MEETING WITH EUROCHAMBERS, 18 May 2022

Summary:

Eurochambers invited for a discussion on the current state of play of the EU-US trade relations, notably focusing on the outcomes of the Trade and Technology Council (TTC) Paris ministerial meeting. As a way of introduction, emphasised that the transatlantic relationship has seen a reboot, moving away from disputes into positive cooperation, with the TTC at its centre. He underlined the role of stakeholders, who must remain the primary beneficiary of the result-oriented work. For that we continue to look for inputs for specific projects to be pursued. also summarised the main outcomes of the TTC Paris ministerial (support for Ukraine, supply chains, emerging technology and sustainability) and elaborated on the trade-related results coming out of the TTC, such as exchange mechanism on potential trade barriers, increased cooperation on procurement or sectorial conformity assessment initiatives as well as the newly set up Trade and Labour Dialogue.

In the discussion, Eurochambers highlighted its support for the TTC work (also via statement released with 16 other business associations). Specifically on the announced outcomes, Eurochambers underlined that the Trade and Labour Dialogue should be as inclusive as possible, not limited to a strict definition of social partners. Moreover, the CFO of Eurochambers (Chamber Ireland), was interested in how the TTC as a cooperation platform could be made future-proof. Eurochambers and the CZ Chamber of Commerce were then interested in possible expansion of cooperation in critical minerals and energy supply chains. The AT Chamber of Commerce representative was then interested to know, whether the TTC will serve as a shield against unilateral measures such as the Section 232 or Section 301. Finally, coming to the issue of engagement of stakeholders, representative of DF Chamber of Commerce in the US noted that US is lagging behind in terms of stakeholder engagement, notably compared to other Administration's initiative such as the Indo-Pacific Framework and hence encouraged the Commission to continue its active outreach activities and to ensure that the TTC provided results that would also have strong impact in media and public opinion. Eurochambers would on that basis reach out to its membership to collect more input.

[Art.4.1(b)]