Report – Meeting with the Information Technology Industry Council (ITI) on Trade and Technology Council (TTC), 4 October 2022

Participants: ITI policy team, ITI Board members
DG TRADE:

( ) was invited to an informal conversation on the ongoing work on TTC, with ITI Board members. The objective of the meeting was to understand the state of play of the TTC work and for ITI to convey some pertinent messages or queries in view of the upcoming TTC3. ( ) provided a state of play of preparations.
Finally, ( ) touched upon the IRA which contains several discriminatory provisions, not facilitating the cooperative spirit within the TTC work.

ITI member (a telco provider for b2b) asked if the US new trade “America first” philosophy and the EU’s fear of supply chain dependence play a role in the TTC progress.
( ) recognised that the EU also has concerns on supply dependencies in the EU, which are in place in several sectors. But the EU will also strive to create a reliable supply chains framework, able to also involve non-likeminded partners.

Google auspicates a progress in the dataflow and e-commerce areas. IBM asked to develop more on the artificial intelligence roadmap.
conceded that it's pivotal for both EU and US to progress on dataflow and e-commerce as well as on the artificial intelligence. Especially considering the high volume of trade in services and the elevated number of jobs involved.

Intel asked to elaborate more on the "early warning" systems in the supply chain and in particular in the field of semiconductors.

confirmed the full EU awareness on the increasing need of semiconductors and on the necessity to diversify the supply.

highlighted the importance for US and EU to support this industry, in a non-discriminatory way.

Ebay asked whether the TTC will address the difficulties that Small Medium Enterprises (SMEs) face when abiding by the existing import obligations on safety and sustainability, in both the EU and the US.

agrees on the importance to increase SME engagement and advantages from the digital transition and recalled that there is a WG dedicated to the SME.

The meeting concluded with considerations by ITI and on the importance that the TTC ensures that it stays relevant also for the green transition. This could be an important policy objective of TTC4.