

*All redactions covered by Art. 4.1(b)*

**Report:** 16 October – DG Sabine Weyand at BusinessEUrope International Relations Committee

**Participants:**

COM: Sabine Weyand (DG) [REDACTED]

BE: [REDACTED] IRC (plenary session representation)

**Summary:**

A plenary session of the International Relations Committee (IRC) of BusinessEurope took place on 16 October 2019, at which DG Sabine Weyand was invited to participate. The discussion focussed on the following issues:

- IRC expressed a strong interest in receiving update on the current state of play and inquired about the future priorities on the EU Trade agenda.
- IRC highlighted the importance of maintaining a multilateral trade system based on rules and inquired about the latest developments concerning WTO reform.
- IRC shared information about BE's upcoming comprehensive position paper on China, which focuses on the need to rebalance EU-China economic relations.
- IRC inquired about the prospects of a positive relaunch in EU-US trade relations while expressing their concerns about the current state of play.
- IRC asked about an update on the bilateral relations with India, in view of their new Minister in charge of trade and new negotiations team.
- IRC asked about the latest developments on the EU's FTA agenda and raised particular questions about the TSD chapters in FTAs.
- IRC stressed the importance of implementation and enforcement and inquired about the future of the Enforcement Regulation.
- IRC inquired about the potential Carbon Border Tax and its link with existing instruments addressing carbon leakage.

DG Weyand outlined the state of play and potential next steps on the above-mentioned issues and responded to the questions raised by members of the IRC.