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

2017 G7 Taormina Interim Compliance Report
27 May 2017 to 30 January 2018

Prepared by
Katrina Bland, Andrew Liu and Sarah Mariani
G7 Research Group, University of Toronto
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www.g7.utoronto.ca
g8@utoronto.ca
@g7_rg and @g8rg

“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
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4. 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Member</th>
<th>No Compliance</th>
<th>Partial Compliance</th>
<th>Full Compliance</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
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<td>+1</td>
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<tr>
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<td></td>
<td>+1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
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<td>European Union</td>
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<td>Average</td>
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Background

The commitment to keep markets open, fight protectionism and remain staunchly opposed to unfair trade practices carry significant overlap. Together, the three overlapping commitments seek to entrench a free and fair economy around the world that benefits all.

The global history of protectionism goes back to the 18th century, with Adam Smith warning of a rise of governments attempting to gain economic advantage at the cost of consumers.314 Many countries have used protectionist methods to shield their economies from changing markets. One example of this is the post-WWII era. As Japan was drastically increasing its exports in steel, automobiles and electronics, rival countries introduced temporary protectionist acts to absorb the shock of the market change by giving their markets time to adjust to the changing supplies.315 While some reaped benefits, most of the cost of these protectionist policies were imposed on the consumer, leading to general consensus that the global economy benefits more from open economies.

Furthermore, protectionism is seen to constrain competition, benefiting inefficient domestic firms that would otherwise be unable to survive in a “free and unhampered market,” thus compounding inefficiencies in the global economy. Yet, a protectionist U.S. president Donald Trump, refusing to endorse free trade or commit to anti-protectionist policies, and a UK set to leave the European Union, points to a macroeconomic trend of a rise in protectionism. In response, the G7 at Taormina succeeded in having an anti-protectionist commitment endorsed by all members, including Trump.316,317

By reiterating a global commitment to maintaining a state of open markets and decrease protectionist policies and practices, the G7 members can use their international political influences to fight against unfair trade policies worldwide and continue to promote the growth and development of a shared world economy.

The G7 thus continued its trend of making politically binding commitments to support open markets, fair trade policies and anti-protectionism as it had done at its previous summits. Indeed, commitments in this area have been seen since 1980 and have been covered in their entirety in the appendix. Since 2000 every year has seen a commitment that has been tangentially related to this years however six times it has been very closely related. Starting with the turn of the century at the 2000 Okinawa Summit G8 leaders sought to create “a balanced and inclusive agenda” for international trade.\(^{318}\) At the 2001 Genoa Summit they strove to “open markets globally and strengthen the WTO [World Trade Organization]”\(^{319}\) At the 2005 Gleneagles Summit G8 leaders expressed a desire for further opening of markets, especially in “agricultural goods and industrial goods and services.”\(^{320}\) Here they also tackled protectionism by agreeing to “reduc[e] trade distorting domestic subsidies.”\(^{321}\) The 2009 L’Aquila Summit further attacked protectionism with a commitment to “refrain from raising new barriers to investment or to trade in goods and services, imposing new exports restrictions.”\(^{322}\) The 2010 Muskoka Summit also built on this. Finally, and most recently, the 2014 G7 Brussels Summit summarized the past decade of commitments targeting open markets and anti-protectionism with the commitment: “We reaffirm our commitment to keep our markets open and to fight all forms of protectionism including through standstill and rollback.”\(^{323}\)

**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.\(^{324}\)

“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.\(^{325}\)

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“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.\textsuperscript{326}

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>−1</td>
<td>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</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>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</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+1</td>
<td>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</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*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.

On 21 September 2017, Canada enforced the Canada–European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA).\textsuperscript{327} Under CETA, 98% of EU tariffs lines (9,000) will be duty-free for Canadians and Canadian business owners.\textsuperscript{328}

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.\textsuperscript{329}

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.\textsuperscript{330}

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.\textsuperscript{331} 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 (CPTP).\textsuperscript{332}

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.\textsuperscript{333}

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 led the Canadian delegation and both endorsed and signed a joint statements and declarations that support and promote Canada’s progressive trade agenda.\textsuperscript{334}

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

Thus, Canada receives a score of +1.

\textit{Analyst: 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.

Since the election of Emmanuel Macron’s government in May 2017, France has pursued an ambivalent agenda on trade liberalization. On one hand, France has stood firm against unfair trade practices by pushing for the European Union to introduce regulations that would force profit-shifting and tax-avoiding tech giants like Amazon and Google to pay the same taxes as local European firms. On the other hand, Macron’s zeal for creating “l’Europe qui protège” (a Europe that protects) has led France to propose several protectionist trade measures on the EU-scale, including a “Buy European Act” that would require EU members to issue public procurement contracts only to firms which are majority owned by EU companies. Furthermore, the French government has not kept its domestic market open to foreign investment, choosing instead to intervene in the sales of private companies to foreign investors.

