The G7 Research Group presents the

2020 G7 USA Virtual Summit Interim Compliance Report
17 March 2020 to 25 February 2021

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and the G7 Research Group

16 May 2021

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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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16 May 2021
19. Trade: Addressing International Supply Chains

“We will address disturbances to international supply chains.”

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.

On 25 March 2020, the G7 Foreign Ministers convened over a virtual meeting to discuss the COVID-19 pandemic. At the meeting, the G7 members committed to “protecting global production and supply chains” and “reducing tariffs in medical supplies and pharmaceutical products in order to help those most at risk.”

Since its establishment in 1995, the World Trade Organization (WTO) has enjoyed considerable support and encouragement from the G7. The WTO outlines a code of good practice through the Technical Barriers to Trade Agreement to help other international bodies create environmental standards. The International Standardization Organization and the International Electrotechnical Commission both comply with WTO’s code of good practice. The G7 has also indicated its support for the application of environmental standards laid out by the United Nations, the International Labour Organization, and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

On 13 October 2015, the G7 employment and development ministers released a ministerial declaration entitled Action for Fair Production. The declaration states, “we must … take concrete action with the aim to increase transparency, improve the management of risks, including to worker health and safety, and

strengthen access to remedy in global supply chains.” The declaration also recognizes the collective responsibility of creating sustainable supply chains and commits each member to collaborate with relevant international organizations and social partners to increase transparency, knowledge sharing, best practices, etc.

At the 2015 Elmau Summit, the G7 members recognized their responsibility to promote sustainable supply chains given their “prominent share in the globalization process.” The G7 members made commitments to “promote safe and sustainable supply chains” and to strive for the effective application of internationally recognized labour, social, and environmental standards. These commitments were influenced by the 2013 Rana Plaza disaster when a garment factory in Bangladesh collapsed killing 1,137 people. This tragic event sparked greater awareness about labour rights and working conditions in global supply chains.

Commitment Features

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic and the significant risks that it poses to the global economy, the G7 members have made a commitment to “address disturbances to international supply chains.”

The term “address” refers to the action or process of attending to or dealing with a matter or problem. Additionally, “international supply chains” are global networks that exist for the purpose of sourcing and supplying goods and services. International supply chains involve facilitating the flow of information, processes and resources across to different consumer markets across the world.

Any sudden change or crisis that inhibits the procurement of products and services from global suppliers constitutes a “disturbance” to international supply chains. Examples of disturbances include, but are not limited to, transportation delays and failures, problems with the quality of the product at any stage of the supply chain, and an overall increase of consumer demand creating increased pressure on global suppliers to produce a product or service.

Establishing effective supply chain management techniques helps to increase the resiliency of supply chains and address supply chain disturbances. Some examples include enhancing the transparency of information in supply chains, monitoring the bottleneck capacity, adhering to international standards and regulations, and facilitating cooperation between supply chain partners.

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 demonstrate strong support for efforts to address

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disturbances to international supply chains. Examples of actions that warrant full compliance include domestic and international actions such as unilaterally launching programs to address supply chain disturbances, engaging in coordinated multilateral efforts to increase the resiliency of supply chains, and participating in international information sharing to spread knowledge about best practices with other international actors. 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 making policy changes to increase the resiliency of international supply chains.

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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<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>The G7 member has partially complied with the commitment feature by addressing disturbances to international supply chains.</td>
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<tr>
<td>+1</td>
<td>The G7 has fully complied with the commitment feature by demonstrating strong support for efforts that addresses disturbances to international supply chains.</td>
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**Canada: +1**

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to addresses disturbances to international supply chains.

On 25 March 2020, Canada released a joint statement of international effort to ensure that supply chains during the COVID-19 pandemic remained open and connected. The statement was issued by Mary Ng, Minister of Small Business, Export Promotion and International Trade, and trade ministers from Australia, Brunei, Chile, Myanmar, New Zealand, and Singapore. The statement reaffirms the commitment of all eight countries to maintaining open trade and to not impose trade barriers that could disrupt supply chains.

On 1 May 2020, Canada published a joint statement with several G20 Trade and Investment ministers and ministers of guest invites. The statement included action plans to ensure the continued international trade and distribution of goods, services, as well as the essential movement of people. The statement was signed by international trade ministers from Australia, New Zealand, Korea, and Singapore.

