



The G7 Research Group presents the

2020 G7 Virtual Summit Final Compliance Report

17 March 2020 to 6 May 2021

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8 June 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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19. Trade: Addressing International Supply Chains

“We will address disturbances to international supply chains.”

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.

On 25 March 2020, the G7 Foreign Ministers convened over a virtual meeting to discuss the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁵⁹⁹ At the meeting, the G7 members committed to “protecting global production and supply chains” and “reducing tariffs in medical supplies and pharmaceutical products in order to help those most at risk.”³⁶⁰⁰

Since its establishment in 1995, the World Trade Organization (WTO) has enjoyed considerable support and encouragement from the G7. The WTO outlines a code of good practice through the Technical Barriers to Trade Agreement to help other international bodies create environmental standards.³⁶⁰¹ The International Standardization Organization and the International Electrotechnical Commission both comply with WTO’s code of good practice.³⁶⁰² The G7 has also indicated its support for the application of environmental standards laid out by the United Nations, the International Labour Organization, and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).³⁶⁰³

On 13 October 2015, the G7 employment and development ministers released a ministerial declaration entitled Action for Fair Production.³⁶⁰⁴ The declaration states, “we must ... take concrete action with the aim to increase transparency, improve the management of risks, including to worker health and safety, and strengthen access to

³⁵⁹⁹ International co-operation only way to get travellers home and beat coronavirus, says the Foreign Secretary, UK Foreign Secretary (London) 25 March 2020. Access Date: 1 January 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/international-cooperation-only-way-to-get-travellers-home-and-beat-coronavirus-says-the-foreign-secretary>.

³⁶⁰⁰ International co-operation only way to get travellers home and beat coronavirus, says the Foreign Secretary, UK Foreign Secretary (London) 25 March 2020. Access Date: 1 January 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/international-cooperation-only-way-to-get-travellers-home-and-beat-coronavirus-says-the-foreign-secretary>.

³⁶⁰¹ Technical Information on Technical barriers to trade, World Trade Organization (Geneva) Access Date: 1 January 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/tbt_e/tbt_info_e.htm.

³⁶⁰² Technical Information on Technical barriers to trade, World Trade Organization (Geneva) Access Date: 1 January 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/tbt_e/tbt_info_e.htm.

³⁶⁰³ Leaders' Declaration: G7 Summit, G7 Germany (Schloss Elmau) 8 June 2015. Access Date: 1 January 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2015elmau/2015-G7-declaration-en.html>.

³⁶⁰⁴ Action for Fair Production, G7 Germany (Berlin) 13 October 2015. Access Date: 1 January 2021. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/employment/G7_Ministerial_Declaration_Action_for_Fair_Production.pdf.

remedy in global supply chains.”³⁶⁰⁵ The declaration also recognizes the collective responsibility of creating sustainable supply chains and commits each member to collaborate with relevant international organizations and social partners to increase transparency, knowledge sharing, best practices, etc.³⁶⁰⁶

At the 2015 Elmau Summit, the G7 members recognized their responsibility to promote sustainable supply chains given their “prominent share in the globalization process.”³⁶⁰⁷ The G7 members made commitments to “promote safe and sustainable supply chains” and to strive for the effective application of internationally recognized labour, social, and environmental standards.³⁶⁰⁸ These commitments were influenced by the 2013 Rana Plaza disaster when a garment factory in Bangladesh collapsed killing 1,137 people.³⁶⁰⁹ This tragic event sparked greater awareness about labour rights and working conditions in global supply chains.

Commitment Features

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic and the significant risks that it poses to the global economy, the G7 members have made a commitment to “address disturbances to international supply chains.”³⁶¹⁰

The term “address” refers to the action or process of attending to or dealing with a matter or problem.³⁶¹¹ Additionally, “international supply chains” are global networks that exist for the purpose of sourcing and supplying goods and services.³⁶¹² International supply chains involve facilitating the flow of information, processes and resources across to different consumer markets across the world.³⁶¹³

Any sudden change or crisis that inhibits the procurement of products and services from global suppliers constitutes a “disturbance” to international supply chains.³⁶¹⁴ Examples of disturbances include, but are not limited to, transportation delays and failures, problems with the quality of the product at any stage of the supply chain, and an overall increase of consumer demand creating increased pressure on global suppliers to produce a product or service.

Establishing effective supply chain management techniques helps to increase the resiliency of supply chains and address supply chain disturbances. Some examples include enhancing the transparency of information in supply chains, monitoring the bottleneck capacity, adhering to international standards and regulations, and facilitating cooperation between supply chain partners.

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 demonstrate strong support for efforts to address disturbances to international supply chains. Examples of actions that warrant full compliance include domestic

³⁶⁰⁵ Action for Fair Production, G7 Germany (Berlin) 13 October 2015. Access Date: 1 January 2021.

http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/employment/G7_Ministerial_Declaration_Action_for_Fair_Production.pdf.

³⁶⁰⁶ Action for Fair Production, G7 Germany (Berlin) 13 October 2015. Access Date: 1 January 2021.

http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/employment/G7_Ministerial_Declaration_Action_for_Fair_Production.pdf.

³⁶⁰⁷ Leaders’ Declaration: G7 Summit, G7 Germany (Schloss Elmau) 8 June 2015. Access Date: 1 January 2021.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2015elmau/2015-G7-declaration-en.html>.

³⁶⁰⁸ Leaders’ Declaration: G7 Summit, G7 Germany (Schloss Elmau) 8 June 2015. Access Date: 1 January 2021.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2015elmau/2015-G7-declaration-en.html>.

³⁶⁰⁹ G7 leaders agree on new insurance fund after Rana Plaza disaster, The Guardian (London) 8 June 2015. Access Date: 1 January 2021. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/jun/08/g7-insurance-fund-rana-plaza-disaster>.

³⁶¹⁰ 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>.

³⁶¹¹ 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-O9IXEXjcf79Jvzd97S-9Cs4xb0W4GyXg/edit>.

³⁶¹² Global Supply Chains. Chartered Institute of Procurement & Supply (Spalding) Access Date: 1 January 2021.

<https://www.cips.org/knowledge/procurement-topics-and-skills/supply-chain-management/global-supply-chains/>.

³⁶¹³ Global Supply Chains. Chartered Institute of Procurement & Supply (Spalding) Access Date: 1 January 2021.

<https://www.cips.org/knowledge/procurement-topics-and-skills/supply-chain-management/global-supply-chains/>.

³⁶¹⁴ Managing Supply Chain Disturbances – Review and Synthesis of Existing Contributions. Springer (Berlin) 24 September 2014. Access Date: 1 January 2021. https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-662-44736-9_32.

and international actions such as unilaterally launching programs to address supply chain disturbances, engaging in coordinated multilateral efforts to increase the resiliency of supply chains, and participating in international information sharing to spread knowledge about best practices with other international actors. 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 making policy changes to increase the resiliency of international supply chains.

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	The G7 member has not complied with the commitment feature by failing to address international supply chain disturbances.
0	The G7 member has partially complied with the commitment feature by addressing disturbances to international supply chains.
+1	The G7 has fully complied with the commitment feature by demonstrating strong support for efforts that addresses disturbances to international supply chains.

*Compliance Director: Emma Davy
Lead Analyst: Emily Yu*

Canada: +1

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to addresses disturbances to international supply chains.

On 25 March 2020, Canada released a joint statement of international effort to ensure that supply chains during the COVID-19 pandemic remained open and connected.³⁶¹⁵ The statement was issued by Mary Ng, Minister of Small Business, Export Promotion and International Trade, and trade ministers from Australia, Brunei, Chile, Myanmar, New Zealand, and Singapore.³⁶¹⁶ The statement reaffirms the commitment of all eight countries to maintaining open trade and to not impose trade barriers that could disrupt supply chains.³⁶¹⁷

On 1 May 2020, Canada published a joint statement with several G20 Trade and Investment ministers and ministers of guest invitees. The statement included action plans to ensure the continued international trade and distribution of goods, services, as well as the essential movement of people.³⁶¹⁸ The statement was signed by international trade ministers from Australia, New Zealand, Korea, and Singapore.³⁶¹⁹ The statement emphasizes the need for minimizing face-to-face interactions while maintaining smooth logistics

³⁶¹⁵ Statement on joint international effort to ensure supply chain connectivity amid COVID-19 pandemic, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 25 March 2020. Access Date: 18 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/03/statement-on-joint-international-effort-to-ensure-supply-chain-connectivity-amid-covid-19-pandemic.html>.

