 June 2017, Germany and China agreed to advance the negotiations on a China-EU investment agreement as means to “enrich the two countries’ cooperation and ties.”⁷⁰⁹ German Chancellor Angela Merkel and visiting Chinese Premier Li Keqiang announced the developments during a joint press conference in Berlin. The investment deal includes the broadening and equality of both Chinese and EU markets to improve mutual trade and investment scales of both parties. Merkel stated that the signing of such a treaty acts as a good point at which negotiations on an EU-China free trade agreement can begin.⁷¹⁰

On 8 June 2017, Germany and Argentina expressed plans for a free trade agreement between the EU and Mercosur when German Chancellor Angela Merkel visited the country. The efforts were also in part a pledge to “fight protectionism.”⁷¹¹

On 22-23 June 2017, the European Council held a summit during which leaders restated their agreement to free trade and investment. The European Council took a stance against unfair trade practice by agreeing on trade defence instruments in order to protect against such unfair practices. Furthermore, the Council strongly advised the progression of all ongoing negotiations for “ambitious and balanced free trade agreements,” including those with Mercosur and Mexico.⁷¹²

On 6 July 2017, the EU agreed on an outline for a free trade deal with Japan that would “stand against a protectionist tide threatening the global economy.”⁷¹³ The deal is designed to lessen and remove trade barriers such as tariffs between states. As such, the EU will remove the 10% duty on Japanese car imports reciprocated by like Japanese efforts.⁷¹⁴

⁷⁰⁹ China, Germany agree to speed up talks on China-EU investment agreement, enrich bilateral ties (China) 2 June 2017. Access Date: 16 November 2017. http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-06/02/c_136332689.htm.

⁷¹⁰ China, Germany agree to speed up talks on China-EU investment agreement, enrich bilateral ties (China) 2 June 2017. Access Date: 16 November 2017. http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-06/02/c_136332689.htm.

⁷¹¹ Germany and Argentina pledge to fight protectionism and reach a Mercosur/EU trade deal (Montevideo) 9 June 2017. Access Date: 13 November 2017. <http://en.mercopress.com/2017/06/09/germany-and-argentina-pledged-to-fight-protectionism-and-reach-a-mercosur-eu-trade-deal>.

⁷¹² European Council, 22-23/06/2017. (Brussels) 30 November 2017. Access Date: 15 January 2018. <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/european-council/2017/06/22-23/#>.

⁷¹³ Japan, EU press ahead on free trade pact to counter U.S. protectionism. (Tokyo) 28 June 2017. Access Date: 15 January 2017. <https://ca.reuters.com/article/businessNews/idCAKBN19JON1-OCABS?sp=true>.

⁷¹⁴ Japan, EU press ahead on free trade pact to counter U.S. protectionism. (Tokyo) 28 June 2017. Access Date: 15 January 2017. <https://ca.reuters.com/article/businessNews/idCAKBN19JON1-OCABS?sp=true>.

On 21 September 2017, the Comprehensive Economic Trade Agreement (CETA) came into force. CETA is a free trade agreement between the EU and Canada that aims to open markets and fight protectionism.⁷¹⁵

On 6 October 2017, the EU-India Summit was held in New Delhi during which leaders continued talks of diplomatic relations and expressed their “shared commitment⁷¹⁶” in fortifying economic relations between the EU and India. As such, both sides expressed efforts to relaunch negotiations concerning a “comprehensive and mutually beneficial Free Trade Agreement.”⁷¹⁷

On 31 January 2018, the European Commission endorsed “horizontal provisions for cross-border data flows and personal data protection”⁷¹⁸ in EU trade agreements.⁷¹⁹ The provisions follow from the EU’s protection of personal data as a fundamental right, and extend to trade negotiations so that they are not subject to such negotiations. The draft paper would allow the EU to fight protectionism in third countries while also protecting their current legislation on the protection of personal data.⁷²⁰

On 1 March 2018, European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker announced that he would “bring forward in the next few days a proposal for World Trade Organization-compatible countermeasures against the U.S.”⁷²¹ Following the U.S.’s proposed tariff hike on steel and aluminum, Europe’s Trade Commissioner Cecilia Malmstrom stated that the EU would raise a dispute at the WTO “at the earliest opportunity”⁷²² and that the Commission will furthermore propose “WTO-compatible safeguard action to preserve the stability of the EU market”⁷²³ if it deems necessary.⁷²⁴

On 14 March 2018, German Chancellor Merkel stated that protectionism is not a viable mechanism to international trade while also announcing the EU’s aim to be excluded from the US’s planned steel

⁷¹⁵ Free trade with the EU starts today. Here’s what it means for Canada, Financial Post (Toronto) 21 September 2017. Access Date: 15 January 2017. <http://business.financialpost.com/opinion/free-trade-with-the-eu-starts-today-heres-what-it-means-for-canada>.

