The G7 Research Group presents the

2020 G7 USA Virtual Summit Interim Compliance Report
17 March 2020 to 25 February 2021
Prepared by
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“We have meanwhile set up a process and there are also independent institutions monitoring which objectives of our G7 meetings we actually achieve. When it comes to these goals we have a compliance rate of about 80%, according to the University of Toronto. Germany, with its 87%, comes off pretty well. That means that next year too, under the Japanese G7 presidency, we are going to check where we stand in comparison to what we have discussed with each other now. So a lot of what we have resolved to do here together is something that we are going to have to work very hard at over the next few months. But I think that it has become apparent that we, as the G7, want to assume responsibility far beyond the prosperity in our own countries. That’s why today’s outreach meetings, that is the meetings with our guests, were also of great importance.”

Chancellor Angela Merkel, Schloss Elmau, 8 June 2015

G7 summits are a moment for people to judge whether aspirational intent is met by concrete commitments. The G7 Research Group provides a report card on the implementation of G7 and G20 commitments. It is a good moment for the public to interact with leaders and say, you took a leadership position on these issues — a year later, or three years later, what have you accomplished?

Achim Steiner, Administrator, United Nations Development Programme,
in G7 Canada: The 2018 Charlevoix Summit
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18. Trade: Supporting Trade and Investment

“We are committed to marshalling the full power of our governments to: Support trade and investment.”

G7 Leaders’ Statement

Assessment

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Background

On 16 March 2020, under the U.S. presidency, G7 leaders met virtually to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. At the time, they expected to meet again in three months at their regularly scheduled summit on 10-12 June 2020, which was later postponed indefinitely.

The leaders’ statement from the Virtual Summit recognizes that the COVID-19 pandemic “poses major risks for the world economy.”3180 In response to the economic implication of the COVID-19 pandemic, the G7 leaders have expressed their ongoing commitment to the stability of the global economy, including the facilitation of international trade and investment.3181

The global trading system was established after the Second World War through the Bretton Woods system. The Bretton Woods system established a number of international organizations to facilitate international trade and reduce tariff and non-tariff barriers. For instance, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) was a multilateral trade agreement with a purpose of reducing or eliminating trade barriers including tariffs and quotas.3182

On 1 January 1995, the World Trade Organization (WTO) was established in Geneva Switzerland as a revised version of the GATT.3183 The WTO is a multilateral trade agreement that works to ensure that international rules and regulations surrounding trade are properly applied and enforced.3184 The WTO agreements outline the principles of trade liberalization and broadly cover the trade of goods, services and intellectual properties.3185 One of the fundamental principles of the WTO is to combat protectionist trade measures by reducing or eliminating trade barriers.3186

The facilitation of international trade has been a significant economic priority of the G7/8 since the 1980s. During that period, the G7/8 made broad commitments to encourage the development of free markets and to encourage the reduction of trade barriers. After the establishment of the WTO in 1995, the G7/8 included the multilateral trading framework in a number of its commitments.\textsuperscript{3187} For instance, at the 1996 Lyon Summit, G7 leaders “[reaffirmed] the central role of the WTO and the preeminence of multilateral rules, which should serve as the framework for regional initiative.”\textsuperscript{3188} Additionally, after the 1996 Summit the G7/8 members began to include investment and economic growth as an objective of the world trading system.\textsuperscript{3189}

After the 2007-2008 financial crisis, G7/8 leaders focused on reinforcing the established trading system to facilitate barrier-free trade. For instance, at the 2014 Summit in Brussels, the G7 members reaffirmed their “commitment to keep our markets open and to fight all forms of protectionism including through standstill and rollback.”\textsuperscript{3190} At the 2015 Schloss Elmau Summit and the 2016 Ise-Shima Summit, G7 leaders made similar commitments to liberalize their trade economies and improve international competitiveness.\textsuperscript{3191}

