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The G7 Research Group presents the

2020 G7 USA Virtual Summit Interim Compliance Report

17 March 2020 to 25 February 2021

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

Chancellor Angela Merkel, Schloss Elmau, 8 June 2015

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

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



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18. Trade: Supporting Trade and Investment

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

G7 Leaders’ Statement

Assessment

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

Background

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

The leaders’ statement from the Virtual Summit recognizes that the COVID-19 pandemic “poses major risks for the world economy.”³¹⁸⁰ In response to the economic implication of the COVID-19 pandemic, the G7 leaders have expressed their ongoing commitment to the stability of the global economy, including the facilitation of international trade and investment.³¹⁸¹

The global trading system was established after the Second World War through the Bretton Woods system. The Bretton Woods system established a number of international organizations to facilitate international trade and reduce tariff and non-tariff barriers. For instance, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) was a multilateral trade agreement with a purpose of reducing or eliminating trade barriers including tariffs and quotas.³¹⁸²

On 1 January 1995, the World Trade Organization (WTO) was established in Geneva Switzerland as a revised version of the GATT.³¹⁸³ The WTO is a multilateral trade agreement that works to ensure that international rules and regulations surrounding trade are properly applied and enforced.³¹⁸⁴ The WTO agreements outline the principles of trade liberalization and broadly cover the trade of goods, services and intellectual properties.³¹⁸⁵ One of the fundamental principles of the WTO is to combat protectionist trade measures by reducing or eliminating trade barriers.³¹⁸⁶

³¹⁸⁰ G7 Leaders’ Declaration, G7 France (Biarritz) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 15 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2019biarritz/declaration-of-leaders.html>.

³¹⁸¹ G7 Leaders’ Declaration, G7 France (Biarritz) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 15 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2019biarritz/declaration-of-leaders.html>.

³¹⁸² The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT 1947), World Trade Organization (Geneva) Access Date: 15 December 2020. https://www.wto.org/english/docs_e/legal_e/gatt47_01_e.htm.

³¹⁸³ The WTO, World Trade Organization (Geneva) Access Date: 15 December 2020. https://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/thewto_e.htm.

³¹⁸⁴ The WTO, World Trade Organization (Geneva) Access Date: 15 December 2020. https://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/thewto_e.htm.

³¹⁸⁵ The WTO, World Trade Organization (Geneva) Access Date: 15 December 2020. https://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/thewto_e.htm.

³¹⁸⁶ The WTO, World Trade Organization (Geneva) Access Date: 15 December 2020. https://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/thewto_e.htm.

The facilitation of international trade has been a significant economic priority of the G7/8 since the 1980s. During that period, the G7/8 made broad commitments to encourage the development of free markets and to encourage the reduction of trade barriers. After the establishment of the WTO in 1995, the G7/8 included the multilateral trading framework in a number of its commitments.³¹⁸⁷ For instance, at the 1996 Lyon Summit, G7 leaders “[reaffirmed] the central role of the WTO and the preeminence of multilateral rules, which should serve as the framework for regional initiative.”³¹⁸⁸ Additionally, after the 1996 Summit the G7/8 members began to include investment and economic growth as an objective of the world trading system.³¹⁸⁹

After the 2007-2008 financial crisis, G7/8 leaders focused on reinforcing the established trading system to facilitate barrier-free trade. For instance, at the 2014 Summit in Brussels, the G7 members reaffirmed their “commitment to keep our markets open and to fight all forms of protectionism including through standstill and rollback.”³¹⁹⁰ At the 2015 Schloss Elmau Summit and the 2016 Ise-Shima Summit, G7 leaders made similar commitments to liberalize their trade economies and improve international competitiveness.³¹⁹¹

At the 2017 Summit in Taormina, the G7 leaders reiterated their “commitment to keep our markets open and fight protectionism,” while also “acknowledging that trade has not always worked for the benefit of everyone.”³¹⁹² The 2017 Taormina Summit was also the first summit in which US President Donald Trump attended. At the summit, President Trump expressed a desire to impose unilateral tariffs on Mexico and China.³¹⁹³

At 2018 Charlevoix Summit, the G7 leaders “acknowledged that free, fair and mutually beneficial trade and investment, while creating reciprocal benefits are key engines for growth and job creation.”³¹⁹⁴ The leaders also “underlined the crucial role of a rules-based international trading system and continue to fight protectionism.”³¹⁹⁵ Then at the 2019 Biarritz Summit the G7 leaders declared that “the G7 is committed to open and fair trade and to the stability of the global economy.”³¹⁹⁶ The G7 also declared its desire to “overhaul the WTO to improve effectiveness with regard to intellectual property protection, to settle disputes more swiftly and to eliminate unfair trade practices.”³¹⁹⁷

³¹⁸⁷ Economic Communiqué: Making a Success of Globalization for the Benefit of All, G7 France (Lyon) 18 June 1996. Access Date: 15 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1996lyon/communique.html#eco2>.

³¹⁸⁸ Economic Communiqué: Making a Success of Globalization for the Benefit of All, G7 France (Lyon) 18 June 1996. Access Date: 15 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1996lyon/communique.html#eco2>.

³¹⁸⁹ Economic Communiqué: Making a Success of Globalization for the Benefit of All, G7 France (Lyon) 18 June 1996. Access Date: 15 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1996lyon/communique.html#eco2>.

³¹⁹⁰ G7 Brussels Summit Declaration, G7 Brussels (Brussels) 5 June 2014. Access Date: 15 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2014brussels/declaration.html>.

³¹⁹¹ G7 Ise-Shima Leaders’ Declaration, G7 Japan (Ise-Shima) 27 May 2016. Access Date: 15 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2016shima/ise-shima-declaration-en.html#trade>.

³¹⁹² G7 Taormina Leaders’ Communiqué, G7 201 Italia (Taormina) 27 May 2017. Access Date: 15 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2017taormina/communique.html>.

³¹⁹³ G7 leaders divided on climate change, closer on trade issues, Reuters (Taormina) 25 May 2017. Access Date: 15 December 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-g7-summit/g7-leaders-divided-on-climate-change-closer-on-tradeissues-idUSKBN18L2ZU>.

³¹⁹⁴ The Charlevoix G7 Summit Communiqué, G7 2018 Charlevoix (La Malbaie) 9 June 2018. Access Date: 15 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/communique.html>.

³¹⁹⁵ The Charlevoix G7 Summit Communiqué, G7 2018 Charlevoix (La Malbaie) 9 June 2018. Access Date: 15 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/communique.html>.

³¹⁹⁶ G7 Leaders’ Declaration, G7 France (Biarritz) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 15 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2019biarritz/declaration-of-leaders.html>.

³¹⁹⁷ G7 Leaders’ Declaration, G7 France (Biarritz) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 15 December 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2019biarritz/declaration-of-leaders.html>.

Commitment Features

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

The first component of the commitment is “marshalling the full power of [their] governments.” These efforts to marshal the power of their governments must “support trade and investment.” The term “marshalling” refers to the action of bringing together multiple components to achieve a certain goal.³¹⁹⁸ The term “support” refers to the action or process of assisting or aiding an initiative, or entity.³¹⁹⁹

The term “trade” is defined as the trade of goods, services and intellectual properties between nations.³²⁰⁰ Examples of actions that would demonstrate a strong commitment to facilitating trade include, but are not limited to, government actions that endorse an environment where companies and individuals can trade freely without limits, that reduce tariffs and taxes on imports on imports to allow for unimpeded trade, that reduce the use of non-trade barriers and trade-distorting practices.

The term “investment” refers to the action or process of allocating capital funds or resources to an organization with the expectation that the investment will deliver defined outputs or outcomes.³²⁰¹ The most common form of investments are revenue funding or capital investments.³²⁰² Some examples of actions that strongly support investment include the establishment of investment funds, the creation of agencies that work to attract foreign investments, and the implementation of trade and investment agreements between parties. Given the significant economic challenges that the COVID-19 pandemic has created, efforts to support trade and investment should be focused on enhancing economic recovery or responding to the global health crisis.

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

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

Scoring Guidelines

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

³¹⁹⁸ Marshal, Merriam-Webster Dictionary. Access Date: 21 January 2020. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/marshal>.

³¹⁹⁹ Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 Research Group (Toronto) 6 August 2019. Access Date: 1 January 2021. <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1mArZpxMjf-O9IXEjcf79Jvzvd97S-9Cs4xb0W4GyXg/edit>.

³²⁰⁰ What We Stand For, World Trade Organization (Geneva) Access Date: 15 December 2020. https://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/whatis_e/what_stand_for_e.htm.

³²⁰¹ Social Investment and Social Enterprise, United Kingdom presidency of the G8 (Lough Erne) 3 June 2013. Access Date: 1 January 2021. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2013lougherne/factsheet_socialinvestment.html.