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emphasizes the need for minimizing face-to-face interactions while maintaining smooth logistics operations.\textsuperscript{3401} The statement also highlights the need to develop plans for sustainable economic recoveries of global economies and share these plans with the other cooperative countries.\textsuperscript{3402}

On 5 May 2020, Canada and the other 20 members of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum released a statement of commitment to cooperatively mitigate the economic impacts of COVID-19. The statement included a plan for sustainable economic recovery and providing additional support to developing countries.\textsuperscript{3403} The statement acknowledges the difficulties in maintaining robust global supply chains due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.\textsuperscript{3404} Despite these difficulties, the statement reaffirms the importance of cooperation and implores the APEC states to not create unnecessary trade barriers.\textsuperscript{3405} The statement urges to work closely with the World Health Organization (WHO) on how to encourage safety in global supply chains.\textsuperscript{3406} The statement further emphasizes the need to share information about trade and safety amongst the APEC members, and especially developing states, to encourage well-informed trade practices amongst regions.\textsuperscript{3407}

On 14 May 2020, Canada met with its G20 counterparts and committed to an action plan to mitigate the effect of COVID-19 on global trade, while ensuring safety.\textsuperscript{3408} The plan emphasizes transparency to keep global supply chains open, as well as promoting international investment and multilateral trading.\textsuperscript{3409} Trade


barriers are discouraged and noted to be especially disruptive to the workings of medium and small-sized businesses.\textsuperscript{3410}

On 1 July 2020, the new Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement (CUSMA) came into effect.\textsuperscript{3411} The agreement revises the 1997 North American Free Trade Agreement by adding 12 more chapters.\textsuperscript{3412} CUSMA is meant to support Canadian businesses and supply chains by providing continued access to American and Mexican markets for goods and services providers.\textsuperscript{3413} CUSMA updates the rules of trade amongst the three countries by streamlining customs and ensuring greater transparency regarding the origins of goods and services.\textsuperscript{3414} The new agreement also establishes a Competitiveness Committee meant to support the participation of small and medium-sized enterprises in the North and South American market.\textsuperscript{3415} CUSMA ensures that future laws will not add barriers to doing business.\textsuperscript{3416}

On 25 July 2020, Canada met with its APEC partners to further discuss strengthening rules-based trade and upholding stable global supply chains, building upon commitments made in a prior meeting on 5 May 2020.\textsuperscript{3417} A joint statement was signed affirming the commitment of Canada and the other APEC members to planning for a global post-pandemic economic recovery that is sustainable and transparent.\textsuperscript{3418} Canada announced intentions to proceed to Phase II of the APEC-Canada Growing Business Partnership.\textsuperscript{3419} Phase II will help small businesses by reducing barriers to trade, emphasizing community outreach, and building economies that are diverse and inclusive.\textsuperscript{3420}


On 15 February 2021, Canada released a joint statement with the United States, asking the European Union to reconsider the implementation of automatic COVID-19 vaccine export authorizations. The statement expresses that eliminating automatic vaccine distribution authorizations by the EU could prompt other countries to do the same, disrupting global access to vaccines, medical equipment, companies, and experts.

The government of Canada has made tangible efforts to address disturbances in international supply chains by making statements affirming their commitments to open markets, transparency of supply chains, and international cooperation.

Thus, Canada receives a score of +1.

**France: +1**

France has fully complied with its commitment to address disturbances to international supply chains.

On 10 April 2020, the French and German Ministers of Agriculture held extensive talks about the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the agricultural supply chain. The ministers highlighted the importance of ensuring the resiliency of European farms to guarantee food supplies to customers. They also emphasized the need for a strong common agricultural policy for future supply chain stability.

On 24 April 2020, President Emmanuel Macron spearheaded the global collaboration termed the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator to develop, produce, and distribute COVID-19-related health products. France contributed EUR560 million to this collaborative effort. The ACT-Accelerator also promotes the sharing of data and licensing of intellectual property.

On 18 May 2020, France and Germany proposed an initiative for European recovery, which included a EUR750 billion recovery plan. This plan strives to support the exports of European economies by promoting the sharing of data and licensing of intellectual property.

