

Cabinet of President von der Leyen – Meeting minutes

MEETING CONCLUSIONS

Title	Meeting with BusinessEurope
Date	14/07/2022
Participants	Ext: Luisa Santos COM: Martina Lodrant and Federico Ohle
Issues raised & follow-up	<p>Representatives from BusinessEurope (BE) held a meeting with Ms Martina Lodrant (CAB PDT) on the overall EU bilateral trade agenda. BE informed that it will share with PDT a paper on CN meant to draw companies' attention to doing business with CN and to the fact that CN remains a necessary partner on issues such as climate change, for example. BE highlighted its support to the EU's bilateral trade agenda and expressed appreciation for the conclusion of the FTA with NZ and the adoption of the new approach on sustainability (raising the question if all partners would accept it). BE inquired about the outlook for the coming months, also with regards engagement with African countries.</p> <p>Asia</p> <p>Ms Lodrant confirmed the commitment to advance the bilateral trade agenda to diversify and promote economic growth. She reported on a first positive reaction to NZ FTA. She observed that with a new government in AUS there could be a new push for the FTA negotiations. She noted that FTA negotiations with INDO remained difficult, adding that Global Gateway investment projects may help address some concerns. She explained that IN is a big priority, pointing out that the role of TTC is to maintain a constant political input in the technical work.</p> <p>BE reported on good contacts with IN industry and on the interest from IN side on deeper relations. BE explained that IN has two major interests: services, and textiles and investments there. BE stressed the need to keep a close dialogue with IN that could be problematic on things like data. BE reported on two issues coming from EU industry on which little can be conceded to IN: dairy and public procurement (on cars and spirits there is some flexibility, but difficult to eliminate duties completely).</p> <p>Latin America</p> <p>BE shared that BZ Presidential candidate Mr Lula made some statements against the FTA but can be persuaded, adding that PT and ES can help with this.</p> <p>Ms Lodrant welcomed the support of MS for the FTAs and underlined the important role of the upcoming Council PCY Trio.</p> <p>Africa</p> <p>BE observed that SA and MA are the biggest countries that are the most difficult to convince, highlighting that SA has raw materials that can substitute RU ones.</p> <p>Ms Lodrant informed of the intention to work more through Global Gateway and with private sector. BE reported that companies are asking where the</p>

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projects are and how to be involved. Participants agreed to a follow-up after the summer.

United States

BE outlined the following main challenges: what the EU wants from TTC and what the US wants does not always align, diverging goals and preferences. BE explained that for US, commerce is more on internal agenda and about building resilience on supply chains and attracting investments. BE highlighted regulatory alignment as a priority, explaining that the message has to come from the White House. As regulatory priorities, BE pointed out the following: new technologies, medical devices, automotive, chemicals, machinery (all traditional sectors that remain key). BE finally asked for improvements on possibilities for further engagement.