³²⁰² Social Investment and Social Enterprise, United Kingdom presidency of the G8 (Lough Erne) 3 June 2013. Access Date: 1 January 2021. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2013lougherne/factsheet_socialinvestment.html.

| | |
|----|--|
| +1 | G7 member has taken action to strongly support trade AND investment. |
|----|--|

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

Canada: +1

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

On 5 May 2020, Minister of Small Business, Export Promotion and International Trade Mary Ng issued a statement on joint collaboration by members of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum amid the COVID-19 pandemic.³²⁰³ Minister Ng said, “it is imperative that trade remains open and predictable to facilitate the flow of essential goods and services, and to minimize disruptions to global supply chains.”³²⁰⁴

On 28 May 2020, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, along with the Andrew Holness, Prime Minister of Jamaica, and António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations, launched the Financing for Development in the Era of COVID-19 and Beyond Initiative to find innovative solutions to continue investing in international and domestic areas.³²⁰⁵

On 25 July 2020, Minister Ng participated in the virtual APEC trade ministers meeting to “discuss strengthening rules-based trade and upholding stable and predictable global supply chains.”³²⁰⁶ During the meeting, Minister Ng announced that Canada would move to Phase II of the APEC-Canada Growing Business Partnership which will help small businesses by reducing trade barriers.³²⁰⁷ Minister Ng and her Asia-Pacific counterparts also signed onto a joint statement to reaffirm their commitment to collaborating on economic recovery actions amid the COVID-19 pandemic.³²⁰⁸

On 22 September 2020, Minister Ng participated in the G20 Trade and Investment Ministerial Meeting.³²⁰⁹ During the meeting, Minister Ng committed to implementing the G20 Action Plan on Trade and Investment.³²¹⁰ The Action Plan was created in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.³²¹¹

³²⁰³ Statement on joint collaboration by APEC members amid COVID-19 pandemic, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 5 May 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/05/statement-on-joint-collaboration-by-apec-members-amid-covid-19-pandemic.html>.

³²⁰⁴ Statement on joint collaboration by APEC members amid COVID-19 pandemic, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 5 May 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/05/statement-on-joint-collaboration-by-apec-members-amid-covid-19-pandemic.html>.

³²⁰⁵ The Secretary-General's press conference with the Prime Ministers of Canada and Jamaica on Financing for Development in the Era of COVID-19 and Beyond, United Nations Secretary General (Ottawa) 28 May 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. <https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/press-encounter/2020-05-28/the-secretary-generals-press-conference-the-prime-ministers-of-canada-and-jamaica-financing-for-development-the-era-of-covid-19-and-beyond>.

³²⁰⁶ Minister Ng participates in APEC trade ministers meeting and announces expansion of APEC-Canada Growing Business Partnership, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 25 July 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/07/minister-ng-participates-in-apec-trade-ministers-meeting-and-announces-expansion-of-apec-canada-growing-business-partnership.html>.

³²⁰⁷ Minister Ng participates in APEC trade ministers meeting and announces expansion of APEC-Canada Growing Business Partnership, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 25 July 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/07/minister-ng-participates-in-apec-trade-ministers-meeting-and-announces-expansion-of-apec-canada-growing-business-partnership.html>.

³²⁰⁸ Minister Ng participates in APEC trade ministers meeting and announces expansion of APEC-Canada Growing Business Partnership, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 25 July 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/07/minister-ng-participates-in-apec-trade-ministers-meeting-and-announces-expansion-of-apec-canada-growing-business-partnership.html>.

³²⁰⁹ Canada's support of G20 world trade and investment response to COVID-19, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 22 September 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/international_relations_relations_internationales/g20/2020-09-22-action_plan-plan_action.aspx?lang=eng.

On 17 December 2020, Minister Ng announced that the Canada-led Ottawa Group Trade and Health initiative was presented to the World Health Organization Council for discussion.³²¹² The Trade and Health Initiative includes Canada and 12 other Ottawa Group member nations calling on enhanced cooperation among WTO members to strengthen global supply chains and facilitate the flow of essential medicines amid the COVID-19 pandemic.³²¹³

On 11 January 2021, Minister Ng announced that it has started public consultations with Indonesia for a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement.³²¹⁴

On 28 January 2021, Minister Ng spoke with Valdis Dombrovskis, European Commission Executive Vice-President and Commissioner for Trade, about the importance of sustaining vaccine and medical supply trade flows.³²¹⁵ Minister Ng and Mr. Dombrovskis also acknowledged their ongoing collaborative work on reforming the World Trade Organization (WTO) including participation in the Ottawa Group.³²¹⁶

On 29 January 2021, Minister Ng participated in a virtual WTO meeting of fellow ministers.³²¹⁷ They discussed key priorities to “strengthen the rules-based multilateral trading system in support of an inclusive, sustainable and resilient global recovery.”³²¹⁸ During the meeting, Minister Ng highlighted the Ottawa Group’s efforts to keep markets open and to facilitate the distribution of vaccines.³²¹⁹

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

Thus, Canada receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Katherine Yarun

³²¹⁰ Canada’s support of G20 world trade and investment response to COVID-19, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 22 September 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/international_relations-relations_internationales/g20/2020-09-22-action_plan-plan_action.aspx?lang=eng.

³²¹¹ Canada’s support of G20 world trade and investment response to COVID-19, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 22 September 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/international_relations-relations_internationales/g20/2020-09-22-action_plan-plan_action.aspx?lang=eng.

³²¹² Minister Ng announces tabling of Ottawa Group’s Trade and Health Initiative at WTO General Council, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/12/minister-ng-announces-tabling-of-ottawa-groups-trade-and-health-initiative-at-wto-general-council.html>.

³²¹³ Minister Ng announces tabling of Ottawa Group’s Trade and Health Initiative at WTO General Council, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/12/minister-ng-announces-tabling-of-ottawa-groups-trade-and-health-initiative-at-wto-general-council.html>.

³²¹⁴ Consulting Canadians on a possible comprehensive economic partnership agreement with Indonesia, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 8 January 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.international.gc.ca/trade-commerce/consultations/consulting-indonesia-consultation-indonesie.aspx?lang=eng>.

³²¹⁵ Minister Ng speaks with European Commissioner for Trade Valdis Dombrovskis, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 28 January 2021, Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2021/01/minister-ng-speaks-with-european-commissioner-for-trade-valdis-dombrovskis.html>.

³²¹⁶ Minister Ng speaks with European Commissioner for Trade Valdis Dombrovskis, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 28 January 2021, Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2021/01/minister-ng-speaks-with-european-commissioner-for-trade-valdis-dombrovskis.html>.

³²¹⁷ Minister Ng Discusses global trade and economic recovery in WTO ministerial meeting, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 29 January 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2021/01/minister-ng-discusses-global-trade-and-economic-recovery-in-wto-ministerial-meeting.html>.

³²¹⁸ Minister Ng Discusses global trade and economic recovery in WTO ministerial meeting, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 29 January 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2021/01/minister-ng-discusses-global-trade-and-economic-recovery-in-wto-ministerial-meeting.html>.

³²¹⁹ Minister Ng Discusses global trade and economic recovery in WTO ministerial meeting, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 29 January 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2021/01/minister-ng-discusses-global-trade-and-economic-recovery-in-wto-ministerial-meeting.html>.

France: +1

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

On 30 March 2020, Minister of State Jean-Baptiste Lemoyne participated in a meeting with the G20 Trade and Investment Ministers.³²²⁰ The ministers discussed the use of coordinated trade policy measures to combat the economic challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. They agreed on a statement with the following commitments: 1) to ensure the continued flow of essential goods to combat the pandemic (e.g. medical supplies and agricultural goods), 2) to ensure that any export restrictions remain consistent with World Trade Organization (WTO) rules, 3) to ensure an open, free, fair, non-discriminatory, and transparent trade system, 4) to monitor the impact of the epidemic on trade and investment.³²²¹

On 3 September 2020, Minister Delegate for Foreign Trade and Economic Attractiveness Franck Riester spoke to Canada's Minister of Small Business, Export Promotion and International Trade Mary Ng about how to strengthen their countries' economic ties through trade.³²²² Minister Riester and Minister Ng also discussed ways to promote new opportunities for Canadian and French businesses amid the COVID-19 pandemic.³²²³

On 3 September 2020, Prime Minister Jean Castex announced the key priorities of France's economic recovery plan.³²²⁴ He announced that the European Union will contribute 40 percent of France's recovery plan and that the European funding will be "awarded to support investments and reforms which have a lasting effect on productivity, support and drive forward the energy and digital transition and facilitate the convergence of European economies."³²²⁵

On 1 March 2021, Minister Riester spoke with German Minister for the Economy and Energy Peter Altmaier about the new trade policy presented by the European Commission.³²²⁶ The new trade policy aims to address a number of challenges including COVID-19 economic recovery and reforming the WTO.³²²⁷

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

³²²⁰ G20 - Jean-Baptiste Lemoyne's participation in the telephone meeting between the G20 trade and investment ministers (30 Mar. 20), France Diplomacy (Paris) 30 March 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/economic-diplomacy-foreign-trade/news/article/g20-jean-baptiste-lemoyne-s-participation-in-the-telephone-meeting-between-the>.