At the 2017 Summit in Taormina, the G7 leaders reiterated their “commitment to keep our markets open and fight protectionism,” while also “acknowledging that trade has not always worked for the benefit of everyone.”\textsuperscript{3192} The 2017 Taormina Summit was also the first summit in which US President Donald Trump attended. At the summit, President Trump expressed a desire to impose unilateral tariffs on Mexico and China.\textsuperscript{3193}

At 2018 Charlevoix Summit, the G7 leaders “acknowledged that free, fair and mutually beneficial trade and investment, while creating reciprocal benefits are key engines for growth and job creation.”\textsuperscript{3194} The leaders also “underlined the crucial role of a rules-based international trading system and continue to fight protectionism.”\textsuperscript{3195} Then at the 2019 Biarritz Summit the G7 leaders declared that “the G7 is committed to open and fair trade and to the stability of the global economy.”\textsuperscript{3196} The G7 also declared its desire to “overhaul the WTO to improve effectiveness with regard to intellectual property protection, to settle disputes more swiftly and to eliminate unfair trade practices.”\textsuperscript{3197}

\textsuperscript{3193} G7 leaders divided on climate change, closer on trade issues, Reuters (Taormina) 25 May 2017. Access Date: 15 December 2020. https://www.reuters.com/article/us-g7-summit/g7-leaders-divided-on-climate-change-closer-on-tradeissues-idUSKBN18L2ZU.
Commitment Features

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic and the significant economic challenges that the health crisis has created, the G7 members have agreed to “marshalling the full power of our governments to: Support trade and investment.”

The first component of the commitment is “marshalling the full power of [their] governments.” These efforts to marshal the power of their governments must “support trade and investment.” The term “marshalling” refers to the action of bringing together multiple components to achieve a certain goal. The term “support” refers to the action or process of assisting or aiding an initiative, or entity.

The term “trade” is defined as the trade of goods, services and intellectual properties between nations. Examples of actions that would demonstrate a strong commitment to facilitating trade include, but are not limited to, government actions that endorse an environment where companies and individuals can trade freely without limits, that reduce tariffs and taxes on imports to allow for unimpeded trade, that reduce the use of non-trade barriers and trade-distorting practices.

The term “investment” refers to the action or process of allocating capital funds or resources to an organization with the expectation that the investment will deliver defined outputs or outcomes. The most common form of investments are revenue funding or capital investments. Some examples of actions that strongly support investment include the establishment of investment funds, the creation of agencies that work to attract foreign investments, and the implementation of trade and investment agreements between parties. Given the significant economic challenges that the COVID-19 pandemic has created, efforts to support trade and investment should be focused on enhancing economic recovery or responding to the global health crisis.

The extent to which a G7 member fulfills this commitment will be measured through a depth analysis. In order to achieve full compliance, the G7 member must strongly support both trade and investment to enhance economic recovery or respond to the global health crisis. Examples of actions that warrant full compliance include domestic and international actions such as launching programs to facilitate trade and investment, enforcing free-trade policies through legislative action, and directly supporting international institutions that facilitate trade and investment. Examples of actions that warrant partial compliance may include only supporting domestic efforts such as referencing components of the commitment in official state remarks, assigning budgetary resources to programs that support the commitment, or changing fiscal or monetary policies in an effort to support trade and investment.

To achieve full compliance, G7 members must take action according to both parts of the commitment by strongly supporting both trade and investment efforts. Partial compliance will be awarded if a G7 member only supports one of the commitment areas – either trade or investment. A G7 member will receive a score of no compliance if they have not demonstrated support for any part of the commitment.

Scoring Guidelines

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<th>Score</th>
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<td>G7 member has failed to take action to strongly support trade or investment.</td>
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<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>G7 member has taken action to strongly support trade OR investment.</td>
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Canada: +1

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to support trade and investment.

On 5 May 2020, Minister of Small Business, Export Promotion and International Trade Mary Ng issued a statement on joint collaboration by members of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Minister Ng said, “it is imperative that trade remains open and predictable to facilitate the flow of essential goods and services, and to minimize disruptions to global supply chains.”

