



2021 G7 Cornwall Summit Final Compliance Report

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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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20. Macroeconomics: Strong, Resilient, Sustainable, Balanced and Inclusive Growth

“We will continue to support our economies for as long as is necessary, shifting the focus of our support from crisis response to promoting strong, resilient, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth into the future.”

Carbis Bay G7 Summit Communiqué

Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Canada			+1
France			+1
Germany			+1
Italy		0	
Japan			+1
United Kingdom		0	
United States			+1
European Union			+1
Average		+0.75 (88%)	

Background

Macroeconomic growth and coordinating policy measures between G7 members have been important areas of interest at G7 summits in the past few decades. At the beginning of 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic began to negatively impact the global economy on numerous levels. The World Bank evaluated the ramifications of the pandemic on the global economy and estimated that global growth would accelerate to “5.6 per cent in 2021, largely on the strength in major economies such as the United States and China.”³⁸⁶⁵ Consequently, the G7 Member States and the international community have pledged to facilitate strong, resilient, balanced and sustainable growth despite these unprecedented circumstances.

G7 leaders first initiated discussions regarding macroeconomic policies and their commitment to fostering global economic growth at the 1993 Tokyo Summit.³⁸⁶⁶ On 6 July 1993, the G7 members made a ground-breaking commitment “to address structural issues which constituted obstacles to strong economic recovery and to longer-term growth potential.” These G7/G8 commitment discussions aimed at promoting sustainable economic growth continued into the 1998 Birmingham and 1999 Koln Summits.³⁸⁶⁷ Despite the significance of synchronizing international economic policy responses to promote strong and balanced growth, the topic was not discussed again until the 2009 L’Aquila Summit following the 2008 global economic crisis.

At the 2011 Deauville Summit, G8 leaders pledged their commitment to promote both strong and resilient economic growth.³⁸⁶⁸ The G8 leaders discussed macroeconomic policy strategies and “how to strengthen the recovery and foster employment, to reduce risks and ensure strong, sustainable and balanced growth, including through structural reforms.” Green Growth was also mentioned as being “an essential element to

³⁸⁶⁵ The Global Economy: On Track for Strong but Uneven Growth as Covid-19 Still Weighs, The World Bank (Washington D.C.) 8 June 2021. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2021/06/08/the-global-economy-on-track-for-strong-but-uneven-growth-as-covid-19-still-weighs>

³⁸⁶⁶ Economic Declaration: A strengthened Commitment to Jobs and Growth, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 9 July 1993. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1993tokyo/communiqué/index.html>

³⁸⁶⁷ Communiqué, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 17 May 1998. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1998birmingham/finalcom.htm>; G7 Statement, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 18 June 1999. Access Date: 24 September 2021. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1999koln/g7statement_june18.htm

³⁸⁶⁸ G8 Declaration: Renewed Commitment for Freedom and Democracy, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2011. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2011deauville/2011-declaration-en.html>

ensure global economic growth,” paving the way for discussions concerning environmental considerations at future summits.

At the 2016 Ise-Shima Summit, G7 leaders committed to strengthening “economic policy responses in a cooperative manner and to employ a more forceful and balanced policy mix, in order to swiftly achieve a strong, sustainable and balanced growth pattern.”³⁸⁶⁹ With regards to specific measures, the leaders committed to “further investment in areas conducive to economic growth, such as environment, energy, digital economy, human resource development, education, science and technology,” stating that “monetary policy alone cannot lead to strong, sustainable and balanced growth.” The G7 leaders pledged to decarbonize the global economy by “encouraging clean energy and energy efficiency” in the macroeconomy. Additionally, as part of their commitment, the G7 leaders stated that they “commit to advancing labor market participation by women, the youth, and the elderly,” promoting inclusive growth in the underrepresented sectors of the labor market.

At the 2017 Taormina Summit, the G7 leaders identified macroeconomic growth sustainability and policy strategies as some of their top priorities to discuss.³⁸⁷⁰ The delegations included a commitment to “improve knowledge and competences across all sectors and regions of our countries, by fostering innovation and new skills, by investing in fields such as education and training, as well as health, with a view to boosting economic growth and to improving people’s quality of life.” Specifically, they agreed to prioritize “high-quality investment, such as in infrastructures” as a way to use fiscal policy “flexibly to strengthen growth and job creation.” On 28 May 2017, the G7 leaders stated that it was a priority for “monetary policy to continue supporting economic activity and ensuring price stability, consistently with central banks’ mandate.” In particular, the G7 People-Centered Action Plan on Innovation, Skills and Labour discussed three pillars to foster growth in light of the Next Production Revolution (NPR): innovation in production; development of knowledge-based capital and enabling infrastructure; and the promotion of more productive and equitable labour practices.³⁸⁷¹

Similar goals to those proclaimed at the 2016 Ise-Shima and 2017 Taormina Summits were committed to at the 2018 Charlevoix Summit, where G7 leaders emphasized that they would continue “working together to stimulate sustainable economic growth” that provides equal benefits to everyone involved.³⁸⁷² The communiqué from this Summit outlined three key areas of focus: the need for strong policy tools to support market developments, promotion of “smart, sustainable and high-quality investments,” and the removal of barriers that hinder the participation of citizens in the global economy, particularly for women and marginalized communities. This Summit highlighted the desire of the delegations “to reach a carbon-neutral economy over the course of the second half of the century,” allowing for the macroeconomy to grow following an increase in commerce. The communiqué also presented the Charlevoix Commitment on Innovative Financing for Development, encouraging public and private investment to promote “economic growth in developing economies and foster greater equality of opportunity within and between countries.”

While growth was not mentioned in the 2019 G7 Leaders’ Declaration, the Chair’s Summary of the 18 July 2019 G7 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors’ Meeting stated that ministers and governors discussed ways of “continuing to address current risks in the global economy and the financial system to support strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth that generates widespread prosperity” and of “ensuring that the benefits of growth are more widely shared, fighting inequalities within countries as well as

³⁸⁶⁹ G7 Ise-Shima Leaders’ Declaration, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2016. Access Date: 24 September 2021.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2016shima/ise-shima-declaration-en.html#initiative>

³⁸⁷⁰ G7 Taormina G7 Leaders’ Communique, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2017. Access Date: 24 September 2021.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2017taormina/communique.html>

³⁸⁷¹ G7 People-Centered Action Plan on Innovation, Skills and Labor, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2017. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2017taormina/action-plan.html>

³⁸⁷² The Charlevoix G7 Summit Communique, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 9 June 2018. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/communique.html>

between advanced and developing countries.”³⁸⁷³ More specifically, G7 ministers and governors stated that “[f]iscal policy should be flexible and growth-friendly, while rebuilding buffers where needed and ensuring debt as a share of GDP is on a sustainable path” and “continued implementation of structural reforms will enhance our growth potential.”

The COVID-19 pandemic brought about a level of instability to the global macroeconomy that was not seen since the 2008 global economic crisis. At the 2020 USA Virtual Summit, G7 leaders emphasized that the negative economic impact would need to be dealt with before the pandemic was over.³⁸⁷⁴ Preserving economic growth and stability after the COVID-19 pandemic was one of the top priorities of the delegations at the 2020 USA Virtual Summit. On 18 March 2020, the G7 leaders stated that the level of economic growth present before the pandemic needed to be restored in order to ensure future cooperation and provide “financial assistance that is appropriate to help countries, including emerging and developing economies, face the health and economic shock of COVID-19.” The G7 leaders also recognized the importance of highlighting inequalities found in developed states and aligning economic policies to prevent future global macroeconomic recessions. Similarly, after the G7 Leaders’ Statement, the 24 March 2020 Statement of G7 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors committed to “do whatever is necessary to restore confidence and economic growth and to protect jobs, businesses, and the resilience of the financial system.”³⁸⁷⁵

Commitment Features

With inclusive growth having been a clear focus of past G7 summits, the Carbis Bay G7 Communiqué reiterated this theme as part of the pledge “to beat COVID-19 and build back better.”³⁸⁷⁶ Noting that not only do the immediate economic challenges need to be addressed, but the “long-term shifts in the global economy and society, including demographic, technological and environmental trends [and inequalities]”, the leaders agreed to “reinvigorate our economies by advancing recovery plans” which build upon the unprecedented level of economic support provided throughout the pandemic. Thus, the G7 leaders released the following commitment: “We will continue to support our economies for as long as is necessary, shifting the focus of our support from crisis response to promoting strong, resilient, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth into the future.”

“Continue to support,” in this context, can be understood to mean carrying on with “the action, or act of providing aid, assistance, or backing up an initiative, or entity.”³⁸⁷⁷ At the time of the communiqué’s publication, USD12 trillion in fiscal support and liquidity measures had been implemented “to mitigate the impact of the pandemic[...], including to retain jobs and support incomes and keep businesses afloat.”³⁸⁷⁸

To determine the interpretation of the phrase “as long as is necessary,” the commitment features have incorporated the data and conclusions of the International Monetary Fund’s (IMF) World Economic Outlook (WEO) and Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development’s (OECD) Economic Outlook Interim Report, updated most recently in July 2021 and September 2021 respectively. As per the OECD’s report, economic growth has increased this year thanks to strong policy support, effective vaccination programs and resumption of “normal” economic activity, with global gross domestic product (GDP) now having “surpassed

³⁸⁷³ Chairs Summary: G7 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors’ Meeting, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 18 July 2019. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/finance/190718-summary.html>

³⁸⁷⁴ G7 Leaders’ Statement, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 16 March 2020. Access Date: 24 September 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2020usa/covid-200316.html>

³⁸⁷⁵ Statement of G7 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 24 March 2020. Access Date: 26 September 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/finance/200324-statement.html>

³⁸⁷⁶ Carbis Bay G7 Summit Communiqué, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 13 June 2021. Access Date: 26 September 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2021cornwall/210613-communiqué.html>

³⁸⁷⁷ Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 26 September 2021. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf

³⁸⁷⁸ Carbis Bay G7 Summit Communiqué, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 13 June 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2021cornwall/210613-communiqué.html>

its pre-pandemic level.”³⁸⁷⁹ The IMF has corroborated this with its projection that the global economy is set to grow six per cent in 2021 and 4.9 per cent in 2022; a 0.5 per centage-point upgrade from the April 2021 WEO.³⁸⁸⁰ However, both reports have noted that the economic recovery has been highly uneven between high-income countries and middle- to low-income countries, with the principal fault line emerging to be vaccine access.³⁸⁸¹ Additionally, the WEO posits that four main forces are deepening this divide: the emergence of new COVID-19 variants, economic aftershocks triggered by the recession, supply-demand mismatches in various sectors including housing, and inflationary pressures.³⁸⁸² Concurrently, the Interim Report highlights the ongoing efforts to lower unemployment levels to pre-pandemic levels and rising inflation in commodities markets due to positive demand shocks.³⁸⁸³ Therefore, the phrase “as long as is necessary” should be interpreted as the timeline for these forces to return to or better than the pre-pandemic level.

“Crisis response” can be understood to mean the short-term actions taken by governments around the world designed to address the immediate economic impacts of the pandemic. These include but are not limited to: workplace re-openings, income support for the underemployed and unemployed, debt and contract relief, fiscal policy measures including stimulus spending and international aid.³⁸⁸⁴

“Promoting” is defined as “[supporting] or [renewing] old efforts or [creating] new efforts in the area.”³⁸⁸⁵ It should not have to be a brand new initiative; to contribute to growth or prosperity of, to help bring into being.”

The commitment has also outlined five core criteria of economic growth that G7 leaders have pledged themselves to working towards over the course of the summit cycle: strength, resiliency, sustainability, balance and inclusivity. “Strong” growth can be interpreted to mean economic growth that aligns with or is higher than the projections published in the WEO.³⁸⁸⁶ Global GDP is expected to grow at a rate of six per cent in 2021, with an average rate of 5.6 per cent for advanced economies (which includes all G7 members) and 6.3 per cent for emerging markets and developing economies. “Resilient” growth can be understood to mean economic growth with “the capacity to detect and avoid risks, reduce the negative impacts of shocks when they materialise, and recover faster and stronger.”³⁸⁸⁷ “Sustainable” growth is defined by the OECD as

³⁸⁷⁹ OECD Economic Outlook, Interim Report September 2021: Keeping the Recovery on Track, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (Paris) 21 September 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/economics/oecd-economic-outlook/volume-2021/issue-1_490d4832-en

³⁸⁸⁰ World Economic Outlook Update: Fault Lines Widen in the Global Recovery, International Monetary Fund (Washington D.C.) 27 July 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/WEO/Issues/2021/07/27/world-economic-outlook-update-july-2021>

³⁸⁸¹ OECD Economic Outlook, Interim Report September 2021: Keeping the Recovery on Track, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (Paris) 21 September 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/economics/oecd-economic-outlook/volume-2021/issue-1_490d4832-en; World Economic Outlook Update: Fault Lines Widen in the Global Recovery, International Monetary Fund (Washington D.C.) 27 July 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/WEO/Issues/2021/07/27/world-economic-outlook-update-july-2021>

³⁸⁸² World Economic Outlook Update: Fault Lines Widen in the Global Recovery, International Monetary Fund (Washington D.C.) 27 July 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/WEO/Issues/2021/07/27/world-economic-outlook-update-july-2021>

³⁸⁸³ OECD Economic Outlook, Interim Report September 2021: Keeping the Recovery on Track, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (Paris) 21 September 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/economics/oecd-economic-outlook/volume-2021/issue-1_490d4832-en

³⁸⁸⁴ Codebook for the Oxford COVID-19 Government Response Tracker, Blavatnik School of Government (Oxford) 25 April 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://github.com/OxCGRT/covid-policy-tracker/blob/master/documentation/codebook.md>

³⁸⁸⁵ Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 26 September 2021. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf

³⁸⁸⁶ World Economic Outlook Update: Fault Lines Widen in the Global Recovery, International Monetary Fund (Washington D.C.) 27 July 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/WEO/Issues/2021/07/27/world-economic-outlook-update-july-2021>

³⁸⁸⁷ Structural policies to deliver a stronger, more resilient, equitable and sustainable COVID-19 recovery, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (Paris) 15 April 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/sites/92b58feb-en/index.html?itemId=/content/component/92b58feb-en>

growth which incorporates environmental, social and economic concerns.³⁸⁸⁸ “Balanced” growth can be understood to mean growth with all different elements (ie. strength, sustainability, resiliency and inclusivity) effectively regulated and considered.³⁸⁸⁹ “Inclusive growth” is defined by the OECD as “economic growth that is distributed fairly across society and creates opportunities for all.”³⁸⁹⁰ This interpretation of the term is further bolstered by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), which views inclusive growth as “consisting of both participation and benefit-sharing, where everyone can participate in the growth process and can equally share [its] benefits.”³⁸⁹¹

This commitment area is divided into three key, interconnected pillars, each of which addresses a different part of the pledge made by leaders at the 2021 Cornwall Summit: “building resilience,” “facilitating reallocation and boosting productivity growth for all” and “supporting people in transitions.”³⁸⁹² These three priorities have been outlined in the OECD’s Going for Growth 2021: Shaping a Vibrant Recovery Report published in April 2021. While not formally endorsed by the G7 leaders, the report’s policy recommendations parallel many of the commitments outlined in the communique, and as such can provide an effective framework for addressing the core macroeconomic issues discussed at the summit.

Building Resilience and Sustainability

The first pillar of this commitment arises from the acknowledgement that “structural policies can improve the first line of defence to shocks and strengthen the private sector’s incentives to take into account longer-term sustainability considerations.”³⁸⁹³ Noting that resilience and long-term economic growth are interrelated, this pillar has three main focuses: “avoiding shocks and reducing risks, reducing the negative impact of shocks, and improving the ability to bounce back.”

There are a number of actions that G7 members can take in order to address this area of reform, which include but are not limited to: improving social safety nets, incorporating environmental considerations in economic policymaking, and increasing the access to sustainable and accessible infrastructure.³⁸⁹⁴ These actions are predominantly domestic in scope, however any international or overseas development assistance provided by G7 members specifically towards addressing this area of reform can be included in compliance.

Facilitating Reallocation and Boosting Productivity Growth for All

The second pillar of this commitment arises from the acknowledgement that economic downturns can leave “considerable economic and social scars” well beyond the actual downturn itself.³⁸⁹⁵ Thus, this pillar consists

³⁸⁸⁸ Sustainable Development, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (Paris) February 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://www.oecd.org/greengrowth/47445613.pdf>

³⁸⁸⁹ Balanced, Merriam-Webster (Springfield) n.d. Access Date: 26 October 2021. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/balanced>

³⁸⁹⁰ What is Inclusive Growth, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (Paris) 6-7 May 2014. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://www.oecd.org/inclusive-growth/>

³⁸⁹¹ Report on the OECD Framework for Inclusive Growth, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (Paris) 6-7 May 2014. Access Date: 26 February 2021. https://www.oecd.org/mcm/IG_MCM_ENG.pdf

³⁸⁹² Structural policies to deliver a stronger, more resilient, equitable and sustainable COVID-19 recovery, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (Paris) 15 April 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/sites/92b58feb-en/index.html?itemId=/content/component/92b58feb-en>

³⁸⁹³ Structural policies to deliver a stronger, more resilient, equitable and sustainable COVID-19 recovery, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (Paris) 15 April 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/sites/92b58feb-en/index.html?itemId=/content/component/92b58feb-en>

³⁸⁹⁴ Structural policies to deliver a stronger, more resilient, equitable and sustainable COVID-19 recovery, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (Paris) 15 April 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/sites/92b58feb-en/index.html?itemId=/content/component/92b58feb-en>

³⁸⁹⁵ Structural policies to deliver a stronger, more resilient, equitable and sustainable COVID-19 recovery, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (Paris) 15 April 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/sites/92b58feb-en/index.html?itemId=/content/component/92b58feb-en>

of three main focuses: “allocating resources to productive uses, boosting dynamism and innovation, and creating opportunities for workers and entrepreneurs.”

There are a number of actions that G7 members can take in order to address this area of reform, which include but are not limited to: encouraging fair competition and innovation in markets for small-and-medium enterprises (SMEs) and entrepreneurs, eliminating barriers to trade, adapting competition policy for the digital age, creating more flexible labour mobility, and enacting tax reform.”³⁸⁹⁶ These actions can be both domestic and international in scope, with any policies that encourage greater international partnership specifically towards this area of reform counting as compliance.

Supporting People in Transition

The third pillar of this commitment arises from the acknowledgement that policies must be designed “to ensure that people are not left behind” during periods of economic transition.³⁸⁹⁷ The three focuses of this pillar of sustainability are ensuring that new opportunities to boost productivity are effectively utilized by disadvantaged individuals, ensuring that no one is left behind as economies and sectors transition away from traditional practices and creating mechanisms to improve the visibility of structural policy actions.

There are a number of actions that G7 members can take in order to address this area of reform which include but are not limited to: improving access to social safety nets, educational policies designed to upskill and reskill workers, high quality vocational education and training for youth, addressing systemic gender occupational inequalities in labour markets, and reducing financial barriers for adult learning programs.³⁸⁹⁸ While these actions are predominantly domestic in scope, any international or overseas development assistance provided by G7 members specifically towards supporting people in transition should be included as compliance.

The G7 member will be found in full compliance if it takes strong and partial action in all three areas of the commitment. Partial compliance includes taking partial or strong action in one or two areas or partial action in all three areas of the commitment. Anything less than this, or less than 50 per cent of the commitment, counts as non-compliance.

Examples of partial action include verbal reaffirmations, assigned follow-up, attendance at meetings or inclusion in institutions but no evidence of active participation in such meetings. Strong action for full compliance can include allocation of money or personnel, promotion of a program, changes in regulation and legislation, cabinet reconfigurations or enforcement through policy or judicial action that addresses the relevant areas of reform above, information sharing or the sponsoring, signing or ratification of a commitment-related international treaty, joining and financing an international organization, provision of financial support directly or through international institutions, or international policy actions that address relevant areas of reform, etc.

³⁸⁹⁶ Structural policies to deliver a stronger, more resilient, equitable and sustainable COVID-19 recovery, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (Paris) 15 April 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/sites/92b58feb-en/index.html?itemId=/content/component/92b58feb-en>

³⁸⁹⁷ Structural policies to deliver a stronger, more resilient, equitable and sustainable COVID-19 recovery, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (Paris) 15 April 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/sites/92b58feb-en/index.html?itemId=/content/component/92b58feb-en>

³⁸⁹⁸ Macroeconomic Policy: Inclusive Growth, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 29 July 2021. Access Date: 26 September 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/compliance/2020riyadh-interim/01-2020-g20-compliance-interim-inclusive-growth.pdf>; Structural policies to deliver a stronger, more resilient, equitable and sustainable COVID-19 recovery, Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (Paris) 15 April 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/sites/92b58feb-en/index.html?itemId=/content/component/92b58feb-en>

Scoring Guidelines

-1	The G7 member has taken action in zero OR one area of building resilience and sustainability; facilitating reallocation and boosting productivity growth for all; and supporting people in transition.
0	The G7 member has taken strong or partial action in two areas OR partial action in all three areas of building resilience and sustainability; facilitating reallocation and boosting productivity growth for all; and supporting people in transition.
+1	The G7 member has taken strong action in ALL three areas of building resilience and sustainability; facilitating reallocation and boosting productivity growth for all; and supporting people in transition.

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Canada: +1

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to promote strong, resilient, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth.

On 27 June 2021, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau spoke with the Prime Minister of Israel Naftali Bennett.³⁸⁹⁹ They discussed ways to expand trade and investment, and create new jobs and opportunities through the modernized Canada-Israel Free Trade Agreement. Specifically, the updated agreement includes new provisions on gender, SMEs and inclusive trade in order to ensure the benefits and opportunities from the relationship are widely shared.³⁹⁰⁰

On 29 June 2021, Canada's Federal Budget for 2021 received royal assent and was turned into law.³⁹⁰¹ The budget has a key focus on recovery and resilience through the creation of jobs and overall growth. Budget 2021 contains measures that are intended to create one million jobs by the end of the 2021. Additionally, the budget creates opportunities for skilled tradespeople by providing CAD470 million over three years to Employment and Social Development Canada to establish a new Apprenticeship Service that will help 55,000 apprentices. The Small Business Financing program has been enhanced and will receive an additional annual financing of CAD560 million, which will support 2900 additional businesses.

On 30 June 2021, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced the creation of 4,500 new affordable housing units across the country with an additional investment of CAD1.5 billion through the Rapid Housing Initiative (RHI).³⁹⁰² These housing units will support Canadians who are in uncertain housing situations, experiencing or at risk of homelessness, or living in temporary shelters because of the pandemic.

On 5 July 2021, Prime Minister Trudeau, announced that Algoma Steel Inc. will receive up to CAD420 million to retrofit their operations and phase out coal-fired steelmaking processes at their facility in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario.³⁹⁰³ The funding will allow Algoma Steel Inc. to purchase equipment to support its transition to Electric-Arc Furnace production. This electricity-based process is expected to cut greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by more than three million metric tonnes per year by 2030, making a meaningful contribution to achieving Canada's climate goals. The investment will create 500 jobs and over 600 new co-op placements for

³⁸⁹⁹ Prime Minister Justin Trudeau speaks with the Prime Minister of Israel Naftali Bennett, Office of the Prime Minister (Ottawa) 27 June 2021. Access Date: 1 December 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/readouts/2021/06/27/prime-minister-justin-trudeau-speaks-prime-minister-israel-naftali-bennett>

³⁹⁰⁰ What is the CIFTA?, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 12 July 2021. Access Date: 2 December 2021.