³²²¹ G20 - Jean-Baptiste Lemoyne's participation in the telephone meeting between the G20 trade and investment ministers (30 Mar. 20), France Diplomacy (Paris) 30 March 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/economic-diplomacy-foreign-trade/news/article/g20-jean-baptiste-lemoyne-s-participation-in-the-telephone-meeting-between-the>.

³²²² Readout: Minister Ng speaks with France's Minister Delegate for Foreign Trade and Economic Attractiveness, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 3 September 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/09/readout-minister-ng-speaks-with-frances-minister-delegate-for-foreign-trade-and-economic-attractiveness.html>.

³²²³ Readout: Minister Ng speaks with France's Minister Delegate for Foreign Trade and Economic Attractiveness, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 3 September 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/09/readout-minister-ng-speaks-with-frances-minister-delegate-for-foreign-trade-and-economic-attractiveness.html>.

³²²⁴ European aspects of France's recovery plan, Government of France (Paris) 3 September 2020. Access Date: Access Date: 13 March 2021. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/european-aspects-of-france-s-recovery-plan>.

³²²⁵ European aspects of France's recovery plan, Government of France (Paris) 3 September 2020. Access Date: Access Date: 13 March 2021. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/european-aspects-of-france-s-recovery-plan>.

³²²⁶ International trade – Conversation between Franck Riester and Germany's minister for the economy and energy (1 March 2021), France Diplomacy (Paris) 1 March 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/economic-diplomacy-foreign-trade/news/article/international-trade-conversation-between-franck-riester-and-germany-s-minister>.

³²²⁷ Questions and Answers: An open, sustainable and assertive trade policy, European Commission (Brussels) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/qanda_21_645.

Thus, France receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Joy Fan

Germany: +1

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

On 30 March 2020, the German government provided federal export credit guarantees in response to the global health crisis.³²²⁸ This supported trade by preventing possible bottlenecks in the private export credit insurance market.³²²⁹

On 8 April 2020, the German cabinet amended the Foreign Trade Act to tighten rules on investment from non-EU countries.³²³⁰ Transactions with implications on German security will now be provisionally put on hold pending final decision, and a review can be undertaken if there is assessed to be “likely harm” to the public system or security.³²³¹

On 14 May 2020, Economic Affairs Minister Peter Altmaier and his colleagues adopted a number of short and long-term measures to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on global trade during the G20’s Trade and Investment Ministers conference.³²³² Minister Altmaier said “we need to work even more closely together at international level to jointly tackle the negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on trade flows and investment.”³²³³

On 20 May 2020, the German cabinet approved new powers to veto foreign takeovers in the healthcare sector.³²³⁴ This allows the German government to “block takeovers of makers of vaccines, precursor chemicals, medicines, protective equipment or medical machinery such as ventilators,” and allows it to examine the security implications of non-EU bids as soon as a buyer owns more than 10 percent of a healthcare company’s shares.³²³⁵

³²²⁸ Bund erweitert Möglichkeiten für Exportkreditgarantien als Reaktion auf Corona-Pandemie, BMWi (Berlin) 30 March 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.bmw.de/Redaktion/DE/Pressemitteilungen/2020/20200330-bund-erweitert-moeglichkeiten-fuer-exportkreditgarantien-als-reaktion-auf-corona-pandemie.html>.

³²²⁹ Bund erweitert Möglichkeiten für Exportkreditgarantien als Reaktion auf Corona-Pandemie, BMWi (Berlin) 30 March 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.bmw.de/Redaktion/DE/Pressemitteilungen/2020/20200330-bund-erweitert-moeglichkeiten-fuer-exportkreditgarantien-als-reaktion-auf-corona-pandemie.html>.

³²³⁰ Germany tightens rules on foreign takeovers, Reuters (Berlin) 8 April 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-germany-mergers-idUSKBN21Q0VI>

³²³¹ Germany tightens rules on foreign takeovers, Reuters (Berlin) 8 April 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-germany-mergers-idUSKBN21Q0VI>.

³²³² G20 Trade and Investment Ministers agree on international measures to tackle the coronavirus pandemic, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin) 15 May 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.bmw.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2020/20200515-g20-trade-and-investment-ministers-agree-on-international-measures-to-tackle-the-coronavirus-pandemic.html>.

³²³³ G20 Trade and Investment Ministers agree on international measures to tackle the coronavirus pandemic, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin) 15 May 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.bmw.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2020/20200515-g20-trade-and-investment-ministers-agree-on-international-measures-to-tackle-the-coronavirus-pandemic.html>.

³²³⁴ Germany approves new powers to block foreign takeovers in healthcare, Reuters (Berlin) 20 May 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-germany-m-a/germany-approves-new-powers-to-block-foreign-takeovers-in-healthcare-idUKKBN22W14J>.

³²³⁵ Germany approves new powers to block foreign takeovers in healthcare, Reuters (Berlin) 20 May 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-germany-m-a/germany-approves-new-powers-to-block-foreign-takeovers-in-healthcare-idUKKBN22W14J>.

On 7 July 2020, the German government announced a five-point package of measures to support the export industry.³²³⁶ The package supported exporters affected by the global health crisis by providing financing options and creating incentives abroad to import German goods and services.³²³⁷

On 25 August 2020, Germany agreed on an administrative agreement with Serbia.³²³⁸ The agreement serves to strengthen supply chains, further connect Serbia to the EU internal market, and opens the door for future investments.³²³⁹

On October 7 2020, the German cabinet amended the Foreign Trade Ordinance in accordance with the EU-wide cooperation mechanism.³²⁴⁰ This amendment strengthens cooperation among EU members regarding non-EU foreign investment.³²⁴¹

On 14 October 2020, the German Development Ministry signed an agreement to invest in new digital systems and e-commerce platforms in developing countries and emerging economies in Africa.³²⁴² The scheme seeks to use “digital solutions to break down barriers to trade,” and will “act as a springboard for development.”³²⁴³

On 26 January 2021, Chancellor Angela Merkel gave a speech at the World Economic Forum’s Davos Dialogue.³²⁴⁴ During her speech, Chancellor Merkel recognized the need to support and reinforce international trade structures outlined by the World Trade organization.³²⁴⁵

³²³⁶ Altmaier: Mit 5-Punkte Maßnahmenpaket unterstützen wir deutsche Exportwirtschaft als wichtigen Pfeiler unserer Wirtschaft, BMWi (Berlin) 7 July 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/DE/Pressemitteilungen/2020/20200707-altmaier-mit-5-punkte-massnahmepaket-unterstuetzen-wir-deutsche-exportwirtschaft.html>.

³²³⁷ Altmaier: Mit 5-Punkte Maßnahmenpaket unterstützen wir deutsche Exportwirtschaft als wichtigen Pfeiler unserer Wirtschaft, BMWi (Berlin) 7 July 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/DE/Pressemitteilungen/2020/20200707-altmaier-mit-5-punkte-massnahmepaket-unterstuetzen-wir-deutsche-exportwirtschaft.html>.

³²³⁸ Bundeswirtschaftsminister Altmaier und der serbische Staatspräsident Vučić vereinbaren Partnerschaft zur Verbesserung des Geschäftsumfeldes in Serbien, BMWi (Berlin) 25 August 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/DE/Pressemitteilungen/2020/20200825-bundeswirtschaftsminister-altmaier-und-der-serbische-staatspraesident-vucic-vereinbaren-partnerschaft-zur-verbesserung-des-geschaefsumfeldes-in-serbien.html>

³²³⁹ Bundeswirtschaftsminister Altmaier und der serbische Staatspräsident Vučić vereinbaren Partnerschaft zur Verbesserung des Geschäftsumfeldes in Serbien, BMWi (Berlin) 25 August 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/DE/Pressemitteilungen/2020/20200825-bundeswirtschaftsminister-altmaier-und-der-serbische-staatspraesident-vucic-vereinbaren-partnerschaft-zur-verbesserung-des-geschaefsumfeldes-in-serbien.html>

³²⁴⁰ Bundeskabinett verabschiedet novellierte Außenwirtschaftsverordnung zur Einführung des neuen EU-weiten Kooperationsmechanismus, BMWi (Berlin) 7 October 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/DE/Pressemitteilungen/2020/10/20201007-bundeskabinett-verabschiedet-novellierte-aussenwirtschaftsverordnung.html>.