On 28 May 2020, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, along with the Andrew Holness, Prime Minister of Jamaica, and António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations, launched the Financing for Development in the Era of COVID-19 and Beyond Initiative to find innovative solutions to continue investing in international and domestic areas.

On 25 July 2020, Minister Ng participated in the virtual APEC trade ministers meeting to “discuss strengthening rules-based trade and upholding stable and predictable global supply chains.” During the meeting, Minister Ng announced that Canada would move to Phase II of the APEC-Canada Growing Business Partnership which will help small businesses by reducing trade barriers. Minister Ng and her Asia-Pacific counterparts also signed onto a joint statement to reaffirm their commitment to collaborating on economic recovery actions amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 22 September 2020, Minister Ng participated in the G20 Trade and Investment Ministerial Meeting. During the meeting, Minister Ng committed to implementing the G20 Action Plan on Trade and Investment. The Action Plan was created in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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On 17 December 2020, Minister Ng announced that the Canada-led Ottawa Group Trade and Health initiative was presented to the World Health Organization Council for discussion. The Trade and Health Initiative includes Canada and 12 other Ottawa Group member nations calling on enhanced cooperation among WTO members to strengthen global supply chains and facilitate the flow of essential medicines amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 11 January 2021, Minister Ng announced that it has started public consultations with Indonesia for a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement.

On 28 January 2021, Minister Ng spoke with Valdis Dombrovskis, European Commission Executive Vice-President and Commissioner for Trade, about the importance of sustaining vaccine and medical supply trade flows. Minister Ng and Mr. Dombrovskis also acknowledged their ongoing collaborative work on reforming the World Trade Organization (WTO) including participation in the Ottawa Group.

On 29 January 2021, Minister Ng participated in a virtual WTO meeting of fellow ministers. They discussed key priorities to “strengthen the rules-based multilateral trading system in support of an inclusive, sustainable and resilient global recovery.” During the meeting, Minister Ng highlighted the Ottawa Group’s efforts to keep markets open and to facilitate the distribution of vaccines.

Canada has taken action and has made collaborative efforts towards supporting both the trade and investment aspects of its commitment in creating strategies adapted to COVID-19.

Thus, Canada receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Katherine Yarun
France: +1

France has fully complied with its commitment to support trade and investment.

On 30 March 2020, Minister of State Jean-Baptiste Lemoyne participated in a meeting with the G20 Trade and Investment Ministers. The ministers discussed the use of coordinated trade policy measures to combat the economic challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. They agreed on a statement with the following commitments: 1) to ensure the continued flow of essential goods to combat the pandemic (e.g. medical supplies and agricultural goods), 2) to ensure that any export restrictions remain consistent with World Trade Organization (WTO) rules, 3) to ensure an open, free, fair, non-discriminatory, and transparent trade system, 4) to monitor the impact of the epidemic on trade and investment.

On 3 September 2020, Minister Delegate for Foreign Trade and Economic Attractiveness Franck Riester spoke to Canada’s Minister of Small Business, Export Promotion and International Trade Mary Ng about how to strengthen their countries’ economic ties through trade. Minister Riester and Minister Ng also discussed ways to promote new opportunities for Canadian and French businesses amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 3 September 2020, Prime Minister Jean Castex announced the key priorities of France’s economic recovery plan. He announced that the European Union will contribute 40 percent of France’s recovery plan and that the European funding will be “awarded to support investments and reforms which have a lasting effect on productivity, support and drive forward the energy and digital transition and facilitate the convergence of European economies.”

On 1 March 2021, Minister Riester spoke with German Minister for the Economy and Energy Peter Altmaier about the new trade policy presented by the European Commission. The new trade policy aims to address a number of challenges including COVID-19 economic recovery and reforming the WTO.

France has demonstrated support for trade and investment in both international and domestic contexts.

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Thus, France receives a score of +1.

**Germany: +1**

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to marshall the full power of its government to support trade and investment.

On 30 March 2020, the German government provided federal export credit guarantees in response to the global health crisis. This supported trade by preventing possible bottlenecks in the private export credit insurance market.