<https://www.international.gc.ca/trade-commerce/trade-agreements-accords-commerciaux/agr-acc/israel/fta-ale/index.aspx?lang=eng>

³⁹⁰¹ Budget 2021: A Recovery Plan for Jobs, Growth, and Resilience, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 2 December 2021. <https://www.budget.gc.ca/2021/home-accueil-en.html>

³⁹⁰² 4500 more homes for Canadians, Office of the Prime Minister (Ottawa) 5 July 2021. Access Date: 1 December 2021.

<https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2021/06/30/4500-more-homes-canadians>

³⁹⁰³ Investment in Canada's steel industry to create jobs and build a cleaner future, Office of the Prime Minister (Ottawa) 5 July 2021. Access Date: 1 December 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2021/07/05/new-investment-canadas-steel-industry-create-jobs-and-build-cleaner>

students. Additionally, 75 employees at Algoma will be trained for high-skilled jobs in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics fields.

On 7 July 2021, Prime Minister Trudeau confirmed the Canada's commitment to invest up to CAD1.53 billion to build the new Green Line as part of Calgary's Light Rail Transit (LRT) system.³⁹⁰⁴ As the largest infrastructure project in the city's history, the Green Line will play a key role in shaping the future of Calgary by connecting people and places, reducing congestion, and creating up to 20,000 jobs.

On 9 July 2021, Prime Minister Trudeau, announced up to CAD1.3 billion in federal funding toward the Surrey Langley SkyTrain extension project.³⁹⁰⁵ The public transit investment aims to create jobs and develop crucial transportation infrastructure in the region. The project will create approximately 3,000 full time, well-paying middle-class jobs, increase connectivity and allow approximately 24,000 to 30,000 riders to switch to transit from other modes of transportation.

On 14 July 2021, Prime Minister Trudeau announced that the Government of Canada will collaborate with the Government of Quebec and LM Wind Power, a GE Renewable Energy company, to pursue a CAD160 million project that will help the company expand its wind turbine blades manufacturing facility in Gaspé, Quebec.³⁹⁰⁶ The Government of Canada will provide up to CAD25 million for the project which, upon completion, will create up to 200 new highly-skilled jobs and maintain approximately 380 additional jobs for Canadian workers.

On 19 July 2021, Prime Minister Trudeau announced an investment of nearly CAD120 million to help build a new 26-storey multi-residential, energy-efficient building in Brampton, Ontario.³⁹⁰⁷ This project will help over 300 local families find rental housing units.

On 20 July 2021, Prime Minister Trudeau, announced CAD5 million in funding to help over 320 Ontario families and individuals find a place to live and build their future.³⁹⁰⁸ This funding will be delivered through the Affordable Housing Innovation Fund, which was expanded in Budget 2021, and will build a total of 30,000 affordable housing units for Canadians.

On 28 July 2021, Prime Minister Trudeau and the Premier of Newfoundland and Labrador Andrew Furey announced an agreement that will support an average of CAD10 dollar-a-day child care in the province.³⁹⁰⁹ This includes creating 5,896 new licensed early learning and child care spaces within five years. With federal funding of over CAD347 million over the next five years and a one-time investment of CAD6.5 million, Newfoundland and Labrador will see a reduction in average parent fees for children under the age of six in regulated child care from CAD25 dollars a day to CAD15 dollars a day in 2022, with further reduction to an average of CAD10 dollars a day in 2023.

On 2 August 2021, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau spoke with President of the United States Joe Biden and discussed the importance of physical and human infrastructure investments being made to build back better

³⁹⁰⁴ Public Transit Investment in Calgary, Alberta, Office of the Prime Minister (Ottawa) 7 July 2021. Access Date: 1 December 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2021/07/07/prime-minister-highlights-public-transit-investment-create-jobs-grow>

³⁹⁰⁵ Public Transit Investment in British Columbia, Office of the Prime Minister (Ottawa) 9 July 2021. Access Date: 1 December 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2021/07/09/new-public-transit-investment-create-jobs-grow-economy-and-build-back>

³⁹⁰⁶ Supporting renewable energy manufacturing in Quebec to create jobs and build a cleaner future, Office of the Prime Minister (Ottawa) 14 July 2021. Access Date: 1 December 2021.

<https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2021/07/14/supporting-renewable-energy-manufacturing-quebec-create-jobs-and>

³⁹⁰⁷ Helping over 300 families find affordable rental housing in Brampton, Office of the Prime Minister (Ottawa) 19 July 2021. Access Date: 1 December 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2021/07/19/helping-over-300-families-find-rental-housing-brampton>

³⁹⁰⁸ Helping 320 Canadian families find affordable housing in Ontario, Office of the Prime Minister (Ottawa) 20 July 2021. Access Date: 1 December 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2021/07/20/helping-over-320-canadian-families-find-affordable-homes-ontario>

³⁹⁰⁹ \$10-a-day childcare for families in Newfoundland and Labrador, Office of the Prime Minister (Ottawa) 28 July 2021. Access Date: 1 December 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2021/12/13/10-day-child-care-families-new-brunswick>

from the COVID-19 pandemic and address its disproportionate impact on women, including by prioritizing supports for child care and education.³⁹¹⁰ They looked forward to working closely together for the benefit of people and jobs on both sides of the border.

On 30 October 2021, Prime Minister Trudeau participated in the first day of the G20 Leaders' Summit in Rome, Italy.³⁹¹¹ He reaffirmed Canada's dedication to supporting the global economic recovery from the pandemic, including through inclusive and transparent debt relief measures and innovative financing. He announced that Canada will channel CAD3.7 billion, or 20 per cent of its newly allocated International Monetary Fund Special Drawing Rights to support low-income and other vulnerable countries. As part of this declaration, the Prime Minister announced that approximately CAD982 million would further be distributed to the Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust.

On 31 October 2021, Prime Minister Trudeau participated in the Summit on Global Supply Chain Resilience hosted by the President of the United States of America Joe Biden.³⁹¹² At the summit, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau highlighted the need to foster secure and sustainable environmental supply chains and stated that Canada is committed to working with like-minded partners to build resilient supply chains and address unfair and non-market trade practices. He also noted Canada's efforts to deepen cooperation through the Canada-led Ottawa Group, highlighting Canada's many bilateral and multilateral free trade agreements as well as Canada's desire to continue to develop free trade relationships with its partners.

On 31 October 2021, Prime Minister Trudeau met with Prime Minister of Spain Pedro Sánchez and discussed key issues and areas of collaboration between Canada and Spain.³⁹¹³ They discussed the importance of progressive and open economic and trade relations. They exchanged views on the opportunities provided to workers and businesses in both countries by the Canada-European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement.

On 1 November 2021, Prime Minister Trudeau met with President of Argentina Alberto Fernández where they discussed the importance of inclusive and progressive approaches to trade as a way to help address inequalities and ensure future economic resilience.³⁹¹⁴ They discussed how to ensure a strong and inclusive economic recovery that leaves no one behind and spoke about the need for liquidity and debt treatments to enable economic recovery and growth in Latin America. The Prime Minister and the President acknowledged the extent to which the pandemic has deepened social, health, and economic disparities for Indigenous peoples across Latin America. They spoke about how to address these inequalities through action and investments aimed at closing gaps in housing, health, and education for Indigenous communities.

On 5 November 2021, Prime Minister Trudeau spoke with Manitoba Premier Heather Stefanson about the importance of working together to ensure a strong economic recovery from Covid-19, healthcare and

³⁹¹⁰ Prime Minister Justin Trudeau speaks with the President of the United States of America Joe Biden, Office of the Prime Minister (Ottawa) 2 August 2021. Access Date: 1 December 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/readouts/2021/08/02/prime-minister-justin-trudeau-speaks-president-united-states-america-joe>

³⁹¹¹ Prime Minister Justin Trudeau concludes first day of G20 Leaders' Summit in Italy, Office of the Prime Minister (Ottawa) 30 October 2021. Access Date: 1 December 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2021/10/30/global-health-and-economy-prime-minister-concludes-productive-first>

³⁹¹² Prime Minister Justin Trudeau participates in Summit of Global Supply Chain Resilience, Office of the Prime Minister (Ottawa) 31 October 2021. Access Date: 1 December 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/readouts/2021/10/31/prime-minister-justin-trudeau-participates-summit-global-supply-chain>

³⁹¹³ Prime Minister Justin Trudeau meets with Prime Minister of Spain Pedro Sánchez, Office of the Prime Minister (Ottawa) 31 October 2021. Access Date: 1 December 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/readouts/2021/10/31/prime-minister-justin-trudeau-meets-prime-minister-pedro-sanchez-spain>

³⁹¹⁴ Prime Minister Justin Trudeau meets with President of Argentina Alberto Fernández, Office of the Prime Minister (Ottawa) 1 November 2021. Access Date: 07 December 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/readouts/2021/11/01/prime-minister-justin-trudeau-meets-president-argentina-alberto-fernandez>

infrastructure investments.³⁹¹⁵ They also noted the role of immigration in addressing labour market shortages and committed to working together to accelerate infrastructure projects across Manitoba.

On 9 November 2021, Prime Minister Trudeau spoke with Mayor of Montréal Valérie Plante, Mayor of Quebec City Bruno Marchand, Mayor of Laval Stéphane Boyer, Mayor of Gatineau France Bélisle, Mayor of Longueuil Catherine Fournier, Mayor of Sherbrooke Évelyne Beaudin, and Mayor of Trois-Rivières Jean Lamarche. They discussed economic recovery plans for Quebec and Canada.³⁹¹⁶ Other shared priorities discussed were affordable housing, public transit, economic development and support for Canadian businesses.

On 15 November 2021, Prime Minister Trudeau and the Premier of Alberta Jason Kenney announced an agreement that will support an average of CAD10 dollars-a-day child care in the province.³⁹¹⁷ This includes creating 42,500 new licensed early learning and child care spaces by the end of March 2026. With federal funding of almost CAD3.8 billion over the next five years, Alberta will see a 50 per cent reduction in average parent fees for children under the age of six in regulated child care by the end of 2022.

On 18 November 2021, Prime Minister Trudeau met with the President of The United States of America Joe Biden. They recognised their progress towards fighting Covid-19 across the world and building back better with an economic recovery that benefits everyone.³⁹¹⁸ They also reaffirmed their shared vision for a sustainable and inclusive economic recovery that strengthens the middle class, creates more opportunities and ensures that people on both sides of the border have good jobs and careers.

On 18 November 2021, Prime Minister Trudeau and President of the United States Joe Biden underscored their commitment to supply chain security.³⁹¹⁹ They announced the launch of the Canada-United States Working Group on Supply Chains and instructed their officials to produce a report within 120 days.

On 13 December 2021, Prime Minister Trudeau and the Premier of New Brunswick Blaine Higgs announced an agreement that will support an average of CAD10 dollars-a-day child care in the province.³⁹²⁰ This includes creating 3,400 new licensed early learning and child care spaces by the end of March 2026. With federal funding of almost CAD492 million over the next five years, New Brunswick will also see a 50 per cent reduction in average parent fees for children under the age of six in regulated child care by the end of 2022.

On 13 December 2021, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, Infrastructure and Communities Dominic LeBlanc reiterated the Government's support toward reducing trade barriers within Canada to support the country's economic recovery and competitiveness.³⁹²¹ These support measures included narrowing many federal exceptions from the Canadian Free Trade Agreement and a CAD21 million commitment to reduce trade barriers in Budget 2021.

³⁹¹⁵ Prime Minister Justin Trudeau speaks with Manitoba Premier Heather Stefanson, Office of the Prime Minister (Ottawa) 5 November 2021. Access Date: 07 December 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/readouts/2021/11/05/prime-minister-justin-trudeau-speaks-manitoba-premier-heather-stefanson>

³⁹¹⁶ Prime Minister Trudeau speaks with Mayors of Quebec, Office of the Prime Minister (Ottawa) 9 November 2021. Access Date: 07 December 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/readouts/2021/11/09/prime-minister-justin-trudeau-speaks-mayors-quebec>

³⁹¹⁷ \$10-a-day childcare for families in Alberta, Office of the Prime Minister (Ottawa) 15 November 2021. Access Date: 7 December 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2021/11/15/10-day-child-care-families-alberta>

³⁹¹⁸ Prime Minister Justin Trudeau meets with the President of the United States of America Joe Biden, Office of the Prime Minister (Ottawa) 18 November 2021. Access Date: 7 December 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/readouts/2021/11/18/prime-minister-justin-trudeau-meets-president-united-states-america-joe>

³⁹¹⁹ Prime Minister Justin Trudeau meets with the President of the United States of America Joe Biden, Office of the Prime Minister (Ottawa) 18 November 2021. Access Date: 7 December 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/readouts/2021/11/18/prime-minister-justin-trudeau-meets-president-united-states-america-joe>

³⁹²⁰ \$10-a-day child care for families in New Brunswick, Office of the Prime Minister (Ottawa) 13 December 2021. Access Date: 4 January 2022. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2021/12/13/10-day-child-care-families-new-brunswick>

³⁹²¹ Minister LeBlanc reaffirms commitment to enhancing internal trade in Canada, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 12 December 2021. Access Date: 30 January 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/intergovernmental-affairs/news/2021/12/minister-leblanc-reaffirms-commitment-to-enhancing-internal-trade-in-canada.html>

On 14 December 2021, a meeting of Federal Ministers, the ministers of British Columbia and First Nations leaders was held to discuss enhancing climate adaptation and response measures.³⁹²² In particular, four areas of priority were highlighted: interim housing, Indigenous emergency management, infrastructure (especially in the areas of supply chain management and transportation reliability) and agriculture.

On 15 December 2021, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau met with Northwest Territories Premier Caroline Cochrane to discuss and reaffirm their commitment to building strong, healthy, and resilient communities in the Northwest Territories.³⁹²³ Key issues discussed were early learning and childcare, housing and infrastructure, and ensuring all Northerners have access to the same economic and social opportunities as the rest of Canada.

On 15 December 2021, Prime Minister Trudeau launched a plan to provide CAD10 dollars-a-day childcare to all children under the age of six in the Northwest Territories.³⁹²⁴ Federal funding of CAD51 million (over the next five years) will result in a 50 per cent reduction in average parent fees for children under the age of six in licensed child care by the end of 2022.

On 21 December 2021, Employment and Social Development Canada's Labour Program began looking for input from employers and employees on a number of proposed regulations under Parts III and IV of the Canada Labour Code.³⁹²⁵ These include regulations related to equal treatment and temporary help agencies, the service of documents and regular rate of wages, and long-term disability plans. The Labour Program is tasked with preparing a discussion paper to summarise these initiatives.

On 21 January 2022, Prime Minister Trudeau announced CAD2.5 billion toward the Rapid Housing Initiative (RHI), which would help create over 10,000 new affordable housing units.³⁹²⁶ These units would help vulnerable Canadians at risk of homelessness, with one third of the units supporting women and their children, and more than one third assisting Indigenous peoples.

On 24 January 2022, Prime Minister Trudeau virtually joined the Premier of Nunavut P.J. Akeeagok to announce an agreement that would support CAD10-a-day licensed childcare by March 2024.³⁹²⁷ The program would reduce parent fees for licensed childcare by approximately 50 per cent.

On 27 January 2022, Prime Minister Trudeau spoke with Barbados' Prime Minister Mia Mottley, focusing on prospects for furthering economic development in partnership with financial institutions and the private sector.³⁹²⁸ The two leaders noted that the pandemic was increasing the challenge of meeting the UN Sustainable Development Goals and agreed on the need to mobilize development financing to ensure a safer, fairer and more inclusive recovery.

³⁹²² Federal and British Columbia ministers and First Nations hold meeting on disaster recovery and climate resilience, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 14 December 2021. Access Date: 30 January 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/intergovernmental-affairs/news/2021/12/federal-and-british-columbia-ministers-and-first-nations-hold-meeting-on-disaster-recovery-and-climate-resilience2.html>

³⁹²³ Prime Minister Justin Trudeau meets with Northwest Territories Premier Caroline Cochrane, Office of the Prime Minister (Ottawa) 15 December 2021. Access Date: 4 January 2022. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/readouts/2021/12/15/prime-minister-justin-trudeau-meets-northwest-territories-premier-caroline>

³⁹²⁴ \$10-a-day childcare for families in Northwest Territories, Office of the Prime Minister (Ottawa) 15 December 2021. Access Date: 4 January 2022. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2021/12/15/10-day-child-care-families-northwest-territories>

³⁹²⁵ Regulatory Initiatives under the Canada Labour Code, Employment and Social Development Canada (Ottawa) 21 December 2021. Access Date: 4 January 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/corporate/portfolio/labour/programs/labour-standards/modern-consultation.html>

³⁹²⁶ Over 10,000 new affordable homes for Canadians, Office of the Prime Minister (Ottawa) 21 January 2022. Access Date: 27 February 2022. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2022/01/21/over-10000-new-affordable-homes-canadians>

³⁹²⁷ CAD10-a-day child care for families in Nunavut, Office of the Prime Minister (Ottawa) 24 January 2022. Access Date: 27 February 2022. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2022/01/24/10-day-child-care-families-nunavut>

³⁹²⁸ Prime Minister Justin Trudeau speaks with Prime Minister of Barbados Mia Mottley, Office of the Prime Minister (Ottawa) 27 January 2022. Access Date: 27 February 2022. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/readouts/2022/01/27/prime-minister-justin-trudeau-speaks-prime-minister-barbados-mia-mottley>

On 3 February 2022, Prime Minister Trudeau virtually joined the Premier of Manitoba Heather Stefanson to announce that childcare fees for Manitoba families with children age six and under would be reduced by up to 50 per cent.³⁹²⁹ The province's program would assist 12,000 children from low and middle-income families and represents an important step in achieving the federal government's goal of achieving CAD10 per day childcare nationwide.

On 6 February 2022, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau made a speech for International Development Week, where he conveyed the importance of advancing gender equality, improving education and health outcomes, fighting climate change and strengthening economic resilience.³⁹³⁰ He reaffirmed Canada's pledge to commit CAD5.3 billion in climate financing to support action in developing countries and ensuring a resilient recovery for all countries.

On 8 February 2022, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau spoke with the Prime Minister of Japan Kishida Fumio.³⁹³¹ The prime ministers reaffirmed the two countries' vision for a free and open Indo-Pacific and discussed opportunities for Canada and Japan to enhance cooperation in rebuilding a more sustainable and resilient global economy by strengthening economic security, addressing climate change and building strong supply chains. The two leaders also discussed the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership and agreed on the need to ensure its high standards are maintained.

On 23 February 2022, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau issued a statement on the anniversary of the Roadmap for a Renewed US-Canada Partnership.³⁹³² He stressed the importance of the Partnership as “an ambitious framework to build a greener, more prosperous future; grow Canada and the United States' economies and strengthen the middle class; combat the global COVID-19 pandemic; create safer, more equitable communities; and stand together in the face of threats to democracy.”³⁹³³

On 3 March 2022, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced the launch of the Canada Digital Adoption Program, which would help SMEs develop their online presence and upgrade digital technologies.³⁹³⁴ The investment would provide CAD4 billion over the next four years, and would support 160,000 SMEs, leveraging their e-commerce opportunities to stay competitive and meet customer needs in the digital marketplace.

On 29 March 2022, Prime Minister Trudeau announced the release of the 2030 Emissions Reduction Plan. This plan aims to cut emissions by 40 per cent below 2005 levels by 2030.³⁹³⁵ This plan, valued at CAD9.1 billion encourages a smoother transition to electric vehicles, net-zero building plans, helping industries transition to net-zero emissions and invests CAD2.2 billion in the Low Carbon Economy Fund.

³⁹²⁹ Lower child-care fees for Manitoba families, Office of the Prime Minister (Ottawa) 3 February 2022. Access Date: 27 February 2022. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2022/02/03/lower-child-care-fees-manitoba-families>

³⁹³⁰ Statement by the Prime Minister on International Development Week, Office of the Prime Minister (Ottawa) 6 February 2022. Access Date: 27 February 2022. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/statements/2022/02/06/statement-prime-minister-international-development-week>

³⁹³¹ Prime Minister Justin Trudeau speaks with Prime Minister of Japan Kishida Fumio, Office of the Prime Minister (Ottawa) 9 February 2022. Access Date: 27 February 2022. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/readouts/2022/02/09/prime-minister-justin-trudeau-speaks-prime-minister-japan-kishida-fumio>

³⁹³² Joint Statement by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and President Joseph R. Biden Jr. on One-Year Anniversary of the Roadmap for a Renewed U.S.-Canada Partnership, Office of the Prime Minister (Ottawa) 23 February 2022. Access Date: 27 February 2022. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/statements/2022/02/23/joint-statement-prime-minister-justin-trudeau-and-president-joseph-r>

³⁹³³ Joint Statement by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and President Joseph R. Biden Jr. on One-Year Anniversary of the Roadmap for a Renewed U.S.-Canada Partnership, Office of the Prime Minister (Ottawa) 23 February 2022. Access Date: 27 February 2022. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/statements/2022/02/23/joint-statement-prime-minister-justin-trudeau-and-president-joseph-r>

³⁹³⁴ New Canada Digital Adoption Program to help small businesses thrive in the digital economy, Office of the Prime Minister (Ottawa), 3 March 2022. Access Date: 1 April 2022. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2022/03/03/new-canada-digital-adoption-program-help-small-businesses-thrive>

³⁹³⁵ Delivering Clean Air and a Strong Economy for Canadians, Office of the Prime Minister (Vancouver) 29 March 2022. Access Date: 25 April 2022. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2022/03/29/delivering-clean-air-and-strong-economy-canadians>

On 7 April 2022, Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland released the federal government's budget for 2022, with an emphasis on growing the economy and ensuring affordability.³⁹³⁶ Noting that Canada's employment recovery was the strongest in the G7, the budget focuses on three core areas: "Investing in Canadians and Making Life More Affordable," "Investing in Economic Growth and Innovation," and "Investing in a Clean Economy." Key provisions in the budget include CAD3.8 billion towards implementing a Critical Minerals Strategy which is essential for the production of electric vehicles, ensuring the resilience of supply chains and building a Canada Growth Fund to mobilize private sector investment.

On 12 April 2022, Prime Minister Trudeau highlighted key measures included in Budget 2022 that support small businesses and create jobs.³⁹³⁷ These measures include cutting taxes for Canada's growing small businesses, investing to expand health technology businesses, encouraging employee ownership of businesses through the Income Tax Act, reducing credit card transaction fees and increasing access to Canada's trade remedy system.

On 20 April 2022, Prime Minister Trudeau highlighted key measures included in Budget 2022 to improve housing affordability for Canadians.³⁹³⁸ This includes doubling housing construction over the next decade, introducing a tax-free First Home Savings Account, curbing unfair practices that drive up real estate prices and implementing a Home Buyers' Bill of Rights.

