EU-India Trade and Technology Council

Stakeholders’ Event on Working Group 3
on “Trade, Investment and Resilient Value Chains”

Scene Setter:

A stakeholders’ meeting will be organised in the margin of the first meeting of the EU-India Trade and Technology Council (TTC), modelled on what is done for the EU-US TTC, in order to fully associate business interests to the TTC process. You will co-chair the meeting together with Indian Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal. Given the limited time to organise the event, participation will be limited to a small number of EU and Indian business organisations at Director/Secretary-General level. The meeting will take place in hybrid mode to facilitate Indian participation in virtual mode.

- On the EU side, the four participants will be the following: BusinessEurope; DigitalEurope;
  Art. 4(1)(b) FoodDrinkEurope; European Automobile
  Manufacturers’ Association (ACEA); and European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations (EFPIA). The good representation of EU agri-food interest reflects the importance of these issues in EU-India trade flows, including both in terms of trade irritants and in relation to resilient value chains. To be noted that a positive consultation meeting took place with BusinessEurope at Director level on 27 April (see report in annex)

- On the Indian side, participants will be:

The meeting will be structured based on a concept note (see in annex) which covers both substance and organisational aspects and was agreed with the India side:

- The exchange of views will be centred around the four topics identified by Working Group 3 for the year ahead, namely: resilient value chains, market access issues, screening of foreign direct investment, and multilateral trade issues. The aim will be to share insights and perspectives on actions that could help create a more favourable environment for trade and investment in relation to these areas, as a complement to the bilateral agreements under negotiations on trade, investment protection and geographical indications.

- Regarding the choreography, you will open the meeting, followed by Minister Goyal, through a 7-8 minutes intervention each (15 minutes altogether). The 12 participants will then intervene for about 5 minutes each over the next 60 minutes. Minister Goyal and you will close the meeting, again through a 7-8 minutes intervention each (15 minutes altogether). The overall meeting should last 1.5 hour.

Objectives of the meeting

- What we want:
  - Ensure an open and inclusive process by being in listening mode, whereby stakeholders will feel fully associated to the TTC process.

- What the interlocutor wants:
  - Business interests will pass on some key messages on their own priorities and expectations regarding the TTC and its concrete outcomes.
Main messages

Introductory remark:

- I would like to welcome both the Indian and the EU participants to this stakeholders’ meeting, which I have the honour of co-chairing with Indian Commerce Minister Goyal.
- This meeting is held in the margins of the first meeting of the EU-India Trade and Technology Council, which will take place tomorrow in Brussels.
- The TTC is a major new endeavour between the EU and India, which further consolidates our already strong and forward-looking Strategic Partnership. In the area of trade and investment, it will allow us to complement the agreements on trade, investment protection and geographical indications that are currently under negotiations.
- Tomorrow’s meeting will discuss and agree on a work plan for the three working groups established under the TTC for the first year, until the TTC meets again. For Working Group 3, for which Minister Goyal and I share the responsibility, we intend to focus on resilient value chains, market access irritants, FDI screening and global trade issues.
- At this stage, the work plan identifies main priorities under each strand. This will have to be further refined through exchanges between our experts in the coming weeks and months. For instance, regarding resilient value chains, experts are working on general principles while the specific sectors will be decided at a later stage.
- Given the importance of the TTC and of the topics we will discuss under Working Group 3, it is necessary to associate a good representation of business interests to our work. We want you to bring your added value to the TTC, notably to ensure the relevance of its work.
- I want to thank you all for being here, whether physically or virtually, and we will be to listening to you with great interest.

[Hand over to Minister Goyal for his own introduction].

Closing remarks:

[Let Minister Goyal intervene first].

- I want to thank you all for your pertinent and useful remarks.
- As I said before, nothing is cast in stone, and our experts will do their best to reflect your input into their practical work in the weeks and months to come.
- However, let me also be clear that it will not be possible – nor is it in fact desirable – to cover all pertinent issues during the first year.
- Our goal is to be operational, in order to have an impact. This means focusing on select issues and looking into them in a thorough way.
- Let me conclude that this is only the start of the journey. We are building a long-term Strategic Partnership and there will be many more TTC meetings.