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accelerating movement through priority corridors for supplying hospitals, shops, and factories, as well as the movement of people.\textsuperscript{3430}

On 23 April 2020, Didier Guillaume, Minister of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection, participated in the G20 Agriculture Ministers’ Joint Statement. The Joint Statement emphasizes the importance of free movement of goods for access to food.\textsuperscript{3431} It acknowledges that there have not been disruptions in supply chains thus far, but emergency measures must be considered.\textsuperscript{3432}

On 3 February 2021, a joint call was made by President Macron and German Chancellor Angela Merkel for greater political and financial support for the ACT-Accelerator and affirming a commitment to global recovery.\textsuperscript{3433} This international initiative calls for the expansion of access to treatments, vaccines, tests, and more.\textsuperscript{3434}

On 9 June 2020, Minister of State Jean-Baptiste Lemoyne took part in a video conference with European Union Foreign Affairs Ministers to discuss trade issues and a draft initiative proposed by the European Commission to combat global shortages in critical medical supplies.\textsuperscript{3435} France also supported a review of the European Union’s trade policy, emphasizing the importance of building resilient and sustainable supply chains.\textsuperscript{3436}

On 21 September 2020, Minister Reister, participated in the meeting of European Union trade ministers.\textsuperscript{3437} The ministers addressed the need to reassess EU trade policy to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.\textsuperscript{3438} This included discussions on securing supply chains and responding to disruptions in the European market.\textsuperscript{3439}

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France has taken action to add address disturbances to international supply chains. It also multilaterally launched the ACT-Accelerator with the World Health Organization and the European Commission.\textsuperscript{3440} This combination of domestic and international efforts warrants full compliance.

\textit{Analyst: Isabella Li}

\textbf{Germany: +1}

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to address disturbances to international supply chains.

On 30 March 2020, the Minister for Economic Affairs and Energy, Peter Altmaier, attended the conference call of the G20 Ministers of Trade and adopted the joint statement of the G20 Ministers of Trade to guarantee the global transport of medical supplies, agricultural products, and other essential goods.\textsuperscript{3441}

On 6 April 2020, the Foreign Office, Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure of Germany consulted with many partner countries, especially with those in Asia, to ensure that partner countries could exempt air cargo plane crews from local quarantine regulations to achieve seamless delivery of air cargo to the respective countries.\textsuperscript{3442}

On 16 April 2020, the federal government set up a protective shield of EUR30 billion to secure supplier loans for German companies and protect suppliers against payment defaults in the event that a customer is unable or unwilling to pay.\textsuperscript{3443} The Minister of Finance, Olaf Scholz, said that “In setting up a protective shield, we are safeguarding the trade in goods and are thus ensuring a smooth flow of goods, which we urgently need right now.”\textsuperscript{3444}

On 18 April 2020, Germany joined the Ministerial Coordination Group on COVID-19, which was an initiative established by the Government of Canada that agreed to consult every two weeks on specific steps to respond to the impact of the pandemic, particularly in the field of maintaining international air and trade networks among countries.\textsuperscript{3445}

On 25 May 2020, Germany partook in the joint declaration of the Alliance for Multilateralism, which promised that countries would work with public health authorities to ensure accessible and accurate information regarding the pandemic; and to provide an effective flow of medical supplies, agricultural


products and other goods and services across national borders to reduce the shocks of global supply chains, thereby enabling the global economic recovery.\textsuperscript{3446}

On 3 June 2020, the Foreign Office launched a joint declaration with the foreign ministers of Latin American and Caribbean States, agreeing to enforce a rule-based free trade system and diversify supply chains to facilitate economic recovery and overcoming the COVID-19 pandemic.\textsuperscript{3447}

On 1 July 2020, the Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community launched the Programme for Germany’s Presidency of the Council of the European Union and committed to implement the European Union Action Plan by strengthening corporate social responsibility, ensuring transparency and promoting human rights, social and environmental standards in global supply chains.\textsuperscript{3448} Germany reiterated its resolution to promote a high level of transparency, to diversify supply chains, and to ensure cooperation in expanding production of critical medicines.\textsuperscript{3449}

On 7 July 2020, the federal government adopted a five-point package of measures to promote export financing and address supply chain disruptions and overseas project execution.\textsuperscript{3450}