On 23 April 2022, Prime Minister Trudeau met with the Premier of Manitoba Heather Stefanson. They discussed the importance of affordable housing and highlighted how a joint provincial-federal investment in cooperation with the Southern Chief's Organisation would create 300 new and affordable homes.³⁹³⁹

On 9 May 2022, the Government of Canada announced CAD276,000 worth of funding for Quebec-based firm Boulons Éclair, a SME specializing in the manufacturing of bolts and anchors. The funding will increase the company's manufacturing capabilities and support the economic diversification of the Gatineau region and increase self-sufficiency for the firm within the global supply chain.³⁹⁴⁰

On 9 May 2022, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada announced a total of CAD2.1 million of investment under the AgriCompetitiveness Program for three organizations to promote professional development opportunities for youth in agriculture. The funding is designed to ensure the resiliency of the food supply chain and strengthen the future of Canadian agriculture from a labour perspective.³⁹⁴¹

On 9 May 2022, the Government of Canada announced an investment of approximately CAD1.1 million through the Jobs and Growth Fund (JGF) to support five SMEs in New Brunswick. Recognizing that these

³⁹³⁶ Government of Canada releases Budget 2022, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 7 April 2022. Access Date: 11 May 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2022/04/government-of-canada-releases-budget-2022.html>

³⁹³⁷ Support for Small Businesses, Office of the Prime Minister (Edmonton) 12 April 2022. Access Date: 25 April 2022. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2022/04/12/supporting-small-businesses-and-creating-good-jobs>

³⁹³⁸ Affordable Housing for Canadians, Office of the Prime Minister (Waterloo Region) 20 April 2022. Access Date: 25 April 2022. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2022/04/20/making-housing-more-affordable-canadians>

³⁹³⁹ Prime Minister Trudeau meets Manitoba Premier Heather Stefanson, Office of the Prime Minister (Winnipeg) 23 April 2022. Access Date: 25 April 2022. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/readouts/2022/04/23/prime-minister-justin-trudeau-meets-manitoba-premier-heather-stefanson>.

³⁹⁴⁰ Government of Canada supports adoption of cutting-edge technologies with assistance for Boulons Éclair, Government of Canada (Gatineau) 9 May 2022. Access Date: 24 May 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/economic-development-quebec-regions/news/2022/05/government-of-canada-supports-adoption-of-cutting-edge-technologies-with-assistance-for-boulons-eclair.html>

³⁹⁴¹ Government of Canada invests in the future generation of agricultural leaders, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 9 May 2022. Access Date: 22 May 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/agriculture-agri-food/news/2022/05/government-of-canada-invests-in-the-future-generation-of-agricultural-leaders.html>

businesses form the backbone of many regional economies and are crucial to the country's economic recovery, the fund will create 71 new jobs and improve inclusivity and sustainability within businesses.³⁹⁴²

On 10 May 2022, Minister of International Trade Mary Ng spoke with New Zealand Minister for Trade and Export Growth Damien O'Connor. Recognizing the invaluable partnership between New Zealand and Canada on inclusive trade, Indigenous trade cooperation and collaboration under the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership, Minister Ng advocated maintaining openness and transparency in all aspects of the two countries' economic relationship.³⁹⁴³

On 10 May 2022, the Government of Canada announced approximately CAD288,000 in funding for Usinage Marcotte, a Quebec-based steel manufacturing company focusing on the mining and forestry sectors. The government noted that supporting businesses like this are crucial for "rebuilding a stronger, more resilient, greener, and more just economy for all."³⁹⁴⁴

On 10 May 2022, the Government of Canada announced CAD125,600 in funding for three Newfoundland and Labrador communities, in order to "build and maintain resilient and sustainable communities for all." Each community would receive funding to identify and analyze their infrastructure-related assets and focus on long-term solutions for key economic infrastructure projects including good railroads, roads and water systems for example.³⁹⁴⁵

On 10 May 2022, Minister Ng spoke with India's Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal. Topics of discussion included the progress in establishing a Canada-India Early Progress Trade Agreement, the deepening bilateral relationships between Canada and the Indo-Pacific countries and the importance of human rights and respect for the rules-based international trade order.³⁹⁴⁶

On 10 May 2022, the Government of Canada and the Government of Saskatchewan presented four scholarships to students across the province for their role in presenting innovative solutions to addressing supply chain and sustainability issues in the agriculture industry.³⁹⁴⁷

On 10 May 2022, Public Services and Procurement Canada announced it would establish a coaching service to help diverse businesses become more involved in federal procurement. The coaching service would prioritize businesses from women, Indigenous groups, Black and racialized Canadians, those with disabilities

³⁹⁴² Investing in new technologies to create jobs and improve productivity in New Brunswick, Government of Canada (Moncton) 9 May 2022. Access Date: 24 May 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/atlantic-canada-opportunities/news/2022/05/investing-in-new-technologies-to-create-jobs-and-improve-productivity-in-new-brunswick.html>

³⁹⁴³ Minister Ng speaks with New Zealand's minister for trade and export growth, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 10 May 2022. Access Date: 24 May 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2022/05/minister-ng-speaks-with-new-zealands-minister-for-trade-and-export-growth.html>

³⁹⁴⁴ Government of Canada boosts metal products sector with support for Usinage Marcotte, Government of Canada (Val-d'Or) 10 May 2022. Access Date: 24 May 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/economic-development-quebec-regions/news/2022/05/government-of-canada-boosts-metal-products-sector-with-support-for-usinagemarcotte.html>

³⁹⁴⁵ Canada and FCM support strengthened asset management in Newfoundland and Labrador communities, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 10 May 2022. Access Date: 24 May 2022. [canada.ca/en/office-infrastructure/news/2022/05/canada-and-fcm-support-strengthened-asset-management-in-newfoundland-and-labrador-communities.html](https://www.canada.ca/en/office-infrastructure/news/2022/05/canada-and-fcm-support-strengthened-asset-management-in-newfoundland-and-labrador-communities.html)

³⁹⁴⁶ Minister Ng speaks with India's Minister of Commerce and Industry, Consumer Affairs and Food and Public Distribution and Textiles, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 10 May 2022. Access Date: 24 May 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2022/05/minister-ng-speaks-with-indias-minister-of-commerce-and-industry-consumer-affairs-and-food-and-public-distribution-and-textiles.html>

³⁹⁴⁷ Saskatchewan agriculture student scholarship recipients announced, Government of Canada (Regina) 10 May 2022. Access Date: 24 May 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/agriculture-agri-food/news/2022/05/saskatchewan-agriculture-student-scholarship-recipients-announced.html>

and members of the LGBTQ+ community and ensure they would have meetings with procurement specialists and discuss how to expand business growth.³⁹⁴⁸

On 11 May 2022, the Government of Canada announced it would support the transition to Industry 4.0 – the new phase of industrialization focusing on automation, digitalization and machine learning – by investing CAD200,000 in Lignum Veneer, a Quebec-based manufacturer.³⁹⁴⁹

On 11 May 2022, the Government of Canada announced an investment of CAD543,000 to increase and diversify red meat exports in Canada. In collaboration with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and the Canadian Meat Council, the investment would allow the industry to strengthen partnerships abroad and facilitate a more resilient supply chain that strengthens Canada’s agriculture industry.³⁹⁵⁰

On 11 May 2022, the Government of Canada announced investments of CAD518,000 through the Tourism Relief Fund for two SMEs in Nova Scotia to promote the recovery of the tourism industry in the region.³⁹⁵¹

On 11 May 2022, the Government of Canada announced it would be accepting proposals for the Critical Minerals Research, Development and Demonstration Program. The program would provide more than CAD10 million in funding to build critical mineral supply chains as part of the CAD47.7 million initiative from Budget 2021. The program would fund all applications that “demonstrate the ability to reduce energy and carbon intensity, improve the environmental footprint of critical mineral processing” among other goals to achieve Canada’s net zero by 2050 pledge.³⁹⁵²

On 12 May 2022, the Government of Canada announced total investments of more than CAD1.6 million through the JGF for four projects run by SMEs in New Brunswick. The projects would create up to 25 new jobs and the investment would go toward providing new equipment and assisting in Canada’s inclusive and sustainable recovery.³⁹⁵³

On 12 May 2022, the Government of Canada announced investments of more than CAD1.1 million through the JGF for four SME-led projects in Nova Scotia. The investments would create four new jobs and retain 20

³⁹⁴⁸Government of Canada launches new coaching service to increase supplier diversity in federal procurement, Government of Canada (Gatineau) 10 May 2022. Access Date: 27 May 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-services-procurement/news/2022/05/government-of-canada-launches-new-coaching-service-to-increase-supplier-diversity-in-federal-procurement.html>

³⁹⁴⁹ Government of Canada boosts transition to Industry 4.0 with support for Lignum Veneer, Government of Canada (Victoriaville) 11 May 2022. Access Date: 27 May 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/economic-development-quebec-regions/news/2022/05/government-of-canada-boosts-transition-to-industry-40-with-support-for-lignum-veneer.html>

³⁹⁵⁰ Government of Canada invests to grow exports for Canada's red meat sector, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 27 May 2022. Access Date: 27 May 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/agriculture-agri-food/news/2022/05/government-of-canada-invests-to-grow-exports-for-canadas-red-meat-sector.html>

³⁹⁵¹ Wentworth and Parrsboro businesses will benefit from improvements to help the tourism sector recover and attract visitors, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 11 May 2022. Access Date: 27 May 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/atlantic-canada-opportunities/news/2022/05/wentworth-and-parrsboro-businesses-will-benefit-from-improvements-to-help-the-tourism-sector-recover-and-attract-visitors.html>

³⁹⁵² Government of Canada Launches Call for Proposals for Critical Mineral Development, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 11 May 2022. Access Date: 27 May 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2022/05/government-of-canada-launches-call-for-proposals-for-critical-mineral-development.html>

³⁹⁵³ New equipment helps Madawaska businesses improve productivity and stimulate growth, Government of Canada (Edmundston) 12 May 2022. Access Date: 27 May 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/atlantic-canada-opportunities/news/2022/05/new-equipment-helps-madawaska-businesses-improve-productivity-and-stimulate-growth.html>

existent ones and would expand equipment for these firms, contributing to Canada’s inclusive and sustainable economic recovery.³⁹⁵⁴

On 12 May 2022, the Government of Canada announced it would invest approximately CAD97,560 in Annapolis County and Digby, Nova Scotia through the Municipal Asset Management Program. The program would support infrastructure recovery in these communities to maintain economic resiliency and sustainability in the region.³⁹⁵⁵

On 12 May 2022, Minister of Natural Resources Jonathan Wilkinson met with US Secretary of Energy Jennifer Granholm to discuss opportunities to boost climate action and ensure resilient energy supply chains. The pair identified three core actions to be taken this year: “strengthening the Canada-US Critical Minerals Action Plan,” “identifying key locations for cross-border hydrogen hubs and corridors” and “accelerating the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding... concerning cooperation on energy.”³⁹⁵⁶

On 13 May 2022, the Government of Canada announced an investment of more than CAD256,000 to support economic development opportunities in Wahgoshig First Nation. The funding would allow the community to keep an Economic Development Officer and would facilitate the funding of five new businesses, which would create sustainable jobs for residents.³⁹⁵⁷

On 13 May 2022, the Government of Canada announced more than CAD1 million in funding to secure high-speed Internet through Starlink for more than 1,100 households in Manitoba. The investment would improve infrastructure in the community and strengthen resiliency and competitiveness among businesses in the region.³⁹⁵⁸

On 13 May 2022, Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry Francois-Philippe Champagne returned from Germany and Belgium, where he discussed partnerships in the areas of zero-emission vehicles manufacturing, electric vehicle research and fuel cell production. The Minister also attended the G7 Digital Ministers’ meeting, “where he discussed how to address global challenges related to the development, adoption and use of digital technologies.”³⁹⁵⁹

On 14 May 2022, the G7 Foreign Ministers released a communique following their meeting in Germany. Among other issues, the Ministers discussed the need foster a more sustainable world and increase cooperation on matters of economic security. Pillar 13 of the communique reaffirmed G7 members’ pledges

³⁹⁵⁴ Cumberland and Colchester counties businesses get new equipment, improve efficiencies to foster growth, Government of Canada (Amherst) 12 May 2022. Access Date: 27 May 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/atlantic-canada-opportunities/news/2022/05/cumberland-and-colchester-counties-businesses-get-new-equipment-improve-efficiencies-to-foster-growth.html>

³⁹⁵⁵ Canada and FCM support strengthened asset management in Nova Scotia communities, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 12 May 2022. Access Date: 27 May 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/office-infrastructure/news/2022/05/canada-and-fcm-support-strengthened-asset-management-in-nova-scotia-communities.html>

³⁹⁵⁶ Minister Wilkinson Strengthens Energy and Resource Partnerships With the United States, Government of Canada (Washington DC) 12 May 2022. Access Date: 27 May 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2022/05/minister-wilkinson-strengthens-energy-and-resource-partnerships-with-the-united-states.html>

³⁹⁵⁷ Government of Canada investing to support economic development in Wahgoshig First Nation, Government of Canada (Wahgoshig First Nation) 13 May 2022. Access Date: 27 May 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/fednor/news/2022/05/government-of-canada-investing-to-support-economic-development-in-wahgoshig-first-nation.html>

³⁹⁵⁸ Government of Canada invests over \$1 million to bring high-speed Internet to up to 1,162 households in Manitoba, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 13 May 2022. Access Date: 27 May 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2022/05/government-of-canada-invests-over-1-million-to-bring-high-speed-internet-to-up-to-1162households-in-manitoba.html>

³⁹⁵⁹ Minister Champagne concludes visit to Germany and Belgium, Government of Canada (Brussels) 13 May 2022. Access Date: 27 May 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2022/05/minister-champagne-concludes-visit-to-germany-and-belgium.html>

to strengthen economic cooperation in Africa through the G7 Partnership for Infrastructure and Investment, the EU-Africa Global Gateway Investment Package and the G20 Compact with Africa. Pillar 37 highlighted the need for infrastructure financing and sustainable connectivity, especially in low- and middle-income countries, including diversifying supply chains and encouraging an efficient and equitable transition to a highly digitalized economy. Additionally, the pillar reaffirmed the need for long-term economic development through sustainable labour practices and open and democratic values in international markets. Pillar 40 underscored the members' commitments toward ensuring novel and emerging technologies could be used to further inclusive growth and using technologies like high-speed internet connectivity to promote sustainability.³⁹⁶⁰

On 16 May 2022, the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Steven Guilbeault launched a public consultation on Canada's first National Adaptation Strategy, a blueprint to address among other climate-related issues, the importance of developing a sustainable, 'climate-ready' economy. The Canadian public is invited to share their concerns and ideas with a wide range of industry stakeholders, politicians and relevant groups until July on measures that can be implemented or expanded to ensure that climate infrastructure is adequately reinforced.³⁹⁶¹

On 16 May 2022, Canada announced investments of CAD1.8 million toward the Canadian Food Exporters Association (CFEA) over the next two years to maintain open and transparent markets for Canadian exporters and facilitate the inclusion of SMEs in the international marketplace. The investment would expand CFEA's outreach to various markets in Europe, North America and the Middle East, while providing Canadian agriculture SMEs with resources and opportunities to display their products.³⁹⁶²

On 16 May 2022, Minister of Agriculture Marie-Claude Bibeau attended the G7 Agriculture Ministers Meeting to advance Canada's agriculture interests within discussions of trade, supply chains and environmental sustainability. The Minister announced that Canada would double its funding for the Agriculture Market Information System, which would strengthen agricultural resiliency globally.³⁹⁶³

On 16 May 2022, the Government of Canada announced it would provide CAD387,600 for two Quebec SMEs to enhance productivity and improve production capacity: Patlin Textiles and Multi-Modèles. The grant will assist in the automation of the businesses' respective industries and support economic recovery.³⁹⁶⁴

On 17 May 2022, Germany and Canada held the first High Level Steering Group on Bilateral Cooperation. Topics of discussion included "accelerating the green transition," and enhancing cooperation on critical minerals, specifically securing sustainable supply chains.³⁹⁶⁵

³⁹⁶⁰ Foreign Ministers' Communique, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 14 May 2022. Access Date: 29 May 2022. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/foreign/220514-communique.html>

³⁹⁶¹ Engaging Canadians on a National Adaptation Strategy to build a climate ready economy and communities, Government of Canada (Montreal) 16 May 2022. Access Date: 27 May 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2022/05/engaging-canadians-on-a-national-adaptation-strategy-to-build-a-climate-ready-economy-and-communities.html>

³⁹⁶² Government of Canada invests in projects to open new markets for agriculture and food exports, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 16 May 2022. Access Date: 27 May 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/agriculture-agri-food/news/2022/05/government-of-canada-invests-in-projects-to-open-new-markets-for-agriculture-and-food-exports.html>

³⁹⁶³ Minister Bibeau Concludes G7 Agricultural Ministers' Meeting in Stuttgart, Germany, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 16 May 2022. Access Date: 27 May 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/agriculture-agri-food/news/2022/05/minister-bibeau-concludes-g7-agricultural-ministers-meeting-in-stuttgart-germany.html>

³⁹⁶⁴ Government of Canada invests in economic recovery with support for Patlin Textiles and Multi-Modèles, Government of Canada (Saint-Paulin) 16 May 2022. Access Date: 27 May 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/economic-development-quebec-regions/news/2022/05/government-of-canada-invests-in-economic-recovery-with-support-for-patlin-textiles-and-multi-modeles.html>

From 18 May to 20 May 2022, Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland participated in the G7 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meeting. Topics of discussion included: “tackling inflation; ensuring global food and energy security; fighting climate change; and continuing to support the world’s most vulnerable recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, including women and girls.”³⁹⁶⁶

On 18 May 2022, the Government of Canada announced new applications for the Venture Capital Catalyst Initiative, which had expanded its funding by CAD450 million in the past year. The investments provided by the Initiative would focus on three areas including inclusive growth, specifically providing venture capital for minority and disadvantaged groups in society such as women and members of racialized communities.³⁹⁶⁷

On 18 May 2022, the Prince of Wales, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Minister of Environment and Climate Change Steven Guilbeault hosted a roundtable on sustainable financing with respect to addressing climate change and building strong economies, moderated by the UN Special Envoy for Climate Action and Finance Mark Carney. Convening leaders from civil institutions and finance and banking industries, the roundtable focused on mobilizing private capital toward building a clean future domestically and supporting net-zero transition globally.³⁹⁶⁸

On 19 May 2022, the Government of Canada and the Government of British Columbia announced CAD108 million in funding to boost internet and mobile connectivity for 14,000 households in rural and First Nations communities. Building on the pledge that 98 per cent of Canadians would have high-speed internet access by 2026, the funding will support economic growth in BC as part of the digitalization transition underway globally.³⁹⁶⁹

On 20 May 2022 the Government of Canada announced approximately CAD216,500 of investment to “create and maximize community economic development opportunities” in Pickle Lake, Ontario. The funding would go towards the construction of an innovation centre, revitalization of the downtown core and highway and airport property development.³⁹⁷⁰

On 20 May 2022, the Government of Canada announced an investment of CAD2.2 million to modernize beekeeping operations in Manitoba and Saskatchewan through Manitoba Cooperative Honey Producers

³⁹⁶⁵ Joint Press Statement on the occasion of the first meeting of the German-Canadian High Level Steering Group on Bilateral Cooperation, Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 17 May 2022. Access Date: 29 May 2022. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/meeting-german-canadian-high-level-steering-group-bilateral-cooperation-/2531656>

³⁹⁶⁶ Deputy Prime Minister to attend G7 Finance Ministers Meeting in Germany, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 17 May 2022. Access Date: 27 May 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2022/05/deputy-prime-minister-to-attend-g7-finance-ministers-meeting-in-germany.html>

³⁹⁶⁷ Minister Ng launches request for proposals for renewed Venture Capital Catalyst Initiative, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 18 May 2022. Access Date: 27 May 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2022/05/minister-ng-launches-request-for-proposals-for-renewed-venture-capital-catalyst-initiative.html>

³⁹⁶⁸ Government of Canada convenes a high-level roundtable on sustainable finance with His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 18 May 2022. Access Date: 29 May 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2022/05/government-of-canada-convenes-a-high-level-roundtable-on-sustainable-finance-with-his-royal-highness-the-prince-of-wales.html>

³⁹⁶⁹ Governments of Canada and British Columbia announce up to \$108 million in funding to improve high-speed Internet and mobile connectivity, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 19 May 2022. Access Date: 29 May 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2022/05/governments-of-canada-and-british-columbia-announce-up-to-108-million-in-funding-to-improve-high-speed-internet-and-mobile-connectivity.html>

³⁹⁷⁰ Government of Canada invests in Pickle Lake’s economic development, Government of Canada (Pickle Lake) 20 May 2022. Access Date: 29 May 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/fednor/news/2022/05/government-of-canada-invests-in-pickle-lakes-economic-development.html>

Limited. The government stressed that the investment was another example of its commitment to supporting regional job creation and positioning local economies for long-term agricultural growth.³⁹⁷¹

On 20 May 2022, Minister of Transport Omar Alghabra met with several international partners, including representatives from Germany, Poland, Sweden, Ukraine and the UK at the 2022 Summit of the International Transport Forum to discuss among other issues, restoring disrupted supply chains, and stressing the importance of strong transportation networks for facilitating efficient and competitive trade.³⁹⁷²

On 20 May 2022, the Government of Canada invested nearly CAD128,000 in Yukon through the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency. The funding would strengthen and increase the competitiveness of the territory's innovation sector by facilitating an artificial intelligence business acceleration program, business startup management and encouraging the adoption of novel technologies.³⁹⁷³

On 20 May 2022 the Government of Canada announced an investment of CAD635,000 for projects to boost innovation, productivity and sustainability in the agriculture industry. The funding would go to four organizations to improve data collection and analysis, sustainable technology development and sustainable manufacturing practices.³⁹⁷⁴

On 20 May 2022, the G7 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors released their communique, where they pledged to support sustainability, resilience, inclusivity and strength in five core areas among others: macroeconomic stability; digitalization; climate and environment and financial market stability. Each of these pillars details numerous actions that each G7 member has pledged to implement to support a fairer recovery.³⁹⁷⁵

On 22 May 2022, Minister of International Trade Mary Ng announced Canada's formal request to accede to the Digital Economy Partnership Agreement. The agreement, designed to "address the fast-evolving digital economy issues of interest to businesses, workers and consumers," would allow Canada to play an important role in developing global rules for businesses and promote new opportunities in an increasingly digitalized trading system.³⁹⁷⁶

On 23 May 2022, Minister of International Trade Mary Ng participated in the APEC Ministers Responsible for Trade Meeting. Topics of discussion included Canada's commitment to strengthening its economic

³⁹⁷¹ Minister Vandal creates buzz with federal support for jobs and growth in Manitoba, Government of Canada (Winnipeg) 20 May 2022. Access Date: 29 May 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/prairies-economic-development/news/2022/05/minister-vandal-creates-buzz-with-federal-support-for-jobs-and-growth-in-manitoba.html>

³⁹⁷² Minister of Transport participates in the 2022 Summit of the International Transport Forum in Leipzig, Germany, Government of Canada (Leipzig) 20 May 2022. Access Date: 29 May 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/transport-canada/news/2022/05/minister-of-transport-participates-in-the-2022-summit-of-the-international-transport-forum-in-leipzig-germany.html>

³⁹⁷³ Government of Canada invests to support innovation in the Yukon, Government of Canada (Whitehorse) 20 May 2022. Access Date: 29 May 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/northern-economic-development/news/2022/05/government-of-canada-invests-to-support-innovation-in-the-yukon.html>

³⁹⁷⁴ Government of Canada invests in innovative projects to boost productivity and sustainability in Canadian agriculture, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 20 May 2022. Access Date: 29 May 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/agriculture-agri-food/news/2022/05/government-of-canada-invests-in-innovative-projects-to-boost-productivity-and-sustainability-in-canadian-agriculture.html>