On 8 April 2020, the German cabinet amended the Foreign Trade Act to tighten rules on investment from non-EU countries. Transactions with implications on German security will now be provisionally put on hold pending final decision, and a review can be undertaken if there is assessed to be “likely harm” to the public system or security.

On 14 May 2020, Economic Affairs Minister Peter Altmaier and his colleagues adopted a number of short and long-term measures to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on global trade during the G20's Trade and Investment Ministers conference. Minister Altmaier said “we need to work even more closely together at international level to jointly tackle the negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on trade flows and investment.”

On 20 May 2020, the German cabinet approved new powers to veto foreign takeovers in the healthcare sector. This allows the German government to “block takeovers of makers of vaccines, precursor chemicals, medicines, protective equipment or medical machinery such as ventilators,” and allows it to examine the security implications of non-EU bids as soon as a buyer owns more than 10 percent of a healthcare company’s shares.

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On 7 July 2020, the German government announced a five-point package of measures to support the export industry. The package supported exporters affected by the global health crisis by providing financing options and creating incentives abroad to import German goods and services.

On 25 August 2020, Germany agreed on an administrative agreement with Serbia. The agreement serves to strengthen supply chains, further connect Serbia to the EU internal market, and opens the door for future investments.

On October 7 2020, the German cabinet amended the Foreign Trade Ordinance in accordance with the EU-wide cooperation mechanism. This amendment strengthens cooperation among EU members regarding non-EU foreign investment.

On 14 October 2020, the German Development Ministry signed an agreement to invest in new digital systems and e-commerce platforms in developing countries and emerging economies in Africa. The scheme seeks to use “digital solutions to break down barriers to trade,” and will “act as a springboard for development.”

On 26 January 2021, Chancellor Angela Merkel gave a speech at the World Economic Forum’s Davos Dialogue. During her speech, Chancellor Merkel recognized the need to support and reinforce international trade structures outlined by the World Trade organization.

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Germany has demonstrated strong support for trade and investment to enhance economic recovery or respond to the global health crisis.

Thus, Germany receives a score of +1.

**Analyst: Erfan Ebans**

**Italy: +1**

Italy has fully complied with its commitment to marshal the full power of its government to support trade and investment.

On 14 May 2020, Undersecretary Ivan Scalfarotto attended a meeting of the G20 Trade Ministers to discuss the response to the COVID-19 pandemic initiated by the Trade and Investment Working Group. The working group was tasked with identifying short and long-term collective initiatives to relaunch multilateral trade cooperation and to accelerate economic recovery.

On 20 July 2020, Undersecretary Scalfarotto met with his Spanish counterpart to discuss trade policy issues. At the meeting, Scalfarotto affirmed the importance of Airbus subsidy reform in line with the provisions of the World Trade Organization (WTO). Additionally, both undersecretaries agreed on the importance of European coordination for negotiations to the digital service tax and WTO reform.

On 19 November 2020, Deputy Minister Manilo Di Stefano attended the web making festival for digital and social innovation. The deputy minister encouraged investment in hydrogen, block chain, start-ups, and cloud technologies, announcing the expansion of the 394/81 Fund which provides subsidized loans for investments in internationalisation and digitisation projects.

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On 10 December 2020, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Luigi di Maio met with the Turkish minister of trade, Rushar Peckan for the Joint Italy-Turkey Economic and Trade Commission.\textsuperscript{3253} The minister of foreign affairs recognized the importance of increasing the bilateral flow of investment, and the ministers signed a Memorandum of Understanding between the Italian Trade Agency and its Turkish counterpart in order to “strengthen cooperation between the two agencies.”\textsuperscript{3254}

On 15 January 2021, Deputy Minister Di Stefano met with the Foreign Investment Attraction Committee to discuss investment projects in the health sector and the creation of a legal framework more conducive to foreign direct investment.\textsuperscript{3255}

Italy has demonstrated support for both trade and investment by implementing programs and seeking partnerships and remains committed to marshalling the full power of trade and investment.

