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Sent: Thursday, February 6, 2020 9:01 AM
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Subject: Minute of meeting with the Business Round Table

Commissioner Hogan updated the ERT on the EU's free trade agenda in times of rising protectionism. Finding a positive agenda with the US, reforming the WTO and steering carefully through negotiations with the UK were important priorities in this regard. There was a need to challenge populism, communicate better the benefits of our FTA's particularly to SME's which are the bedrock of the European Economy.

ERT welcomed Commissioner Hogan's state of play on latest **US talks** and in particular signs that a small window of opportunity is being opened. They were pleased to note that there is scope to pursue a positive agenda. Commissioner Hogan was hopeful that latest signals from President Trump indicated an interest to engage on **WTO reform**. He welcomed the fact that President Trump had invited the Secretary General of the WTO to come to Washington. Commissioner Hogan said he would keep the door open to cooperate with the US. He highlighted the benefits of the JCJ/Trump July 2018 deal which resulted in a 100% increase in US soya to the EU, 180% increase in maize and 600% increase in LNG. SPS is an issue which the USA always raise

On China, Commissioner Hogan felt China were engaging on the investment agreement – industrial subsidies and forced technology transfer were key issues. E commerce negotiations were ongoing. He updated on the amending the enforcement regulation. Ratification of the FTA with Vietnam is ongoing in the European parliament

Commissioner Hogan reminded of the need to strengthen the **EU toolbox** - not to close our markets, but to get more reciprocity, keep EU competitiveness and encourage free and fair trade. He stressed the need for swift agreement on the enforcement regulation.

The Green Deal was mentioned in the context of the carbon border adjustment mechanism. Commissioner Hogan advised that Commissioner Gentiloni had line responsibility and he advised the ERT to engage with him as soon as possible. There would be an impact assessment. Stakeholder consultation would be important

On steel safeguards the Commissioner said that the initiation of the review investigation will take place by means of a notice of initiations in the Official Journal. This will provide all the necessary information for the interested parties who will want to make their views known. He expected that this notice would be published around mid-February.

Turning to **post Brexit negotiations**, Commissioner Hogan explained that certain priorities would have to be made and that the important thing was to first focus on issues that are economically important.

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