³⁹⁷⁵ Foreign Ministers' Communique, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 14 May 2022. Access Date: 29 May 2022. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/foreign/220514-communique.html>

³⁹⁷⁶ Minister Ng announces Canada's request to join the Digital Economy Partnership Agreement, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 22 May 2022. Access Date: 29 May 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2022/05/minister-ng-announces-canadas-request-to-join-the-digital-economy-partnership-agreement.html>

partnership with the Asia-Pacific region, promoting free trade and working with APEC economies on WTO reform, digitalization and inclusive growth.³⁹⁷⁷

On 24 May 2022, the Government of Canada announced approximately CAD6 million in funding for the Îles-de-la-Madeleine region in Quebec. The funding would go towards fostering startup growth and provide financial assistance for eight projects that would boost local economic sustainability and resiliency.³⁹⁷⁸

On 24 May 2022, Minister Alghabra met with US Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg to discuss supply chain disruption and the importance of building sustainable transportation networks. The two leaders pledged to work on building greener bilateral transportation systems, and the Minister held a Supply Chain Roundtable where discussions took place on strengthening the resiliency of supply chains between the two countries.³⁹⁷⁹

On 24 May 2022, the Government of Canada announced a contribution of CAD100 million to the African Development Bank. The funding goes towards facilitating the growth of SMEs in the agriculture industry, especially within a sustainable and inclusive framework.³⁹⁸⁰

On 24 May 2022, the G7 Labour and Employment Ministers agreed on a communique to “facilitate a just transition to a green social market economy.” Particularly, the communique introduced new language concerning resilient supply chains, integration of migrant workers and the direct impacts of changing labour markets and climate change on the international economic system.³⁹⁸¹

On 25 May 2022, the Government of Canada announced CAD42 million for two projects designed to improve supply chain efficiency in New Brunswick. The funding would upgrade rail and cargo terminal capacities, ensuring that travel corridors remain resilient and open to keep Canadian businesses competitive and engaged in international markets.³⁹⁸²

On 25 May 2022, Minister Ng returned from visits to Thailand and Singapore, which furthered Canada’s trade and economic agenda in the Indo-Pacific region. In both countries, Minister Ng sought to bolster the bilateral relationship between the countries and requested further collaboration and cooperation on regional

³⁹⁷⁷ Minister Ng participated in the 2022 APEC Ministers Responsible for Trade Meeting in Thailand, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 23 May 2022. Access Date: 29 May 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2022/05/minister-ng-participated-in-the-2022-apec-ministers-responsible-for-trade-meeting-in-thailand.html>

³⁹⁷⁸ Government of Canada supports eight Îles-de-la-Madeleine organizations to grow and diversify the regional economy, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 24 May 2022. Access Date: 29 May 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/economic-development-quebec-regions/news/2022/05/government-of-canada-supports-eight-iles-de-la-madeleine-organizations-to-grow-and-diversify-the-regional-economy.html>

³⁹⁷⁹ Minister of Transport visits Washington, D.C., to advance Canada-United States collaboration on supply chains and climate change, Government of Canada (Washington D.C.) 24 May 2022. Access Date: 29 May 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/transport-canada/news/2022/05/minister-of-transport-visits-washington-dc-to-advance-canada-united-states-collaboration-on-supply-chains-and-climate-change.html>

³⁹⁸⁰ Canada makes major contribution to support small and medium-sized agri-food enterprise growth in Africa, Government of Canada (Nairobi) 24 May 2022. Access Date: 29 May 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2022/05/canada-makes-major-contribution-to-support-small-and-medium-sized-agri-food-enterprise-growth-in-africa.html>

³⁹⁸¹ “Crises forge strong bonds between democracies,” Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (Berlin) 24 May 2022. Access Date: 29 May 2022. <https://www.bmas.de/EN/Services/Press/recent-publications/2022/crises-forge-strong-bonds-between-democracies.html>

³⁹⁸² Government of Canada invests in two projects to increase the supply chain efficiency for Canadian shippers in New Brunswick, Government of Canada (Saint John) 25 May 2022. Access Date: 29 May 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/transport-canada/news/2022/05/government-of-canada-invests-in-two-projects-to-increase-the-supply-chain-efficiency-for-canadian-shippers-in-new-brunswick.html>

and international trade issues, including the Digital Economy, Canada-ASEAN Free Trade Agreement and driving green and sustainable trade growth.³⁹⁸³

On 25 May 2022, Canada agreed to participate in the consultation process following the US' initiation of a dispute resolution mechanism concerning Canada's new dairy tariff rate quota policies. Reiterating that Canada's policies were compliant under the Canada-US-Mexico Agreement, Canada stated it would "actively participate...in a manner that supports our dairy supply management system."³⁹⁸⁴

On 26 May 2022, the Government of Canada granted CAD238,000 of financial assistance toward a Quebec-based SME for improving the sustainability of its asphalt-manufacturing processes. Specifically, the funding would increase the number of available jobs in the community and allow the SME to purchase new recycling equipment.³⁹⁸⁵

On 26 May 2022, the Government of Canada announced CAD570,250 for two projects in Northern Ontario to support business growth and increase the efficiency of its manufacturing processes. The funding would "create up to 30 local jobs and support the long-term success" of businesses in the region.³⁹⁸⁶

On 26 May 2022, the Government of Canada announced an investment of CAD1.94 million through the JGF for five projects in the Halifax area. The projects would create 29 new jobs and support SMEs in their sustainable and inclusive economic recovery.³⁹⁸⁷

On 26 May 2022, the Government of Canada announced CAD4.5 million in investment to support innovation in Yukon, specifically among SMEs. The funding would last three years and create an innovation hub in the Yukon and build the foundation for sustainable and resilient entrepreneurship in the region.³⁹⁸⁸

On 28 May 2022, Minister Champagne returned from the World Economic Forum annual meeting. Topics of discussion at the meeting included positioning Canada as a sustainable choice for companies wishing to green and strengthen their supply chains as well as designing the mandate of the Canadian Innovation and Investment Agency, which will promote innovation across all industries globally.³⁹⁸⁹

³⁹⁸³ Minister Ng concludes successful visits to Thailand and Singapore, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 25 May 2022. Access Date: 29 May 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2022/05/minister-ng-concludes-successful-visits-to-thailand-and-singapore.html>

³⁹⁸⁴ Statement by Minister Ng on United States' request for consultations on Canada's new dairy tariff rate quota policies under Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 25 May 2022. Access Date: 29 May 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2022/05/statement-by-minister-ng-on-united-states-request-for-consultations-on-canadas-new-dairy-tariff-rate-quota-policies-under-canada-united-states-mexi.html>

³⁹⁸⁵ Gaspé communities and SMEs will make the most of the circular economy with Government of Canada support, Government of Canada (Grande-Rivière) 26 May 2022. Access Date: 29 May 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/economic-development-quebec-regions/news/2022/05/gaspe-communities-and-smes-will-make-the-most-of-the-circular-economy-with-government-of-canada-support.html>

³⁹⁸⁶ FedNor invests to strengthen manufacturing sector and create jobs in Thunder Bay, Government of Canada (Thunder Bay) 26 May 2022. Access Date: 29 May 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/fednor/news/2022/05/fednor-invests-to-strengthen-manufacturing-sector-and-create-jobs-in-thunder-bay.html>

³⁹⁸⁷ Funding helps Halifax West businesses build on innovation to create new jobs, Government of Canada (Bedford) 26 May 2022. Access Date: 29 May 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/atlantic-canada-opportunities/news/2022/05/funding-helps-halifax-west-businesses-build-on-innovation-to-create-new-jobs.html>

³⁹⁸⁸ Minister Vandal announces a nearly \$4.5M investment in Yukon innovation and entrepreneurship, Government of Canada (Whitehorse) 26 May 2022. Access Date: 29 May 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/northern-economic-development/news/2022/05/minister-vandal-announces-a-nearly-45m-investment-in-yukon-innovation-and-entrepreneurship.html>

³⁹⁸⁹ Minister Champagne concludes European visit, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 28 May 2022. Access Date: 29 May 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2022/05/minister-champagne-concludes-european-visit.html>

On 29 May 2022, as part of National Accessibility Week 2022, Minister of Employment Carla Qualtrough announced the Opportunities Fund for Persons with Disabilities would be accepting project proposals. With CAD270 million in funding available for 180 projects, the program's objective is boosting participation and improving financial situations of disabled workers in the labour force.³⁹⁹⁰

From 29 May to 4 June 2022, the Government of Canada announced new investments to the tourism industry as part of Canada's National Tourism Week, to help economies reliant on tourism recover from pandemic-related losses and accelerate the recovery process. The government provided almost CAD1 million to two Northwest Territories tourist providers, around CAD560,000 to four Yukon tourist providers, CAD100,000 to one Quebec SME, and CAD8.7 million to 58 projects in Northern Ontario which would generate nearly 600 new jobs, with the goal of building sustainable and resilient infrastructure and supporting their tourism initiatives.^{3991 3992 3993 3994}

On 30 May 2022, the Government of Canada announced CAD757,500 in funding through the JGF for two projects led by SMEs in Prince Edward Island. The funding would go toward improving the sustainability of energy production and fostering technological innovation in the region.

On 30 May 2022, the Government of Canada launched the Apprenticeship Service. With CAD247 million in funding for 13 projects, the government expects the program to create over 25,000 new apprenticeship positions, with increased incentives for women, disabled workers and BIPOC workers.³⁹⁹⁵

On 30 May 2022, the Government of Canada announced CAD7 million in funding for two SMEs to develop clean and digital technology-based manufacturing systems. The investment would create new jobs and encourage greater economic development and innovation in the region.³⁹⁹⁶

On 31 May 2022, Minister of International Trade Mary Ng spoke with Japanese Minister in Charge of Economic Revitalization Daishiro Yamagiwa. Topics of discussion included increased bilateral economic

³⁹⁹⁰ Major call for proposals launched to connect persons with disabilities with good jobs, Government of Canada (Halifax) 30 May 2022. Access Date: 3 June 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2022/05/major-call-for-proposals-launched-to-connect-persons-with-disabilities-with-good-jobs.html>

³⁹⁹¹ Government of Canada makes key investment of nearly \$1 million in Northwest Territories tourism projects as part of National Tourism Week, Government of Canada (Yellowknife) 3 June 2022. Access Date: 9 June 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/northern-economic-development/news/2022/06/government-of-canada-makes-key-investment-of-nearly-1-million-in-northwest-territories-tourism-projects-as-part-of-national-tourism-week.html>

³⁹⁹² CanNor invests over \$560,000 to promote the strong recovery and future growth of the Yukon tourism industry, Government of Canada (Whitehorse) 3 June 2022. Access Date: 9 June 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/northern-economic-development/news/2022/06/cannor-invests-over-560000-to-promote-the-strong-recovery-and-future-growth-of-the-yukon-tourism-industry.html>

³⁹⁹³ Chalets Prunella to develop tourism experience and adopt environmentally responsible practices with Government of Canada support, Government of Canada (Thorne) 3 June 2022. Access Date: 9 June 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/economic-development-quebec-regions/news/2022/06/chalets-prunella-to-develop-tourism-experience-and-adopt-environmentally-responsible-practices-with-government-of-canada-support.html>

³⁹⁹⁴ FedNor invests more than \$8.7 million in Northern Ontario's tourism sector, Government of Canada (Thunder Bay) 4 June 2022. Access Date: 9 June 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/fednor/news/2022/06/fednor-invests-more-than-87-million-in-northern-ontarios-tourism-sector.html>

³⁹⁹⁵ Government of Canada helps to create more than 25,000 apprenticeship positions across Canada, Government of Canada (Halifax) 30 May 2022. Access Date: 3 June 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2022/05/government-of-canada-helps-to-create-more-than-25000-apprenticeship-positions-across-canada.html>

³⁹⁹⁶ Government of Canada invests in innovative B.C. businesses to support their growth and create jobs, Government of Canada (Richmond) 30 May 2022. Access Date: 3 June 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/pacific-economic-development/news/2022/05/government-of-canada-invests-in-innovative-bc-businesses-to-support-their-growth-and-create-jobs.html>

cooperation and strengthening the rules-based trading system in the Indo-Pacific region, as well as the importance of the CPTPP.³⁹⁹⁷

On 31 May 2022, the Government of Canada announced investments of nearly CAD735,000 in five organizations to boost the participation of under-represented and marginalized groups in the Canadian agricultural industry, specifically women and Indigenous peoples.³⁹⁹⁸

On 1 June 2022, Minister of Natural Resources Jonathan Wilkinson launched the Regional Tables Initiative, a federal-provincial partnership underlining Canada's commitment to spur economic opportunities amid a transition to a low-carbon future. The first phase of the initiative is ensuring that British Columbia, Newfoundland and Labrador and Manitoba "are prepared to seize the economic opportunities enabled by the global move towards a low-carbon future."³⁹⁹⁹

On 2 June 2022, the Government of Canada announced an investment of CAD20 million in collaboration with the provincial government to ensure all homes in PEI would gain access to high-speed internet. The partnership aims to facilitate stronger economic growth in the province by providing up to 1,000 homes in PEI with internet access.⁴⁰⁰⁰

On 2 June 2022, Minister of International Development Harjit Sajjan attended the TrueNorth Business Development Forum in British Columbia, outlining the federal government's commitment to spur economic development throughout the province.⁴⁰⁰¹

On 3 June 2022, Minister of Employment Carla Qualtrough announced the government planned to invest CAD67.1 million in 959 organizations through the Enabling Accessibility Fund (EAF). The EAF's primary responsibility is ensuring workplaces are made more accessible and inclusive for workers with disabilities and the funding would go toward infrastructure like automatic doors, ramps and accessible washrooms.⁴⁰⁰²

On 3 June 2022, Minister of International Trade Mary Ng discussed WTO reforms with WTO Director General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala. Minister Ng reaffirmed Canada's commitments to ensure moving supply

³⁹⁹⁷ Minister Ng speaks with Japan's Minister in Charge of Economic Revitalization, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 31 May 2022. Access Date: 3 June 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2022/05/minister-ng-speaks-with-japans-minister-in-charge-of-economic-revitalization.html>

³⁹⁹⁸ Government of Canada invests in strengthening diversity in Canadian agriculture, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 31 May 2022. Access Date: 3 June 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/agriculture-agri-food/news/2022/05/government-of-canada-invests-in-strengthening-diversity-in-canadian-agriculture0.html>

³⁹⁹⁹ Regional Tables Launched to Collaboratively Drive Economic Opportunities in a Prosperous Net-Zero Future, Government of Canada (Vancouver) 1 June 2022. Access Date: 3 June 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2022/06/regional-tables-launched-to-collaboratively-drive-economic-opportunities-in-a-prosperous-net-zero-future.html>

⁴⁰⁰⁰ Every home in Prince Edward Island to get connected to high-speed Internet thanks to federal-provincial partnership, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 2 June 2022. Access Date: 3 June 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2022/06/every-home-in-prince-edward-island-to-get-connected-to-high-speed-internet-thanks-to-federal-provincial-partnership.html>

⁴⁰⁰¹ The Honourable Harjit S. Sajjan addresses the TrueNorth Business Development Forum, Government of Canada (Prince George) 2 June 2022. Access Date: 3 June 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/pacific-economic-development/news/2022/06/the-honourable-harjit-s-sajjan-addresses-the-truenorth-business-development-forum.html>

⁴⁰⁰² Government of Canada invests to make communities and workplaces barrier-free for persons with disabilities, Government of Canada (Montreal) 3 June 2022. Access Date: 7 June 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2022/06/government-of-canada-invests-to-make-communities-and-workplaces-barrier-free-for-persons-with-disabilities.html>

chains in the agriculture and food industries and establish rules which limit disruptive trade policies and encourage openness and transparency.⁴⁰⁰³

On 3 June 2022, the Government of Canada announced an investment of CAD1.1 million for Grandir Sans Frontières, a coding training program for Canadian youth. The program has 7.5 million training opportunities aimed at preparing youth to compete in the digital economy.⁴⁰⁰⁴

On 6 June 2022, the Government of Canada announced CAD1.9 million of investment through the JGF for four SME-led projects in Nova Scotia, to foster sustainability, innovation and inclusivity in the region. The projects will create 12 new jobs.⁴⁰⁰⁵

On 6 June 2022, the Government of Canada announced CAD10 million of investment in the Waterloo Accelerator Centre, a program designed to scale-up tech companies across Southern Ontario. The investment would support 100 start-ups, facilitate 1,000 jobs and lead to 75 new products and services entering global markets.⁴⁰⁰⁶

On 8 June 2022, the Government of Canada launched the Greenhouse Gas Offset Credit System as part of its 2030 Emissions Reduction Plan. The plan is designed for businesses, farmers and Indigenous communities among others to lower the amount of GHGs emitted and facilitate Canada's transition to a decarbonized economy. Under the system, groups can begin projects which would provide one "tradeable offset credit" for each ton of emissions reduced or removed.⁴⁰⁰⁷

On 9 June 2022, Minister of Labour Seamus O'Regan participated in the 110th edition of the International Labour Conference. Minister O'Regan reaffirmed Canada's commitment to sustainable and inclusive growth by highlighting key areas of concern such as the gender pay gap, workplace harassment, and ensuring forced labour is removed from Canada's supply chains. Additionally, Minister O'Regan conducted bilateral meetings on these topics with fellow G7 member Germany, as well as India, Chile, Lithuania and Ukraine among others.⁴⁰⁰⁸

⁴⁰⁰³ Minister Ng speaks with WTO Director-General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala to advance WTO priorities, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 3 June 2022 Access Date: 7 June 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2022/06/minister-ng-speaks-with-wto-director-general-ngozi-okonjo-iweala-to-advance-wto-priorities.html>

⁴⁰⁰⁴ Government of Canada announces new CanCode investment, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 3 June 2022. Access Date: 9 June 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2022/06/government-of-canada-announces-new-cancode-investment.html>

⁴⁰⁰⁵ New equipment helps businesses in Kings and Hants Counties grow, create jobs and improve productivity, Government of Canada (Centreville) 6 June 2022. Access Date: 9 June 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/atlantic-canada-opportunities/news/2022/06/new-equipment-helps-businesses-in-kings-and-hants-county-grow-create-jobs-and-improve-productivity.html>

⁴⁰⁰⁶ Government of Canada invests \$10 million to support innovation in the technology sector, Government of Canada (Waterloo) 6 June 2022. Access Date: 9 June 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/economic-development-southern-ontario/news/2022/06/government-of-canada-invests-10-million-to-support-innovation-in-the-technology-sector.html>

⁴⁰⁰⁷ Canada launches Greenhouse Gas Offset Credit System to support a clean, green economy, Government of Canada (Gatineau) 8 June 2022. Access Date: 13 June 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2022/06/canada-launches-greenhouse-gas-offset-credit-system-to-support-a-clean-green-economy.html>

⁴⁰⁰⁸ Minister O'Regan concludes participation in the 110th Session of the International Labour Conference, Government of Canada (Gatineau) 9 June 2022. Access Date: 13 June 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2022/06/minister-oregan-concludes-participation-in-the-110th-session-of-the-international-labour-conference.html>

On 9 June 2022, the Government of Canada announced more than CAD2.7 million in funding for Canadian small and medium-sized agricultural exporters to boost and consolidate market access by establishing buyer-seller relationships and building strong business partnerships.⁴⁰⁰⁹

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to promote strong, resilient, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth. Canada has taken significant steps towards building resilience and sustainability, facilitating reallocation and boosting productivity growth for all and supporting people in transition. Particularly, COVID-19 appears to have accelerated many long-term economic initiatives supporting the three pillars, including reforms to the Labour Code, greater budget allocation towards growth and reforms aimed at promoting sustainability.

Thus, Canada receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Pritika Vij

France: +1

France has fully complied with its commitment to promote strong, resilient, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth.

On 18 June 2021, the fourth Choose France Summit was held, bringing together more than 200 major business leaders.⁴⁰¹⁰ The Summit received European Commissioner for Internal Market Thierry Breton, Minister Delegate Franck Riester, Director-General of the WTO Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala and founder of the World Economic Forum Professor Schwab and focused on resilience and economic recovery in France and Europe. 22 new investment projects representing EUR3.5 billion and 7,000 jobs across France were announced by the leaders.

On 20 June 2021, Minister Delegate to the Minister of the Economy, Finance and Recovery Alain Griset and Minister Delegate to the Minister of Labor, Employment and Integration Brigitte Klinkert announced concrete solutions for restaurateurs facing recruitment difficulties.⁴⁰¹¹ From 1 July until 30 September 2021, France provided an additional EUR1.5 for each hour worked by an employee in an integration structure with experience in the profession of catering.

On 5 July 2021, Minister Delegate for Foreign Trade and Economic Attractiveness Franck Riester held a video conference with Quebec's Minister of Economy and Innovation and Minister of Finance Eric Girard.⁴⁰¹² The leaders discussed prospects for strengthening the bilateral relationship and other major shared priorities, including but not limited to sustainable recovery, innovation, and young people. The Minister Delegate also participated in an economic council with French economic and institutional stakeholders in Quebec and will chair a round table entitled "Choose France."

⁴⁰⁰⁹ Government of Canada invests over \$2.7 million to grow agri-food exports, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 9 June 2022. Access Date: 13 June 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/agriculture-agri-food/news/2022/06/government-of-canada-invests-over-27-million-to-grow-agri-food-exports.html>

⁴⁰¹⁰ The Choose France Summit, France's flagship forum for economic attractiveness, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 18 June 2021. Access Date: 4 December 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/economic-diplomacy-foreign-trade/news/article/the-choose-france-summit-france-s-flagship-forum-for-economic-attractiveness>

⁴⁰¹¹ The Government supports the recruitment of employees in integration into the catering trades, Government of France (Paris) 30 June 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 4 December 2021. https://minefi.hosting.augure.com/Augure_Minefi/default.ashx?WCI=ContenuEnLigne&ID=AC083426-03D0-4E04-B04E-9B1304AB0E24

⁴⁰¹² Canada/Quebec- Franck Riester's video conference meetings, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 5 July 2021. Access Date: 4 December 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/canada/events/article/canada-quebec-franck-riester-s-video-conference-meetings-5-jul-2021>

On 7 July 2021, Minister Delegate to the Minister of the Economy, Finance and Recovery Agnès Pannier-Runacher announced the 2021-2022 roadmap of the Council for Gender Diversity in Industry.⁴⁰¹³ The Council for Gender Diversity in Industry aims to implement a program of concrete actions to increase the number of women in numerous industries and facilitate their access to positions of responsibility. The Council agreed to publish an international guide to innovative practices for gender diversity in companies, lobby with industry players for better representation in video games and support engineering schools in improving the number of young women in underrepresented industries.

On 8 July 2021, Secretary of State in charge of Digital Transition and Electronic Communications Cédric O announced the launch of French Tech Rise, an initiative to support the financing of regional startups.⁴⁰¹⁴ French Tech Rise aims to enhance the dynamism of territorial ecosystems and to allow startups from all metropolitan and overseas regions to participate in an exclusive event with the largest venture capital investment funds present in Paris. The Government of France will invite 82 startups to an event in Paris in November to present to an audience of investors, awarding prizes in different categories.

On 15 and 16 July 2021, Minister Delegate for Foreign Trade and Economic Attractiveness met with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Economic Development and Technology of the Republic of Slovenia Jaroslav Gowin, State Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in charge of Economic Diplomacy Stanislav Rascan and State Secretary at the Ministry of Infrastructure in charge of Sustainable Mobility and Energy Blaz Kosorok.⁴⁰¹⁵ The Minister Delegate discussed Slovenian trade policy priorities, bilateral trade relations between France and Slovenia and the prospects for stronger cooperation in key sectors.