Thus, Italy receives a score of +1

\textit{Analyst: Bianca Costantino}

\textbf{Japan: +1}

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to marshalling the full power of the government to support trade and investment.

On 8 May 2020, amendments made to Japan’s Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act came into effect. The changes lowered the threshold of screening of foreign direct investments from 10 percent to 1 per cent for certain sectors.\textsuperscript{3256}

On 11 May 2020, Japan extended its time limits for customs procedures, and exempted, reduced, or refunded custom fees due to the COVID-19 pandemic.\textsuperscript{3257}

On 13 May 2020, Japan signed a joint statement at the General Council Committee on Agriculture of the World Trade Organization (WTO).\textsuperscript{3258} The statement included a call to “mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on agriculture trade and food security.”\textsuperscript{3259} The statement also encouraged members of the WTO to “implement temporary working solutions to facilitate trade.”\textsuperscript{3260}


On 14 May 2020, Japan signed a joint statement at the WTO General Council highlighting the importance of small and medium-sized enterprises in economies.\(^{3261}\) The statement reaffirmed the role of the WTO in international trade and committed the signatories to “work together to deliver a free, fair, predictable, and stable trade environment and to keep our markets open with a view to support the global recovery.”\(^{3262}\)

On 28 May 2020, Japan signed a joint statement at the WTO General Council about COVID-19 and the multilateral trading system.\(^{3263}\) As a signatory, Japan pledged to “refrain from raising new unjustified barriers to investment or to trade in goods and services.”\(^{3264}\)

On 15 June 2020, the Ministry of Finance announced that the Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act would be further expanded to include “manufacturing industries related to pharmaceuticals” and “manufacturing [industries] related to highly-controlled medical devices.”\(^{3265}\)

On 23 October 2020, Japan signed the UK-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement, designed to strengthen mutual trade between the two countries. The agreement includes a commitment from Japan to support the UK joining the Trans-Pacific Partnership.\(^{3266}\)

On 26 October 2020, Japan signed a joint statement at WTO Committee on Trade Facilitation.\(^{3267}\) The statement recognized that “Cross-border trade is a critical channel for getting essential products to those who need them” and “as WTO members, we are called to demonstrate leadership by ensuring the smooth and continuous trade in goods.”\(^{3268}\) The statement also committed its signatories to accelerating the implementation of the Trade Facilitation Agreement in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.\(^{3269}\)

On 24 November 2020, Japan signed a joint statement at the WTO General Council about international trade and health.\(^{3270}\) The statement included specific policy proposals relating to export restrictions, trade facilitation, technical regulations, tariffs, transparency, and review.\(^{3271}\)

Japan has taken steps to strongly support trade and investment both domestically and internationally through its cooperation with multilateral organizations.


Thus, Japan receives a score of +1.

**United Kingdom: +1**

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to marshal the full power of its government to support trade and investment.

On 19 May 2020, the Government of the United Kingdom announced the UK Global Tariff.\(^{3272}\) It aims to “scrap red tape and other unnecessary barriers to trade, reduce cost pressures and increase choice for consumers and back UK industries to compete on the global stage.”\(^{3273}\)

On 21 May 2020, Minister for Exports Graham Stuart announced the UK’s commitment to support the development of the Solidarity Transport Hub, a major infrastructure project in Poland.\(^{3274}\) The project will boost regional connectivity and enhance trade.\(^{3275}\)

On 7 August 2020, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster Michael Gove and Secretary of State for Northern Ireland Brandon Lewis announced a new, free-to-use Trader Support Service to support traders in Northern Ireland.\(^{3276}\) It will “provide vital support and guidance to traders” by completing digital processes on their behalf.\(^{3277}\)

On 29 September 2020, the Department of International Trade launched a Trade Hub to support businesses in Scotland.\(^{3278}\) The Trade Hub provides governmental support to ensure that businesses in Scotland can take full advantage of trade agreements with the UK.\(^{3279}\)

On 7 October 2020, the Government of the United Kingdom outlined its plans for the creation of Freeports, set to open by the end of 2021.\(^{3280}\) The Freeports are meant to “create national hubs for trade, innovation and commerce,” and “attract investment from around the world.”\(^{3281}\)

On 8 October 2020, the UK signed a Political, Free Trade, and Strategic Partnership Agreement with Ukraine.\(^{3282}\) The agreement will “strengthen the political and trade ties between the two countries.”\(^{3283}\)


On 9 October 2020, the Department for International Trade announced several new investment opportunities and programmes across the UK. The initiatives are designed to encourage foreign investment into the UK and “help the country build back better.”