³⁶¹⁶ Joint ministerial statement by Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, New Zealand and Singapore affirming commitment to ensuring supply chain connectivity amidst the COVID-19 situation, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 25 March 2020. Access Date: 18 February 2021. <https://www.international.gc.ca/gac-amc/news-nouvelles/2020-03-25-joint-ministerial-statement-declaration-ministerielle-commune.aspx?lang=eng>.

³⁶¹⁷ Statement on joint international effort to ensure supply chain connectivity amid COVID-19 pandemic, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 25 March 2020. Access Date: 18 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/03/statement-on-joint-international-effort-to-ensure-supply-chain-connectivity-amid-covid-19-pandemic.html>.

³⁶¹⁸ Joint ministerial statement on action plans to facilitate the flow of goods and services as well as the essential movement of people, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 1 May 2020. Access Date: 19 February 2021. <https://www.international.gc.ca/gac-amc/news-nouvelles/2020-05-02-joint-ministerial-statement-declaration-ministerielle-commune.aspx?lang=eng>.

³⁶¹⁹ Joint ministerial statement on action plans to facilitate the flow of goods and services as well as the essential movement of people, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 1 May 2020. Access Date: 19 February 2021. <https://www.international.gc.ca/gac-amc/news-nouvelles/2020-05-02-joint-ministerial-statement-declaration-ministerielle-commune.aspx?lang=eng>.

operations.³⁶²⁰ The statement also highlights the need to develop plans for sustainable economic recoveries of global economies and share these plans with the other cooperative countries.³⁶²¹

On 5 May 2020, Canada and the other 20 members of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum released a statement of commitment to cooperatively mitigate the economic impacts of COVID-19. The statement included a plan for sustainable economic recovery and providing additional support to developing countries.³⁶²² The statement acknowledges the difficulties in maintaining robust global supply chains due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.³⁶²³ Despite these difficulties, the statement reaffirms the importance of cooperation and implores the APEC states to not create unnecessary trade barriers.³⁶²⁴ The statement urges to work closely with the World Health Organization (WHO) on how to encourage safety in global supply chains.³⁶²⁵ The statement further emphasizes the need to share information about trade and safety amongst the APEC members, and especially developing states, to encourage well-informed trade practices amongst regions.³⁶²⁶

On 14 May 2020, Canada met with its G20 counterparts and committed to an action plan to mitigate the effect of COVID-19 on global trade, while ensuring safety.³⁶²⁷ The plan emphasizes transparency to keep global supply chains open, as well as promoting international investment and multilateral trading.³⁶²⁸ Trade

³⁶²⁰ Joint ministerial statement on action plans to facilitate the flow of goods and services as well as the essential movement of people, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 1 May 2020. Access Date: 19 February 2021. <https://www.international.gc.ca/gac-amc/news-nouvelles/2020-05-02-joint-ministerial-statement-declaration-ministerielle-commune.aspx?lang=eng>.

³⁶²¹ Joint ministerial statement on action plans to facilitate the flow of goods and services as well as the essential movement of people, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 1 May 2020. Access Date: 19 February 2021. <https://www.international.gc.ca/gac-amc/news-nouvelles/2020-05-02-joint-ministerial-statement-declaration-ministerielle-commune.aspx?lang=eng>.

³⁶²² Statement on joint collaboration by APEC members amid COVID-19 pandemic, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 5 May 2020. Access Date: 19 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/05/statement-on-joint-collaboration-by-apec-members-amid-covid-19-pandemic.html>.

³⁶²³ Statement on COVID-19 by APEC Ministers Responsible for Trade, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 4 May 2020. Access Date: 19 February 2021. https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/international_relations-relations_internationales/apec/declarations/apec-covid-19.aspx?lang=eng; Statement on joint collaboration by APEC members amid COVID-19 pandemic, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 5 May 2020. Access Date: 19 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/05/statement-on-joint-collaboration-by-apec-members-amid-covid-19-pandemic.html>,

³⁶²⁴ Statement on COVID-19 by APEC Ministers Responsible for Trade, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 4 May 2020. Access Date: 19 February 2021. https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/international_relations-relations_internationales/apec/declarations/apec-covid-19.aspx?lang=eng; Statement on joint collaboration by APEC members amid COVID-19 pandemic, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 5 May 2020. Access Date: 19 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/05/statement-on-joint-collaboration-by-apec-members-amid-covid-19-pandemic.html>,

³⁶²⁵ Statement on COVID-19 by APEC Ministers Responsible for Trade, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 4 May 2020. Access Date: 19 February 2021. https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/international_relations-relations_internationales/apec/declarations/apec-covid-19.aspx?lang=eng; Statement on joint collaboration by APEC members amid COVID-19 pandemic, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 5 May 2020. Access Date: 19 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/05/statement-on-joint-collaboration-by-apec-members-amid-covid-19-pandemic.html>,

³⁶²⁶ Statement on COVID-19 by APEC Ministers Responsible for Trade, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 4 May 2020. Access Date: 19 February 2021. https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/international_relations-relations_internationales/apec/declarations/apec-covid-19.aspx?lang=eng.

³⁶²⁷ Readout: Minister Ng meets virtually with G20 international trade counterparts to coordinate economic action plan, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 14 May 2020. Access Date: 19 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/05/readout-minister-ng-meets-virtually-with-g20-international-trade-counterparts-to-coordinate-economic-action-plan.html>.

³⁶²⁸ Readout: Minister Ng meets virtually with G20 international trade counterparts to coordinate economic action plan, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 14 May 2020. Access Date: 19 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/05/readout-minister-ng-meets-virtually-with-g20-international-trade-counterparts-to-coordinate-economic-action-plan.html>.

barriers are discouraged and noted to be especially disruptive to the workings of medium and small-sized businesses.³⁶²⁹

On 1 July 2020, the new Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement (CUSMA) came into effect.³⁶³⁰ The agreement revises the 1997 North American Free Trade Agreement by adding 12 more chapters.³⁶³¹ CUSMA is meant to support Canadian businesses and supply chains by providing continued access to American and Mexican markets for goods and services providers.³⁶³² CUSMA updates the rules of trade amongst the three countries by streamlining customs and ensuring greater transparency regarding the origins of goods and services.³⁶³³ The new agreement also establishes a Competitiveness Committee meant to support the participation of small and medium-sized enterprises in the North and South American market.³⁶³⁴ CUSMA ensures that future laws will not add barriers to doing business.³⁶³⁵

On 25 July 2020, Canada met with its APEC partners to further discuss strengthening rules-based trade and upholding stable global supply chains, building upon commitments made in a prior meeting on 5 May 2020.³⁶³⁶ A joint statement was signed affirming the commitment of Canada and the other APEC members to planning for a global post-pandemic economic recovery that is sustainable and transparent.³⁶³⁷ Canada announced intentions to proceed to Phase II of the APEC-Canada Growing Business Partnership.³⁶³⁸ Phase II will help small businesses by reducing barriers to trade, emphasizing community outreach, and building economies that are diverse and inclusive.³⁶³⁹

³⁶²⁹ Readout: Minister Ng meets virtually with G20 international trade counterparts to coordinate economic action plan, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 14 May 2020. Access Date: 19 February 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/05/readout-minister-ng-meets-virtually-with-g20-international-trade-counterparts-to-coordinate-economic-action-plan.html>.

³⁶³⁰ A new Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 1 January 2021. Access Date: 18 February 2021. <https://www.international.gc.ca/trade-commerce/trade-agreements-accords-commerciaux/agr-acc/cusma-aceum/index.aspx?lang=eng>.

³⁶³¹ Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement promises new opportunities for Canadian businesses, Trade Commissioner (Ottawa) 16 July 2020. Access Date: 18 February 2021. <https://www.tradecommissioner.gc.ca/canadexport/0004799.aspx?lang=eng>.