On 7 September 2020, Germany, as the regional coordinator of the European Group, launched the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Statement on Coronavirus Diseases at the 13th ASEM Summit to promote more resilient and diversified supply chains in order to cope with future strikes of the COVID-19 pandemic.\textsuperscript{3451} In particular, the ASEM Statement emphasized the uninterrupted flow of essential goods and services across national borders as well as proper global distribution.\textsuperscript{3452} While adhering to the public health and safety consideration, Germany as the regional coordinator of the European group at the 13th ASEM Summit claimed that it was necessary to coordinate responses to ensure international traffic and critical transport infrastructure to ensure the continued flow of cargo and goods.\textsuperscript{3453}

On 25 February 2021, Chancellor Angela Merkel met virtually with the heads of state and the government of the European Union to finalize an agreement on a common approach to combatting the COVID-19 pandemic.\textsuperscript{3454} During the meeting, Chancellor Merkel explained that the European Commission must


\textsuperscript{3450} Minister Altmaier: We are supporting German exports as an important pillar of our economy based on a 5-point package of measures, Department of Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy Office (Berlin) 7 July 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2020. \url{https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2020/20200707-altmaier-we-are-supporting-german-exports-as-an-important-pillar-of-our-economy-based-on-a-5-point-package-of-measures.html}.


establish a Task Force to find out “how production capacities along the entire supply chain could be established within the EU so as to be able to produce the vaccines here.”

Germany has demonstrated initiative to address disturbances to domestic and international supply chains. Thus, Germany has received a score of +1.

**Italy: +1**

Italy has fully complied with its commitment of addressing disturbances to international supply chains.

On 1 July 2020, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Emanuela Del Re announced the presence of blockages in the food supply chain, which was caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Italy and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) have launched an initiative to address this issue — the Food Coalition. This program aims to mobilize skilled personnel to implement targeted projects on the ground.

On 13 July 2020, Deputy Minister Del Re attended a video conference hosted by FAO that addresses food security and nutrition around the world. Deputy Minister Del Re stated Italy would aim to create resilient food systems and strengthen sustainable supply chains in light of renewed efforts required to solve hunger in the world.

On 19 October 2020, Italy’s Draft Budgetary Plan (DPP) for 2021 was approved. Inside the DPP included a reform action to support sectoral supply chains most impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. This action

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involves the establishment of the ‘Emergency Fund for the protection of supply chains in crisis’ with an endowment of EUR500 million distributed to sectors in crisis.3463

On 9 November 2020, the 53rd Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Foreign Ministers’ Meeting granted Italy status as an ASEAN development partner.3464 Minister of Foreign Affairs Luigi Di Maio stated the partnership will contribute to rebuilding global supply chains.3465

Italy has demonstrated initiative to address disturbances to domestic and international supply chains.

Thus, Italy has received a score of +1.

**Analyst: Joseph MaQin Shen**

### Japan: +1

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to address disturbances to international supply chains.

On 5 March 2020, the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Ministers Responsible for Trade issued a joint statement suggesting that member economies should keep their markets open and work together to create a free, fair, and stable trade and investment environment and ensure that trade and investment continue to flow.3466 It was also recommended that member economies should strengthen regional connectivity by intensifying their efforts to make global supply chains more resilient and less vulnerable to shocks.3467

On 28 August 2020, economic ministers from the 10 ASEAN members and Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) met virtually for consultations.3468 In the video conference meeting, the ministers reaffirmed their commitment to ensure supply chain connectivity, particularly regarding the flow of essential goods such as medical supplies, medicines, and food in compliance with World Trade Organization rules.3469 They additionally resolved to refrain from introducing or maintaining measures (i.e. non-tariff barriers) that could disrupt the flow of essential goods and services necessary to address the COVID-19 pandemic.3470

On 19 November 2020, METI held a general meeting for the inauguration of the Supply Chain Cybersecurity Consortium (SC3).3471 SC3 aims to encourage all industrial players to “unite in their efforts for promoting

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cybersecurity measures throughout supply chains.”

On 3 December 2020, Japan hosted the 30th meeting of the Japan-Canada Joint Economic Committee. The co-chairs committed to improving supply chain resilience as expressed in the G20 Riyadh Summit Leaders’ Declaration and in view of the vulnerabilities that the pandemic exposed.