On 6 September 2021, Minister Delegate to the Minister of the Economy, Finance and Reliance Agnès Pannier-Runacher and President of the Sector Strategy Committee Frédéric Sanchez signed the strategic contract for the Industry Solutions of the Future (SIF) sector, as part of the Global Industry trade fair organized in Lyon.⁴⁰¹⁶ The creation of the SIF is an integral part of France's strategy to support the transition of companies to Industry 4.0. This sector is made up of 32,000 companies and employs 500,000 people. The contract aims to bring together machinery sectors and intelligent industrial solutions.

On 13 September 2021, Minister for Ecological Transition Barbara Pompili and Minister Delegate for Industry Agnès Pannier-Runacher announced the investment of EUR370 million to accelerate the recycling of plastics, composites, textiles, strategic metals, paper, and cardboard.⁴⁰¹⁷ The acceleration strategy is part of the Government's plan to transition to a circular economy.

On 11 October 2021, Minister of Ecological Transition Barbara Pompili, Minister of the Economy, Finance and Recovery Bruno Le Maire and Minister Delegate in charge of Public Accounts Oliver Dussopt unveiled

⁴⁰¹³ Agnès Pannier-Runacher announces the 2021-2022 roadmap of the Council for Gender Diversity in Industry, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Paris) 8 July 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 4 December 2021.

https://minefi.hosting.augure.com/Augure_Minefi/default.ashx?WCI=ContenuEnLigne&ID=1CFD91E2-D682-44EE-824C-974F39B270C7
⁴⁰¹⁴ Cédric O announces the launch of French Tech Rise, an initiative to support funding regional start-ups, The Secretary of State for Digital (Paris) 08 July 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 4 December 2021.

https://minefi.hosting.augure.com/Augure_Minefi/default.ashx?WCI=ContenuEnLigne&ID=32D2EEF7-0131-4ED1-919F-07CC449EEF04

⁴⁰¹⁵ Slovenia – Visit by Franck Riester, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 15 July 2021. Access Date: 4 December 2021.

<https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/slovenia/events/article/slovenia-visit-by-franck-riester-ljubljana-15-16-jul-21>
⁴⁰¹⁶ Industry of the future solutions: a strategic sector contract signed by Agnes Pannier-Ruancher and Frederic Sanchez, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Paris) 6 September 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 7 December 2021. https://minefi.hosting.augure.com/Augure_Minefi/default.ashx?WCI=ContenuEnLigne&ID=9BD9D3FF-0B2F-445D-845B-AF19124DA4D7

⁴⁰¹⁷ Future Investment: Barbara Pompili and Agnes Pannier-Runacher announce 370M to accelerate the transition towards the economy circular, Government of France (Paris) 13 September 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 7 December 2021. https://minefi.hosting.augure.com/Augure_Minefi/default.ashx?WCI=ContenuEnLigne&ID=6FCDCE67-3A67-416A-B90F-C5409D425F90

the second edition of the “green budget.”⁴⁰¹⁸ An initiative launched at the One Plante Summit in 2017, the green budget is a tool intended to support countries in the alignment of their budgetary, economic, and fiscal policy with the challenges of ecological transition. France is the first country in the world to have achieved environmental integration for its entire budget. From 2021 to 2022, France’s budget for green spending increased from EUR31.4 billion to EUR32.5 billion.

On 12 October 2021, Minister Delegate for Foreign Trade and Economic Attractiveness Franck Riester attended the G20 trade minister meeting in Sorrento.⁴⁰¹⁹ The topics discussed included the reform of the WTO, better integration of sustainable development into trade policies, the expansion of SMEs in international markets and ways to ensure fair competition at the global level, including by controls on industrial subsidies.

On 21 and 22 October 2021, Minister Delegate for Foreign Trade and Economic Attractiveness Franck Riester attended the G7 Trade Ministers meeting.⁴⁰²⁰ The Minister Delegate argued in favor of strengthening the multilateral trading system and addressed the role of trade policies in fighting climate change, to ensuring gender equality and supporting the economic emancipation of women.

On 2 November 2021, Prime Minister Jean Castex and Secretary of State for the Social, Solidarity and Responsible Economy Olivia Grégoire launched the month of the Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE).⁴⁰²¹ The SSE is an annual initiative that occurs throughout the month of November through locally anchored events. This year more than 1,000 events took place promoting the SSE.

On 9 November 2021, Secretary of State in charge of Digital Transition and Electronic Communications Cédric O visited Ada Tech School, the first code training targeted to women.⁴⁰²² During the visit, Founder and CEO of Ada Tech School Chloé Hermay presented her strategy to make technical professions more inclusive by feminizing training.

From 11 to 13 November 2021, France held the Fourth Paris Peace Forum. The Forum brings together Heads of State, international organizations, civil society, ministers and business leaders to address social issues.⁴⁰²³ The work that took place was centered around finding solutions to overcome the social divisions widened by the COVID-19 crisis and launching an inclusive and supportive economic recovery.

⁴⁰¹⁸ Increase in environmentally friendly spending in 2022, Government of France (Paris) 11 October 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 7 December 2021.

⁴⁰¹⁹ G20 – Participation of Franck Riester in the trade ministers meeting, Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 12 October 2021. Access Date: 7 December 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/economic-diplomacy-foreign-trade/news/article/g20-participation-of-franck-riester-in-the-trade-ministers-meeting-sorrento-12>

⁴⁰²⁰ G7 – Franck Riester attending trade ministers’, Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 22 October 2021. Access Date: 7 December 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/economic-diplomacy-foreign-trade/news/article/g7-participation-de-franck-riester-a-la-reunion-des-ministres-du-commerce>

⁴⁰²¹ Launch of the Social and Solidarity Economy Month in the presence of Jean Castex, Prime Minister and Olivia Grégoire, secretary of State to the social, solidarity and responsible, Government of France (Paris) 2 November 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 7 December 2021. https://minefi.hosting.augure.com/Augure_Minefi/default.ashx?WCI=ContenuEnLigne&ID=94375412-78C5-4466-B712-D9164B253131

⁴⁰²² Diversity in French Tech – Cedric O visits the Ada Tech School, Secretary of State for the Digital Economy (Paris) 8 November 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 7 December 2021.

https://minefi.hosting.augure.com/Augure_Minefi/default.ashx?WCI=ContenuEnLigne&ID=821BBA21-F804-4871-BCFE-62788BB7AE06

⁴⁰²³ Fourth Paris Peace Forum, Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 13 November 2021. Access Date: 7 December 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/civil-society/paris-peace-forum/article/fourth-paris-peace-forum>

On 19 November 2021, The Ministry of the Economy, Finance and Recovery announced a communication campaign co-built with Snapchat as part of the tenth Industry Week, which ran until 28 November 2021.⁴⁰²⁴ The campaign tackled issues of diversity, equality, environment, and well-being at work. Addressed to young people aged 13 to 18, the campaign emphasized industry as a dynamic sector, committed to ecological and digital transitions.

On 22 November 2021, Minister of Labor, Employment, and Integration Elisabeth Borne, Secretary of State for the Social, Solidarity, and Responsible Economy Olivia Grégoire and High Commissioner for Employment and Engagement Thibaut Guilluy announced four winners of the “Innovate to Access Employment” impact contracts.⁴⁰²⁵ The winners received EUR10 million to develop their innovations aimed at improving access to employment for disadvantaged individuals.

On 23 November 2021, Minister Delegate in charge of Industry Agnès Pannier-Runacher and President of the National Federation of Production Schools Dominique Hiesse announced the government’s support for 34 new projects to develop production schools targeted towards disadvantaged youth.⁴⁰²⁶ The announcement took place as part of the Territories of Industry program and reflects France’s goal to double the number of production schools by the end of 2023. Additionally, Minister of Labor, Employment, and Integration Elisabeth Borne announced the mobilization of EUR7.5 million for the operation of these schools in 2022.

On 23 November 2021, Minister of National Education and Youth and Sports Jean-Michel Blanquer, Minister of Higher Education, Research, and Innovation Frédérique Vidal, and Minister Delegate in charge of Industry Agnès Pannier-Runacher signed an agreement with the President of the Union of Industries and Trades of Metallurgy Eric Trappier to strengthen links between the educational world and economic world.⁴⁰²⁷ The agreement aims to improve and promote initial and continuing technological and vocational training through apprenticeships.

On 24 November 2021, Minister of the Economy, Finance and Recovery Bruno Le Maire participated in the second summit of the international coalition Export Finance for the Future, which seeks to significantly redirect export funding towards sustainable projects consistent with the climate objectives of the Paris Agreement.⁴⁰²⁸ The summit promoted the application of the COP26 declaration to international trade while ensuring a level playing field.

On 24 November 2021, Minister of Higher Education, Research and Innovation Frédérique Vidal, Secretary of State in charge of Digital Transition and Electronic Communications Cédric O and Secretary General for

⁴⁰²⁴ Industry Week: The Ministry of Economy, Finance and Recovery breaks the youth clichés about the industry, Ministry of Economy, Finance and Recovery (Paris) 19 November 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 8 December 2021. https://minefi.hosting.augure.com/Augure_Minefi/default.ashx?WCI=ContenuEnLigne&ID=54794132-59EF-4B63-B965-1CB5D8A149F9

⁴⁰²⁵ “Innovating to access employment”: Elisabeth Borne and Olivia Grégoire announce 4 winners for the new impact contracts, Government of Paris (Paris) 22 November 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 8 December 2021. https://minefi.hosting.augure.com/Augure_Minefi/default.ashx?WCI=ContenuEnLigne&ID=9147DEC3-559B-4478-A91E-C9916DDA818C

⁴⁰²⁶ The Government announces its support for 34 new projects to develop schools in production, Government of France (Paris) 23 November 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 8 December 2021.

https://minefi.hosting.augure.com/Augure_Minefi/default.ashx?WCI=ContenuEnLigne&ID=389452D5-EDFB-4F4C-99DC-5200BCF7B1D8

⁴⁰²⁷ Industry Week: the Government and UIMM sign an agreement to enhance the attractiveness of industrial careers, Government of Paris (Paris) 23 November 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 8 December 2021. https://minefi.hosting.augure.com/Augure_Minefi/default.ashx?WCI=ContenuEnLigne&ID=F8D710D9-D338-42C1-93A1-BCE57B5D3B5C

⁴⁰²⁸ Export Finance for Future Coalition Summit, Ministry of Economy, Finance and Recovery (Paris) 24 November 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 8 December 2021. https://minefi.hosting.augure.com/Augure_Minefi/default.ashx?WCI=ContenuEnLigne&ID=F30BE515-7751-48BF-964E-AC0D4C9FD498

Investment Guillaume Boudy launched the 3rd edition of the i-PhD competition and the 24th edition of the i-Lab competition.⁴⁰²⁹ The competitions encourage entrepreneurship and support start-ups in the tech industry.

On 25 November 2021, Secretary of State to the Minister of the Economy, Finance and Recovery Olivia Grégoire announced EUR100,000 in financial support for 15 emerging territorial economic cooperation hubs.⁴⁰³⁰ Through this financial support, France seeks to “provide a legal and financial framework for local solutions, devised by actors in the field, to respond to local problems and create synergies between economic actors.”

On 26 November 2021, the Ministry of the Economy, Finance and Recovery hosted the first economic inclusion summit.⁴⁰³¹ This included the participation of Minister of the Economy, Finance and Recovery Bruno Le Maire, Secretary of State for the Social, Solidarity and Responsible Economy Olivia Grégoire and Secretary of State for Digital Transition and Electronic Communications Cédric O who participated in round tables addressing issues of the deployment of economic inclusion policy within territories and the potential of digital technology for economic inclusion.

On 6 December 2021, the Ministry of Labour, Employment, and Integration advertised the deployment of Pix Emploi, a tool for better digital training and access to employment for young people and jobseekers.⁴⁰³² The platform gives users access to a professional network where they can search for online offers or information on a company, create a CV and email potential employers.

On 14 December 2021, Minister of Labour, Employment and Integration Élisabeth Borne and French President of the Adecco group Alexandre Viros signed a partnership agreement aimed at increasing support for long-term jobseekers.⁴⁰³³ The agreement will create 1,000 additional work-study contracts and help workers transition between sectors.

On 16 December 2021, the French Government announced a plan to support subcontractors, employees and regions in the transition of the automotive industry.⁴⁰³⁴ Minister of Economy, Finance and Recovery Bruno Le Maire, Minister of Labour, Employment and Integration Élisabeth Borne and Minister Delegate in charge of Industry Agnès Pannier-Runacher introduced the plan as part of the France 2030 investment plan. The plan aims to support the automotive industry with COVID-19 related shocks and the transition towards electric vehicles.

⁴⁰²⁹ Opening of applications for the I-PHD and iLab innovation competitions to encourage the entrepreneurial spirit in deeptech, Government of France (Paris) 24 November 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 8 December 2021. https://minefi.hosting.augure.com/Augure_Minefi/default.ashx?WCI=ContenuEnLigne&ID=E5A321D8-DA1A-45A5-B393-2DA435F3D693

⁴⁰³⁰ Olivia Grégoire announces financial support from the State for 15 emerging territorial economic cooperation hubs, Ministry of Economy, Finance and Recovery (Paris) 25 November 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 8 December 2021. https://minefi.hosting.augure.com/Augure_Minefi/default.ashx?WCI=ContenuEnLigne&ID=C05A4B33-94E6-45B2-9932-0E6107571A22

⁴⁰³¹ First Economic Inclusion Summit, Ministry of Economy, Finance and Recovery (Paris) 26 November 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 8 December 2021. https://minefi.hosting.augure.com/Augure_Minefi/default.ashx?WCI=ContenuEnLigne&ID=B6FB0072-BA84-4721-AAB8-141B211251C3

⁴⁰³² Better digital training: deployment of Pix Emploi, a tool for access to employment for young people and job seekers, Ministry of Labour, Employment and Economic Inclusion (Paris) 6 December 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 17 January 2022. <https://travail-emploi.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiqués-de-presse/article/mieux-former-au-numérique-déploiement-de-pix-emploi-un-outil-pour-l'accès-a-l>

⁴⁰³³ Signature of a partnership agreement with the Adecco group to promote access to employment for long-term job seekers and retraining of employees, Ministry of Labour, Employment and Economic Inclusion (Paris) 14 December 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 17 January 2022. <https://travail-emploi.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiqués-de-presse/article/signature-d-une-convention-de-partenariat-avec-le-groupe-adecco-pour-favoriser>

⁴⁰³⁴ France 2030: the Government announces a plan to support subcontractors, employees and territories in the transition of the automotive sector, Government of France (Paris) 16 December 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 17 January 2022. https://minefi.hosting.augure.com/Augure_Minefi/default.ashx?WCI=ContenuEnLigne&ID=74A3BA84-18D1-41F0-A6B3-C6B3ABFB8D8B

On 4 January 2022, Minister of Labour, Employment and Integration Elisabeth Borne and High Commissioner for Employment and Engagement Thibaut Huilluy announced the launch of two new services dedicated to the guidance of young people.⁴⁰³⁵ Regarding the launch of the “I create my CV” and “Find my job” services, Minister of Labour, Employment and Integration Elisabeth Borne stated “these new services, we want to offer turnkey solutions to enable each young person to find their way and enter the labor market.”

On 5 January 2022, the French Government announced 10 new actions to promote the competitiveness of medium-sized enterprises (ETIs) through its “ETI Nation Strategy.”⁴⁰³⁶ The 10 actions build upon previous efforts to support ETIs and improve competitiveness.

On 12 January 2022, the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Integration and Atlas signed a multi-year framework agreement related to the implementation of a Digital Engagement for the Development of Employment and Skills (EDEC) project.⁴⁰³⁷ The EDEC project will be deployed in two stages and will have a total budget of EUR470,000. As High Commissioner for Skills Carine Seiler states, “the digital transition is a collective challenge that transforms professions regardless of the sectors and professional branches. The EDEC will shed light on the necessary transitions arising from employment and skills needs.”

On 13 January 2022, the Ministry of Economy, Finance and Recovery organized the ministerial conference “A stronger industry for a more autonomous Europe” as part of the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union.⁴⁰³⁸ Several round tables were organized with public and private stakeholders who explored the conditions necessary to strengthen the strategic autonomy and resilience capacities of the European industry.

On 19 January 2022, the second edition of the Assises du Mentorat was held as part of the international month of mentoring, bringing together many associations committed to fighting social and educational inequalities.⁴⁰³⁹ The event gathered several SMEs under the “1 youth, 1 mentor” system and reflected on the past successes of the program, were 100,000 youth benefitted from participation in 2021. The event aims to double the number of participants for 2022.

On 20 January 2022, the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union organized the ministerial conference on the development of European mobility for apprentices.⁴⁰⁴⁰ This event forms part of a series aimed at promoting European mobility for young people in light of the 35th anniversary of Erasmus, an

⁴⁰³⁵ “1 young person, 1 solution”: launch of two new functionalities to facilitate the professional orientation of young people on 1jeune1solution.gouv.fr, Ministry of Labour, Employment and Economic Inclusion (Paris) 4 January 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 17 January 2022. <https://travail-emploi.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiqués-de-presse/article/1-jeune-1-solution-lancement-de-deux-nouvelles-fonctionnalités-pour-faciliter-l>

⁴⁰³⁶ “ETI Nation Strategy”: the Government takes stock and announces 10 new actions to promote the competitiveness of ETIs, Government of France (Paris) 5 January 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 17 January 2022. https://minefi.hosting.augure.com/Augure_Minefi/default.ashx?WCI=ContenuEnLigne&ID=97B96D10-707C-452B-814D-A5FA70A5BCBF

⁴⁰³⁷ Signature of a Digital EDEC: the Ministry of Work, Employment and Integration and Atlas are committed to the digital transition, Ministry of Labour, Employment and Economic Inclusion (Paris) 12 January 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 17 January 2022. <https://travail-emploi.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiqués-de-presse/article/signature-d-un-edec-numerique-le-ministere-du-travail-de-l-emploi-et-de-l>

⁴⁰³⁸ “A stronger industry for a more autonomous Europe”, Ministry of Economy, Finance and Recovery (Paris) 6 January 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 17 January 2022. https://minefi.hosting.augure.com/Augure_Minefi/default.ashx?WCI=ContenuEnLigne&ID=19AD86BF-BCB2-491D-AAF5-84FA12D613ED

⁴⁰³⁹ 2nd edition of the Assises du Mentorat: towards a right to mentoring for all young people who need it, Ministry of Labour, Employment and Economic Inclusion (Paris) 20 January 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 27 February 2022. <https://travail-emploi.gouv.fr/actualites/l-actualite-du-ministere/article/2e-edition-des-assises-du-mentorat-vers-un-droit-au-mentorat-pour-tous-les>

⁴⁰⁴⁰ “New generation Erasmus” conference: developing the European mobility of apprentices, Ministry of Labour, Employment and Economic Inclusion (Paris) 18 January 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 27 February 2022. <https://travail-emploi.gouv.fr/actualites/l-actualite-du-ministere/article/conference-nouvelle-generation-erasmus-developper-la-mobilite-europeenne-des>

institution that enables thousands of European students each year to follow their training in another European country. The event aims to strengthen the dynamics of vocational training and apprenticeship paths.

On 20 January 2022, the French Government launched the ninth wave of the i-Nov component of the Innovation Competition for startups and small- and medium-sized enterprises.⁴⁰⁴¹ This system will support the France 2030 initiative, which aims to prepare the France of tomorrow by accelerating investment in innovation, from the design of the product or service to its industrialization. This edition has four themes: digital; health; transport, mobility, cities and sustainable buildings; and energy, resources and natural environments.

On 25 January 2022, Secretary of State for the Digital Transition and Communication Electronics Cédric O visited the premises of Konexio, an association that focuses on training people far from employment in digital skills in order to facilitate their socio-professional integration.⁴⁰⁴² The Konexio association aims to train 10,000 individuals by 2023 and will do so with the financial support of the Government.

On 28 January 2022, the Minister of Economy, Finance and Recovery Bruno Le Maire and the Minister of Labour, Employment and Integration Elisabeth Borne entrusted Thibault Lanxade, Francois Perret and Agnes Bricard as ambassadors to develop employee participation and profit-sharing in companies.⁴⁰⁴³ Value sharing has been a major focus of the economic policy of the Government to date.

On 5 February 2022, Prime Minister Jean Castex announced the doubling of aid for high-speed non-wired equipment.⁴⁰⁴⁴ Subsidies for access to France's High-Speed Plan serve as a reinforcement for individuals who do not have fiber and, additionally, the Government will be expanding the "digital cohesion of territories" which makes it possible to cover part of the cost of access to a non-wired satellite.

On 7 February 2022, Minister of Ecological Transition Barbara Pompili and Minister of Economy, Finance and Recovery Jean-Baptiste Lemoyne signed a "commitment to green growth in favor of the transition to the

⁴⁰⁴¹ Investments for the future: Opening of a new call for projects to encourage innovation in SMEs and start-ups, Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation (Paris) 20 January 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 27 February 2022. <https://www.enseignementsup-recherche.gouv.fr/fr/investissements-d-avenir-ouverture-d-un-nouvel-appel-projets-pour-encourager-l-innovation-dans-les-83300>

⁴⁰⁴² Thinking in digital skills: Cédric O on the move within the Konexio association, Secretary of State for the Digital Transition and Electronic Communications (Paris) 25 January 2022. Translation provided by analyst. Access Date: 27 February 2022. https://minefi.hosting.augure.com/Augure_Minefi/r/ContenuEnLigne/Download?id=A03D395E-8F7F-4DE7-B40B-EB2EDE595652&filename=1938%20-%20NAR%20Konexio%20DOCX.pdf

⁴⁰⁴³ Employee savings: a new mission entrusted to ambassadors to develop employee participation and profit-sharing in companies, Government of France (Paris) 28 January 2022. Translation provided by analyst. Access Date: 27 February 2022.

https://minefi.hosting.augure.com/Augure_Minefi/r/ContenuEnLigne/Download?id=D90337BF-C19D-42CF-A609-26A8552DED2C&filename=1950%20-%20Epargne%20salariale%20-%20une%20nouvelle%20mission%20confi%C3%A9e%20aux%20ambassadeurs%20pour%20d%C3%A9velopper%20la%20participation%20et%20l'E2%80%99int%C3%A9ressement%20des%20salari%C3%A9s%20dans%20les%20entreprises.pdf

⁴⁰⁴⁴ Reinforcing access to the meneric of the French: the Prime Minister announces a doubling of aid for very high-speed non-wired equipment, Secretary of State for the Digital Transition and Electronic Communications (Paris) 5 February 2022. Translation provided by analyst. Access Date: 27 February 2022. https://minefi.hosting.augure.com/Augure_Minefi/r/ContenuEnLigne/Download?id=7D913893-D621-445E-B374-A1C9B6B2DDEB&filename=1990%20-%20Renforcer%20l'E2%80%99acc%C3%A8s%20au%20num%C3%A9rique%20des%20Fran%C3%A7ais%20-%20le%20Premier%20ministre%20annonce%20un%20doublement%20de%20l'E2%80%99aide%20%C3%A0%20l'E2%80%99acc%C3%A9quipement%20tr%C3%A8s%20haut%20d%C3%A9bit%20non%20filaire.pdf

circular economy.”⁴⁰⁴⁵ This series of commitments are aimed at accelerating the transition of the sector towards a circular economy.