On 15 October 2020, the UK signed an Economic Partnership Agreement with the Côte d'Ivoire. The agreement maintains existing trade agreements, and prevents additional barriers or tariffs.

On 22 October 2020, the UK signed the UK-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement. This agreement goes beyond the EU-Japan deal, with enhancements in “areas such as digital and data, financial services, food and drink, and creative industries.”

On 9 November 2020, Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced the new Office for Investment. The Office will connect the public and private sector and be “a major addition to the UK government’s ability to attract foreign investment.”

On 10 November 2020, International Trade Secretary Liz Truss announced that preferential tariffs would continue for developing countries. The trade preference scheme will support economic development by liberalizing trade.

On 24 November 2020, UK Export Finance signed a cooperation agreement with its counterpart in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Etihad Credit Insurance. The agreement will “strengthen trade cooperation and boost investment between the UK and UAE.”
On 3 December 2020, the British High Commissioner to Bangladesh Robert Chatterton Dickson formally proposed the establishment of a UK-Bangladesh Trade and Investment Dialogue.\textsuperscript{3296} The Trade and Investment Dialogue will deepen the UK’s “already strong trading relationship with Bangladesh by developing a trade partnership that builds on our shared trade and investment interests.”\textsuperscript{3297}

On 3 December 2020, the UK signed a Partnership, Trade, and Cooperation Agreement with North Macedonia.\textsuperscript{3298} The agreement strengthens the “already substantial ties in trade and investment” between the countries.\textsuperscript{3299}

On 5 December 2020, the UK signed an Association Agreement with Egypt.\textsuperscript{3300} The agreement provides “tariff-free trade on industrial products, as well as liberalisation of trade in agriculture, agri-foods and fisheries.”\textsuperscript{3301}

On 7 December 2020, UK Export Finance launched the new General Export Facility.\textsuperscript{3302} The scheme will support trade by giving “exporting SMEs [small and medium-sized enterprises] access to working capital they need to recover from COVID-19.”\textsuperscript{3303}

On 8 December 2020, the UK signed an Economic Partnership Agreement with Kenya.\textsuperscript{3304} This trade agreement ensures the continuation of “duty-free access to the UK market.”\textsuperscript{3305}

On 8 December 2020, the UK signed a trade continuity agreement with Norway and Iceland.\textsuperscript{3306} The agreement ensures tariff-free trade for 90 per cent of the goods traded with Iceland, and 95 per cent of the goods traded with Norway.\textsuperscript{3307}

On 8 December 2020, the UK announced an independent approach to resolving EU-US trade conflicts around steel, aluminium, and aerospace tariffs. International Trade Secretary Liz Truss will roll over “tariffs in response to the unjustified ‘Section 232’ tariffs imposed by the US on aluminium and steel imports,” and suspend retaliatory tariffs resulting from the Boeing dispute. These actions are “part of the government’s strategy to de-escalate trade tensions so the US and UK can move forward to the next phase of their trading relationship.”

On 9 December 2020, the Deputy High Commissioner for Canada David Reed signed the UK-Canada Trade Continuity Agreement. The agreement reduces tariffs and “secures transatlantic trade.”

On 10 December 2020, the UK signed the UK-Singapore Free Trade Agreement. This agreement calls for tariff elimination on goods, reduction of non-tariff barriers, increased access to services and government procurement markets, and support for financial services trade and investment.

On 11 December 2020, the UK concluded the UK-Viet Nam Free Trade Agreement. This agreement will “liberalise goods and services trade” between the countries.

