

Conference organized by EFPIA

Meeting date and place

Meeting held on 24/09/2020 14:00 in Brussels

Participating organisation(s) & representative(s)

[Art. 4.1 (b)]	-- BUSINESSEUROPE (TRN: 3978240953-79)	Participant.
[Art. 4.1 (b)]	-- European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations (TRN: 38526121292-88)	Participant.
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[Art. 4.1 (b)]	[Art. 4.1 (b)] European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations (TRN: 38526121292-88)	Participant. Requester. Contact.
[Art. 4.1 (b)]	-- SANOFI (TRN: 61291462764-77)	Participant.

Main issues discussed

The panellists made the following points:

[Art. 4.1 (b)], Sanofi):

- Strategic importance of pharma sector demonstrated by the Covid crisis (
- Our message during the crisis was: No export ban, we can supply!
- Dangers of reshoring and buy American. Growing risk to go into protectionist measures. Concept of Open Strategic Autonomy needs to be clarified in this regard.
- Need strong IP system, must be part of future FTAs.
- Need to link trade and industrial to create eco system for innovation.

[Art. 4.1 (b)] :

- TPR ongoing, views welcome
- Need to adapt our trade policy to current challenges. Covid plus resilience, digital and green transitions...
- OSA: some misunderstandings: we need openness and work with partners, not protectionism. Autonomy is not isolation. Globalisation not cause for the crisis, de-globalisation not the solution.
- Also be more assertive in pursuing our rights when others do not cooperate. Like CBAM.
- Insist on openness, global cooperation, global rules
- Link with industrial strategy: mutually reinforcing need integrated approach
- Nature of communication; more general principles than long list of actions to provide for consensus on strategic direction, but keeping flexibility when facing uncertain future.
- Pharma strategy to come, cannot anticipate outcome.
- Need for more efforts to integrate internal and external policies in the EU.

[Art. 4.1 (b)], BusinessEurope)

- Open markets and open trade key to get out of the crisis.
- Need ambitious trade agenda espec on bilateral front because multilateral one does not depend on us. We must keep creating opportunities for companies for both exports and imports.
- Mercosur is a good deal for Europe. Also a way to have leverage on sustainability.
- EU cannot be fully self sufficient. Let's also not forget that most economic growth is generated outside the EU.
- Need to implement trade agreements better. Lots remain to be done.
- Improve market access strategy
- Need to be smart and pragmatic, coordinate better with other policies, not look inward.

[Art. 4.1 (b)], University of St. Gallen

- Need to put facts on the table and not only opinions.
- EU dependency on pharma and medical goods from China is in fact limited
- Governments played a role in disrupting GVCs
- More than overdependence the real question is can we have security of supply.
- The crisis offers a great opportunity to make the case for openness and show that international trade help secure supply.

Directorate or unit

TRADE A/2

Internal participants

[Art. 4.1 (b)] TRADE A/2 [Art. 4.1 (b)] @ec.europa.eu **Participant. Requested for.**

[Art. 4.1 (b)] TRADE A/2 [Art. 4.1 (b)] @ec.europa.eu **Participant. Notetaker.**

Author(s) of minutes

[Art. 4.1 (b)]

Validator and validation date

[Art. 4.1 (b)] validated the minutes on 03/02/2021 20:45