On 7 and 8 February 2022, the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs organized the Mediterranean Forum.⁴⁰⁴⁶ The event seeks to make the Mediterranean more sustainable, prosperous and integrated by 2030. The Forum provided a space for discussions and debates between stakeholder, civil society and the entire Mediterranean region in which common challenges can be addressed. Some of the topics addressed included education, training and mobility, employment, innovation and entrepreneurship, inclusion, and solidarity as well as regional action and sustainable development.

On 11 February 2022, the General Secretariat for Investment launched a call for expression of interest “skills and professions of the future” whose challenge is to adapt the training system for young people and employees to the professions of tomorrow.⁴⁰⁴⁷ EUR2 billion will be devoted to the creation of the initial and continuing training offer at all levels to ensure that the population has skills in strategic sectors that will strengthen France’s position as an industrial leader.

On 16 February 2022, Minister of Higher Education, Research and Innovation Frédérique Vidal received the report titled “raising awareness and training in the challenges of the ecological transition and sustainable development in higher education.”⁴⁰⁴⁸ The recommendations of the report are intended to support higher education operators in adapting to modern labour skills requirements and strengthening worker resiliency.

On 17 February 2022, the first informal conference of the European Ministers of Social Economy took place, as organized by the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union.⁴⁰⁴⁹ 23 European ministers in charge of the social economy met in Paris to address development of this sector in order to meet the climate challenge and create jobs with high social added value.

On 18 February 2022, Minister of State for Tourism Jean-Baptiste Lemoyne, alongside others, addressed the National Assembly prior to the adoption of the law modifying the governance of the Agency for French

⁴⁰⁴⁵ Barbara Pompilo and Jean Baptiste Lemoyne have signed, alongside event professionals, a “Commitment for green growth in favour of the transition to the circular economy”, Government of France (Paris) 7 February 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 27 February 2022. https://minefi.hosting.augure.com/Augure_Minefi/r/ContenuEnLigne/Download?id=9621F9C1-DA26-4941-B591-F5A0B07EECF9&filename=1996%20-%20Barbara%20Pompili%20et%20Jean-Baptiste%20Lemoyne%20ont%20sign%C3%A9%20un%20Engagement%20pour%20la%20croissance%20verte%20en%20faveur%20de%20la%20transition%20vers%20l'E2%80%99%20C3%A9conomie%20circulaire.pdf

⁴⁰⁴⁶ The Mediterranean Forum: An Appeal for the Mediterranean- 7 and 8 February, Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 7 February 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 27 February 2022. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/civil-society/the-mediterranean-forum-an-appeal-for-the-mediterranean-7-and-8-february-2022/>

⁴⁰⁴⁷ Call for expression of interest (AMI) “Skills and jobs of the future”, Ministry of Labour, Employment and Economic Inclusion (Paris) 11 February 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 27 February 2022. <https://travail-emploi.gouv.fr/actualites/l-actualite-du-ministere/article/appeal-a-manifestation-d-interet-ami-competences-et-metiers-d-avenir>

⁴⁰⁴⁸ Submission of the report “Raising awareness and training in the challenges of ecological transition and sustainable development in higher education” by Jean Jouzel, Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation (Paris) 18 February 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 27 February 2022. <https://www.enseignementsup-recherche.gouv.fr/fr/remise-du-rapport-sensibiliser-et-former-aux-enjeux-de-la-transition-ecologique-et-du-developpement-83903>

⁴⁰⁴⁹ First Informal Conference of European Ministers of Social Economy; a decisive step for a growing sector, Ministry of Economy and Finance (Paris) 17 February 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 27 February 2022. https://minefi.hosting.augure.com/Augure_Minefi/r/ContenuEnLigne/Download?id=3B839FD3-4B09-4CF1-9E4D-D0F051B4F409&filename=2041%20-%20Premi%C3%A8re%20conf%C3%A9rence%20informelle%20des%20ministres%20europ%C3%A9ens%20de%20l%27%C3%A9conomie%20sociale%20-%20Une%20C3%A9tape%20d%C3%A9cisive%20pour%20un%20secteur%20en%20pleine%20croissance.pdf

Education Abroad and establishing regional training centers.⁴⁰⁵⁰ The law aims to make the French education system more attractive internationally.

On 22 February 2022, the Ministerial Forum for Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific took place and presented itself as an opportunity to showcase the European Union strategy for the region.⁴⁰⁵¹ This event brought together foreign ministers of the European Union and 30 countries in the Indo-Pacific region and involved the discussion of issues such as sustainable and inclusive prosperity, green transition and connectivity, among others.

On 28 February 2022, Minister of Agriculture and of Food Julien Denormandie, and Minister Delegate in charge of Industry Agnès Pannier-Runacher signed alongside representatives of French agri-food companies and representatives of trade union organizations an amendment to the strategic contract of the agri-food sector.⁴⁰⁵² The objective of this measure is to encourage the deployment of the industry to improve competitiveness, sustainability and job creation. The amendments signed include actions in three priority areas: the ecological transition, competitiveness and sovereignty to ensure the resilience of the industry, and training to consolidate the positioning of actors.

On 1 March 2022, the Youth Engagement Contract launched by the Ministry of Travel, Employment and Insertion came into effect.⁴⁰⁵³ The programs offer young people renewed individual and intensive support to find sustainable entry into employment. The contract will serve as a replacement for the Youth Guarantee and will consist of a fully personalized course that can last from six to twelve months.

On 4 March 2022, the Ministry of Higher Education, Research, and Innovation increased financial aid for the 2022-2023 academic year aimed at supporting overseas students who struggle with long-distance mobility.⁴⁰⁵⁴ The program is targeted toward students from Réunion, Mayotte, Guyana, Martinique, Guadeloupe, New Caledonia and French Polynesia. The allocation of these resources will increase the number of scholarships for many mobile students who already have scholarships, but also make new students eligible for support.

On 8 March 2022, the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union promoted women's participation in entrepreneurship and innovation in the ICT sector at the Informal Meeting of Telecommunications Ministers.⁴⁰⁵⁵ The meeting aimed to raise awareness among the investment community

⁴⁰⁵⁰ French education abroad strengthened with passage of law on AEFÉ governance and the creation of regional training centers (18 Feb. 2022), France Diplomacy (Paris) 18 February 2022. Access Date: 27 February 2022.

<https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/francophony-and-the-french-language/news/article/french-education-abroad-strengthened-with-passage-of-law-on-aefe-governance-and>

⁴⁰⁵¹ Ministerial Forum for Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific (Paris, 22 Feb. 2022), France Diplomacy (Paris) 22 February 2022. Access Date: 27 February 2022. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/europe/the-french-presidency-of-the-council-of-the-european-union/article/ministerial-forum-for-cooperation-in-the-indo-pacific-paris-22-feb-2022>

⁴⁰⁵² Agri-food industries: an ambitious roadmap for innovation, digitization and investment, Government of France (Paris) 28 February 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 24 April 2022. https://minefi.hosting.augure.com/Augure_Minefi/r/ContenuEnLigne/Download?id=621523EA-FACA-422B-ADA4-EA067D78016E&filename=2080%20-%20Industries%20agroalimentaires%20-%20une%20feuille%20de%20route%20ambitieuse%20pour%20l%E2%80%99innovation%2C%20la%20num%C3%A9risation%20et%20l%E2%80%99investissement.pdf

⁴⁰⁵³ Youth Engagement Contract (CEJ), Ministry of Labour, Employment and Economic Inclusion (Paris) 1 March 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 24 April 2022. <https://travail-emploi.gouv.fr/emploi-et-insertion/mesures-jeunes/contrat-engagement-jeune/>

⁴⁰⁵⁴ The government is increasing financial support for overseas students, Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation (Paris) 4 March 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 24 April 2022. <https://www.enseignementsup-recherche.gouv.fr/fr/le-gouvernement-renforce-le-soutien-financier-aux-etudiants-ultra-marins-84038>

⁴⁰⁵⁵ Nevers Declaration for Women in Entrepreneurship and Innovation, European Union's Commission of Telecommunications Ministers (Paris) 8 March 2022. Access Date: 24 April 2022. https://minefi.hosting.augure.com/Augure_Minefi/r/ContenuEnLigne/Download?id=14CF2020-83F2-481B-9D5F-C1B72FB923EC&filename=3019%20-%20Nevers%20Declaration%20for%20Women%20in%20Entrepreneurship%20and%20Innovation.pdf

by addressing the lack of gender diversity and reducing the funding gap in government for women entrepreneurs.

On 9 March 2022, Minister Delegate in charge of Public Accounts Olivia Dussopt took part in the round table “Green budget: a tool at the service of the ecological transition.”⁴⁰⁵⁶ France has been presenting since 2020 as an appendix to the initial finance bill, a report detailing the share of ecological and climate impact of all State budget expenditures. This roundtable was an opportunity of the speakers as well as for the public present to discuss the merits of green budgeting and highlight the most recent achievements in the field and reflect on possible improvements.

On 9 March 2022, Minister for Ecological Transition Barbara Pompili and Minister Runacher announced the opening of the last three parts of the call for projects “Innovative solutions for improving recyclability, recycling and reincorporation of materials.”⁴⁰⁵⁷ These projects aim to support innovative across the entire recycling industry. Action taken will also limit the consumption of virgin resources, in particular fossil fuels, reducing emission of greenhouse effect gasses.

On 9 March 2022, Minister of Economy, Finance and Recovery Bruno Le Maire received the report titled “Making Paris a benchmark for the climate transition: a framework of actions.”⁴⁰⁵⁸ After three months of work and more than 90 hearings with over 200 professionals, Chairman of Amundi – a leading European asset manager – Yves Perrier presented his findings relating to the strengthening of European energy autonomy and the success of the ecological transition. The report finds that the transitions will require a radical transformation of the economy and society as well as massive investments. The report produced 24 covering tools like carbon dioxide accounting, training and regulation.

On 10 March 2022, the Minister Vidal alongside Secretary General for Investment Bruno Bonnell, and CEO of the National Research Agency Thierry Damerval presented the eight winning universities for the “Excellence Initiatives” and “Science-Innovation-Territories-Economy Initiatives” actions.⁴⁰⁵⁹ The winners were confirmed by an international jury at the start of the year which means that 17 initiatives have been set up and will benefit from EUR300 million per year. This support will be key in the acceleration of research and training in France and abroad.

On 16 March 2022, Secretary of State to the Minister of Economy, Finance and Recovery in charge of the Social, Solidarity and Responsible Economy Olivia Grégoire met with Italy’s Deputy Minister of Economy

⁴⁰⁵⁶ Decarbonation/green budget conference, Ministry of the Economy, Finance and Recovery (Paris) 9 March 2022. Translation provided by Google Translation. Access Date: 24 April 2022.

https://minefi.hosting.augure.com/Augure_Minefi/r/ContenuEnLigne/Download?id=63E7E08F-B957-4A66-BFD8-44EFFD91214A&filename=2124%20-%20Conf%C3%A9rence%20d%C3%A9carbonation%20-%20budget%20vert.pdf

⁴⁰⁵⁷ Investing in the France of 2030: developing and supporting innovation at all stages of the recycling chain for textiles, composites and paper/cardboard, Ministry for the Ecological Transition (Paris) 9 March 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 24 April 2022. https://minefi.hosting.augure.com/Augure_Minefi/r/ContenuEnLigne/Download?id=12F912B3-68A2-42D4-8B9D-262EF173F772&filename=2132%20-%20Investir%20dans%20la%20France%20de%202030%20-%20D%C3%A9veloppeur%20et%20soutenir%20l%E2%80%99innovation%20a%20toutes%20les%20%C3%A9tapes%20de%20la%20chaîne%20du%20recyclage%20des%20textiles%20des%20composites%20et%20des%20papiers-cartons.pdf

⁴⁰⁵⁸ Yves Perrier presents Bruno Le Maire with a framework of actions to guide financial actors in their alignment with the Paris Agreement, Ministry of the Economy, Finance and the Recovery (Paris) 9 March 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 24 April 2022. https://minefi.hosting.augure.com/Augure_Minefi/r/ContenuEnLigne/Download?id=93033A70-279F-4F62-AE06-43FDA3A824F3&filename=2135%20-%20Yves%20Perrier%20remet%20%C3%A0%20Bruno%20Le%20Maire%20un%20cadre%20d%E2%80%99actions%20visant%20%C3%A0%20guider%20les%20acteurs%20financiers%20dans%20leur%20alignement%20avec%20l%E2%80%99Accord%20de%20Paris.pdf

⁴⁰⁵⁹ France 2030: accelerating research and training in France and abroad, Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation (Paris) 10 March 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 24 April 2022. <https://www.enseignementsup-recherche.gouv.fr/fr/france-2030-acceler-er-la-recherche-et-la-formation-en-france-et-l-international-84104>

and Finance Laura Castelli.⁴⁰⁶⁰ The ministers discussed the measures to be taken at the national and regional levels following the European Action plan on the social economy which was adopted at the end of 2021. They agreed to prolong cooperation to promote social economy cross-border projects by encouraging their establishment.

On 22 March 2022, the Ministry of Ecological Transition published the national community of territories 2022 roadmap.⁴⁰⁶¹ The community of demonstration territories brings together the territorial actors of the ecological transition, the agents of the state and their partners to make sure the ecological transition is incorporated into various fields of action. The guidelines which were presented by the group are constructed around five strategic objectives which include dialogue between actors of the territory to build a global approach to the transition, the co-creation of resources to increase the community's skill, the sharing of reproducible and inspiring actions.

On 5 April 2022, a new decree for the greening of vehicles used in connection by delivery platforms was published in the Official Journal amending the Environment code.⁴⁰⁶² Introduced by article 114 of the Climate and Resilience law, the decree obligates delivery platforms with more than 50 workers to respect a minimum share, increasing over time, of vehicles with very low emissions. These may include but are not limited to two- or three-wheel vehicles such as bicycles and electric means of transportation. The objective of the decree is to achieve 100 per cent low-emission vehicles in use by 2030.

On 12 April 2022, the Ministry of Travel, Employment, and Insertion launched a third call for projects for youth mentoring for their "1 youth, 1 mentor" program.⁴⁰⁶³ This scheme enables young people to benefit from mentoring actions. The call will remain open until 6 May 2022 to support new mentoring development projects in France.

On 13 April 2022, France requested the intervention of the European Globalization Adjustment Fund in support of workers made redundant at Selecta and Airbus.⁴⁰⁶⁴ The aid supports laid-off workers by offering them several measures to return to work, including training and business start-up bonuses. The European Parliament and the Council of the European Union, at France's request approved an intervention of EUR3.7 million for Airbus and EUR1.9 million for Selecta workers who were made redundant.

On 14 May 2022, the G7 Foreign Ministers released a communique following their meeting in Germany. Among other issues, the Ministers discussed the need to foster a more sustainable world and increase cooperation on matters of economic security. Pillar 13 of the communique reaffirmed G7 members' pledges to strengthen economic cooperation in Africa through the G7 Partnership for Infrastructure and Investment, the EU-Africa Global Gateway Investment Package and the G20 Compact with Africa. Pillar 37 highlighted the need for

⁴⁰⁶⁰ Italy and France initiate bilateral cooperation on mutual recognition of social economy entities, Ministry of the Economy, Finance and Recovery (Paris) 17 March 2022. Access Date: 24 April 2022. https://minefi.hosting.augure.com/Augure_Minefi/r/ContenuEnLigne/Download?id=65DD28A9-8596-4AD2-8E36-285C6B0CC053&filename=2176%20-%20Press%20release%20Italy-France%2017%20March.pdf

⁴⁰⁶¹ 2022 roadmap for ecological transition demonstration territories, Ministry for the Ecological Transition (Paris) 22 March 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 24 April 2022. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/feuille-route-2022-des-territoires-demonstrateurs-transition-ecologique>

⁴⁰⁶² Climate and Resilience Law: a new decree for the greening of vehicles used in connection by delivery platforms, Ministry for the Ecological Transition (Paris) 6 April 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 24 April 2022. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/loi-climat-et-resilience-nouveau-decret-verdissement-des-vehicules-utilises-dans-mise-en-relation>

⁴⁰⁶³ "1 young person, 1 mentor": launch of a third call for projects for youth mentoring, Ministry of Labour, Employment and Economic Inclusion (Paris) 12 April 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 24 April 2022. <https://travail-emploi.gouv.fr/actualites/l-actualite-du-ministere/article/1-jeune-1-mentor-lancement-d-un-troisieme-appel-a-projets-pour-le-mentorat-des>

⁴⁰⁶⁴ The European Globalization Adjustment Fund in support of workers made redundant at Selecta and Airbus in France, Ministry of Labour, Employment and Economic Inclusion (Paris) 13 April 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 24 April 2022. <https://travail-emploi.gouv.fr/actualites/l-actualite-du-ministere/article/le-fonds-europeen-d-ajustement-a-la-mondialisation-en-soutien-des-travailleurs-379615>.

infrastructure financing and sustainable connectivity, especially in low- and middle-income countries, including diversifying supply chains and encouraging an efficient and equitable transition to a highly digitalized economy. Additionally, the pillar reaffirmed the need for long-term economic development through sustainable labour practices and open and democratic values in international markets. Pillar 40 underscored the members' commitments toward ensuring novel and emerging technologies could be used to further inclusive growth and using technologies like high-speed internet connectivity to promote sustainability.⁴⁰⁶⁵

On 20 May 2022, the G7 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors released their communique, where they pledged to support sustainability, resilience, inclusivity and strength in five core areas among others: macroeconomic stability; digitalization; climate and environment; and financial market stability. Each of these pillars details numerous actions that each G7 member has pledged to implement to support a fairer recovery.⁴⁰⁶⁶

On 24 May 2022, the G7 Labour and Employment Ministers agreed on a communique to “facilitate a just transition to a green social market economy.” Particularly, the communique introduced new language concerning resilient supply chains, integration of migrant workers and the direct impacts of changing labour markets and climate change on the international economic system.⁴⁰⁶⁷

On 26 May 2022, France began the ninth edition of its Latin American and Caribbean Week, an event aimed at promoting among other issues, greater economic collaboration between France and the region. A key event planned for the week is the International Economic Forum, hosted by the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs and Ministry of the Economy, Finance and Recovery, which will discuss business development and economic cooperation opportunities.⁴⁰⁶⁸

On 1 June 2022, French Tech, a government-established startup network announced new commitments to ensure gender equality in all areas of entrepreneurship. Specifically, the agreement would have 20 per cent of a company's board be comprised of women, train all managers on key issues of diversity and discrimination, ensure no gender discrimination when publishing job vacancy notices and ensure adequate support for employees returning from parental leave.⁴⁰⁶⁹

France has fully complied with its commitment to promote strong, resilient, sustainable, balanced, and inclusive growth. France has fully complied with its commitment to build resilience and sustainability by incorporating environmental considerations in economic policymaking. Additionally, France has complied with facilitating reallocation and boosting productivity growth for all by encouraging competition and innovation. Moreover, France has fully complied with supporting people in transition through policies designed to upskill and reskill workers as well as through investments in high-quality vocational education and training.

Thus, France receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Juliana Rivas

⁴⁰⁶⁵ Foreign Ministers' Communique, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 14 May 2022. Access Date: 29 May 2022. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/foreign/220514-communique.html>

⁴⁰⁶⁶ Foreign Ministers' Communique, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 14 May 2022. Access Date: 29 May 2022. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/foreign/220514-communique.html>

⁴⁰⁶⁷ “Crises forge strong bonds between democracies,” Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (Berlin) 24 May 2022. Access Date: 29 May 2022. <https://www.bmas.de/EN/Services/Press/recent-publications/2022/crises-forge-strong-bonds-between-democracies.html>

⁴⁰⁶⁸ 9th edition of Latin America and Caribbean Week (26 May - 11 June 2022), Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 26 May 2022. Access Date: 29 May 2022. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/americas/central-america-and-the-caribbean/article/9th-edition-of-latin-america-and-caribbean-week-26-may-11-june-2022>

⁴⁰⁶⁹ Start-up: French Tech launches a parity pact in favour of equality between men and women, Ministry of the Economy and Finance (Paris) 1 June 2022. Translation provided by analyst. Access Date: 3 June 2022. <https://www.economie.gouv.fr/startup-french-tech-pacte-parite-egalite-femmes-hommes#>

Germany: +1

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to promote strong, resilient, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth.

On 23 June 2021, the Federal Cabinet approved the immediate climate protection (ICP) program for 2022, which provides an additional EUR8 billion to the existing EUR80 billion climate protection investments which have been implemented in the past two years.⁴⁰⁷⁰ The ICP program aims to meet the target set by the Climate Protection Act of 65 per cent fewer greenhouse gas emissions in 2030 compared to 1990, and encourage economic sustainability by promoting industrial sectors in climate-friendly products, energy-efficient renovations in residential buildings, abating traffic, etc.

On 13 July 2021, the Ministry of Finance announced that EUR14 billion had been paid out through Bridging Aid III.⁴⁰⁷¹ Bridging Aid III provides equity grants and reimburses the fixed costs of companies and self-employed persons that had a decline in sales of more than 30 per cent.⁴⁰⁷²

On 20 July 2021, the Ministry of Finance launched the EUR1.3 billion Restart Aid for self-employed people who do not benefit from the Bridging Aid due to a lack of fixed costs.⁴⁰⁷³ The Restart Aid Plus offers EUR1,500 per month to support self-employed people in restarting their businesses.

On 21 July 2021, the Federal Cabinet launched an extensive aid package for flood regions in addition to the initial EUR200 million.⁴⁰⁷⁴ To restore the devastated economy in the flood regions, the package includes fast and unbureaucratic emergency aid, a comprehensive reconstruction program, the restoration of federal infrastructure, and a security system.

On 22 July 2021, the German Federal Law Gazette published the Supply Chain Due Diligence Act that will enter into force on 1 January 2023.⁴⁰⁷⁵ The law was passed by the German parliament on 11 June 2021, with the goal of more effectively safeguarding human rights and the environment in the global economy. The act

⁴⁰⁷⁰ Immediate program for more climate protection, Federal Ministry of Finance (Berlin) 23 June 2021. Access Date: 5 December 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. <https://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Content/DE/Standardartikel/Themen/Schlaglichter/Klimaschutz/klimaschutz-sofortprogramm.html>

⁴⁰⁷¹ July 13, 2021: 14 billion euros in bridging aid III have already been paid out, Federal Ministry of Finance (Berlin) 2 December 2021. Access Date: 7 December 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. <https://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Content/DE/Bilderstreifen/Infografiken/2021-08-27-corona-hilfen/08.html>

⁴⁰⁷² Comprehensive corona aid for companies and the self-employed, Federal Ministry of Finance (Berlin) 2 December 2021. Access Date: 7 December 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. <https://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Content/DE/Standardartikel/Themen/Schlaglichter/Corona/ueberbrueckungshilfe.htm#Inhaltsverzeichnisb59c3ef9-bade-4a61-9c49-ef0d3cd2f4ba>

⁴⁰⁷³ Comprehensive corona aid for companies and the self-employed, Federal Ministry of Finance (Berlin) 2 December 2021. Access Date: 7 December 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. <https://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Content/DE/Standardartikel/Themen/Schlaglichter/Corona/ueberbrueckungshilfe.htm#Inhaltsverzeichnisb59c3ef9-bade-4a61-9c49-ef0d3cd2f4ba>

⁴⁰⁷⁴ The federal government decides on an extensive aid package for flood regions, Federal Ministry of Finance (Berlin) 21 July 2021. Access Date: 7 December 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. <https://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Content/DE/Pressemitteilungen/Finanzpolitik/2021/07/2021-07-21-hilfspaket-fuer-hochwasserregionen.html>

⁴⁰⁷⁵ Germany: New Law Obligates Companies to Establish Due Diligence Procedures in Global Supply Chains to Safeguard Human Rights and Environment, Library of Congress (Washington D.C.) 22 July 2021. Access Date: 2 December 2021. <https://www.loc.gov/item/global-legal-monitor/2021-08-17/germany-new-law-obligates-companies-to-establish-due-diligence-procedures-in-global-supply-chains-to-safeguard-human-rights-and-the-environment/#:~:text=Article%20Germany%3A%20New%20Law%20Obligates,the%20German%20Federal%20Law%20Gazette>

obligates companies with 3,000 or more employees to take appropriate measures to respect human rights within their supply chains.⁴⁰⁷⁶

On 27 July 2021, the Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs and Energy began funding new artificial intelligence (AI) projects – especially for medium-sized companies – with around EUR44 million encourage innovative competition within the AI industry for the prevention and management of crises.⁴⁰⁷⁷ The competition was announced in the wake of severe flooding, which demonstrated the importance of fast, reliable and interoperable data aggregation.