³²⁴¹ Bundeskabinett verabschiedet novellierte Außenwirtschaftsverordnung zur Einführung des neuen EU-weiten Kooperationsmechanismus, BMWi (Berlin) 7 October 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/DE/Pressemitteilungen/2020/10/20201007-bundeskabinett-verabschiedet-novellierte-aussenwirtschaftsverordnung.html>.

³²⁴² Deutsche Post DHL Group and German Development Ministry will promote e-commerce in developing countries and emerging economies, BMZ (Berlin) 14 October 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. https://www.bmz.de/en/press/aktuelleMeldungen/2020/oktober/201014_pm_033_Achieving-prosperity-through-trade-Deutsche-Post-DHL-Group-and-German-Development-Ministry-will-promote-e-commerce-in-developing-countries-and-emerging-economies/index.html.

³²⁴³ Deutsche Post DHL Group and German Development Ministry will promote e-commerce in developing countries and emerging economies, BMZ (Berlin) 14 October 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2021. https://www.bmz.de/en/press/aktuelleMeldungen/2020/oktober/201014_pm_033_Achieving-prosperity-through-trade-Deutsche-Post-DHL-Group-and-German-Development-Ministry-will-promote-e-commerce-in-developing-countries-and-emerging-economies/index.html.

³²⁴⁴ Speech by Federal Chancellor Dr Angela Merkel at the World Economic Forum’s Davos Dialogue on 26 January 2021 (video conference), The Federal Government (Berlin) 26 January 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/speech-by-federal-chancellor-dr-angela-merkel-at-the-world-economic-forum-s-davos-dialogue-on-26-january-2021-video-conference--1846772>.

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

Thus, Germany receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Erfan Ebsan

Italy: +1

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

On 14 May 2020, Undersecretary Ivan Scalfarotto attended a meeting of the G20 Trade Ministers to discuss the response to the COVID-19 pandemic initiated by the Trade and Investment Working Group.³²⁴⁶ The working group was tasked with identifying short and long-term collective initiatives to relaunch multilateral trade cooperation and to accelerate economic recovery.³²⁴⁷

On 20 July 2020, Undersecretary Scalfarotto met with his Spanish counterpart to discuss trade policy issues.³²⁴⁸ At the meeting, Scalfarotto affirmed the importance of Airbus subsidy reform in line with the provisions of the World Trade Organization (WTO).³²⁴⁹ Additionally, both undersecretaries agreed on the importance of European coordination for negotiations to the digital service tax and WTO reform.³²⁵⁰

On 19 November 2020, Deputy Minister Manilo Di Stefano attended the web making festival for digital and social innovation.³²⁵¹ The deputy minister encouraged investment in hydrogen, block chain, start-ups, and cloud technologies, announcing the expansion of the 394/81 Fund which provides subsidized loans for investments in internationalisation and digitisation projects.³²⁵²

³²⁴⁵ Speech by Federal Chancellor Dr Angela Merkel at the World Economic Forum's Davos Dialogue on 26 January 2021 (video conference), The Federal Government (Berlin) 26 January 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/speech-by-federal-chancellor-dr-angela-merkel-at-the-world-economic-forum-s-davos-dialogue-on-26-january-2021-video-conference--1846772>.

³²⁴⁶ Scalfarotto at the G20 Trade Ministers Meeting, Government of Italy (Rome) 14 May 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/05/scalfarotto-alla-riunione-ministri-del-commercio-g20.html.

³²⁴⁷ Scalfarotto at the G20 Trade Ministers Meeting, Government of Italy (Rome) 14 May 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/05/scalfarotto-alla-riunione-ministri-del-commercio-g20.html.

³²⁴⁸ Undersecretary Scalfarotto with the Spanish Secretary of State for Trade, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 20 July 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/07/colloquio-del-sottosegretario-scalfarotto-con-la-sottosegretaria-di-stato-al-commercio-spagnola-xiana-mendez-bertolo.html.

³²⁴⁹ Undersecretary Scalfarotto with the Spanish Secretary of State for Trade, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 20 July 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/07/colloquio-del-sottosegretario-scalfarotto-con-la-sottosegretaria-di-stato-al-commercio-spagnola-xiana-mendez-bertolo.html.

³²⁵⁰ Undersecretary Scalfarotto with the Spanish Secretary of State for Trade, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 20 July 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/07/colloquio-del-sottosegretario-scalfarotto-con-la-sottosegretaria-di-stato-al-commercio-spagnola-xiana-mendez-bertolo.html.

³²⁵¹ Web Marketing Festival: investing on internationalisation and digitisation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 19 November 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/11/di-stefano-a-web-marketing-festival-investire-su-internazionalizzazione-e-digitalizzazione.html.

³²⁵² Web Marketing Festival: investing on internationalisation and digitisation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 19 November 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/11/di-stefano-a-web-marketing-festival-investire-su-internazionalizzazione-e-digitalizzazione.html.

On 10 December 2020, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Luigi di Maio met with the Turkish minister of trade, Rushar Peckan for the Joint Italy-Turkey Economic and Trade Commission.³²⁵³ The minister of foreign affairs recognized the importance of increasing the bilateral flow of investment, and the ministers signed a Memorandum of Understanding between the Italian Trade Agency and its Turkish counterpart in order to “strengthen cooperation between the two agencies.”³²⁵⁴

On 15 January 2021, Deputy Minister Di Stefano met with the Foreign Investment Attraction Committee to discuss investment projects in the health sector and the creation of a legal framework more conducive to foreign direct investment.³²⁵⁵

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

Thus, Italy receives a score of +1

Analyst: Bianca Costantino

Japan: +1

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

On 8 May 2020, amendments made to Japan’s Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act came into effect. The changes lowered the threshold of screening of foreign direct investments from 10 percent to 1 per cent for certain sectors.³²⁵⁶

On 11 May 2020, Japan extended its time limits for customs procedures, and exempted, reduced, or refunded custom fees due to the COVID-19 pandemic.³²⁵⁷

On 13 May 2020, Japan signed a joint statement at the General Council Committee on Agriculture of the World Trade Organization (WTO).³²⁵⁸ The statement included a call to “mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on agriculture trade and food security.”³²⁵⁹ The statement also encouraged members of the WTO to “implement temporary working solutions to facilitate trade.”³²⁶⁰

³²⁵³ Italy-Turkey joint Economic and Trade Commission (JETCO) meeting, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and international cooperation (Rome) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021.

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

³²⁵⁴ Italy-Turkey joint Economic and Trade Commission (JETCO) meeting, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and international cooperation (Rome) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/12/seconda-sessione-in-formato-virtuale-della-joint-economic-and-trade-commission-jetco-italia-turchia.html.

³²⁵⁵ Ministry of Foreign Affairs at the forefront of the Foreign Investment Attraction Committee, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 01 January 2021. Access Date: 25 February 2021. https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2021/01/farnesina-in-prima-linea-al-comitato-attrazione-investimenti-esteri-caie.html.

³²⁵⁶ Factors to be considered in authorities’ screening of foreign direct investment, Ministry of Finance (Tokyo) 8 May 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. https://www.mof.go.jp/english/international_policy/fdi/gaitamehou_20200508.htm.

³²⁵⁷ COVID-19 Temporary Trade Measures, International Trade Centre (Geneva) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 25 February 2021. https://macmap.org/OfflineDocument/Covid19/COVID_FRA_1.pdf.

³²⁵⁸ Responding to the COVID-19 Pandemic with Open and Predictable Trade in Agriculture and Food Products, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 13 May 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/proposals_e.htm.

³²⁵⁹ Responding to the COVID-19 Pandemic with Open and Predictable Trade in Agriculture and Food Products, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 13 May 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/proposals_e.htm.

³²⁶⁰ Responding to the COVID-19 Pandemic with Open and Predictable Trade in Agriculture and Food Products, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 13 May 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/proposals_e.htm.

On 14 May 2020, Japan signed a joint statement at the WTO General Council highlighting the importance of small and medium-sized enterprises in economies.³²⁶¹ The statement reaffirmed the role of the WTO in international trade and committed the signatories to “work together to deliver a free, fair, predictable, and stable trade environment and to keep our markets open with a view to support the global recovery.”³²⁶²

On 28 May 2020, Japan signed a joint statement at the WTO General Council about COVID-19 and the multilateral trading system.³²⁶³ As a signatory, Japan pledged to “refrain from raising new unjustified barriers to investment or to trade in goods and services.”³²⁶⁴

On 15 June 2020, the Ministry of Finance announced that the Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act would be further expanded to include “manufacturing industries related to pharmaceuticals” and “manufacturing [industries] related to highly-controlled medical devices.”³²⁶⁵

On 23 October 2020, Japan signed the UK-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement, designed to strengthen mutual trade between the two countries. The agreement includes a commitment from Japan to support the UK joining the Trans-Pacific Partnership.³²⁶⁶

On 26 October 2020, Japan signed a joint statement at WTO Committee on Trade Facilitation.³²⁶⁷ The statement recognized that “Cross-border trade is a critical channel for getting essential products to those who need them” and “as WTO members, we are called to demonstrate leadership by ensuring the smooth and continuous trade in goods.”³²⁶⁸ The statement also committed its signatories to accelerating the implementation of the Trade Facilitation Agreement in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.³²⁶⁹

On 24 November 2020, Japan signed a joint statement at the WTO General Council about international trade and health.³²⁷⁰ The statement included specific policy proposals relating to export restrictions, trade facilitation, technical regulations, tariffs, transparency, and review.³²⁷¹

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

³²⁶¹ Statement on highlighting the importance of MSMEs in the time of COVID-19, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 14 May 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/proposals_e.htm.