On 15 January 2021, the Council on Measures for Supply Chains held a meeting to address the challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic on the aircraft industry. At the meeting, the council confirmed a policy to collaborate and support supply chains in the industry.

Japan has made efforts to address disturbances to international supply chains by actively collaborating with other countries and adopting measures to mitigate the adverse effect and challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Thus, Japan receives a score of +1.

United Kingdom: +1

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to address disturbances to international supply chains.

On 23 March 2020, the UK government announced a ban on “parallel exports” of critical medicines to treat COVID-19 patients. This action was taken to ensure that there was “an uninterrupted supply of medicines for National Health Service (NHS) hospitals treating coronavirus patients,” and to prevent the reselling of medicines at higher prices in other countries.

On 3 April 2020, the United Kingdom Export Finance (UKEF) extended its Exports Insurance Policy to protect against non-payment for UK exporters when selling internationally. The scheme was extended for businesses operating in major international markets, including, but not limited to the European Union and United States.

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On 22 April 2020, the UK alongside several members of the World Trade Organization issued a joint statement that affirmed the maintenance of agricultural supply chains during the COVID-19 crisis.\textsuperscript{3482} This statement also included an agreement against the imposition of restrictive measures on food exports and a commitment to “ensure that supply chains remain open and connected so that international markets can continue to function.”\textsuperscript{3483}

On 22 June 2020, the Department for International Trade (DIT) and the Department for Environment announced a “bounce-back” international trade strategy for UK food and drink and agricultural industries.\textsuperscript{3484} The strategy seeks to “capitalise on trade agreements being negotiated by DIT with Japan, US, Australia and New Zealand” and to enable expansion of international trade activity for these industries internationally.\textsuperscript{3485}

On 14 August 2020, the UK introduced a program to support the workers of “high-street” businesses in developing nations during the COVID-19 pandemic.\textsuperscript{3486} This program includes investments targeted at maintaining “safe” and “secure” employment for vulnerable workers in associated supply chains.\textsuperscript{3487} The UK contributed GBP4.85 million to this program.\textsuperscript{3488}

On 8 September 2020, Exports Minister Graham Stuart announced the development of a bounce-back international trade strategy for consumer and retail industries.\textsuperscript{3489} This strategy seeks to improve overseas exports by helping improve the industries’ knowledge of online retail and e-commerce within international marketplaces.\textsuperscript{3490}

On 7 December 2020, UKEF launched the General Export Facility in collaboration with commercial banks to provide guarantees of working capital and capital expenditure for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) engaging in international trade.\textsuperscript{3491} This includes an “80% guarantee on financial support from lenders to support general exporting costs, up to the value of GBP 25 million.”\textsuperscript{3492}

On 10 January 2021, the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office announced that the UK has aided in raising over USD1 billion for the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access Advance Market


Commitment.\textsuperscript{3493} Through a match-funding scheme, the UK pledged to aid GBP548 million to facilitate the distribution of COVID-19 vaccines to “92 developing countries.”\textsuperscript{3494}

On 19 January 2021, the Department of Health and Social Care announced that up to 2,000 people “crucial to the continuity of the COVID-19 supply chain” will be offered vaccinations.\textsuperscript{3495} The government deems these individuals critical to the delivery and offering of vaccine supplies, and thus, highlighting their vulnerability as part of the associated medical supply chain.\textsuperscript{3496}

On 9 March 2021, Secretary of State for Health and Social Care Matt Hancock spoke at the Global COVID-19 Vaccine Supply Chain and Manufacturing Summit. Secretary Hancock discussed the Vaccine Task Force created in partnership with Oxford University that helped establish vaccine supply chains throughout the UK.\textsuperscript{3497}

From supporting SMEs in international trade markets to raising funds for vaccine dissemination in developing countries through the Vaccine Alliance Initiative, the UK has taken clear actions to address disturbances to international supply chains.

Thus, the UK received a score of +1.

\textit{Analyst: Julian Lam}

\textbf{United States: +1}

The United States has fully complied with its commitment to address disturbances to international supply chains.

On 18 March 2020, President Donald Trump invoked the Defense Production Act to mass produce supplies needed to combat the COVID-19 pandemic on recommendation by Congress.\textsuperscript{3498} The Defense Production Act would allow the President to influence domestic production to preferential goods, as well as provide emergency financial support to domestic producers.\textsuperscript{3499} The need for this act stemmed from reports of challenges to meet demand for supplies from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.\textsuperscript{3500}

On 11 April 2020, the Export-Import Bank of the United States (EXIM) announced that it would make applicable programs available to Italy to support their economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.