On 1 August 2021, the Federal Foreign Office announced that Germany acceded to the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP).⁴⁰⁷⁸ The key element of ReCAAP is the exchange of information on security-related attacks. With about 60 per cent of exports being transported via international shipping routes, this agreement will expand Germany's efforts to tackle piracy in Asia, promoting secure and free trade routes.

On 18 August 2021, the Federal Cabinet passed the Federal Government's 28th subsidy report.⁴⁰⁷⁹ Section 12 of the Stability and Growth Act indicates an increase in the subsidy volume from EUR24.6 billion in 2019 to EUR47.2 billion in 2022. This increase consists largely of federal financial aid with the expansion of the energy and climate fund in the 2030 climate protection program and the future investments decided in the economic stimulus program to cope with the pandemic. The increase in subsidies aims to support people in transition during the COVID-19 pandemic and promote sustainability in economic activities.

On 25 August 2021, Finance Minister Olaf Scholz presented a joint key-issues paper for an international climate club to the Federal Cabinet.⁴⁰⁸⁰ Minister Scholz hopes that cooperation between countries will lead to the implementation of social and economic change necessary to tackle climate change. The idea of an international climate club was previously discussed among G7 finance ministers in May.

On 25 August 2021, Federal Finance Minister Olaf Scholz presented the launch of construction aid in 2021 with EUR30 billion in the Development Aid Act.⁴⁰⁸¹ The reconstruction fund intends to support regions affected by flooding with economic recovery.⁴⁰⁸²

On 31 August 2021, the Federal Environment Ministry, in cooperation with KfW Bank, expanded the funding of environmental and climate protection investments as well as measures to adapt to the

⁴⁰⁷⁶ Due Diligence Act, Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (Berlin) 22 July 2021. Access Date: 2 December 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. <https://www.bmas.de/DE/Service/Gesetze-und-Gesetzesvorhaben/gesetz-unternehmerische-sorgfaltspflichten-lieferketten>

⁴⁰⁷⁷ Altmaier: Artificial intelligence can support crisis management, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action (Berlin) 27 July 2021. Access Date: 8 December 2021. Translated by Google Translate. <https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/DE/Pressemitteilungen/2021/07/20210727-altmaier-ki-kann-krisismanagement-unterstuetzen.html>

⁴⁰⁷⁸ International Cooperation to Combat Piracy: Germany Accedes to the International Agreement ReCAAP, Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 1 August 2021. Access Date: 25 November 2021. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/aussenpolitik/regionaleschwerpunkte/asien/recaap/2437518>

⁴⁰⁷⁹ Government Subsidy Report, Federal Ministry of Finance (Berlin) September 2021. Access Date: 9 December 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. <https://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Monatsberichte/2021/09/Inhalte/Kapitel-3-Analysen/3-1-28-subventionsbericht>

⁴⁰⁸⁰ The German Government Wants to Establish an International Climate Club, Federal Ministry of Finance (Berlin), 25 August 2021. Access Date: 6 December 2021. <https://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Content/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2021/20210825-german-government-wants-to-establish-an-international-climate-club.html>

⁴⁰⁸¹ Establishment of a special fund "Aufbauhilfe 2021" (Aufbauhilfegesetz): Speech by Olaf Scholz, Federal Ministry of Finance (Berlin) 25 August 2021. Access Date: 9 December 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. <https://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Content/DE/Reden/2021/2021-08-25-rede-scholz-aufbauhilfe-2021.html>

⁴⁰⁸² Together against the flood disaster: emergency aid and reconstruction fund, Federal Ministry of Finance (Berlin) 26 August 2021. Access Date: 9 December 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. <https://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Monatsberichte/2021/08/Inhalte/Kapitel-2b-Schlaglicht/2b-gemeinsam-gegen-die-flutkatastrophe.html>

consequences of climate change.⁴⁰⁸³ The funds will help meet the immense capital needed to transition the economy towards a clean, carbon neutral and resource efficient future.

On 22 November 2021, the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth adjusted the parental allowance to provide economic stability to families.⁴⁰⁸⁴ The adjustment includes an extension to 31 December 2021 and a partnership bonus with Elterngeld Plus for parents whose children were born before 1 September.⁴⁰⁸⁵ The changes seek to compensate for lost income due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 2 December 2021, the Federal Ministry of Finance announced the amendment of legal provisions for the implementation of the Federal Compensation Act, which increases the compensation pensions for victims of Nazi persecution to improve economic resilience in these families.⁴⁰⁸⁶ The compensation pensions will be increased by 3.1 per cent retrospectively from 1 September 2021 to 1 January 2022.

On 19 January 2022, Chancellor Scholz delivered a speech at the World Economic Forum on using Germany's Presidency of the G7 to turn the group into the nucleus of an International Climate Club.⁴⁰⁸⁷ In his speech, Chancellor Scholz announced the commitment of each G7 member to the 1.5-degree target and to climate neutrality by 2050, ensuring a sustainable economic development.

On 10 May 2022, Germany and Indonesia agreed to develop the Green Infrastructure Initiative. Between 2022 and 2025, Germany will provide EUR2.5 billion in loans to support climate and environmental infrastructure projects and boost sustainable mobility.⁴⁰⁸⁸

On 23 February 2022, the Federal cabinet passed draft law to increase the minimum wage to EUR12 and the wage limit to EUR520 from 1 October 2022.⁴⁰⁸⁹ This adjustment on minimum wage intends to support the economy through strengthening people's purchasing power and providing an important impetus for economic recovery.

⁴⁰⁸³ Federal Environment Ministry and KfW funding for environmental protection and adaption to climate change, The Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (Berlin) 31 August 2021. Access Date: 3 December 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. <https://www.bmu.de/pressemitteilung/bundesumweltministerium-und-kfw-verbessern-foerderung-von-umweltschutz-und-anpassung-an-den-klimawandel>

⁴⁰⁸⁴ Financial Support, The Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Berlin) 22 November 2021. Access Date: 9 December 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. <https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/themen/corona-pandemie/finanzielle-unterstuetzung>

⁴⁰⁸⁵ Parental Allowance, The Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Berlin) 1 September 2021. Access Date: 9 December 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. <https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/themen/familie/familienleistungen/elterngeld/elterngeld-73752>

⁴⁰⁸⁶ Ordinance amending legislation implementing the Federal Compensation Act, Federal Ministry of Finance (Berlin) 8 December 2021. Access Date: 9 December 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. https://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Content/DE/Gesetzestexte/Gesetze_Gesetzesvorhaben/Abteilungen/Abteilung_V/19_Legislaturperiode/2021-10-13-BEG-AENDVO/0-Gesetz.html

⁴⁰⁸⁷ Speech by Federal Chancellor Olaf Scholz at the World Economic Forum's Davos Dialogue on 19 January 2022 (video conference) "Working Together, Restoring Trust", The Federal Government (Berlin) 19 January 2022. Access Date: 28 February 2022. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/speech-by-federal-chancellor-olaf-scholz-at-the-world-economic-forum-s-davos-dialogue-on-19-january-2022-video-conference-working-together-restoring-trust--1999052>

⁴⁰⁸⁸ Minister Schulze pledges support for Indonesian-German initiative to improve Green Infrastructure, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Berlin) 10 February 2022. Access Date: 11 May 2022. <https://www.bmz.de/en/news/press-releases/indonesian-german-initiative-to-improve-green-infrastructure-104378>

⁴⁰⁸⁹ The statutory minimum wage will increase to 12 euros from October 1, 2022, Federal Ministry for Employment and Social Affairs (Berlin) 23 February 2022. Access Date: 28 February 2022. <https://www.bmas.de/DE/Service/Presse/Pressemitteilungen/2022/gesetzlicher-mindestlohn-steigt-auf-12-euro.html>

On 1 March 2022, Germany and Rwanda launched the Rwandan-German Climate and Development Partnership.⁴⁰⁹⁰ The goal of the partnership is to assist Rwanda in meeting its agreed emissions reductions quota of 38 per cent by 2030 under the 2015 Paris Agreement. The partnership would collaborate with the Rwandan fund FONERWA and focus on sustainable development measures in urban areas.

On 8 April 2022, the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs announced it would host a conference concerning supply chains, specifically improving sustainability and encourage the adoption of human rights standards in business practices in collaboration with the International Labor Organization.⁴⁰⁹¹

On 26 April 2022, Development Minister Svenja Schulze met with African Union representatives in Addis Ababa.⁴⁰⁹² Topics of discussion included the establishment and expansion of the African Free Trade Zone, which would further integrate the economies of several Northern, Eastern and Southern African countries.

On 10 May 2022, the Federal Ministry of Economics and Climate Protection (BMWK) announced calls for projects related to climate protection. The BMWK, which will fund the projects, specified that projects should be designed to incorporate consumers and businesses into the larger climate transition framework.⁴⁰⁹³

On 11 May 2022, Chancellor Olaf Scholz met with President of Argentina Angel Fernandez. The two discussed increased economic collaboration, especially reducing investment barriers for German and Argentinian companies as well as ensuring an economically sustainable transition to net-zero economies.⁴⁰⁹⁴

On 11 May 2022, Chancellor Olaf Scholz met with representatives of Labour7 – a G7 engagement group – to discuss the changing nature of the workforce amid economic recovery from the pandemic. Specifically, topics of discussion included transitioning to a carbon-neutral global economy, creating binding regulations for ensuring sustainable supply chains and incorporating trade unions into labour discussions.⁴⁰⁹⁵

On 12 May 2022, German officials from the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs met with their Bulgarian counterparts to discuss fairer working conditions for mobile workers. In particular, the two delegations pledged to address labour exploitation, occupational health and safety and closer cooperation on a bilateral level to mitigate these issues in the near future.⁴⁰⁹⁶

On 13 May 2022, Germany received a delegation from the Greek Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs to discuss strengthening cooperation between the two states on economic issues. Topics of discussion included

⁴⁰⁹⁰ Germany and Rwanda sign Climate and Development Partnership, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation (Berlin) 1 March 2022. Access Date: 11 May 2022. <https://www.bmz.de/en/news/press-releases/germany-and-rwanda-sign-climate-and-development-partnership-105014>

⁴⁰⁹¹ Supply chain conference, Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (Berlin) 8 April 2022. Access Date: 11 May 2022. <https://www.bmas.de/EN/Services/Press/recent-publications/2022/g7-conference-supply-chains.html>

⁴⁰⁹² Development Minister Schulze visits African Union in Addis Ababa, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Berlin) 26 April 2022. Access Date: 11 May 2022. <https://www.bmz.de/en/news/press-releases/development-minister-schulze-visits-african-union-in-addis-ababa-108226>

⁴⁰⁹³ BMWK promotes innovative projects in municipal climate protection, Federal Ministry for Economics and Climate Protection (Berlin) 10 May 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 29 May 2022. <https://www.bmwk.de/Redaktion/DE/Pressemitteilungen/2022/05/20220510-bmwk-fordert-innovative-projekte-im-kommunalen-klimaschutz.html>

⁴⁰⁹⁴ A trusted partner in Latin America, The Federal Government (Berlin) 11 May 2022. Access Date: 29 May 2022. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/news/fernandez-berlin-2038898>

⁴⁰⁹⁵ Labour7 hands over recommendations, The Federal Government (Berlin) 11 May 2022. Access Date: 29 May 2022. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/news/l7-recommendations-2038960>

⁴⁰⁹⁶ Continued German-Bulgarian cooperation for fair working conditions, Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (Berlin) 17 May 2022. Access Date: 29 May 2022. <https://www.bmas.de/EN/Services/Press/recent-publications/2022/continued-german-bulgarian-cooperation-for-fair-working-conditions.html>

minimum wage reform, integration of people with disabilities into the workforce, wherein both countries pledged to work closer at the bilateral and EU level on implementing these labour reforms.⁴⁰⁹⁷

On 14 May 2022, the G7 Foreign Ministers released a communique following their meeting in Germany. Among other issues, the Ministers discussed the need foster a more sustainable world and increase cooperation on matters of economic security. Pillar 13 of the communique reaffirmed G7 members' pledges to strengthen economic cooperation in Africa through the G7 Partnership for Infrastructure and Investment, the EU-Africa Global Gateway Investment Package and the G20 Compact with Africa. Pillar 37 highlighted the need for infrastructure financing and sustainable connectivity, especially in low- and middle-income countries, including diversifying supply chains and encouraging an efficient and equitable transition to a highly digitalized economy. Additionally, the pillar reaffirmed the need for long-term economic development through sustainable labour practices and open and democratic values in international markets. Pillar 40 underscored the members' commitments toward ensuring novel and emerging technologies could be used to further inclusive growth and using technologies like high-speed internet connectivity to promote sustainability.⁴⁰⁹⁸

On 16 May 2022, the BMWK announced new measures to increase access for German companies to the circular economy in South Africa. As part of Germany's commitment to expand opportunities for both German firms and African markets, the measures would see industry experts provide support and advice for businesses including SMEs in their international expansion.⁴⁰⁹⁹

On 16 May 2022, Federal Minister for Economic Affairs and Climate Protection Robert Habeck visited the state of Saxony-Anhalt as part of his commitment to discuss the effects of decarbonizing the economy nationwide. The minister visited local companies and discussed implementing green hydrogen projects, carbon dioxide management infrastructure and other measures to improve industry sustainability and competitiveness.⁴¹⁰⁰

On 16 May 2022, the BMWK announced its ten winners of the German Innovation Prize for Climate and Environment, who receive a total of EUR175,000. Prize winners included innovative German companies in the fields of digitalization and climate change action among others.⁴¹⁰¹

On 17 May 2022, Germany and Canada held the first High Level Steering Group on Bilateral Cooperation. Topics of discussion included "accelerating the green transition," and enhancing cooperation on critical minerals, specifically securing sustainable supply chains.⁴¹⁰²

⁴⁰⁹⁷ State Secretary Dr Schmachtenberg receives Greek delegation at the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (Berlin) 13 May 2022. Access Date: 29 May 2022.

<https://www.bmas.de/EN/Services/Press/recent-publications/2022/schmachtenberg-receives-greek-delegation.html>

⁴⁰⁹⁸ Foreign Ministers' Communique, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 14 May 2022. Access Date: 29 May 2022.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/foreign/220514-communique.html>

⁴⁰⁹⁹ Economic network Africa: Industry expert is now advising German companies on business opportunities in the South African circular economy, Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Action (Berlin) 16 May 2022. Access Date: 13 June 2022.

<https://www.bmwk.de/Redaktion/DE/Pressemitteilungen/2022/05/20220516-wirtschaftsnetzwerk-afrika.html>

⁴¹⁰⁰ Habeck: "Transformation of the economy towards climate neutrality makes us more resilient," Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action (Berlin) 16 May 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 13 June 2022.

<https://www.bmwk.de/Redaktion/DE/Pressemitteilungen/2022/05/20220516-habeck-transformation-der-wirtschaft-hin-zur-klimaneutralitaet-macht-uns-widerstandsfahiger.html>

⁴¹⁰¹ Ten companies receive the German Innovation Prize for Climate and Environment, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action (Berlin) 16 May 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 13 June 2022.

<https://www.bmwk.de/Redaktion/DE/Pressemitteilungen/2022/05/20220516-zehn-unternehmen-erhalten-deutschen-innovationspreis-fur-klima-und-umwelt.html>

⁴¹⁰² Joint Press Statement on the occasion of the first meeting of the German-Canadian High Level Steering Group on Bilateral Cooperation, Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 17 May 2022. Access Date: 29 May 2022. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/meeting-german-canadian-high-level-steering-group-bilateral-cooperation-/2531656>

On 17 May 2022, the Youth7 Working Group of the G7, hosted by the German G7 Presidency released their list of demands in four areas of priority, including sustainability and economic transformation.⁴¹⁰³

On 20 May 2022, the G7 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors released their communique, where they pledged to support sustainability, resilience, inclusivity and strength in five core areas among others: macroeconomic stability; digitalization; climate and environment; and financial market stability. Each of these pillars details numerous actions that each G7 member has pledged to implement to support a fairer recovery.⁴¹⁰⁴

On 20 May 2022, Japanese Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Hagiuda Koichi met with Federal Minister for Economic Affairs and Climate Action Robert Habeck. Topics of discussion included, among others, promoting development investment bilaterally.⁴¹⁰⁵

On 24 May 2022, the G7 Labour and Employment Ministers agreed on a communique to “facilitate a just transition to a green social market economy.” Particularly, the communique introduced new language concerning resilient supply chains, integration of migrant workers and the direct impacts of changing labour markets and climate change on the international economic system.⁴¹⁰⁶

On 25 May 2022, the Federal Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs announced funding for new projects from organizations which would improve opportunities for people with disabilities. Funding would go toward covering operational and compensation-related costs for these individuals, assistance of EUR6,000 and facilitating workshops and training events for employers.⁴¹⁰⁷

On 25 May 2022, Federal Minister for Digital Affairs and Transport Volker Wissing announced the implementation of the Innovation and Technology Center for Hydrogen (ITZ). The center’s responsibilities include preparing SMEs for transitions in transportation infrastructure with an increased emphasis on hydrogen. The Ministry pledged EUR290 million to develop four centres in Germany.⁴¹⁰⁸

On 26 May 2022, Chancellor Olaf Scholz addressed the World Economic Forum in Davos. Among other topics, Scholz addressed the need for sustainable and resilient globalization through solidarity and efficient use of resources, as well as establishing binding regulations to ensure fairness and transparency in the global economic system.⁴¹⁰⁹

⁴¹⁰³ Young people want to be involved, Federal Ministry for Family, Seniors, Women and Youth (Berlin) 17 May 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 29 May 2022.

<https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/presse/pressemitteilungen/jugendliche-moechten-mitgestalten-197818>

⁴¹⁰⁴ G7 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors’ Petersberg Communique, Federal Ministry of Finance (Berlin) 20 May 2022. Access Date: 3 June 2022. <https://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Content/DE/Downloads/Internationales-Finanzmarkt/G7/g7-meeting-bonn-koenigswinter-communique-en.pdf>

⁴¹⁰⁵ Minister Hagiuda Holds Video Conference with Mr. Robert Habeck, Federal Minister for Economic Affairs and Climate Action, Germany, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 20 May 2022. Access Date: 13 June 2022. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2022/0520_002.html

⁴¹⁰⁶ “Crises forge strong bonds between democracies,” Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (Berlin) 24 May 2022. Access Date: 29 May 2022. <https://www.bmas.de/EN/Services/Press/recent-publications/2022/crises-forge-strong-bonds-between-democracies.html>

⁴¹⁰⁷ Funding announcement by the Federal Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, Federal Ministry for Employment and Social Affairs (Berlin) 25 May 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 3 June 2022. <https://www.bmas.de/DE/Service/Presse/Meldungen/2022/foerderbekanntmachung-bmas.html>

⁴¹⁰⁸ Feasibility study comes to a positive result, Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure (Berlin) 25 May 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 30 May 2022. <https://www.bmvi.de/SharedDocs/DE/Pressemitteilungen/2022/025-wissing-machbarkeitsstudie-itz.html>

⁴¹⁰⁹ Federal Chancellor Scholz addresses the World Economic Forum in Davos, The Federal Government (Berlin) 26 May 2022. Access Date: 29 May 2022. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/news/federal-chancellor-davos-2044070>

On 30 May 2022, the 75th iteration of the Hannover Messe opened, after two years of hiatus due to the pandemic. The Messe is the world's "leading industrial trade fair," whose theme this year was Digitalisation and Sustainability. The primary objective of the event was to help businesses transition towards a climate-neutral, sustainable and digitalized future. In total, 2,500 companies from 60 different countries presented their products and solutions at the fair.⁴¹¹⁰

On 31 May 2022, the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Protection announced ten award winners for the Real Laboratories Innovation Prize. The prizes went to firms who had brought practical applications of digital technologies and climate protection measures into their business practices.⁴¹¹¹

On 3 June 2022, Germany approved legislation that would increase the statutory minimum wage to EUR12 per hour. The law would come into effect on 1 October 2022.⁴¹¹²

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to promote strong, resilient, sustainable, balanced, and inclusive growth. Germany has fully complied with its commitment in all three areas of building economic resilience and sustainability, facilitating reallocation and boosting productivity growth for all, and supporting people in transition by allocating funds towards disaster relief and sustainable economic practices.

Thus, Germany receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Yiran (Sarah) Xie

Italy: 0

Italy has partially complied with its commitment to promote strong, resilient, sustainable, balanced, and inclusive growth.

From 3 to 19 June 2021, Italy participated in the first session of the International Labor Conference.⁴¹¹³ Several commissions dealt with issues including the International Labor Organization's response to the pandemic, the strategic objective of social protection, the application of international labor standards and the repeal and withdrawal of obsolete conventions and recommendations. The conference produced a final document highlighting the need for a sustainable and inclusive recovery.

On 16 June 2021, Deputy Foreign Minister Marina Sereni addressed the UN Global Compact Leaders Summit.⁴¹¹⁴ Minister Sereni added that "now it is time to lay the foundations for a different and better world, in which new development models centered on socio-economic inclusion and mutual collaboration are adopted." Additionally, Minister Sereni outlined the synergies between the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Italian National Strategy for Sustainable Development, which seeks to establish a partnership framework with countries in Africa to provide know-how in areas of food, agriculture, and infrastructure.

⁴¹¹⁰ Federal Chancellor opens the Hannover Messe, Federal Government (Berlin) 30 May 2022. Access Date: 3 June 2022. <https://www.economie.gouv.fr/startup-french-tech-pacte-parite-egalite-femmes-hommes#>

⁴¹¹¹ Award-winning real laboratories: Federal Ministry of Economics recognizes test rooms for digital and ecological transformation, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Protection (Berlin) 31 May 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 13 June 2022. <https://www.bmwk.de/Redaktion/DE/Pressemitteilungen/2022/05/20220531-ausgezeichnete-reallabore.html>

⁴¹¹² The minimum wage rises to 12 euros, Federal Ministry for Work and Social Policy (Berlin) 3 June 2022. Translation Provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 13 June 2022. <https://www.bmas.de/DE/Service/Presse/Meldungen/2022/mindestlohn-steigt-auf-12-euro.html>

⁴¹¹³ 109 Session of the International Labour Conference (ILC), Ministry of Labor and Social Policies (Rome) 3 August 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 9 December 2021. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/notizie/Pagine/109-Session-of-the-International-Labour-Conference-ILC.aspx>

⁴¹¹⁴ UN; Sereni, from companies a fundamental role for sustainable development, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 16 June 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 9 December 2021. https://www.esteri.it/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2021/06/onu-sereni-da-imprese-ruolo-fondamentale-per-sviluppo-sostenibile_0/

On 23 and 24 June 2021, the Ministry of Economic Development organized the G20 Forum.⁴¹¹⁵ The main theme addressed was the promotion sustainable economic growth by focusing on investments in innovation and the digital transition of industry. The Forum also included the G20 Labor Ministers' Meeting, in which Ministers discussed female employment, gender inequalities in the labor market, the adoption of protections against sectoral changes and the regulation of remote and digital work.⁴¹¹⁶ The forum concluded with the approval of the declaration of the Labor Ministers.

