To: [Art.4.1(b)]
Subject: Report meeting between R. Schlegelmilch and ITI on 01/03/2022

Report of meeting with ITI on the TTC

The Information Technology Industry Council (ITI) requested a virtual meeting with Director Rupert Schlegelmilch (RS) to discuss the upcoming second ministerial meeting of the EU-US Trade and Technology Council (TTC), and present its recommendations for future cooperation areas.

The representatives of ITI started by outlining its interest in having the TTC addressing and avoiding new and unnecessary barriers to trade in technology products and services. Further, the EU and US should seek shared approaches to counter model problematic policies being advanced by many third-countries. Specifically, this should be done through establishing bilateral commitments that avoid discrimination on the basis of geography or economic sector, ensure that security and competitiveness objectives are taken into consideration, provide appropriate opportunities for regulatory dialogue, and promote compatible approaches based on objective criteria. Technical barriers to trade in technology goods and services should also be addressed with a commitment to base regulatory or procurement requirements on international, industry-driven, voluntary technical standards. ITI mentioned cybersecurity as an example, which should not lead to collateral damage of domestic measures.

RS replied by outlining the Commission's thinking for the second TTC ministerial meeting. In this, the first meeting in Pittsburgh was to establish the TTC and scope the areas of cooperation. The second meeting will be to agree on work-plans and envisioned deliverables, while already offering first cooperation outcomes. In doing so, the EU and US would also look at ways to approach global trade challenges, specifically in Working Group 10. However, digital issues are at being discussed in numerous working groups of the TTC, e.g. standards and regulatory issues in Working Group 1. The EU aims to identify shared views across a whole range of digital issues, and see how the cooperation can offer benefit to the EU-US partnership, while respecting the regulatory autonomy of both sides. The second TTC ministerial meeting will then have to show how much commonalities of views exist. He closed by inviting ITI to submit its comments and views through the Commission's Futurium platform on the TTC, which should help in the engagement with stakeholders.