³²⁶² Statement on highlighting the importance of MSMEs in the time of COVID-19, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 14 May 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/proposals_e.htm.

³²⁶³ Statement on COVID-19 and the multilateral trading system by ministers responsible for the WTO, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 28 May 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/proposals_e.htm.

³²⁶⁴ Statement on COVID-19 and the multilateral trading system by ministers responsible for the WTO, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 28 May 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/proposals_e.htm.

³²⁶⁵ Twenty-fourth Report on G20 Investment Measures, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (Paris) 18 November 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/g20_oecd_unctad_report_nov20_e.pdf.

³²⁶⁶ UK and Japan sign free trade agreement, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 23 October 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-japan-sign-free-trade-agreement>.

³²⁶⁷ Supporting the timely and efficient release of global goods through accelerated implementation of the WTO trade facilitation agreement, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 26 October 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/proposals_e.htm.

³²⁶⁸ Supporting the timely and efficient release of global goods through accelerated implementation of the WTO trade facilitation agreement, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 26 October 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/proposals_e.htm.

³²⁶⁹ Supporting the timely and efficient release of global goods through accelerated implementation of the WTO trade facilitation agreement, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 26 October 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/proposals_e.htm.

³²⁷⁰ COVID-19 and Beyond: Trade and Health, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 24 November 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/proposals_e.htm.

³²⁷¹ COVID-19 and Beyond: Trade and Health, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 24 November 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/proposals_e.htm.

Thus, Japan receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Joy Fan

United Kingdom: +1

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

On 19 May 2020, the Government of the United Kingdom announced the UK Global Tariff.³²⁷² It aims to “scrap red tape and other unnecessary barriers to trade, reduce cost pressures and increase choice for consumers and back UK industries to compete on the global stage.”³²⁷³

On 21 May 2020, Minister for Exports Graham Stuart announced the UK’s commitment to support the development of the Solidarity Transport Hub, a major infrastructure project in Poland.³²⁷⁴ The project will boost regional connectivity and enhance trade.³²⁷⁵

On 7 August 2020, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster Michael Gove and Secretary of State for Northern Ireland Brandon Lewis announced a new, free-to-use Trader Support Service to support traders in Northern Ireland.³²⁷⁶ It will “provide vital support and guidance to traders” by completing digital processes on their behalf.³²⁷⁷

On 29 September 2020, the Department of International Trade launched a Trade Hub to support businesses in Scotland.³²⁷⁸ The Trade Hub provides governmental support to ensure that businesses in Scotland can take full advantage of trade agreements with the UK.³²⁷⁹

On 7 October 2020, the Government of the United Kingdom outlined its plans for the creation of Freeports, set to open by the end of 2021.³²⁸⁰ The Freeports are meant to “create national hubs for trade, innovation and commerce,” and “attract investment from around the world.”³²⁸¹

On 8 October 2020, the UK signed a Political, Free Trade, and Strategic Partnership Agreement with Ukraine.³²⁸² The agreement will “strengthen the political and trade ties between the two countries.”³²⁸³

³²⁷² UK Global Tariff backs UK businesses and consumers, Department for International Trade (London) 19 May 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-global-tariff-backs-uk-businesses-and-consumers>.

³²⁷³ UK Global Tariff backs UK businesses and consumers, Department for International Trade (London) 19 May 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-global-tariff-backs-uk-businesses-and-consumers>.

³²⁷⁴ UK-Poland agreement to deliver major infrastructure project, Department for International Trade (London) 21 May 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-poland-agreement-to-deliver-major-infrastructure-project>.

³²⁷⁵ UK-Poland agreement to deliver major infrastructure project, Department for International Trade (London) 21 May 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-poland-agreement-to-deliver-major-infrastructure-project>.

³²⁷⁶ Major £650 million investment for Northern Ireland, Cabinet Office (London) 7 August 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/major-650-million-investment-for-northern-ireland>.

³²⁷⁷ Major £650 million investment for Northern Ireland, Cabinet Office (London) 7 August 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/major-650-million-investment-for-northern-ireland>.

³²⁷⁸ UK Government Trade Hub launched to support Scottish businesses, Department for International Trade (London) 29 September 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-government-trade-hub-launched-to-support-scottish-businesses>.

³²⁷⁹ UK Government Trade Hub launched to support Scottish businesses, Department for International Trade (London) 29 September 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-government-trade-hub-launched-to-support-scottish-businesses>.

³²⁸⁰ Government outlines new plans for Freeports to turbo-charge post-Brexit trade, HM Treasury (London) 7 October 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-outlines-new-plans-for-freeports-to-turbo-charge-post-brexit-trade>.

³²⁸¹ Government outlines new plans for Freeports to turbo-charge post-Brexit trade, HM Treasury (London) 7 October 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-outlines-new-plans-for-freeports-to-turbo-charge-post-brexit-trade>.

On 9 October 2020, the Department for International Trade announced several new investment opportunities and programmes across the UK.³²⁸⁴ The initiatives are designed to encourage foreign investment into the UK and “help the country build back better.”³²⁸⁵

On 15 October 2020, the UK signed an Economic Partnership Agreement with the Côte d’Ivoire.³²⁸⁶ The agreement maintains existing trade agreements, and prevents additional barriers or tariffs.³²⁸⁷

On 22 October 2020, the UK signed the UK-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement.³²⁸⁸ This agreement goes beyond the EU-Japan deal, with enhancements in “areas such as digital and data, financial services, food and drink, and creative industries.”³²⁸⁹

On 9 November 2020, Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced the new Office for Investment.³²⁹⁰ The Office will connect the public and private sector and be “a major addition to the UK government’s ability to attract foreign investment.”³²⁹¹

On 10 November 2020, International Trade Secretary Liz Truss announced that preferential tariffs would continue for developing countries.³²⁹² The trade preference scheme will support economic development by liberalizing trade.³²⁹³

On 24 November 2020, UK Export Finance signed a cooperation agreement with its counterpart in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Etihad Credit Insurance.³²⁹⁴ The agreement will “strengthen trade cooperation and boost investment between the UK and UAE.”³²⁹⁵

³²⁸² UK and Ukraine sign Political, Free Trade and Strategic Partnership Agreement, Foreign, Commonwealth, & Development Office (London) 8 October 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-ukraine-sign-political-free-trade-and-strategic-partnership-agreement>.

³²⁸³ UK and Ukraine sign Political, Free Trade and Strategic Partnership Agreement, Foreign, Commonwealth, & Development Office (London) 8 October 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-ukraine-sign-political-free-trade-and-strategic-partnership-agreement>.

³²⁸⁴ Regional investment projects announced to boost local economies, Department for International Trade (London) 9 October 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/regional-investment-projects-announced-to-boost-local-economies>.

³²⁸⁵ Regional investment projects announced to boost local economies, Department for International Trade (London) 9 October 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/regional-investment-projects-announced-to-boost-local-economies>.

³²⁸⁶ The United Kingdom and Côte d’Ivoire sign Economic Partnership Agreement, Department for International Trade (London) 15 October 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/the-united-kingdom-and-cote-divoire-sign-economic-partnership-agreement>.

³²⁸⁷ The United Kingdom and Côte d’Ivoire sign Economic Partnership Agreement, Department for International Trade (London) 15 October 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/the-united-kingdom-and-cote-divoire-sign-economic-partnership-agreement>.

³²⁸⁸ UK and Japan sign historic free trade agreement, Department for International Trade (London) 22 October 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-japan-sign-historic-free-trade-agreement>.

³²⁸⁹ UK and Japan sign historic free trade agreement, Department for International Trade (London) 22 October 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-japan-sign-historic-free-trade-agreement>.

³²⁹⁰ New Office for Investment to drive foreign investment into the UK, Department for International Trade (London) 9 November 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-office-for-investment-to-drive-foreign-investment-into-the-uk>.

³²⁹¹ New Office for Investment to drive foreign investment into the UK, Department for International Trade (London) 9 November 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-office-for-investment-to-drive-foreign-investment-into-the-uk>.

³²⁹² Preferential tariffs continue for eligible developing countries, Department for International Trade (London) 10 November 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/preferential-tariffs-continue-for-eligible-developing-countries>.