³⁶³² Learn about CUSMA benefits for SME, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 30 June 2020. Access Date: 18 February 2021. https://www.international.gc.ca/trade-commerce/trade-agreements-accords-commerciaux/agr-acc/cusma-aceum/benefits-sme_avantages-pme.aspx?lang=eng.

³⁶³³ Trump Signs Trade Deal With Canada and Mexico, The New York Times (New York City) 29 January 2020. Access Date: 18 February 2021. <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/01/29/business/economy/usmca-trump.html?searchResultPosition=2>

³⁶³⁴ Learn about CUSMA benefits for SME, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 30 June 2020. Access Date: 18 February 2021. https://www.international.gc.ca/trade-commerce/trade-agreements-accords-commerciaux/agr-acc/cusma-aceum/benefits-sme_avantages-pme.aspx?lang=eng.

³⁶³⁵ Trump Signs Trade Deal With Canada and Mexico, The New York Times (New York City) 29 January 2020. Access Date: 18 February 2021. <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/01/29/business/economy/usmca-trump.html?searchResultPosition=2>.

³⁶³⁶ Minister Ng participates in APEC trade ministers meeting and announces expansion of APEC-Canada Growing Business Partnership, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 25 July 2020. Access Date: 19 February 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>.

³⁶³⁷ Minister Ng participates in APEC trade ministers meeting and announces expansion of APEC-Canada Growing Business Partnership, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 25 July 2020. Access Date: 19 February 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>.

³⁶³⁸ Minister Ng participates in APEC trade ministers meeting and announces expansion of APEC-Canada Growing Business Partnership, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 25 July 2020. Access Date: 19 February 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>.

³⁶³⁹ Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada Supports Phase II Expansion of APEC-Canada Growing Business Partnership, Asia-Pacific Foundation of Canada (Vancouver) 28 July 2020. Access Date: 19 February 2021. <https://www.asiapacific.ca/media/news-releases/55212#:~:text=Canada's%20intention%20to%20move%20forward,July%2024%20by%20the%20Hon.&text=Phase%20II%20would%20help%20small,work%20for%20everyone%20%E2%80%93%20including%20women>.

On 15 February 2021, Canada released a joint statement with the United States, asking the European Union to reconsider the implementation of automatic COVID-19 vaccine export authorizations.³⁶⁴⁰ The statement expresses that eliminating automatic vaccine distribution authorizations by the EU could prompt other countries to do the same, disrupting global access to vaccines, medical equipment, companies, and experts.³⁶⁴¹

The government of Canada has made tangible efforts to address disturbances in international supply chains by making statements affirming their commitments to open markets, transparency of supply chains, and international cooperation.

Thus, Canada receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Anna Lysenko

France: +1

France has fully complied with its commitment to address disturbances to international supply chains.

On 10 April 2020, the French and German Ministers of Agriculture held extensive talks about the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the agricultural supply chain.³⁶⁴² The ministers highlighted the importance of ensuring the resiliency of European farms to guarantee food supplies to customers.³⁶⁴³ They also emphasized the need for a strong common agricultural policy for future supply chain stability.³⁶⁴⁴

On 24 April 2020, President Emmanuel Macron spearheaded the global collaboration termed the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator to develop, produce, and distribute COVID-19-related health products.³⁶⁴⁵ France contributed EUR560 million to this collaborative effort.³⁶⁴⁶ The ACT-Accelerator also promotes the sharing of data and licensing of intellectual property.³⁶⁴⁷

On 18 May 2020, France and Germany proposed an initiative for European recovery, which included a EUR750 billion recovery plan.³⁶⁴⁸ This plan strives to support the exports of European economies by

³⁶⁴⁰ Transatlantic Trade | US and Europe – Week of February 15, 2021, The National Law Review (Chicago) 19 February 2020. Access Date: 19 February 2021. <https://www.natlawreview.com/article/transatlantic-trade-us-and-europe-week-february-15-2021>.

³⁶⁴¹ Transatlantic Trade | US and Europe – Week of February 15, 2021, The National Law Review (Chicago) 19 February 2020. Access Date: 19 February 2021. <https://www.natlawreview.com/article/transatlantic-trade-us-and-europe-week-february-15-2021>.

³⁶⁴² French and German ministers of agriculture confirm the need for a coordinated, Europe-wide approach to counter Covid-19, Government of France (Paris) 10 April 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/french-and-german-ministers-of-agriculture-confirm-the-need-for-a-coordinated-europe-wide>.

³⁶⁴³ French and German ministers of agriculture confirm the need for a coordinated, Europe-wide approach to counter Covid-19, Government of France (Paris) 10 April 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/french-and-german-ministers-of-agriculture-confirm-the-need-for-a-coordinated-europe-wide>.

³⁶⁴⁴ French and German ministers of agriculture confirm the need for a coordinated, Europe-wide approach to counter Covid-19, Government of France (Paris) 10 April 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/french-and-german-ministers-of-agriculture-confirm-the-need-for-a-coordinated-europe-wide>.

³⁶⁴⁵ What is the ACT-Accelerator, World Health Organization (Geneva) 24 April 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.who.int/initiatives/act-accelerator/about>.

³⁶⁴⁶ Global health – Participation of Clément Beaune in the first council meeting of the initiative Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator, Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 10 September 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/coming-to-france/coronavirus-advice-for-foreign-nationals-in-france/coronavirus-statements/article/global-health-participation-of-clement-beaune-in-the-first-council-meeting-of>.

³⁶⁴⁷ "Multilateral Cooperation for Global Recovery" – Joint article, Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 3 February 2021. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/news/article/multilateral-cooperation-for-global-recovery-joint-article-paris-3-feb-21>.

³⁶⁴⁸ European solidarity in the face of COVID-19, Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris). Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/europe/news/article/european-solidarity-in-the-face-of-covid-19>

accelerating movement through priority corridors for supplying hospitals, shops, and factories, as well as the movement of people.³⁶⁴⁹

On 23 April 2020, Didier Guillaume, Minister of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection, participated in the G20 Agriculture Ministers' Joint Statement. The Joint Statement emphasizes the importance of free movement of goods for access to food.³⁶⁵⁰ It acknowledges that there have not been disruptions in supply chains thus far, but emergency measures must be considered.³⁶⁵¹

On 3 February 2021, a joint call was made by President Macron and German Chancellor Angela Merkel for greater political and financial support for the ACT-Accelerator and affirming a commitment to global recovery.³⁶⁵² This international initiative calls for the expansion of access to treatments, vaccines, tests, and more.³⁶⁵³

On 9 June 2020, Minister of State Jean-Baptiste Lemoyne took part in a video conference with European Union Foreign Affairs Ministers to discuss trade issues and a draft initiative proposed by the European Commission to combat global shortages in critical medical supplies.³⁶⁵⁴ France also supported a review of the European Union's trade policy, emphasizing the importance of building resilient and sustainable supply chains.³⁶⁵⁵

On 21 September 2020, Minister Riester, participated in the meeting of European Union trade ministers.³⁶⁵⁶ The ministers addressed the need to reassess EU trade policy to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁶⁵⁷ This included discussions on securing supply chains and responding to disruptions in the European market.³⁶⁵⁸

On 15 March 2021, French President Macron and Spanish President Pedro Sánchez at the 26th Franco-Spanish Summit adopted a joint statement emphasizing the strengthening of ties between France and Spain. The statement includes a commitment to collaborate on enhancing the control of supply chains. It also

³⁶⁴⁹ European solidarity in the face of COVID-19, Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris). Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/europe/news/article/european-solidarity-in-the-face-of-covid-19>

³⁶⁵⁰ G20 Agriculture Ministers' Meeting, Government of France (Paris) 23 April 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/g20-agriculture-ministers-meeting>.

³⁶⁵¹ G20 Agriculture Ministers' Meeting, Government of France (Paris) 23 April 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/g20-agriculture-ministers-meeting>.

³⁶⁵² "Multilateral Cooperation for Global Recovery" – Joint article, Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 3 February 2021. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/news/article/multilateral-cooperation-for-global-recovery-joint-article-paris-3-feb-21>.

³⁶⁵³ "Multilateral Cooperation for Global Recovery" – Joint article, Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 3 February 2021. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/news/article/multilateral-cooperation-for-global-recovery-joint-article-paris-3-feb-21>.