On 14 December 2020, the UK signed a Services Mobility Agreement with Switzerland. The agreement will “support trade in vital industries of the UK economy, including finance, legal services, consultancy, the tech sector and the creative industries.”

On 15 December 2020, the UK signed the UK-Mexico Trade Continuity Agreement. The agreement allows the two countries to “go much further in areas such as data, digital trade, investment, intellectual property and services.”
On 17 December 2020, the UK Internal Market bill passed into law.\textsuperscript{3321} The law ensures no new barriers to trade across all four parts of the UK, and enables the government “to boost the UK’s economic recovery, increase investment across the whole country, create new jobs and emerge stronger from the pandemic.”\textsuperscript{3322}

On 24 December 2020, the UK signed a Strategic Partnership, Trade and Cooperation Agreement with Moldova.\textsuperscript{3323} The agreement “provides stability to the trade between Britain and Moldova” and “creates a firm foundation for even more trade and investment in the future.”\textsuperscript{3324}

On 29 December 2020, the UK signed the UK-Turkey Free Trade Agreement.\textsuperscript{3325} The deal ensures “continued tariff-free flow of goods.”\textsuperscript{3326}

On 30 December 2020, the UK secured an Economic Partnership Agreement with Cameroon.\textsuperscript{3327} The deal allows for continued free trade without additional tariffs or barriers.\textsuperscript{3328}

On 31 December 2020, the European Union (Future Relationship) bill was passed into law.\textsuperscript{3329} This ratifies the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement.\textsuperscript{3330}

On 18 January 2021, Prime Minister Johnson launched the Build Back Better Council.\textsuperscript{3331} The Build Back Better Council will “unlock investment, boost job creation, promote Global Britain and level up the whole of the UK.”\textsuperscript{3332}

On 1 February 2021, Secretary Truss formally requested to commence negotiations on UK accession to the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership.\textsuperscript{3333} UK accession would “send a powerful signal about the importance placed on free trade.”\textsuperscript{3334}


On 4 February 2021, the UK and Ghana finalised negotiations on an Interim Ghana-UK Trade Partnership Agreement. The agreement provides “duty free and quota free access for Ghana to the UK market and preferential tariff reductions for UK exporters to the Ghanaian market.”

On 5 February 2021, the UK signed a Partnership, Trade and Cooperation Agreement with Albania. The agreement allows the UK and Albania to “build on their trading relationship going forward.”

On 8 February 2021, the UK agreed to deepen its trading relationship with India through an Enhanced Trade Partnership. The partnership improves bilateral trade and investment and lays the groundwork for a future comprehensive Free Trade Agreement.

On 23 February 2021, UK Export Finance launched the Standard Buyer Loan Guarantee. The scheme supports trade by helping “importers of UK goods and services obtain the financing they need, unlocking trade and boosting exports.”

The United Kingdom has demonstrated strong support for trade and investment to enhance economic recovery or respond to the global health crisis.

Thus, the United Kingdom receives a score of +1.

**United States: +1**

The United States has fully complied with its commitment to marshal the full power of its government to support trade and investment.

On 13 May 2020, the United States signed a joint statement at the General Council Committee on Agriculture of the World Trade Organization (WTO). The statement included a call to “mitigate the impact of

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COVID-19 on agriculture trade and food security.”3344 The statement also encouraged members of the WTO to “implement temporary working solutions to facilitate trade.”3345

On 26 October 2020, the United States signed a joint statement at the WTO Committee on Trade Facilitation.3346 The statement recognized that “Cross-border trade is a critical channel for getting essential products to those who need them” and “as WTO members, we are called to demonstrate leadership by ensuring the smooth and continuous trade in goods.”3347 The statement also committed its signatories to accelerating the implementation of the Trade Facilitation Agreement in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.3348

On 24 February 2021, President Joseph R. Biden signed an executive order on America’s trade and supply chains.3349 The order outlined necessary several actions including “reforms to domestic and international trade rules and agreements to support supply chain resilience, security, diversity, and strength.”3350

