

To: SCHLEGELMILCH Rupert (TRADE); [REDACTED] (TRADE);
[REDACTED] (TRADE); [REDACTED] (TRADE); [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] (TRADE)
Cc: MELNGAILE Elina (CAB-DOMBROVSKIS); [REDACTED] (CAB-DOMBROVSKIS)
Subject: FW: Report (virtual) meeting TABC - CAB Dombrovskis, 20.04.2021, 16h-16h45

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Participants:

Several TABC representatives as well as representatives of some of its member companies (Oracle, Electrolux, Air Liquide, BBVA, AUDI AG, Covington, Pfizer) and K&L Gates

COM: Elina Melngaile (CAB Dombrovskis) and [REDACTED] (TRADE, D-1)

[REDACTED] TABC, opened the discussion. He first presented TABC, the “Transatlantic Business Council”, which he described as one of the few remaining business association, gathering companies from both sides of the Atlantic. TABC stands for strong transatlantic cooperation and coordination on economic and political issues. It has recently expressed support for the renewed transatlantic partnership and the Trade and Technology Council. Purpose of the meeting was to pick up the regular dialogue that TABC has had since several years with TRADE CABs and to discuss the state of play of transatlantic trade relations.

Elina Melngaile, CAB Dombrovskis, presented the current state of transatlantic trade relations, referring to the offer that the EU made to the US for a renewed transatlantic partnership, as laid down in the December 2020 Communication on a new EU-US Agenda for Global Change, and to the first contacts of EVP Dombrovskis with USTR Tai and US Commerce Secretary Raimondo following the election of Mr Biden as US president. She then gave an overview of the main files that are discussed as a matter of priority with the US: resolving the aircraft disputes (with the 4-month suspension of tariffs) and the Section 232 dispute on aluminium and steel; engaging on a positive agenda, notably the launch of a trade and technology council, cooperation on the trade and climate and on trade and labour, and WTO reform.

The floor was then opened for questions.

[REDACTED] (**Audi, Germany**) asked about the state of play of EU-US regulatory dialogues and about the increase in June 2021 of the EU’s duties relating to the Section 232 dispute. Elina Melngaile confirmed that regulatory dialogues did not advance under the previous presidency and that the EU looks forward to picking up those dialogues with the new presidency, notably in the context of the Trade and Technology Council. On Section 232, she explained that the EU has made concrete proposals to the US to resolve the dispute and has proposed a 6-months suspension of the tariffs on both sides, to allow sufficient time to discuss and find a solution. We are now waiting for the US’s reaction to these proposals. In case no agreement can be reached, the second tranche of the EU’s rebalancing measures will apply as of 1 June 2021.

[REDACTED] indicated that TABC had expressed its support to the US for the launch of a Trade and Technology Council and asked how further TABC could help.

Elina Melngaile thanked TABC for the support and considered that the ball is now in the US camp. She pointed at positive signals from the US and at the EU-US Summit that is coming up in June, with both sides now considering concrete deliverables.

Finally [REDACTED] asked whether prospects of reaching consensus on WTO reform have improved.

Elina Melngaile referred to the detailed EU proposal on WTO reform in the Annex to the Trade Policy Review, which has also been shared with the US. She also referred at new momentum due to the appointment of the new Director General at the WTO and the fact that the US again embraces a multilateral approach. Further she pointed at the points of convergence with the US on WTO reform (with main divergence relating to the dispute settlement mechanism). The EU is now discussing deliverables for MC12 with the US, Canada and other like-minded partners.

[REDACTED] thanked Elina Melngaile for the discussion and underlined that TABC remains at the EU's disposal to contribute to the discussion and provide support where useful.

[REDACTED] - EU-US Trade Relations



European Commission
DG TRADE, Unit D1

[REDACTED]
B-1049 Brussels/Belgium
+32 2 [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]