³⁶⁵⁴ European Union - Jean-Baptiste Lemoyne's participation in the video conference of EU foreign affairs ministers, Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 9 June 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/europe/news/article/european-union-jean-baptiste-lemoyne-s-participation-in-the-video-conference-of>.

³⁶⁵⁵ European Union - Jean-Baptiste Lemoyne's participation in the video conference of EU foreign affairs ministers, Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 9 June 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/europe/news/article/european-union-jean-baptiste-lemoyne-s-participation-in-the-video-conference-of>.

³⁶⁵⁶ EU - Franck Riester at the meeting of EU trade ministers, Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 21 September 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/europe/news/article/eu-franck-riester-at-the-meeting-of-eu-trade-ministers-21-09-20>.

³⁶⁵⁷ EU - Franck Riester at the meeting of EU trade ministers, Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 21 September 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/europe/news/article/eu-franck-riester-at-the-meeting-of-eu-trade-ministers-21-09-20>.

³⁶⁵⁸ EU - Franck Riester at the meeting of EU trade ministers, Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 21 September 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/europe/news/article/eu-franck-riester-at-the-meeting-of-eu-trade-ministers-21-09-20>.

includes a call to modernize the multilateral trade framework's rules of procedure to adapt to the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁶⁵⁹

France has taken action to add address disturbances to international supply chains. It also multilaterally launched the ACT-Accelerator with the World Health Organization and the European Commission.³⁶⁶⁰ This combination of domestic and international efforts warrants full compliance.

Analyst: Isabella Li

Germany: +1

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to address disturbances to international supply chains.

On 30 March 2020, the Minister for Economic Affairs and Energy, Peter Altmaier, attended the conference call of the G20 Ministers of Trade and adopted the joint statement of the G20 Ministers of Trade to guarantee the global transport of medical supplies, agricultural products, and other essential goods.³⁶⁶¹

On 6 April 2020, the Foreign Office, Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure of Germany consulted with many partner countries, especially with those in Asia, to ensure that partner countries could exempt air cargo plane crews from local quarantine regulations to achieve seamless delivery of air cargo to the respective countries.³⁶⁶²

On 16 April 2020, the federal government set up a protective shield of EUR30 billion to secure supplier loans for German companies and protect suppliers against payment defaults in the event that a customer is unable or unwilling to pay.³⁶⁶³ The Minister of Finance, Olaf Scholz, said that "In setting up a protective shield, we are safeguarding the trade in goods and are thus ensuring a smooth flow of goods, which we urgently need right now."³⁶⁶⁴

On 18 April 2020, Germany joined the Ministerial Coordination Group on COVID-19, which was an initiative established by the Government of Canada that agreed to consult every two weeks on specific steps to respond to the impact of the pandemic, particularly in the field of maintaining international air and trade networks among countries.³⁶⁶⁵

³⁶⁵⁹ 26th Franco-Spanish Summit - Joint Declaration, Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (Montauban) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 22 April 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/spain/events/article/26th-franco-spanish-summit-joint-declaration-montauban-15-mar-2021>.

³⁶⁶⁰ World Health Organization – Telephone conversation between Jean-Yves Le Drian and Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 7 September 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/united-nations/news-and-events/news/news-2020/article/world-health-organization-telephone-conversation-between-jean-yves-le-drian-and>.

³⁶⁶¹ G20 Ministers of Trade adopt Joint Declaration on the coronavirus crisis, Department of Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy Office (Berlin) 31 March 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2020. <https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2020/20200331-g20-ministers-of-trade-adopt-joint-declaration-on-the-coronavirus-crisis.html>.

³⁶⁶² The German Government is committed to keeping international supply chains moving, Department of Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 6 April 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2020. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/aussenpolitik/themen/aussenwirtschaft/verkehr/international-supply-chains/2331382>.

³⁶⁶³ Federal Government Safeguards Trade in Goods, Department of Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy Office (Berlin) 16 April 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2020. <https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2020/20200416-federal-government-safeguards-trade-in-goods.html>

³⁶⁶⁴ Federal Government Safeguards Trade in Goods, Department of Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy Office (Berlin) 16 April 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2020. <https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2020/20200416-federal-government-safeguards-trade-in-goods.html>.

³⁶⁶⁵ Joint Declaration of the Ministerial Coordination Group on COVID-19, Department of Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 18 April 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2020. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/annex-covid19/2333774>

On 25 May 2020, Germany partook in the joint declaration of the Alliance for Multilateralism, which promised that countries would work with public health authorities to ensure accessible and accurate information regarding the pandemic; and to provide an effective flow of medical supplies, agricultural products and other goods and services across national borders to reduce the shocks of global supply chains, thereby enabling the global economic recovery.³⁶⁶⁶

On 3 June 2020, the Foreign Office launched a joint declaration with the foreign ministers of Latin American and Caribbean States, agreeing to enforce a rule-based free trade system and diversify supply chains to facilitate economic recovery and overcoming the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁶⁶⁷

On 1 July 2020, the Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community launched the Programme for Germany's Presidency of the Council of the European Union and committed to implement the European Union Action Plan by strengthening corporate social responsibility, ensuring transparency and promoting human rights, social and environmental standards in global supply chains.³⁶⁶⁸ Germany reiterated its resolution to promote a high level of transparency, to diversify supply chains, and to ensure cooperation in expanding production of critical medicines.³⁶⁶⁹

On 7 July 2020, the federal government adopted a five-point package of measures to promote export financing and address supply chain disruptions and overseas project execution.³⁶⁷⁰

On 7 September 2020, Germany, as the regional coordinator of the European Group, launched the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Statement on Coronavirus Diseases at the 13th ASEM Summit to promote more resilient and diversified supply chains in order to cope with future strikes of the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁶⁷¹ In particular, the ASEM Statement emphasized the uninterrupted flow of essential goods and services across national borders as well as proper global distribution.³⁶⁷² While adhering to the public health and safety consideration, Germany as the regional coordinator of the European group at the 13th ASEM Summit claimed that it was necessary to coordinate responses to ensure international traffic and critical transport infrastructure to ensure the continued flow of cargo and goods.³⁶⁷³

On 25 February 2021, Chancellor Angela Merkel met virtually with the heads of state and the government of the European Union to finalize an agreement on a common approach to combatting the COVID-19

³⁶⁶⁶ We need strong global cooperation and solidarity to fight COVID-19, Department of Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 25 May 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2020. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/alliance-multilateralism-covid19/2333394>.

³⁶⁶⁷ Joint Declaration of the Foreign Ministers of the Latin American and Caribbean states and of Germany, Department of Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 5 June 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2020. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/-/2347180>.

³⁶⁶⁸ Programme for Germany's Presidency of the Council of the European Union, Department of Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community (Berlin) 1 July 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2020. <https://www.bmi.bund.de/SharedDocs/downloads/EN/eu-presidency/breg-programme-eu-rp-en.html>.

³⁶⁶⁹ Programme for Germany's Presidency of the Council of the European Union, Department of Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community (Berlin) 1 July 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2020. <https://www.bmi.bund.de/SharedDocs/downloads/EN/eu-presidency/breg-programme-eu-rp-en.html>.

³⁶⁷⁰ Minister Altmaier: We are supporting German exports as an important pillar of our economy based on a 5-point package of measures, Department of Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy Office (Berlin) 7 July 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2020. <https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2020/20200707-altmaier-we-are-supporting-german-exports-as-an-important-pillar-of-our-economy-based-on-a-5-point-package-of-measures.html>.

³⁶⁷¹ Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Statement on Coronavirus diseases (COVID-19), Department of Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 7 September 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2020. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/asem-coronavirus/2381556>.

³⁶⁷² Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Statement on Coronavirus diseases (COVID-19), Department of Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 7 September 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2020. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/asem-coronavirus/2381556>.

³⁶⁷³ Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Statement on Coronavirus diseases (COVID-19), Department of Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 7 September 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2020. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/asem-coronavirus/2381556>.

pandemic.³⁶⁷⁴ During the meeting, Chancellor Merkel explained that the European Commission must establish a Task Force to find out “how production capacities along the entire supply chain could be established within the EU so as to be able to produce the vaccines here.”³⁶⁷⁵

Germany has demonstrated initiative to address disturbances to domestic and international supply chains.