³²⁹³ Preferential tariffs continue for eligible developing countries, Department for International Trade (London) 10 November 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/preferential-tariffs-continue-for-eligible-developing-countries>.

³²⁹⁴ UKEF signs new export partnership with the UAE, UK Export Finance (London) 24 November 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ukef-signs-new-export-partnership-with-the-uae>.

³²⁹⁵ UKEF signs new export partnership with the UAE, UK Export Finance (London) 24 November 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ukef-signs-new-export-partnership-with-the-uae>.

On 3 December 2020, the British High Commissioner to Bangladesh Robert Chatterton Dickson formally proposed the establishment of a UK-Bangladesh Trade and Investment Dialogue.³²⁹⁶ The Trade and Investment Dialogue will deepen the UK's "already strong trading relationship with Bangladesh by developing a trade partnership that builds on our shared trade and investment interests."³²⁹⁷

On 3 December 2020, the UK signed a Partnership, Trade, and Cooperation Agreement with North Macedonia.³²⁹⁸ The agreement strengthens the "already substantial ties in trade and investment" between the countries.³²⁹⁹

On 5 December 2020, the UK signed an Association Agreement with Egypt.³³⁰⁰ The agreement provides "tariff-free trade on industrial products, as well as liberalisation of trade in agriculture, agri-foods and fisheries."³³⁰¹

On 7 December 2020, UK Export Finance launched the new General Export Facility.³³⁰² The scheme will support trade by giving "exporting SMEs [small and medium-sized enterprises] access to working capital they need to recover from COVID-19."³³⁰³

On 8 December 2020, the UK signed an Economic Partnership Agreement with Kenya.³³⁰⁴ This trade agreement ensures the continuation of "duty-free access to the UK market."³³⁰⁵

On 8 December 2020, the UK signed a trade continuity agreement with Norway and Iceland.³³⁰⁶ The agreement ensures tariff-free trade for 90 per cent of the goods traded with Iceland, and 95 per cent of the goods traded with Norway.³³⁰⁷

³²⁹⁶ UK proposes establishment of a UK-Bangladesh Trade and Investment Dialogue, British High Commission Dhaka (Dhaka) 3 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-proposes-establishment-of-a-uk-bangladesh-trade-and-investment-dialogue>.

³²⁹⁷ UK proposes establishment of a UK-Bangladesh Trade and Investment Dialogue, British High Commission Dhaka (Dhaka) 3 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-proposes-establishment-of-a-uk-bangladesh-trade-and-investment-dialogue>.

³²⁹⁸ North Macedonia and UK sign Partnership, Trade and Cooperation Agreement, Foreign, Commonwealth, & Development Office (London) 3 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/north-macedonia-and-uk-sign-partnership-trade-and-cooperation-agreement>.

³²⁹⁹ North Macedonia and UK sign Partnership, Trade and Cooperation Agreement, Foreign, Commonwealth, & Development Office (London) 3 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/north-macedonia-and-uk-sign-partnership-trade-and-cooperation-agreement>.

³³⁰⁰ UK and Egypt sign Association Agreement, Foreign, Commonwealth, & Development Office (London) 5 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-egypt-sign-association-agreement>.

³³⁰¹ UK and Egypt sign Association Agreement, Foreign, Commonwealth, & Development Office (London) 5 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-egypt-sign-association-agreement>.

³³⁰² Radical shake up to government export finance support for small businesses, UK Export Finance (London) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/radical-shake-up-to-government-export-finance-support-for-small-businesses>.

³³⁰³ Radical shake up to government export finance support for small businesses, UK Export Finance (London) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/radical-shake-up-to-government-export-finance-support-for-small-businesses>.

³³⁰⁴ UK and Kenya sign trade agreement, Department for International Trade (London) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-kenya-sign-trade-agreement>.

³³⁰⁵ UK and Kenya sign trade agreement, Department for International Trade (London) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-kenya-sign-trade-agreement>.

³³⁰⁶ United Kingdom, Norway and Iceland sign trade continuity agreement, Department for International Trade (London) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/united-kingdom-norway-and-iceland-sign-trade-continuity-agreement>.

On 8 December 2020, the UK announced an independent approach to resolving EU-US trade conflicts around steel, aluminium, and aerospace tariffs.³³⁰⁸ International Trade Secretary Liz Truss will roll over “tariffs in response to the unjustified ‘Section 232’ tariffs imposed by the US on aluminium and steel imports,” and suspend retaliatory tariffs resulting from the Boeing dispute.³³⁰⁹ These actions are “part of the government’s strategy to de-escalate trade tensions so the US and UK can move forward to the next phase of their trading relationship.”³³¹⁰

On 9 December 2020, the Deputy High Commissioner for Canada David Reed signed the UK-Canada Trade Continuity Agreement.³³¹¹ The agreement reduces tariffs and “secures transatlantic trade.”³³¹²

On 10 December 2020, the UK signed the UK-Singapore Free Trade Agreement.³³¹³ This agreement calls for tariff elimination on goods, reduction of non-tariff barriers, increased access to services and government procurement markets, and support for financial services trade and investment.³³¹⁴

On 11 December 2020, the UK concluded the UK-Viet Nam Free Trade Agreement.³³¹⁵ This agreement will “liberalise goods and services trade” between the countries.³³¹⁶

On 14 December 2020, the UK signed a Services Mobility Agreement with Switzerland.³³¹⁷ The agreement will “support trade in vital industries of the UK economy, including finance, legal services, consultancy, the tech sector and the creative industries.”³³¹⁸

On 15 December 2020, the UK signed the UK-Mexico Trade Continuity Agreement.³³¹⁹ The agreement allows the two countries to “go much further in areas such as data, digital trade, investment, intellectual property and services.”³³²⁰

³³⁰⁷ United Kingdom, Norway and Iceland sign trade continuity agreement, Department for International Trade (London) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/united-kingdom-norway-and-iceland-sign-trade-continuity-agreement>.

³³⁰⁸ UK announces new approach on US tariffs, Department for International Trade (London) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-announces-new-approach-on-us-tariffs>.

³³⁰⁹ UK announces new approach on US tariffs, Department for International Trade (London) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-announces-new-approach-on-us-tariffs>.

³³¹⁰ UK announces new approach on US tariffs, Department for International Trade (London) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-announces-new-approach-on-us-tariffs>.

³³¹¹ UK and Canada sign trade agreement, Department for International Trade (London) 9 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-canada-sign-trade-agreement>.

³³¹² UK and Canada sign trade agreement, Department for International Trade (London) 9 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-canada-sign-trade-agreement>.

³³¹³ Joint statement by the UK and Singapore, Department for International Trade (London) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/joint-statement-by-the-uk-and-singapore>.

³³¹⁴ Joint statement by the UK and Singapore, Department for International Trade (London) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/joint-statement-by-the-uk-and-singapore>.

³³¹⁵ Joint statement by the UK and Viet Nam, Department for International Trade (London) 11 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/joint-statement-by-the-uk-and-viet-nam>.

³³¹⁶ Joint statement by the UK and Viet Nam, Department for International Trade (London) 11 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/joint-statement-by-the-uk-and-viet-nam>.

³³¹⁷ UK and Switzerland sign services agreement, Department for International Trade (London) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-switzerland-sign-services-agreement>.

³³¹⁸ UK and Switzerland sign services agreement, Department for International Trade (London) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-switzerland-sign-services-agreement>.

³³¹⁹ UK and Mexico sign trade deal, Department for International Trade (London) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-mexico-sign-trade-deal>.

³³²⁰ UK and Mexico sign trade deal, Department for International Trade (London) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-mexico-sign-trade-deal>.

On 17 December 2020, the UK Internal Market bill passed into law.³³²¹ The law ensures no new barriers to trade across all four parts of the UK, and enables the government “to boost the UK’s economic recovery, increase investment across the whole country, create new jobs and emerge stronger from the pandemic.”³³²²

On 24 December 2020, the UK signed a Strategic Partnership, Trade and Cooperation Agreement with Moldova.³³²³ The agreement “provides stability to the trade between Britain and Moldova” and “creates a firm foundation for even more trade and investment in the future.”³³²⁴

On 29 December 2020, the UK signed the UK-Turkey Free Trade Agreement.³³²⁵ The deal ensures “continued tariff-free flow of goods.”³³²⁶

On 30 December 2020, the UK secured an Economic Partnership Agreement with Cameroon.³³²⁷ The deal allows for continued free trade without additional tariffs or barriers.³³²⁸

On 31 December 2020, the European Union (Future Relationship) bill was passed into law.³³²⁹ This ratifies the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement.³³³⁰

On 18 January 2021, Prime Minister Johnson launched the Build Back Better Council.³³³¹ The Build Back Better Council will “unlock investment, boost job creation, promote Global Britain and level up the whole of the UK.”³³³²

On 1 February 2021, Secretary Truss formally requested to commence negotiations on UK accession to the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership.³³³³ UK accession would “send a powerful signal about the importance placed on free trade.”³³³⁴

³³²¹ UK Internal Market Bill becomes law, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (London) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-internal-market-bill-becomes-law>.