EXIM will provide financing tools that benefit American exporters and workers, and Italy. President and Chair Kimberly Reed reiterated a message made by former U.S. Secretary of State Michael Pompeo underscoring the importance of global trade, supply chains and cooperation.

On 4 May 2020, EXIM increased coverage of its Supply Chain Finance Guarantee Program and Working Capital Guarantee Program to support a wider range of domestic suppliers and exporters affected by the pandemic.

On 22 October 2020, the EXIM Board voted to inform Congress of a potential USD500 million Supply Chain Guarantee Finance program. The guarantee would benefit 1,900 aviation jobs across the country and support the aircraft supply chain affected by COVID-19.

On 21 January 2021, President Joseph R. Biden signed an executive order on a sustainable public health supply chain. The executive order directed immediate action toward securing necessary supplies for responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. It ordered a review of the ability of critical materials, treatments, and supplies needed to combat COVID-19 (e.g. personal protective equipment). Moreover, it called for a review of the necessary resources to produce and distribute COVID-19 tests and vaccines.

On 17 February 2021, Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken announced that the U.S. will cooperate with international partners to expand manufacturing, distribution capacity, and increase access to COVID-19

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vaccines. Secretary Blinken additionally promised a further contribution of USD200 million to the World Health Organization to support them in leading the global response to the pandemic. On 24 February 2021, President Biden signed an executive order on America’s supply chains. The executive order recognized the need for the United States to develop “resilient, diverse, and secure supply chains to ensure our economic prosperity and national security.” The order outlined necessary actions that must be undertaken in order to strengthen the resilience of America’s supply chain including coordination between executive branch actions, consulting outside stakeholders, and completing a review of supply chain risks.

The United States has demonstrated initiative to address disturbances to domestic and international supply chains. Thus, the United States has received a score of +1.

**European Union: +1**

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to address disturbances to international supply chains.

On 26 May 2020, Charles Michel, President of the European Council; Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan; and Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission, agreed to promote the cross-border flow of medical supplies, agricultural products and raw materials, while ensuring that the necessary emergency measures of tackling COVID-19 pandemic did not create unnecessary disruption to global supply chains.

On 8 June 2020, the European Union-Vietnam Investment Protection Agreement was approved by the Vietnamese National Assembly. The agreement will strengthen the international trade system by extending common rules and standards among the two areas, making it an important contribution by the European Union in protecting supply chains against future crises.

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On 7 October 2020, the incoming Trade Commissioner of the European Union, Valdis Dombrovskis, announced plans to complete the ongoing EU Trade Policy Review and implement digital trade policies that will increase the resilience of global supply chains.\footnote{The EU can set the pace worldwide with a forward-thinking digital trade strategy, EuroNews (France) 7 October 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2020. https://www.euronews.com/2020/10/07/the-eu-can-set-the-pace-worldwide-with-a-forward-thinking-digital-trade-strategy-view.}


On 2 December 2020, European Union health ministers agreed at an informal video conference held by the German Presidency of the Council of the European Union to diversify and increase transparency in production and supply chains, which will encourage the production and investment of critical medicinal products in Europe and thereby reduce the vulnerability of and dependence on global supply chains.\footnote{Informal Meeting of Health Ministers, Department of Federal Ministry of Health (Berlin) 18 December 2020. Access Date: 20 February 2020. https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/eu2020/en/topics/documents/epsco.html.}


Moreover, the Council recognized the need for the European Health Data Space to
“contribute to the cross-border use and re-use of health data for better healthcare, better research, as well as better policy-making and regulatory activities in health.”

On 9 March 2021, the European Parliament endorsed the provisional agreement for the new EU4Health programme for 2021-2027. The primary goal of the programme is to prepare EU health systems for future health threats and pandemics. During the plenary debate, the Ministers of European Parliament “welcomed the establishment at EU level of a stockpile of essential health supplies and equipment.” This would help to temporarily resolve bottlenecks in the supply chain during times of emergency.

The European Union has initiated and engaged with multilateral efforts to address the disruptions in international supply chains.

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

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