The case of the nationalization of STX France and its Saint-Nazaire shipyard is illustrative of the new government’s protectionist stance and failure to keep markets open to foreign investment. STX France was previously co-owned by the government of France and its majority shareholder, the South Korean conglomerate STX. When STX collapsed last year, its shares were put up for sale and two Italian investors — including state-owned shipbuilding company Fincantieri — reached an agreement to buy the company. In July 2017, the French government intervened by cancelling this deal and nationalizing STX France. Although France ultimately allowed Fincantieri to purchase a 50% stake in STX France in September 2017, 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 a 1% stake at any time. Ultimately, this case shows France’s willingness to intervene in international deals and restrict access to its market, and has raised concerns that the nominally business-friendly Macron administration will continue the tradition of government dirigisme in the French economy.

Beyond this example of state intervention in the domestic market, the Macron government has chosen to position France as the EU’s champion of protectionist measures against foreign companies,


Ultimately, although France has been building a coalition of EU states to stand firm against unfair trade practices in taxation and labour markets, the Macron government has so far demonstrated a lack of commitment to keeping markets open and fighting protectionism.

Thus, France receives a score of 0.

**Analyst: Bruce Cinnamon**

**Germany: +1**

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

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On 8 June 2017, the federal government of Germany adopted measures from a paper entitled “Economic Development in Africa: Challenges and Options.” Federal Minister for Economic Affairs and Energy Brigitte Zypries said the measures reflected Germany’s commitment to “creating an economic partnership of equals between Germany and Africa.” 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.

On 20 June 2017, Germany donated EUR 1 million to help developing and least-developed countries to strengthen their trade negotiating skills. 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.

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

On 6 July 2017, Germany donated EUR 150,000 to help developing countries comply with international food safety, animal and plant health standards. 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.”

On 18 September 2017, Minister Zypries announced the implementation of many of the measures adopted on 8 June 2017. 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.

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

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.

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 go on to restrict takeovers by non-EU companies to high-technology sectors.\textsuperscript{364}

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.\textsuperscript{365}

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.\textsuperscript{366}

Italy has kept its markets open, and has taken a firm stance against unfair trade practices and protectionism.

Thus, Italy receives a score of +1.

\textit{Analyst: Krishna Moda}

\textbf{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 (JEEPA) 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.\textsuperscript{367} 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.\textsuperscript{368} How does this affect score according to scoring guidelines?

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

\begin{footnotesize}
\begin{itemize}
\item \textsuperscript{364}Italy 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-takingover-idUKKBN1CI2PW
\end{itemize}
\end{footnotesize}
unfair trade practices while achieving consensus on the importance of rules-based multilateral trading.369

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.370

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.371

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.372

On 14 January 2018, Prime Minister Abe and Prime Minister Borisov of Bulgaria agreed to seek an early implementation of the JEEPA.373

Japan’s efforts to advance the JEEPA, initiate a number of multilateral free-trade agreements and 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: 0**

The United Kingdom has partially 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, Prime Minister Theresa May urged the European Union to retain trade terms for two years after Brexit in a speech in Florence. She stated that the two sides could do “so much better” than adopt existing models, and that there was “no need to impose tariffs where there are none now.”374

The UK has taken actions to keep markets open and fight protectionism, but has yet to make clear effort in restricting unfair trade practices.

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Thus, the UK receives a score of 0.

**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.

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%. The US Department of Commerce asserts this “affirmative preliminary antidumping duty determination” 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.”

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 US’s “significant trade imbalance” with South Korea by convening a special session of the Joint Committee under the U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement (KORUS). U.S. actions to achieve a “more balanced trade relationship” aims to close its 20-year-long trade deficit with South Korea.

On 14 August 2017, President Donald J. 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.”

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

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.

Analyst: 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.” 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.

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.”

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.

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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.”\footnote{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/idCAKBN19J0N1-OCABS?sp=true.} 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.\footnote{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/idCAKBN19J0N1-OCABS?sp=true.}

On 21 September 2017, the EU agreed to enter into a free trade agreement with Canada. The Canada–European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) aims to open markets against protectionism. CETA will allow for most import duties to be removed by early 2018. The bilateral agreement will remove many tariffs for goods and services between Canada and the EU.\footnote{Free trade with the EU starts today. Here’s what it means for Canada. (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.}

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 commitment”\footnote{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.} 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.”\footnote{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.}

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.

\textit{Analyst: Hivda Ates}