³³²² UK Internal Market Bill becomes law, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (London) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-internal-market-bill-becomes-law>.

³³²³ UK and Moldova sign Strategic Partnership, Trade and Cooperation Agreement, Foreign, Commonwealth, & Development Office (London) 24 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-moldova-sign-strategic-partnership-trade-and-cooperation-agreement>.

³³²⁴ UK and Moldova sign Strategic Partnership, Trade and Cooperation Agreement, Foreign, Commonwealth, & Development Office (London) 24 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-moldova-sign-strategic-partnership-trade-and-cooperation-agreement>.

³³²⁵ UK and Turkey sign trade deal, Department for International Trade (London) 29 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-turkey-sign-trade-deal>.

³³²⁶ UK and Turkey sign trade deal, Department for International Trade (London) 29 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-turkey-sign-trade-deal>.

³³²⁷ United Kingdom and Cameroon secure Economic Partnership Agreement, Department for International Trade (London) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/united-kingdom-and-cameroon-secure-economic-partnership-agreement>.

³³²⁸ UK and Cameroon secure Economic Partnership Agreement, Department for International Trade (London) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/united-kingdom-and-cameroon-secure-economic-partnership-agreement>.

³³²⁹ Boris Johnson's post-Brexit trade deal passes into UK law, The Guardian (London) 31 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2020/dec/31/post-brexit-trade-deal-boris-johnson-thanks-mps-and-peers-for-passing-bill>.

³³³⁰ Boris Johnson's post-Brexit trade deal passes into UK law, The Guardian (London) 31 December 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2020/dec/31/post-brexit-trade-deal-boris-johnson-thanks-mps-and-peers-for-passing-bill>.

³³³¹ Prime Minister and Chancellor launch new Business Council, Prime Minister’s Office (London) 18 January 2021. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/prime-minister-and-chancellor-launch-new-business-council>.

³³³² Prime Minister and Chancellor launch new Business Council, Prime Minister’s Office (London) 18 January 2021. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/prime-minister-and-chancellor-launch-new-business-council>.

³³³³ Formal Request to Commence UK Accession Negotiations to CPTPP, Department for International Trade (London) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/formal-request-to-commence-uk-accession-negotiations-to-cptpp>.

On 4 February 2021, the UK and Ghana finalised negotiations on an Interim Ghana-UK Trade Partnership Agreement.³³³⁵ The agreement provides “duty free and quota free access for Ghana to the UK market and preferential tariff reductions for UK exporters to the Ghanaian market.”³³³⁶

On 5 February 2021, the UK signed a Partnership, Trade and Cooperation Agreement with Albania.³³³⁷ The agreement allows the UK and Albania to “build on their trading relationship going forward.”³³³⁸

On 8 February 2021, the UK agreed to deepen its trading relationship with India through an Enhanced Trade Partnership.³³³⁹ The partnership improves bilateral trade and investment and lays the groundwork for a future comprehensive Free Trade Agreement.³³⁴⁰

On 23 February 2021, UK Export Finance launched the Standard Buyer Loan Guarantee.³³⁴¹ The scheme supports trade by helping “importers of UK goods and services obtain the financing they need, unlocking trade and boosting exports.”³³⁴²

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

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

Analyst: Erfan Ehsan

United States: +1

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

On 13 May 2020, the United States signed a joint statement at the General Council Committee on Agriculture of the World Trade Organization (WTO).³³⁴³ The statement included a call to “mitigate the impact of

³³³⁴ Formal Request to Commence UK Accession Negotiations to CPTPP, Department for International Trade (London) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/formal-request-to-commence-uk-accession-negotiations-to-cptpp>.

³³³⁵ Ghana-UK Joint Statement: Ghana-UK Trade Partnership Agreement, Department for International Trade (London) 4 February 2021. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ghana-uk-joint-statement-ghana-uk-trade-partnership-agreement>.

³³³⁶ Ghana-UK Joint Statement: Ghana-UK Trade Partnership Agreement, Department for International Trade (London) 4 February 2021. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ghana-uk-joint-statement-ghana-uk-trade-partnership-agreement>.

³³³⁷ UK and Albania sign Agreement to deepen economic relationship and political efforts to tackle serious organised crime, Foreign, Commonwealth, & Development Office (London) 5 February 2021. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-albania-sign-agreement-to-deepen-economic-relationship-and-political-efforts-to-tackle-serious-organised-crime>.

³³³⁸ UK and Albania sign Agreement to deepen economic relationship and political efforts to tackle serious organised crime, Foreign, Commonwealth, & Development Office (London) 5 February 2021. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-albania-sign-agreement-to-deepen-economic-relationship-and-political-efforts-to-tackle-serious-organised-crime>.

³³³⁹ Joint UK-India statement on Enhanced Trade Partnership progress, Department for International Trade (London) 8 February 2021. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/joint-uk-india-statement-on-enhanced-trade-partnership-progress>.

³³⁴⁰ Joint UK-India statement on Enhanced Trade Partnership progress, Department for International Trade (London) 8 February 2021. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/joint-uk-india-statement-on-enhanced-trade-partnership-progress>.

³³⁴¹ UKEF overhauls buyer finance support to boost SME exports, UK Export Finance (London) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ukef-overhauls-buyer-finance-support-to-boost-sme-exports>.

³³⁴² UKEF overhauls buyer finance support to boost SME exports, UK Export Finance (London) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 25 February 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ukef-overhauls-buyer-finance-support-to-boost-sme-exports>.

³³⁴³ Responding to the COVID-19 Pandemic with Open and Predictable Trade in Agriculture and Food Products, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 13 May 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/proposals_e.htm

COVID-19 on agriculture trade and food security.”³³⁴⁴ The statement also encouraged members of the WTO to “implement temporary working solutions to facilitate trade.”³³⁴⁵

On 26 October 2020, the United States signed a joint statement at the WTO Committee on Trade Facilitation.³³⁴⁶ The statement recognized that “Cross-border trade is a critical channel for getting essential products to those who need them” and “as WTO members, we are called to demonstrate leadership by ensuring the smooth and continuous trade in goods.”³³⁴⁷ The statement also committed its signatories to accelerating the implementation of the Trade Facilitation Agreement in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.³³⁴⁸

On 24 February 2021, President Joseph R. Biden signed an executive order on America’s trade and supply chains.³³⁴⁹ The order outlined necessary several actions including “reforms to domestic and international trade rules and agreements to support supply chain resilience, security, diversity, and strength.”³³⁵⁰

On 26 February 2021, Vice President Kamala Harris spoke with President Tshisekedi of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.³³⁵¹ During their meeting, Vice President Harris and President Tshisekedi committed to work together to strengthen regional trade and investment.³³⁵²

On 5 March 2021, President Biden spoke with European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen about US-EU economic relations.³³⁵³ During the meeting, President Biden emphasized his commitment to “repair and revitalize the U.S.-EU partnership.”³³⁵⁴ President Biden noted the leaders’ agreement to suspend tariffs

³³⁴⁴ Responding to the COVID-19 Pandemic with Open and Predictable Trade in Agriculture and Food Products, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 13 May 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/proposals_e.htm

³³⁴⁵ Responding to the COVID-19 Pandemic with Open and Predictable Trade in Agriculture and Food Products, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 13 May 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/proposals_e.htm.

³³⁴⁶ Supporting the timely and efficient release of global goods through accelerated implementation of the WTO trade facilitation agreement, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 26 October 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/proposals_e.htm.

³³⁴⁷ Supporting the timely and efficient release of global goods through accelerated implementation of the WTO trade facilitation agreement, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 26 October 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021.

https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/proposals_e.htm.

³³⁴⁸ Supporting the timely and efficient release of global goods through accelerated implementation of the WTO trade facilitation agreement, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 26 October 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021.

https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/proposals_e.htm.

³³⁴⁹ Executive Order on America’s Supply Chains, The White House, (Washington D.C.) 24 February 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/02/24/executive-order-on-americas-supply-chains/>.

³³⁵⁰ Executive Order on America’s Supply Chains, The White House, (Washington D.C.) 24 February 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/02/24/executive-order-on-americas-supply-chains/>.

³³⁵¹ Readout of Vice President Kamala Harris Call with President Felix Tshisekedi of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, The White House (Washington D.C.) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/02/26/readout-of-vice-president-kamala-harris-call-with-president-felix-tshisekedi-of-the-democratic-republic-of-the-congo/>.

³³⁵² Readout of Vice President Kamala Harris Call with President Felix Tshisekedi of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, The White House (Washington D.C.) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/02/26/readout-of-vice-president-kamala-harris-call-with-president-felix-tshisekedi-of-the-democratic-republic-of-the-congo/>.

