

From: [REDACTED] [TRADE](#)
To: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] at OpenEU - notes
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Meeting between Director Ignacio Garcia Bercero and OpenEU – 4 December 2020

Participants:

Garcia Bercero, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] - DG Trade
[REDACTED] - Spirits Europe
[REDACTED] - Copa Cogeca
[REDACTED] BSA The Software Alliance
[REDACTED] - CEMEX
[REDACTED] - Fertilizers Europe
[REDACTED] - COCERAL
[REDACTED] - WindEurope
[REDACTED] - Eurolait
[REDACTED] - FESI
[REDACTED] - CEMA
[REDACTED] - CELCAA
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IGB had been invited to discuss the trade policy review with a group of association representatives that had gathered under the banner of “OpenEU”. He provided an overview of the process – with more than 400 submissions received from stakeholder – and key priorities. The TPR needed to have a more medium-term perspective, also in view of the new geopolitical environment. It was important to place trade policy in this new context. There was a reflection ongoing on strategic priorities. Ensuring WTO effectiveness was a key priority.

The questions from participants were wide-ranging – from the interlinkages between OSA and strategic autonomy concepts, to the relationship between trade policy and other areas, in particular green recovery, CBAM, but also industrial policy. There were also questions on what could be expected in relation to the WTO.

IGB underlined that overall, a better integration of EU policies would be necessary. The climate transition would have huge implications for EU and that all EU policies need to be consistent with these goals. Any measures need to be fully compatible with WTO commitments. In addition, on domestic measures, need to be very much focused that whatever we do can be explained to our partners – not to deal with protectionism, or competitiveness – but environmental concerns. On WTO, it was central to EU trade policy, there are many things to be done to make WTO function properly again. We need to maintain a binding system and an independent appellate body. The absence of rules in WTO of rules to LPF – SOEs, subsidies, FTT – was also a priority.

Other issues raised by participants were concerns with US 232 tariffs, the aircraft dispute, trade defence, and the prospects of new FTAs, particularly in SE Asia.