⁷¹⁶ President Juncker at the EU-India Summit (Brussels) 6 October 2017. Access Date: 17 November 2017. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/president-juncker-eu-india-summit-2017-oct-06_en.

⁷¹⁷ President Juncker at the EU-India Summit (Brussels) 6 October 2017. Access Date: 17 November 2017. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/president-juncker-eu-india-summit-2017-oct-06_en.

⁷¹⁸ European Commission - Daily News (Brussels) 31 January 2018. Access Date: 17 March 2018. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEX-18-546_en.htm.

⁷¹⁹ European Commission - Daily News (Brussels) 31 January 2018. Access Date: 17 March 2018. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEX-18-546_en.htm.

⁷²⁰ European Commission - Daily News (Brussels) 31 January 2018. Access Date: 17 March 2018. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEX-18-546_en.htm.

⁷²¹ Europe digs in to fight global trade war against Trump, Politico EU (Brussels) 1 March 2018. Access Date: 30 April 2018. <https://www.politico.eu/article/trade-donald-trump-united-states-europe-digs-in-to-fight-global-trade-war-against-trump/>.

⁷²² European Commission responds to the US restrictions on steel and aluminium affecting the EU, European Commission (Brussels) 1 March 2018. Access Date: 30 April 2018. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_STATEMENT-18-1484_en.htm.

⁷²³ Europe digs in to fight global trade war against Trump, Politico EU (Brussels) 1 March 2018. Access Date: 30 April 2018. <https://www.politico.eu/article/trade-donald-trump-united-states-europe-digs-in-to-fight-global-trade-war-against-trump/>.

⁷²⁴ Europe digs in to fight global trade war against Trump, Politico EU (Brussels) 1 March 2018. Access Date: 30 April 2018. <https://www.politico.eu/article/trade-donald-trump-united-states-europe-digs-in-to-fight-global-trade-war-against-trump/>.

and aluminum tariffs.⁷²⁵ In the event of such tariffs being imposed, EU officials have expressed their assurance of going to the WTO to facilitate fair trade.⁷²⁶

On 18 April 2018, the European Commission concluded negotiations for the Economic Partnership Agreement with Japan and the trade and investment agreements with Singapore.⁷²⁷ The agreement with Japan is the largest bilateral trade negotiation ever entered by the EU, and will remove many of the customs duties on EU companies exporting to Japan. The agreement will remove many existing regulatory barriers including double testing and overlapping bureaucracy. Furthermore, the agreement with Singapore purports to build a foundation for future region-to-region trade and investment between the EU and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. The trade agreements also include comprehensive reports on trade and sustainable development.⁷²⁸

On 21 April 2018, the EU and Mexico reached a free trade deal which was seen as an accomplishment against the increased protectionism posed from the US. The European Commission stated that the deal will eliminate tariffs for many goods, including Mexican farm products and European dairy produce.⁷²⁹

The EU has taken significant steps toward fighting protectionism by keeping its markets open and taking a firm stance against unfair trade practices.

Thus, the EU receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Hinda Ates

⁷²⁵ Merkel says protectionism is not the answer to U.S. tariffs, Reuters (Berlin) 14 March 2018. Access Date: 15 March 2018. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-trade-germany/merkel-says-protectionism-is-not-the-answer-to-u-s-tariffs-idUSKCN1GQ2AU>.

⁷²⁶ Merkel says protectionism is not the answer to U.S. tariffs, Reuters (Berlin) 14 March 2018. Access Date: 15 March 2018. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-trade-germany/merkel-says-protectionism-is-not-the-answer-to-u-s-tariffs-idUSKCN1GQ2AU>.

⁷²⁷ European Commission proposes signature and conclusion of Japan and Singapore agreements, European Commission (Strasbourg) 18 April 2018. Access Date: 30 April 2018. <http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/press/index.cfm?id=1826>.

⁷²⁸ European Commission proposes signature and conclusion of Japan and Singapore agreements, European Commission (Strasbourg) 18 April 2018. Access Date: 30 April 2018. <http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/press/index.cfm?id=1826>.

⁷²⁹ EU and Mexico agree new free trade pact, Reuters (Brussels) 21 April 2018. Access Date: 30 April 2018. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-eu-mexico-trade/eu-and-mexico-agree-new-free-trade-pact-idUSKBN1HS0PF>.