

**To:** HAUGAARD Per (CAB-VON DER LEYEN); LODRANT Martina (CAB-VON DER LEYEN); KARNITSCHNIG Michael (SG); [REDACTED])  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Report - meeting PRES CAB with US Chamber of Commerce on WTO matters-5/5

**Meeting PRES CAB with representatives of US Chamber of Commerce on WTO matters – 5 May 2022**

Participants:

US Chamber – see below

Commission: Per Haugaard, Martina Lodrant (PRES CAB), [REDACTED]

The main topic of the discussions was related to a possible TRIPS waiver within the WTO. The Delegation of the US Chamber has been in Geneva for meetings earlier that week.


The US Chamber voiced its concerns about the text, process and repercussions of such a TRIPS waiver, as well as the impact on the WTO at large, even more so if this would be the only significant outcome at the upcoming MC 12. They also regretted the lack of progress on other initiatives within the WTO, incl. the trade and health initiative. They pointed to export restrictions (e.g. from India) having had a significant negative impact in the fight against Covid, while IP has been key in developing vaccines. The Chamber pointed to diverging views within the US Government, as well as significant opposition within Congress which at the least would need to be consulted for the domestic adoption of a possible waiver. Adopting the text as it stands by the WTO would only further increase scepticism of Congress as regards multilateral trade generally, and comes on top of domestic IP-related on-going legislative initiatives.

The Delegation pointed to the importance of IP protection for investments, including in Africa. The waiver could set a precedent for future crisis as well and for other sectors, such as climate and clean tech. The Chamber also stated that the situation has significantly evolved since the start of the discussion on a TRIPS waiver, and that there is now a surplus of vaccines and that some production sites (incl. in Africa) had to be closed down.

The Commission explained its position.

**Participants from US Chamber:**

Name	Surname	Organisation
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Advamed
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Bayer
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Biotechnology Innovation Organization
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Eli Lilly
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	MSD
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Pfizer
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	PhRMA
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	PhRMA

		<b>Qualcomm</b>
		<b>U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Global Innovation Policy Center</b>