On 26 February 2021, Vice President Kamala Harris spoke with President Tshisekedi of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.3351 During their meeting, Vice President Harris and President Tshisekedi committed to work together to strengthen regional trade and investment.3352

On 5 March 2021, President Biden spoke with European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen about US-EU economic relations.3353 During the meeting, President Biden emphasized his commitment to “repair and revitalize the U.S.-EU partnership.”3354 President Biden noted the leaders’ agreement to suspend tariffs

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related to the WTO aircraft disputes and the desire to work toward resolving long running disputes at the WTO.3355

On 10 March 2021, United States Congress passed a USD 1 trillion relief package to boost the U.S. economy in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.3356 The economic relief package includes financial investment in education, social supports, and industry supports for small businesses and the transportation sector.3357

The United States has demonstrated strong support for trade and investment to enhance economic recovery or respond to the global health crisis.

Thus, the United States receives a score of +1.

**Analyst: Małgorzata Poweska**

**European Union: +1**

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to support trade and investment.

On 28 April 2020, the EU and Mexico finalized negotiations of their new trade agreement.3358 The agreement removes duties on almost all goods traded between the EU and Mexico and marks the first time the EU and a Latin American country have reached an agreement on investment protection policies.3359

On 13 May 2020, the EU signed a joint statement at the General Council Committee on Agriculture of the World Trade Organization (WTO).3360 The statement included a call to “mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on agriculture trade and food security.”3361 The statement also encouraged members of the WTO to “implement temporary working solutions to facilitate trade.”3362

On 14 May 2020, the EU signed a joint statement at the WTO General Council highlighting the importance of small and medium-sized enterprises in economies.3363 The statement reaffirmed the role of the WTO in international trade and committed the signatories to “work together to deliver a free, fair, predictable, and stable trade environment and to keep our markets open with a view to support the global recovery.”3364

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On 31 July 2020, the EU-Vietnam free trade agreement and investment protection entered into force. The agreement removed duties on 99 per cent of goods traded between the two regions and ensures that European companies and local Vietnamese competitors will have an equal opportunity to compete for government contracts in Vietnam. The EU-Vietnam free trade agreement is the most comprehensive trade agreement between the EU and a developing country.

On 21 September 2020, the European Investment Bank (EIB) announced an expected EUR1 billion in support for investment in Ireland in response to COVID-19 and Brexit. Additionally, EIB advisory teams are working alongside Irish partners to enhance investment and support Ireland’s National Recovery Plan.

On 24 November 2020, the EU signed a joint statement at the WTO General Council about international trade and health. The statement included specific policy proposals relating to export restrictions, trade facilitation, technical regulations, tariffs, transparency, and review.

On 15 December 2020, the EIB and Raiffeisenlandesbank Niederösterreich-Wiem allocated EUR150 million each towards providing loans for small and medium-sized enterprises to invest in sustainable projects.

On 30 December 2020, negotiations on the EU-China Comprehensive Agreement on Investment concluded, granting EU investors easier access to China’s market. The agreement ensures fairer treatment for EU companies competing in China and includes rules on transparency.

On 31 December 2020, the EIB provided Banque Misr with a EUR425 million credit line to support Egyptian SMEs impacted by the coronavirus pandemic, designed to finance investment projects.

On 1 January 2021, the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement came into effect, establishing the economic partnership between the EU and UK following Brexit. The Free Trade Agreement component...
dictates zero tariffs and zero quotas on goods that “comply with the appropriate rules of origin.”\textsuperscript{3377} The agreement ensures a level playing field, going beyond traditional free trade agreements.\textsuperscript{3378}

On 11 March 2021, the Board of Directors of the EIB approved EUR2.4 billion for “business investment and ensuring economic resilience to COVID-19.”\textsuperscript{3379}

The European Union has initiated several bilateral agreements that support both trade and investment in response to the global health crisis.

Thus, the European Union receives a score of +1.

\textit{Analyst: Erfan Ehsan}