Thus, Germany has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Tianyang (Victoria) Wang

Italy: +1

Italy has fully complied with its commitment of addressing disturbances to international supply chains.

On 1 July 2020, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Emanuela Del Re announced the presence of blockages in the food supply chain, which was caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁶⁷⁶ Italy and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) have launched an initiative to address this issue — the Food Coalition.³⁶⁷⁷ This program aims to mobilize skilled personnel to implement targeted projects on the ground.³⁶⁷⁸

On 13 July 2020, Deputy Minister Del Re attended a video conference hosted by FAO that addresses food security and nutrition around the world.³⁶⁷⁹ Deputy Minister Del Re stated Italy would aim to create resilient food systems and strengthen sustainable supply chains in light of renewed efforts required to solve hunger in the world.³⁶⁸⁰

On 19 October 2020, Italy's Draft Budgetary Plan (DPP) for 2021 was approved.³⁶⁸¹ Inside the DPP included a reform action to support sectoral supply chains most impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁶⁸² This action

³⁶⁷⁴ Common approach to the pandemic, The Federal Government of Germany (Berlin) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/europaeischer-rat-corona-1863996>.

³⁶⁷⁵ Common approach to the pandemic, The Federal Government of Germany (Berlin) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/europaeischer-rat-corona-1863996>.

³⁶⁷⁶ Press Release: Del Re: Coronavirus, from the vaccine to inequalities between countries and within countries. Italy and Europe ready for the challenge of the future in order to “rebuild better” (Il Fatto Quotidiano), Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 1 July 2020. Access Date: 27 February 2021.

https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/interviste/2020/07/del-re-coronavirus-dal-vaccino-alle-disuguaglianze-tra-paesi-e-nei-paesi-italia-ed-europa-pronte-alla-sfida-del-futuro-per-ricostruire-meglio-il-fatto-quotidiano.html.

³⁶⁷⁷ Press Release: Del Re: Coronavirus, from the vaccine to inequalities between countries and within countries. Italy and Europe ready for the challenge of the future in order to “rebuild better” (Il Fatto Quotidiano), Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 1 July 2020. Access Date: 27 February 2021.

https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/interviste/2020/07/del-re-coronavirus-dal-vaccino-alle-disuguaglianze-tra-paesi-e-nei-paesi-italia-ed-europa-pronte-alla-sfida-del-futuro-per-ricostruire-meglio-il-fatto-quotidiano.html.

³⁶⁷⁸ Press Release: Del Re: Coronavirus, from the vaccine to inequalities between countries and within countries. Italy and Europe ready for the challenge of the future in order to “rebuild better” (Il Fatto Quotidiano), Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 1 July 2020. Access Date: 27 February 2021.

https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/interviste/2020/07/del-re-coronavirus-dal-vaccino-alle-disuguaglianze-tra-paesi-e-nei-paesi-italia-ed-europa-pronte-alla-sfida-del-futuro-per-ricostruire-meglio-il-fatto-quotidiano.html.

³⁶⁷⁹ Press Release: Ms Del Re at the launch of 2020 report on UN Food Security, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 13 July 2020. Access Date: 27 February 2021. https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/eventi/2020/07/del-re-a-lancio-rapporto-2020-su-sicurezza-alimentare-onu.html.

³⁶⁸⁰ Press Release: Ms Del Re at the launch of 2020 report on UN Food Security, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 13 July 2020. Access Date: 27 February 2021. https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/eventi/2020/07/del-re-a-lancio-rapporto-2020-su-sicurezza-alimentare-onu.html.

³⁶⁸¹ Italy's Draft Budgetary Plan 2021, Ministry of Economy and Finance (Rome) 19 October 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. https://www.mef.gov.it/en/inevidenza/documenti/2021_dbp_it_en_0.pdf.

³⁶⁸² Italy's Draft Budgetary Plan 2021, Ministry of Economy and Finance (Rome) 19 October 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. https://www.mef.gov.it/en/inevidenza/documenti/2021_dbp_it_en_0.pdf.

involves the establishment of the 'Emergency Fund for the protection of supply chains in crisis' with an endowment of EUR500 million distributed to sectors in crisis.³⁶⁸³

On 9 November 2020, the 53rd Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Foreign Ministers' Meeting granted Italy status as an ASEAN development partner.³⁶⁸⁴ Minister of Foreign Affairs Luigi Di Maio stated the partnership will contribute to rebuilding global supply chains.³⁶⁸⁵

Italy has demonstrated initiative to address disturbances to domestic and international supply chains.

Thus, Italy has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Joseph MuQin Shen

Japan: +1

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to address disturbances to international supply chains.

On 5 March 2020, the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Ministers Responsible for Trade issued a joint statement suggesting that member economies should keep their markets open and work together to create a free, fair, and stable trade and investment environment and ensure that trade and investment continue to flow.³⁶⁸⁶ It was also recommended that member economies should strengthen regional connectivity by intensifying their efforts to make global supply chains more resilient and less vulnerable to shocks.³⁶⁸⁷

On 28 August 2020, economic ministers from the 10 ASEAN members and Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) met virtually for consultations.³⁶⁸⁸ In the video conference meeting, the ministers reaffirmed their commitment to ensure supply chain connectivity, particularly regarding the flow of essential goods such as medical supplies, medicines, and food in compliance with World Trade Organization rules.³⁶⁸⁹ They additionally resolved to refrain from introducing or maintaining measures (i.e. non-tariff barriers) that could disrupt the flow of essential goods and services necessary to address the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁶⁹⁰

On 19 November 2020, METI held a general meeting for the inauguration of the Supply Chain Cybersecurity Consortium (SC3).³⁶⁹¹ SC3 aims to encourage all industrial players to "unite in their efforts for promoting

³⁶⁸³ Italy's Draft Budgetary Plan 2021, Ministry of Economy and Finance (Rome) 19 October 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. https://www.mef.gov.it/en/inevidenza/documenti/2021_dbp_it_en_0.pdf.

³⁶⁸⁴ Press Release: Di Maio: Italian-ASEAN friendship takes a major step ahead (Vietnam Investment Review Newspaper), Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 9 November 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/interviste/2020/11/di-maio-italian-asean-friendship-takes-a-major-step-ahead-vietnam-investment-review-newspaper.html.

³⁶⁸⁵ Press Release: Di Maio: Italian-ASEAN friendship takes a major step ahead (Vietnam Investment Review Newspaper), Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 9 November 2020. Access Date: 26 February 2021. https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/interviste/2020/11/di-maio-italian-asean-friendship-takes-a-major-step-ahead-vietnam-investment-review-newspaper.html.

³⁶⁸⁶ APEC Ministers Responsible for Trade Issue Joint Statement on COVID-19, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo). 5 May 2020. Date of Access: 20 February 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0505_001.html.

³⁶⁸⁷ APEC Ministers Responsible for Trade Issue Joint Statement on COVID-19, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo). 5 May 2020. Date of Access: 20 February 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0505_001.html.

³⁶⁸⁸ Joint Ministerial Statement of The Twenty-sixth AEM-METI Consultations, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo). 28 August 2020. Date of Access: 21 February 2021. <https://www.meti.go.jp/press/2020/08/20200828013/20200828013-5.pdf>.

³⁶⁸⁹ Joint Ministerial Statement of The Twenty-sixth AEM-METI Consultations, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo). 28 August 2020. Date of Access: 21 February 2021. <https://www.meti.go.jp/press/2020/08/20200828013/20200828013-5.pdf>.

³⁶⁹⁰ Joint Ministerial Statement of The Twenty-sixth AEM-METI Consultations, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo). 28 August 2020. Date of Access: 21 February 2021. <https://www.meti.go.jp/press/2020/08/20200828013/20200828013-5.pdf>.