³³⁵³ Readout of President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. Call with European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, The White House (Washington D.C.) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/03/05/readout-of-president-joseph-r-biden-jr-call-with-european-commission-president-ursula-von-der-leyen/>.

³³⁵⁴ Readout of President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. Call with European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, The White House (Washington D.C.) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/03/05/readout-of-president-joseph-r-biden-jr-call-with-european-commission-president-ursula-von-der-leyen/>.

related to the WTO aircraft disputes and the desire to work toward resolving long running disputes at the WTO.³³⁵⁵

On 10 March 2021, United States Congress passed a USD 1 trillion relief package to boost the U.S. economy in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.³³⁵⁶ The economic relief package includes financial investment in education, social supports, and industry supports for small businesses and the transportation sector.³³⁵⁷

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

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

Analyst: Malgorzata Poweska

European Union: +1

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

On 28 April 2020, the EU and Mexico finalized negotiations of their new trade agreement.³³⁵⁸ The agreement removes duties on almost all goods traded between the EU and Mexico and marks the first time the EU and a Latin American country have reached an agreement on investment protection policies.³³⁵⁹

On 13 May 2020, the EU signed a joint statement at the General Council Committee on Agriculture of the World Trade Organization (WTO).³³⁶⁰ The statement included a call to “mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on agriculture trade and food security.”³³⁶¹ The statement also encouraged members of the WTO to “implement temporary working solutions to facilitate trade.”³³⁶²

On 14 May 2020, the EU signed a joint statement at the WTO General Council highlighting the importance of small and medium-sized enterprises in economies.³³⁶³ The statement reaffirmed the role of the WTO in international trade and committed the signatories to “work together to deliver a free, fair, predictable, and stable trade environment and to keep our markets open with a view to support the global recovery.”³³⁶⁴

³³⁵⁵ Readout of President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. Call with European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, The White House (Washington D.C.) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/03/05/readout-of-president-joseph-r-biden-jr-call-with-european-commission-president-ursula-von-der-leyen/>.

³³⁵⁶ Biden's \$1.9 Trillion Rescue Plan Set to Turbocharge U.S. Economy, NPR (Washington D.C.) 10 March 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. <https://www.npr.org/2021/03/10/975617565/bidens-1-9-trillion-rescue-plan-set-to-turbocharge-u-s-economy>.

³³⁵⁷ Biden's \$1.9 Trillion Rescue Plan Set to Turbocharge U.S. Economy, NPR (Washington D.C.) 10 March 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. <https://www.npr.org/2021/03/10/975617565/bidens-1-9-trillion-rescue-plan-set-to-turbocharge-u-s-economy>

³³⁵⁸ EU and Mexico conclude negotiations for new trade agreement, European Commission (Brussels) 28 April 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_756.

³³⁵⁹ EU and Mexico conclude negotiations for new trade agreement, European Commission (Brussels) 28 April 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_756.

³³⁶⁰ Responding to the COVID-19 Pandemic with Open and Predictable Trade in Agriculture and Food Products, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 13 May 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/proposals_e.htm.

³³⁶¹ Responding to the COVID-19 Pandemic with Open and Predictable Trade in Agriculture and Food Products, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 13 May 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/proposals_e.htm.

³³⁶² Responding to the COVID-19 Pandemic with Open and Predictable Trade in Agriculture and Food Products, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 13 May 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/proposals_e.htm.

³³⁶³ Statement on highlighting the importance of MSMEs in the time of COVID-19, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 14 May 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/proposals_e.htm.

³³⁶⁴ Statement on highlighting the importance of MSMEs in the time of COVID-19, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 14 May 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/proposals_e.htm.

On 31 July 2020, the EU-Vietnam free trade agreement and investment protection entered into force.³³⁶⁵ The agreement removed duties on 99 per cent of goods traded between the two regions and ensures that European companies and local Vietnamese competitors will have an equal opportunity to compete for government contracts in Vietnam.³³⁶⁶ The EU-Vietnam free trade agreement is the most comprehensive trade agreement between the EU and a developing country.³³⁶⁷

On 21 September 2020, the European Investment Bank (EIB) announced an expected EUR1 billion in support for investment in Ireland in response to COVID-19 and Brexit.³³⁶⁸ Additionally, EIB advisory teams are working alongside Irish partners to enhance investment and support Ireland's National Recovery Plan.³³⁶⁹

On 24 November 2020, the EU signed a joint statement at the WTO General Council about international trade and health.³³⁷⁰ The statement included specific policy proposals relating to export restrictions, trade facilitation, technical regulations, tariffs, transparency, and review.³³⁷¹

On 15 December 2020, the EIB and Raiffeisenlandesbank Niederösterreich-Wien allocated EUR150 million each towards providing loans for small and medium-sized enterprises to invest in sustainable projects.³³⁷²

On 30 December 2020, negotiations on the EU-China Comprehensive Agreement on Investment concluded, granting EU investors easier access to China's market.³³⁷³ The agreement ensures fairer treatment for EU companies competing in China and includes rules on transparency.³³⁷⁴

On 31 December 2020, the EIB provided Banque Misr with a EUR425 million credit line to support Egyptian SMEs impacted by the coronavirus pandemic, designed to finance investment projects.³³⁷⁵

On 1 January 2021, the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement came into effect, establishing the economic partnership between the EU and UK following Brexit.³³⁷⁶ The Free Trade Agreement component

³³⁶⁵ EU-Vietnam trade agreement enters into force, European Commission (Brussels) 31 July 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_1412.

³³⁶⁶ EU-Vietnam trade agreement enters into force, European Commission (Brussels) 31 July 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_1412.

³³⁶⁷ EU-Vietnam trade agreement enters into force, European Commission (Brussels) 31 July 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_1412.

³³⁶⁸ Irish Finance Minister welcomes expected EUR 1 billion EIB support for new investments, European Investment Bank (Krichberg) 21 September 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2020-244-irish-finance-minister-welcomes-expected-eur-1-billion-eib-support-for-new-investment-in-2020-and-accelerated-support-for-covid-19-business-financing>.

³³⁶⁹ Irish Finance Minister welcomes expected EUR 1 billion EIB support for new investments, European Investment Bank (Krichberg) 21 September 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2020-244-irish-finance-minister-welcomes-expected-eur-1-billion-eib-support-for-new-investment-in-2020-and-accelerated-support-for-covid-19-business-financing>.

³³⁷⁰ COVID-19 and Beyond: Trade and Health, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 24 November 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/proposals_e.htm.

³³⁷¹ COVID-19 and Beyond: Trade and Health, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 24 November 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/proposals_e.htm.

³³⁷² Austria: EIB and RLB NO-Wein promote environmental investments with EUR300 million, European Investment Bank (Krichberg) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2020-364-eib-and-rlb-no-wien-promote-environmental-investments-with-eur300-million>.

³³⁷³ EU-China Comprehensive Agreement on Investment, European Commission (Brussels) 25 January 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://ec.europa.eu/trade/policy/in-focus/eu-china-agreement/>.

³³⁷⁴ The EU-China agreement explained, European Commission (Brussels) 22 January 2021. Access date: 12 March 2021. <https://ec.europa.eu/trade/policy/in-focus/eu-china-agreement/agreement-explained/>.

³³⁷⁵ Egypt: Team Europe - EIB and Banque Misr work together to support private businesses, European Investment Bank (Krichberg) 31 December 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2020-409-team-europe-eib-and-banque-misr-work-together-to-support-private-businesses-and-speed-up-the-recovery-of-smes-from-covid-19-in-egypt#>.

³³⁷⁶ The EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement, European Commission (Brussels) 31 December 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/info/relations-united-kingdom/eu-uk-trade-and-cooperation-agreement_en#freetradeagreement.

dictates zero tariffs and zero quotas on goods that “comply with the appropriate rules of origin.”³³⁷⁷ The agreement ensures a level playing field, going beyond traditional free trade agreements.³³⁷⁸

On 11 March 2021, the Board of Directors of the EIB approved EUR2.4 billion for “business investment and ensuring economic resilience to COVID-19.”³³⁷⁹

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

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

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³³⁷⁷ The EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement, European Commission (Brussels) 31 December 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/info/relations-united-kingdom/eu-uk-trade-and-cooperation-agreement_en#freetradeagreement.

³³⁷⁸ The EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement, European Commission (Brussels) 31 December 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/info/relations-united-kingdom/eu-uk-trade-and-cooperation-agreement_en#freetradeagreement.

³³⁷⁹ EIB backs EUR3.7 billion COVID-19 business support, European Investment Bank (Krichberg) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2021-092-eib-backs-eur-3-7-billion-covid-19-business-support-renewable-energy-internet-health-education-and-sustainable-urban-investment>.