³⁶⁹¹ General Meeting for Inauguration of Supply Chain Cybersecurity Consortium (SC3) Held, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo). 19 November 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/1119_002.html.

cybersecurity measures throughout supply chains.”³⁶⁹² One of its primary goals is to maintain and fortify trust in Japanese industries.³⁶⁹³

On 3 December 2020, Japan hosted the 30th meeting of the Japan-Canada Joint Economic Committee.³⁶⁹⁴ The co-chairs committed to improving supply chain resilience as expressed in the G20 Riyadh Summit Leaders’ Declaration and in view of the vulnerabilities that the pandemic exposed.³⁶⁹⁵

On 15 January 2021, the Council on Measures for Supply Chains held a meeting to address the challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic on the aircraft industry.³⁶⁹⁶ At the meeting, the council confirmed a policy to collaborate and support supply chains in the industry.³⁶⁹⁷

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On 16 April 2021, during a joint news conference between Japan and the United States, Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga and President Joe Biden announced a future partnership that will strengthen crucial supply chains between the two countries, especially in strategic technology components such as semiconductors.³⁶⁹⁹

Japan has made efforts to address disturbances to international supply chains by actively collaborating with other countries and adopting measures to mitigate the adverse effect and challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Thus, Japan receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Xinrui Wang

United Kingdom: +1

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to address disturbances to international supply chains.

On 23 March 2020, the UK government announced a ban on “parallel exports” of critical medicines to treat COVID-19 patients.³⁷⁰⁰ This action was taken to ensure that there was “an uninterrupted supply of medicines

³⁶⁹² General Meeting for Inauguration of Supply Chain Cybersecurity Consortium (SC3) Held, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo). 19 November 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/1119_002.html.

³⁶⁹³ General Meeting for Inauguration of Supply Chain Cybersecurity Consortium (SC3) Held, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo). 19 November 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/1119_002.html.

³⁶⁹⁴The 30th Meeting of the Japan - Canada Joint Economic Committee, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo). 3 December 2020. Date of Access: 22 February 2021. <https://www.mofa.go.jp/files/100130400.pdf>.

³⁶⁹⁵The 30th Meeting of the Japan - Canada Joint Economic Committee, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo). 3 December 2020. Date of Access: 22 February 2021. <https://www.mofa.go.jp/files/100130400.pdf>.

³⁶⁹⁶ Council on Measures for Supply Chains in the Aircraft Industry Holds Meeting, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo). 15 January 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0115_004.html.

³⁶⁹⁷ Council on Measures for Supply Chains in the Aircraft Industry Holds Meeting, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo). 15 January 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0115_004.html.

³⁶⁹⁸ Council on Measures for Supply Chains in the Aircraft Industry Holds Meeting, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo). 15 January 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0115_004.html.

³⁶⁹⁹ Remarks by President Biden and Prime Minister Suga of Japan at Press Conference, The White House (Washington). 16 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/speeches-remarks/2021/04/16/remarks-by-president-biden-and-prime-minister-suga-of-japan-at-press-conference/>.

³⁷⁰⁰ UK bans parallel exporting of crucial medicines to help COVID-19 patients, European Pharmaceutical Review (Kent) 23 March 2021. Access Date: 22 April 2021. <https://www.europeanpharmaceuticalreview.com/news/115637/uk-bans-parallel-exporting-of-crucial-medicines-to-help-covid-19-patients/>.

for National Health Service (NHS) hospitals treating coronavirus patients.” and to prevent the reselling of medicines at higher prices in other countries.³⁷⁰¹

On 3 April 2020, the United Kingdom Export Finance (UKEF) extended its Exports Insurance Policy to protect against non-payment for UK exporters when selling internationally.³⁷⁰² The scheme was extended for businesses operating in major international markets, including, but not limited to the European Union and United States.³⁷⁰³

On 22 April 2020, the UK alongside several members of the World Trade Organization issued a joint statement that affirmed the maintenance of agricultural supply chains during the COVID-19 crisis.³⁷⁰⁴ This statement also included an agreement against the imposition of restrictive measures on food exports and a commitment to “ensure that supply chains remain open and connected so that international markets can continue to function.”³⁷⁰⁵

On 22 June 2020, the Department for International Trade (DIT) and the Department for Environment announced a “bounce-back” international trade strategy for UK food and drink and agricultural industries.³⁷⁰⁶ The strategy seeks to “capitalise on trade agreements being negotiated by DIT with Japan, US, Australia and New Zealand” and to enable expansion of international trade activity for these industries internationally.³⁷⁰⁷

On 14 August 2020, the UK introduced a program to support the workers of “high-street” businesses in developing nations during the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁷⁰⁸ This program includes investments targeted at maintaining “safe” and “secure” employment for vulnerable workers in associated supply chains.³⁷⁰⁹ The UK contributed GBP4.85 million to this program.³⁷¹⁰

On 8 September 2020, Exports Minister Graham Stuart announced the development of a bounce-back international trade strategy for consumer and retail industries.³⁷¹¹ This strategy seeks to improve overseas exports by helping improve the industries’ knowledge of online retail and e-commerce within international marketplaces.³⁷¹²

³⁷⁰¹ UK bans parallel exporting of crucial medicines to help COVID-19 patients, European Pharmaceutical Review (Kent) 23 March 2021. Access Date: 22 April 2021. <https://www.europeanpharmaceuticalreview.com/news/115637/uk-bans-parallel-exporting-of-crucial-medicines-to-help-covid-19-patients/>.

³⁷⁰² UKEF expands protection against non-payment for UK, UK Government (London) 3 April 2020. Access Date: 22 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ukef-expands-protection-against-non-payment-for-uk-exporters>.

³⁷⁰³ UKEF expands protection against non-payment for UK, UK Government (London) 3 April 2020. Access Date: 22 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ukef-expands-protection-against-non-payment-for-uk-exporters>.

³⁷⁰⁴ The COVID-19 pandemic and international trade, UK Government (London) 23 July 2020. Access Date: 22 April 2021. <https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/2177/documents/20125/default/>.

³⁷⁰⁵ The COVID-19 pandemic and international trade, UK Government (London) 23 July 2020. Access Date: 22 April 2021. <https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/2177/documents/20125/default/>.

³⁷⁰⁶ ‘Bounce back’ plan for agriculture, food and drink industry launched, UK Government (London) 22 June 2020. Access Date: 22 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/bounce-back-plan-for-agriculture-food-and-drink-industry-launched>.

³⁷⁰⁷ ‘Bounce back’ plan for agriculture, food and drink industry launched, UK Government (London) 22 June 2020. Access Date: 22 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/bounce-back-plan-for-agriculture-food-and-drink-industry-launched>.

³⁷⁰⁸ UK Aid to protect high street supply chains, UK Government (London) 14 August 2020. Access Date: 22 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-aid-to-protect-high-street-supply-chains>.

³⁷⁰⁹ UK Aid to protect high street supply chains, UK Government (London) 14 August 2020. Access Date: 22 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-aid-to-protect-high-street-supply-chains>.

³⁷¹⁰ UK Aid to protect high street supply chains, UK Government (London) 14 August 2020. Access Date: 22 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-aid-to-protect-high-street-supply-chains>.

³⁷¹¹ Bounce-back plans launched for consumer and retail industry, UK Government (London) 8 September 2020. Access Date: 22 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/bounce-back-plans-launched-for-consumer-and-retail-industry>.

³⁷¹² Bounce-back plans launched for consumer and retail industry, UK Government (London) 8 September 2020. Access Date: 22 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/bounce-back-plans-launched-for-consumer-and-retail-industry>.

On 7 December 2020, UKEF launched the General Export Facility in collaboration with commercial banks to provide guarantees of working capital and capital expenditure for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) engaging in international trade.³⁷¹³ This includes an “80% guarantee on financial support from lenders to support general exporting costs, up to the value of GBP 25 million.”³⁷¹⁴

On 10 January 2021, the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office announced that the UK has aided in raising over USD1 billion for the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access Advance Market Commitment.³⁷¹⁵ Through a match-funding scheme, the UK pledged to aid GBP548 million to facilitate the distribution of COVID-19 vaccines to “92 developing countries.”³⁷¹⁶

On 19 January 2021, the Department of Health and Social Care announced that up to 2,000 people “crucial to the continuity of the COVID-19 supply chain” will be offered vaccinations.³⁷¹⁷ The government deems these individuals critical to the delivery and offering of vaccine supplies, and thus, highlighting their vulnerability as part of the associated medical supply chain.³⁷¹⁸

On 9 March 2021, Secretary of State for Health and Social Care Matt Hancock spoke at the Global COVID-19 Vaccine Supply Chain and Manufacturing Summit. Secretary Hancock discussed the Vaccine Task Force created in partnership with Oxford University that helped establish vaccine supply chains throughout the UK.³⁷¹⁹

From supporting SMEs in international trade markets to raising funds for vaccine dissemination in developing countries through the Vaccine Alliance Initiative, the UK has taken clear actions to address disturbances to international supply chains.

Thus, the UK received a score of +1.

Analyst: Julian Lam

United States: +1

The United States has fully complied with its commitment to address disturbances to international supply chains.

On 18 March 2020, President Donald Trump invoked the Defense Production Act to mass produce supplies needed to combat the COVID-19 pandemic on recommendation by Congress.³⁷²⁰ The Defense Production Act would allow the President to influence domestic production to preferential goods, as well as provide

³⁷¹³ Radical shake up to government export finance support for small businesses, UK Government (London) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 22 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/radical-shake-up-to-government-export-finance-support-for-small-businesses>.

³⁷¹⁴ Radical shake up to government export finance support for small businesses, UK Government (London) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 22 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/radical-shake-up-to-government-export-finance-support-for-small-businesses>.

³⁷¹⁵ UK meets 250m match aid target into COVAX, the global vaccines facility, UK Government (London) 10 January 2021. Access Date: 22 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-raises-1bn-so-vulnerable-countries-can-get-vaccine>.

³⁷¹⁶ UK meets 250m match aid target into COVAX, the global vaccines facility, UK Government (London) 10 January 2021. Access Date: 22 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-raises-1bn-so-vulnerable-countries-can-get-vaccine>.

³⁷¹⁷ Supply chain workers crucial to vaccination programme to receive jabs, UK Government (London) 19 January 2021. Access Date: 22 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/supply-chain-workers-crucial-to-vaccination-programme-to-receive-jabs>.

³⁷¹⁸ Supply chain workers crucial to vaccination programme to receive jabs, UK Government (London) 19 January 2021. Access Date: 22 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/supply-chain-workers-crucial-to-vaccination-programme-to-receive-jabs>.

³⁷¹⁹ COVID-19 vaccine supply and manufacturing in the UK, UK Government (London) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 22 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/covid-19-vaccine-supply-and-manufacturing-in-the-uk>.

³⁷²⁰ Trump invokes Defense Production Act to expand production of hospital masks and more, CNN (Atlanta) 18 March 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.cnn.com/2020/03/18/politics/trump-defense-production-act-coronavirus/index.html>.

emergency financial support to domestic producers.³⁷²¹ The need for this act stemmed from reports of challenges to meet demand for supplies from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.³⁷²²

On 11 April 2020, the Export-Import Bank of the United States (EXIM) announced that it would make applicable programs available to Italy to support their economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. EXIM will provide financing tools that benefit American exporters and workers, and Italy.³⁷²³ EXIM President and Chair Kimberly Reed reiterated a message made by former U.S. Secretary of State Michael Pompeo underscoring the importance of global trade, supply chains and cooperation.³⁷²⁴

On 4 May 2020, EXIM increased coverage of its Supply Chain Finance Guarantee Program and Working Capital Guarantee Program to support a wider range of domestic suppliers and exporters affected by the pandemic.³⁷²⁵

On 22 October 2020, the EXIM Board voted to inform Congress of a potential USD500 million Supply Chain Guarantee Finance program.³⁷²⁶ The guarantee would benefit 1,900 aviation jobs across the country and support the aircraft supply chain affected by COVID-19.³⁷²⁷

On 21 January 2021, President Joseph R. Biden signed an executive order on a sustainable public health supply chain.³⁷²⁸ The executive order directed immediate action toward securing necessary supplies for responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁷²⁹ It ordered a review of the ability of critical materials, treatments,

³⁷²¹ Trump invokes Defense Production Act to expand production of hospital masks and more, CNN (Atlanta) 18 March 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.cnn.com/2020/03/18/politics/trump-defense-production-act-coronavirus/index.html>.

³⁷²² Letter from Congress of the United States to the President, Congress of the United States (Washington D.C.) 13 March 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021.

<https://andylevin.house.gov/sites/andylevin.house.gov/files/031320%20House%20to%20POTUS%20on%20DPA%20COVID-19.pdf>.

³⁷²³ President Trump Underscores Role of EXIM in U.S. Government's Assistance to Italy in Fighting the COVID-19 Pandemic and Supporting the Recovery of the Italian Economy, Export-Import Bank of the United States (Washington D.C.) 11 April 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.exim.gov/news/president-trump-underscores-role-exim-government%E2%80%99s-assistance-italy-fighting-covid-19-pandemic>.

³⁷²⁴ President Trump Underscores Role of EXIM in U.S. Government's Assistance to Italy in Fighting the COVID-19 Pandemic and Supporting the Recovery of the Italian Economy, Export-Import Bank of the United States (Washington D.C.) 11 April 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.exim.gov/news/president-trump-underscores-role-exim-government%E2%80%99s-assistance-italy-fighting-covid-19-pandemic>.

³⁷²⁵ EXIM Increases U.S. Exporter Access to Capital and Supply Chain Financing During COVID-19 by Raising Lender Guarantee Coverage Option to 95 Percent, Export-Import Bank of the United States (Washington D.C.) 4 May 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.exim.gov/news/exim-increases-exporter-access-capital-and-supply-chain-financing-during-covid-19-raising>.

³⁷²⁶ EXIM Board Votes to Notify Congress of Potential \$500 Million Supply Chain Finance Guarantee Supporting an Estimated 1,900 Jobs Across the United States, Including in California, Florida, Kansas, New York, Texas, and Washington, Export-Import Bank of the United States (Washington D.C.) 22 October 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.exim.gov/news/exim-board-votes-notify-congress-potential-500-million-supply-chain-finance-guarantee>.

³⁷²⁷ EXIM Board Votes to Notify Congress of Potential \$500 Million Supply Chain Finance Guarantee Supporting an Estimated 1,900 Jobs Across the United States, Including in California, Florida, Kansas, New York, Texas, and Washington, Export-Import Bank of the United States (Washington D.C.) 22 October 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.exim.gov/news/exim-board-votes-notify-congress-potential-500-million-supply-chain-finance-guarantee>.

³⁷²⁸ Executive Order on a Sustainable Public Health Supply Chain, The White House, (Washington D.C.) 21 January 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/01/21/executive-order-a-sustainable-public-health-supply-chain/>.

³⁷²⁹ Executive Order on a Sustainable Public Health Supply Chain, The White House, (Washington D.C.) 21 January 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/01/21/executive-order-a-sustainable-public-health-supply-chain/>.

and supplies needed to combat COVID-19 (e.g. personal protective equipment).³⁷³⁰ Moreover, it called for a review of the necessary resources to produce and distribute COVID-19 tests and vaccines.³⁷³¹

On 17 February 2021, Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken announced that the U.S. will cooperate with international partners to expand manufacturing, distribution capacity, and increase access to COVID-19 vaccines.³⁷³² Secretary Blinken additionally promised a further contribution of USD200 million to the World Health Organization to support them in leading the global response to the pandemic.³⁷³³

On 24 February 2021, President Biden signed an executive order on America's supply chains.³⁷³⁴ The executive order recognized the need for the United States to develop "resilient, diverse, and secure supply chains to ensure our economic prosperity and national security."³⁷³⁵ The order outlined necessary actions that must be undertaken in order to strengthen the resilience of America's supply chain including coordination between executive branch actions, consulting outside stakeholders, and completing a review of supply chain risks.³⁷³⁶

The United States has demonstrated initiative to address disturbances to domestic and international supply chains.

Thus, the United States has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Joseph MuQin Shen

European Union: +1

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to address disturbances to international supply chains.

On 26 May 2020, Charles Michel, President of the European Council; Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan; and Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission, agreed to promote the cross-border flow of medical supplies, agricultural products and raw materials, while ensuring that the necessary emergency measures of tackling COVID-19 pandemic did not create unnecessary disruption to global supply chains.³⁷³⁷

On 8 June 2020, the European Union-Vietnam Investment Protection Agreement was approved by the Vietnamese National Assembly.³⁷³⁸ The agreement will strengthen the international trade system by extending

³⁷³⁰ Executive Order on a Sustainable Public Health Supply Chain, The White House, (Washington D.C.) 21 January 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/01/21/executive-order-a-sustainable-public-health-supply-chain/>.

³⁷³¹ Executive Order on a Sustainable Public Health Supply Chain, The White House, (Washington D.C.) 21 January 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/01/21/executive-order-a-sustainable-public-health-supply-chain/>.

³⁷³² Press Release: Secretary Antony J. Blinken Remarks to the UN Security Council Briefing on COVID-19 and Vaccine Access, United States Department of State (Washington D.C.) 17 February 2021. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.state.gov/secretary-antony-j-blinken-remarks-to-the-un-security-council-briefing-on-covid-19-and-vaccine-access/>

³⁷³³ Press Release: Secretary Antony J. Blinken Remarks to the UN Security Council Briefing on COVID-19 and Vaccine Access, United States Department of State (Washington D.C.) 17 February 2021. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.state.gov/secretary-antony-j-blinken-remarks-to-the-un-security-council-briefing-on-covid-19-and-vaccine-access/>

³⁷³⁴ 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/>.

³⁷³⁵ 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/>.

³⁷³⁶ 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/>.

³⁷³⁷ Joint Press release: Japan-EU Leaders' meeting, European Council (Brussel) 25 May 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2020. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/05/26/joint-press-release-japan-eu-leaders-meeting/>.

³⁷³⁸ Signal of support for rules-based free trade in times of crisis: Vietnamese National Assembly paves the way for free trade agreement with the EU, Department of Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 8 June 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2020.

common rules and standards among the two areas, making it an important contribution by the European Union in protecting supply chains against future crises.³⁷³⁹

On 7 October 2020, the incoming Trade Commissioner of the European Union, Valdis Dombrovskis, announced plans to complete the ongoing EU Trade Policy Review and implement digital trade policies that will increase the resilience of global supply chains.³⁷⁴⁰

On 28 October 2020, the European Commission adopted new measures in taxation and customs to fight against the ongoing coronavirus, including temporarily lifting custom duties and value-added tax on the import of protective and medical equipment from non-European Union countries.³⁷⁴¹

On 1 December 2020, the European Council approved conclusions calling on member states and the European Commission to promote human rights in global supply chains.³⁷⁴² The Council asked the Commission to launch an EU Action Plan to focus on shaping sustainable global supply chains and to promote human rights.³⁷⁴³

On 2 December 2020, European Union health ministers agreed at an informal video conference held by the German Presidency of the Council of the European Union to diversify and increase transparency in production and supply chains, which will encourage the production and investment of critical medicinal products in Europe and thereby reduce the vulnerability of and dependence on global supply chains.³⁷⁴⁴

On 3 December 2020, President Michel introduced an international treaty on the pandemic within the framework of the World Health Organization to improve the resilience of supply chains and secure the supply chains.³⁷⁴⁵

On 18 December 2020, the European Council approved a conclusion to ensure the supply of medicinal products throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁷⁴⁶ The Council invited the European Commission to

<https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/aussenpolitik/laenderinformationen/vietnam-node/free-trade-agreement-vietnam/2330220>.

³⁷³⁹ Signal of support for rules-based free trade in times of crisis: Vietnamese National Assembly paves the way for free trade agreement with the EU, Department of Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 8 June 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2020. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/aussenpolitik/laenderinformationen/vietnam-node/free-trade-agreement-vietnam/2330220>.

³⁷⁴⁰ The EU can set the pace worldwide with a forward-thinking digital trade strategy, EuroNews (France) 7 October 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2020. <https://www.euronews.com/2020/10/07/the-eu-can-set-the-pace-worldwide-with-a-forward-thinking-digital-trade-strategy-view>.

³⁷⁴¹ COVID-19: Commission puts forward taxation and customs measures to support access to more affordable equipment, vaccines and testing kits, European Commission (Brussels) 28 October 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/news/covid-19-commission-puts-forward-taxation-and-customs-measures-support-access-more-affordable-equipment-vaccines-and-testing-kits_en.

³⁷⁴² Human rights and decent work in global supply chains: the Council approves conclusions, European Council (Brussels) 1 December 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/12/01/human-rights-and-decent-work-in-global-supply-chains-the-council-approves-conclusions/>.

³⁷⁴³ Human rights and decent work in global supply chains: the Council approves conclusions, European Council (Brussels) 1 December 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/12/01/human-rights-and-decent-work-in-global-supply-chains-the-council-approves-conclusions/>.

³⁷⁴⁴ Informal Meeting of Health Ministers, Department of Federal Ministry of Health (Berlin) 18 December 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2020. <https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/eu2020/en/topics-and-documents/epsco.html>.

³⁷⁴⁵ Press release by President Charles Michel on an International Treaty on Pandemics, European Council (Brussels) 3 December 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2020. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/12/03/press-release-by-president-charles-michel-on-an-international-treaty-on-pandemics/>.

“reinforce the existing EU level tools in order to collect information on the whole supply chain, such as sources of supply, global manufacturing sites for active pharmaceutical ingredients and other pharmaceutical substances.”³⁷⁴⁷ Moreover, the Council recognized the need for the European Health Data Space to “contribute to the cross-border use and re-use of health data for better healthcare, better research, as well as better policy-making and regulatory activities in health.”³⁷⁴⁸

On 9 March 2021, the European Parliament endorsed the provisional agreement for the new EU4Health programme for 2021-2027.³⁷⁴⁹ The primary goal of the programme is to prepare EU health systems for future health threats and pandemics.³⁷⁵⁰ During the plenary debate, the Ministers of European Parliament “welcomed the establishment at EU level of a stockpile of essential health supplies and equipment.”³⁷⁵¹ This would help to temporarily resolve bottlenecks in the supply chain during times of emergency.³⁷⁵²

On 10 March 2021, the European Parliament passed a resolution for due diligence in combatting environmental and human rights issues along supply chains of EU businesses, which includes measures such as fines and sanctions against companies that are found to be violating rules.³⁷⁵³

On 19 March 2021, the European Commission announced their continued support of the United Nations World Food Programme and its global supply chains to transport critical COVID-19 relief.³⁷⁵⁴

The European Union has initiated and engaged with multilateral efforts to address the disruptions in international supply chains.

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

Analyst: Tianyang (Victoria) Wa

³⁷⁴⁶ COVID-19 lessons learned in health: the Council approves conclusions, European Council (Brussels) 18 December 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/12/18/covid-19-lessons-learned-in-health-the-council-approves-conclusions/>.

³⁷⁴⁷ COVID-19 lessons learned in health: the Council approves conclusions, European Council (Brussels) 18 December 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/12/18/covid-19-lessons-learned-in-health-the-council-approves-conclusions/>.

³⁷⁴⁸ COVID-19 lessons learned in health: the Council approves conclusions, European Council (Brussels) 18 December 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/12/18/covid-19-lessons-learned-in-health-the-council-approves-conclusions/>.

³⁷⁴⁹ Parliament gives green light for new EU4Health programme, European Parliament (Brussels) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210304IPR99207/parliament-gives-green-light-for-new-eu4health-programme>.

³⁷⁵⁰ Parliament gives green light for new EU4Health programme, European Parliament (Brussels) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210304IPR99207/parliament-gives-green-light-for-new-eu4health-programme>.

³⁷⁵¹ Parliament gives green light for new EU4Health programme, European Parliament (Brussels) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210304IPR99207/parliament-gives-green-light-for-new-eu4health-programme>.

³⁷⁵² Parliament gives green light for new EU4Health programme, European Parliament (Brussels) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210304IPR99207/parliament-gives-green-light-for-new-eu4health-programme>.

³⁷⁵³ MEPs: Companies must no longer cause harm to people and planet with impunity, European Parliament (Brussels) 10 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210304IPR99216/meps-companies-must-no-longer-cause-harm-to-people-and-planet-with-impunity>.

³⁷⁵⁴ European Union supports WFP operations to transport critical Covid-19 relief, United Nations World Food Programme (Rome) 19 March 2021. Access Date: 12 April 2021. <https://www.wfp.org/news/european-union-supports-wfp-operations-transport-critical-covid-19-relief>.