On 8 July 2021, Undersecretary for Foreign Affairs Manlio Di Stefano, the Minister of Education Patrizio Bianchi and the Deputy Minister of Economy Laura Castelli spoke at the International Conference of Villa Mondragone. The Conference aims to deepen dialogue between the academic world and representatives of national and international institutions on the issues of growth and sustainable development.⁴¹¹⁷ At the center of the 2021 edition of the conference was the economic policy response to the pandemic in the context of recovery and resilience plans aiming at promoting lasting, inclusive and sustainable growth.

On 28 July 2021, Deputy Foreign Minister Marina Sereni in a video speech at the Global Education Summit confirmed Italy's commitment to increase its multi-year contribution to the Global Partnership for Education (GPE).⁴¹¹⁸ Italy will contribute EUR25 million for the next five years, half of which will be directed to the education of girls in Africa. On this occasion, Italy and the other EU Member States announced a joint pledge, making "Team Europe" the main donor of the GPE.

On 17 September 2021, The International Coalition for Equal Pay, of which Italy has been a member since 2021, celebrated the International Day of Equal Pay.⁴¹¹⁹ The event is aimed at bringing attention to efforts made by various players in the labor market to ensure that wage equality is progressively resolved, specifically the contribution of women to economic recovery.

On 5 October 2021, Minister of Labor and Social Policies, Andrea Orlando spoke at the Sustainable Development Festival, organized by the Italian Alliance for Sustainable Development.⁴¹²⁰ The notion of a pact for youth employment was mentioned by Minister Orlando who underlined the impact of the working group "Youth Policies: Work and Welfare." He explained that the group has the "precise objective of working on proposals for improving the working and living conditions of the new generations" and focuses on improving orientation and communication between the worlds of training and work, providing the necessary tools for entering the labor market, improving the quality of youth work, housing, and social independence as well as welfare.

⁴¹¹⁵ G20: 23rd and 24th June Forum on digital transition of Industry, Ministry of Economic Development (Rome) 22 June 2021. Access Date: 9 December 2021. <https://www.mise.gov.it/index.php/en/202-news-english/2042409-g20-23rd-and-24th-june-forum-on-digital-transition-of-industry>

⁴¹¹⁶ G20, the Joint Ministerial Declaration of the Ministers of Labor and Education and the Final Declaration of the Ministers of Labor published, Ministry of Labor and Social Policies (Rome) 28 June 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 9 December 2021. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/notizie/Pagine/G20-leggi-la-Dichiarazione-Ministeriale-Congiunta-dei-Ministri-del-Lavoro-e-dell-Istruzione-e-la-Dichiarazione-finale.aspx>

⁴¹¹⁷ Undersecretary Hon. Manlio Di Stefano speaks at the "Villa Mondragone International Economic Seminar", Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 7 July 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 9 December 2021. https://www.esteri.it/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2021/07/il-sottosegretario-on-manlio-di-stefano-interviene-al-villa-mondragone-international-economic-seminar/

⁴¹¹⁸ Global Education Summit; Sereni, 25 million from Italy over the next 5 years to the Global Partnership for Education, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 28 July 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 9 December 2021. https://www.esteri.it/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2021/07/global-education-summit-sereni-dall-italia-25-milioni-nei-prossimi-5-anni-alla-global-partnership-for-education/

⁴¹¹⁹ International Day of Equal Pay, Ministry of Labor and Social Policies (Rome) 16 September 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 9 December 2021. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/notizie/Pagine/17-settembre-2021-Giornata-Internazionale-della-parita-salariale.aspx>

⁴¹²⁰ A Pact for Youth Employment, Ministry of Labor and Social Policies (Rome) 5 October 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 9 December 2021. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/priorita/Pagine/Un-Patto-per-l-Occupazione-Giovanile.aspx>

On 6 October 2021, Deputy Minister Marina Sereni emphasized the importance of intermediate cities in development when opening the proceedings of the second edition of the World Forum on Intermediate Cities.⁴¹²¹ The deputy minister noted that cities represent a frontline if Italy is to achieve a sustainable and inclusive post-pandemic recovery.

On 6 October 2021, Undersecretary Manlio Di Stefano attended the Ministerial meeting of the Council of the OECD.⁴¹²² Di Stefano spoke at the thematic sessions dedicated to foreign trade and digitization. He advocated for the introduction of regulations on corporate social responsibility in relation to supply chains and the alignment of the rules of the WTO on public subsidies to the current global dynamism.

On 7 October 2021, The President of the Republic Sergio Mattarella inaugurated the third edition of “Encounters with Africa,” the Ministerial Conference between Italy and over 50 delegations from African countries.⁴¹²³ As part of the conference organized by Italy, four interactive thematic panels took place which addressed issues of energy transition, green finance, sustainable development and the blue economy.

On 9 October 2021, Deputy Foreign Minister Marina Sereni inaugurated the Italy-Africa Business Week, which represents a place for meeting and exchanging ideas and experiences between African and Italian entrepreneurs.⁴¹²⁴ Sereni reaffirmed the importance of synergistic relationships between the two worlds and emphasized the goal of creating even closer and more fruitful partnerships between different stakeholders.

On 21 October 2021, Minister of Labor and Social Policies Andrea Orlando reached an agreement at the Conference of Regions and Autonomous Provinces to allocate EUR880 million to the Gol Program.⁴¹²⁵ The Gol Program helps workers to find and maintain their jobs, and helps businesses retrain the workforce.

On 22 October 2021, Italy, in unison with fellow G7 members issued a joint statement on the G7 Trade Track.⁴¹²⁶ Members met to develop initiatives and pursue discussion on reforming the multilateral trading system to address current trade issues whilst advancing free and fair trade. They reaffirmed their commitment to rebuild better and welcomed the Economic Resilience Panel suggestion on strengthening the resilience of global supply chains.

⁴¹²¹ Intermediate cities; Peaceful, essential for sustainable and inclusive development, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 6 October 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 9 December 2021. https://www.esteri.it/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2021/10/citta-intermedie-sereni-fondamentali-per-uno-sviluppo-sostenibile-e-inclusivo/

⁴¹²² Undersecretary Di Stefano at the OECD Ministerial Council, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 6 October 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 9 December 2021. https://www.esteri.it/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2021/10/sottosegretario-di-stefano-al-consiglio-ministeriale-dell-ocse/

⁴¹²³ “Encounters with Africa” kicks off, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 7 October 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 9 December 2021. https://www.esteri.it/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2021/10/nota-farnesina-al-via-incontri-con-l-africa-roma-7-8-ottobre/

⁴¹²⁴ Italy-Africa Business Week; Sereni, together to rebuild better, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 9 October 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 9 December 2021. https://www.esteri.it/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2021/10/italia-africa-business-week-sereni-insieme-per-ricostruire-meglio/

⁴¹²⁵ Goal program: green light for the agreement on the allocation of the first 880 million euros, Ministry of Labor and Social Policies (Rome) 21 October 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 9 December 2021. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/notizie/Pagine/Programma-GOL-via-libera-a-intesa-sul-riparto-dei-primi-880-milioni-di-euro.aspx>

⁴¹²⁶ Joint statement issued by the G7 countries to the G7 Trade Track on 22 October 2021, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 22 October 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 9 December 2021. https://www.esteri.it/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2021/10/the-joint-communique-issued-by-the-g7-countries-at-the-g7-trade-track-on-22-october-2021/

On 22 October 2021, the “National strategic plan for the development of the skills of the adult population” was approved at the Unified Conference.⁴¹²⁷ The plan presents a proposal for multi-year operational interventions, which will retrain a substantial part of the adult population to provide basic skills and qualifications.

On 22 October 2021, The Directorate General of Immigration and Integrations Policies promoted professional and civic-linguistic training activities in the countries of origin of foreign citizens who possess the requisites to enter Italy for reasons of family reunification, work and internship.⁴¹²⁸ With the allocation of over EUR10 million, 10 projects were launched, and activities will be carried out until 30 September 2022. Pre-departure activities will take place across 15 non-EU countries.

On 28 October 2021, the Ministry of Labor gained the approval of the European Commission for the “exemption from contributions for the recruitment of disadvantaged women as well as for the transformation of the related fixed-term contracts into permanent ones.”⁴¹²⁹ The main purpose of the measure is to reduce labor costs while encouraging private employers to hire women in the post-pandemic recovery.

On 31 October 2021, G20 members, including Italy, announced the contribution of EUR45 billion in support of the most vulnerable countries.⁴¹³⁰ Italy contributes EUR4 billion to this commitment. These funds are aimed at increasing the financing capacity of the Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust of the IMF, which provides subsidized loans to the poorest countries.

On 4 November 2021, Deputy Minister Marina Sereni participated in a video message at Expo Yeelba, a festival dedicated to the promotion of Burkina Faso’s cotton-textile supply chain.⁴¹³¹ The event allowed the promotion of Faso Danfani — a traditional cotton product — in Italy and around the world alongside the exchange of professional contacts, skills, technologies, and innovations between attendants. As the Deputy Minister stated: “Expo Yeelba is not just business. It’s a successful cooperation between institutions, civil society, young people, and women on the African continent. The enhancement of cotton production in Burkina Faso is a fundamental step on the path towards sustainable and inclusive development. Italy is ready to accompany this process.”

From 16 to 18 November 2021, the Ministry of Labor and Social Policies participated in the 2021 edition of the Orientation exhibition, the annual event dedicated to guidance, training, and work.⁴¹³² During the three days of the event, projects related to training and job placement in Italy and abroad will be presented, with particular emphasis on internships, apprenticeships, and digital jobs.

⁴¹²⁷ National strategic plan for the development of the skills of the adult population, Ministry of Labor and Social Policies (Rome) 22 October 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 9 December 2021.

<https://www.lavoro.gov.it/priorita/Pagine/Piano-strategico-nazionale-per-lo-sviluppo-delle-competenze-della-popolazione-adulta.aspx>

⁴¹²⁸ Pre-departure training to facilitate the integration process of migrants, Ministry of Labor and Social Policies (Rome) 22 October 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 9 December 2021.

<https://www.lavoro.gov.it/notizie/Pagine/La-formazione-pre-partenza-per-favorire-il-processo-di-integrazione-dei-migranti.aspx>

⁴¹²⁹ Work: ok EU Commission to exempt from contributions for hiring disadvantaged women, Ministry of Labor and Social Policies (Rome) 28 October 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 9 December 2021.

<https://www.lavoro.gov.it/priorita/Pagine/Lavoro-ok-Commissione-Ue-a-esonerato-contributivo-per-assunzioni-donne-svantaggiate.aspx>

⁴¹³⁰ The G20 announces \$ 45 billion in support of the most vulnerable countries, with the goal of reaching \$ 100 billion globally, Ministry of Economy and Finance (Rome) 31 October 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 9 December 2021. <https://www.mef.gov.it/ufficio-stampa/comunicati/2021/11-G20-annuncia-45-miliardi-di-dollari-a-sostegno-dei-paesi-piu-vulnerabili-con-lobiettivo-di-raggiungere-100-miliardi-a-livello-globale/>

⁴¹³¹ Sereni, to enhance the cotton production of Burkina Faso in a sustainable sense, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 4 November 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 9 December 2021.

https://www.esteri.it/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2021/11/sereni-valorizzare-in-senso-sostenibile-produzione-cotoniera-del-burkina-faso/

⁴¹³² Orientations 2021: in Genoa, from 16 to 18 November, Ministry of Labor and Social Policies (Rome) 15 November 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 9 December 2021.

<https://www.lavoro.gov.it/notizie/Pagine/Orientamenti-2021-a-Genova-dal-16-al-18-novembre.aspx>

On 19 November 2021, the Minister of Labor and Social Policies Andrea Orlando, spoke at the international meeting organized by INPS on “Digital Transition and EU Social Security Coordination.”⁴¹³³ The minister highlighted how technology can and should help to create dedicated services for those workers who have limited access to social protection systems in preparation for future challenges. During his speech, the Minister highlighted how the digital transition constitutes a “great lever for modernization and greater social protection.”

On 24 November 2021, Italy joined the Export Finance for Future (E3F) coalition which promotes green projects and investments through public financial support for exports.⁴¹³⁴ The E3F coalition hopes to aid the “process aimed at generating value in the context of an ecological transition that is able to guarantee a gradual and orderly path to citizens, businesses and employment.”

From 25 to 27 November 2021, the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Labor and Social Policies organized the JOB & Orienta 2021, a national exhibition dedicated to orientation, school, work, and training.⁴¹³⁵ The event included a seminar led by the Ministry of Labor and Social Policies with the purpose of spreading knowledge about “Learning the apprenticeship.”

From 25 November to 11 December 2021, Italy participated in the second session of the International Labor Conference. Issues addressed included, but were not limited to, inequalities in the workforce, skills and lifelong learning.⁴¹³⁶

On 13 December 2021, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and the Minister of Economic Development co-chaired the control room, which determines strategy surrounding the production system.⁴¹³⁷ Issues addressed include the modernization of production facilities towards digitization and environmental sustainability, promoting innovation and supporting start-ups in international markets and freeing the potential of Southern Italy.

On 16 December 2021, Deputy Minister Marina Sereni chaired the seventh meeting of the Joint Committee for Development Cooperation.⁴¹³⁸ During the meeting, a significant package of 25 cooperation initiatives were approved, totaling EUR86.3 million. This included EUR35 million in aid for Mozambique and approximately EUR8 million for the implementation of initiatives in Africa, Latin America and the Middle East in the sectors of socio-economic development, food security, environment protection, governance, infrastructure, gender equality and support for female entrepreneurs.

⁴¹³³ Orlando: the digital transition as a great lever for modernization and greater social protection, Ministry of Labor and Social Policies (Rome) 19 November 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 9 December 2021.

<https://www.lavoro.gov.it/notizie/Pagine/Orlando-la-transizione-digitale-come-grande-leva-di-modernizzazione-e-di-maggiore-protezione-sociale.aspx>

⁴¹³⁴ Italy joins the Export Finance for Future (E3F) coalition to promote green projects and investments through public financial support for exports, Ministry of Economy and Finance (Rome) 24 November 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 9 December 2021. <https://www.mef.gov.it/ufficio-stampa/comunicati/2021/LItalia-aderisce-alla-coalizione-Export-Finance-for-Future-E3F-per-promuovere-progetti-e-investimenti-green-tramite-il-sostegno-finanziario-pubblico-alle-esportazioni/>

⁴¹³⁵ At the start JOB & Orienta 2021, in Verona, from Thursday 25 November, Ministry of Labor and Social Policies (Rome) 23 November 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 9 December 2021.

<https://www.lavoro.gov.it/notizie/Pagine/Al-via-JOBorienta-2021-a-Verona-da-giovedi-25-novembre.aspx>

⁴¹³⁶ 109 ^ Session of the International Labor Conference (ILC), Ministry of Labor and Social Policies (Rome) 3 August 2021.

Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 9 December 2021. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/notizie/Pagine/109-Session-of-the-International-Labour-Conference-ILC.aspx>

⁴¹³⁷ X Control room for Internationalization, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 14 December 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 17 January 2022.

https://www.esteri.it/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2021/12/x-cabina-di-regia-per-linternazionalizzazione/

⁴¹³⁸ Note Farnesina – Development Cooperation, Deputy Minister Sereni chairs the Joint Committee (Rome) 17 December 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 17 January 2022.

https://www.esteri.it/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2021/12/nota-farnesina-cooperazione-allo-sviluppo-vice-ministra-sereni-presiede-comitato-congiunto-2/

On 3 January 2022, the Minister of Labour and Social Policies announced the approval of the Budget Law for 2022.⁴¹³⁹ The Budget Law includes reforms to social safety nets, such as modifications to the Wage Guarantee Fund and the widening of the Salary Integration Fund.

On 13 January 2022, the Secretary General of the Farnesina Ettore Fancesco Sequi received a delegation from the Spanish Congress of Deputies led by the President of the Commission for Foreign Affairs Pau Marí Klose.⁴¹⁴⁰ The parties discussed Italo-Spanish relations, seeking to strengthen their partnership.

On 25 January 2022, the Ministry of Economic Development promoted the Italia Startup Visa, a strategic tool to attract talent and innovation to the country.⁴¹⁴¹ The program is aimed at attracting entrepreneurs from non-EU members who intend to start up an enterprise in Italy. Since the launch of the program a couple of years ago over 500 applications have been received from more than 50 different non-EU countries.

On 8 February 2022, a project was launched by the European Brain Research Institute Rita Levi-Montalcini Foundation, in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, to welcome Afghan students for scientific research to Rome.⁴¹⁴² The initiative is aimed at reintegrating students who lost the possibility of continuing their study and research activities in their country.

On 14 February 2022, Undersecretary Di Stefano attended the informal meeting of Foreign Trade Ministers which was held in Marseille.⁴¹⁴³ The ministers discussed WTO reform and trade relations with African countries and the US. The discussion addressed “fundamental issues for households and businesses, with a direct impact on goods and services traded in the European single market and internationally.”

On 16 February 2022, the Ministry of Labor and Social Policies introduced the notice of Intervention Proposals by the Social Territorial Areas to be financed under the Piano Nazionale di Ripresa e Resilienza.⁴¹⁴⁴ The notice aims to encourage social inclusion activities for certain categories of fragile and vulnerable individuals, including families and children, non-self-sufficient elderly, disabled and homeless people. The total investment amounts to EUR1450.6 million.

On 16 February 2022, Minister of Labor and Social Policies Andrea Orlando ratified an agreement signed 23 November 2021 which creates a more advanced system of trade union relation that pursues job stability and creates competitive conditions linked to professionalism, quality and productivity as well as balancing

⁴¹³⁹ The reform of the social safety nets is underway, Ministry of Labor and Social Policies (Rome) 3 January 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 17 January 2022. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/notizie/Pagine/Al-via-la-riforma-degli-ammortizzatori-sociali.aspx>

⁴¹⁴⁰ Italy-Spain: the Secretary General of the Farnesina meets the President of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the Congress Klose, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 13 January 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 17 January 2022. https://www.esteri.it/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2022/01/italia-spagna-il-segretario-generale-della-farnesina-incontra-il-presidente-della-commissione-esteri-del-congresso-klose/

⁴¹⁴¹ The Italia Startup Visa and Italia Startup Hub programs are now open. Ministry of Economic Development (Rome) 27 February 2022. Access Date: 27 February 2022. <https://www.mise.gov.it/index.php/en/202-news-english/2043075-the-italia-startup-visa-and-italia-startup-hub-programs-are-now-open-applications-can-be-submitted-from-january-27th-to-march-17th-2022>

⁴¹⁴² “The EBRI Rita Levi-Montalcini Foundation, in collaboration with the MAECI, welcomes Afghan students for scientific research to Rome”, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 8 February 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 27 February 2022. https://www.esteri.it/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2022/02/la-fondazione-ebri-rita-levi-montalcini-in-collaborazione-con-il-maeci-accoglie-a-roma-studentesse-afghane-per-ricerche-scientifiche/

⁴¹⁴³ Participation of Undersecretary Di Stefano at CAE Commercio Marseille, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 14 February 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 27 February 2022. https://www.esteri.it/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2022/02/partecipazione-del-sottosegretario-di-stefano-al-cae-commercio-marsiglia-13-14-febbraio-2022/

⁴¹⁴⁴ Intervention proposals for the social inclusion of fragile and vulnerable individuals, Ministry of Labor and Social Policies (Rome) 16 February 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 27 February 2022. <http://www.lavoro.gov.it/notizie/Pagine/Interventi-per-inclusione-sociale-di-soggetti-fragili-e-vulnerabili.aspx>

company needs with those of the workers.⁴¹⁴⁵ The agreement targets companies operating in the last mile distribution for Amazon Italia Transport and as Orlando stated, “it is an agreement that gives more guarantees to workers, which recognizes more adequate wage levels and that allows to take a further leap after a protocol with Amazon was defined months ago.”⁴¹⁴⁶

On 19 February 2022, the Council of Ministers approved the rule proposed by Minister Orlando on the restriction for construction companies to comply with the safety rules established in the national collective labor agreements.⁴¹⁴⁷ This is accompanied by the establishment of a tax benefit that is only exclusively issued in the presence of a contract signed by organizations that prioritize safety, which will benefit workers, companies and society.

On 14 March 2022, Deputy Minister Marina Sereni chaired the first annual meeting of the Joint Committee for Development Cooperation.⁴¹⁴⁸ The committee approved the extension of the financial endowment of the 2020 call for the granting of contributions to initiatives promoted by civil society organizations and other non-profit entities. This funding, which amounts to EUR177 million, will make it possible to approve initiatives for cooperation.

On 15 March 2022, Minister of Labor and Social Policies Andrea Orlando announced the approval of the directive on gender equality in the boards of directors after the Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs meeting held by the European Union Council.⁴¹⁴⁹ The goal of the directive is to increase women in leadership positions. Orlando noted the directive is “an indispensable means of promoting the full exercise of women’s rights and their active participation in society.”⁴¹⁵⁰

On 16 March 2022, Minister Orlando, and the Minister for Disabilities Erika Stefani presented the “Guidelines on the targeted placement of people with disabilities.”⁴¹⁵¹ The aim of these guidelines is to outline a path of collaboration and interinstitutional sharing oriented towards a more efficient and organic system of work inclusion throughout the country. The guidelines assume work as fundamental for the social integration of people with disabilities and provide specific interventions aimed at helping young people with disabilities better integrate into the labour force and re-integrating workers who have faced injury or illness.

⁴¹⁴⁵ Last mile distribution: the hypothesis of an agreement of 23 November 2021 has been ratified, Ministry of Labor and Social Policies (Rome) 16 February 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 27 February 2022.

<http://www.lavoro.gov.it/notizie/Pagine/Distribuzione-ultimo-miglio-ratificata-l-ipotesi-di-accordo-del-23-novembre-2021.aspx>
⁴¹⁴⁶ Participation of Undersecretary Di Stefano at CAE Commercio Marseille, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 14 February 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 27 February 2022.
https://www.esteri.it/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2022/02/partecipazione-del-sottosegretario-di-stefano-al-cae-commercio-marsiglia-13-14-febbraio-2022/

⁴¹⁴⁷ Orlando: “If there is a good job, if there is a safe job, there is social cohesion, there is civilization”, Ministry of Labor and Social Policies (Rome) 19 February 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 27 February 2022.
<https://www.lavoro.gov.it/notizie/Pagine/Orlando-Se-ce-un-buon-lavoro-se-ce-un-lavoro-sicuro-ce-coesione-sociale-ce-civilta.aspx>

⁴¹⁴⁸ Development Cooperation, Deputy Minsitra Sereni chairs the Joint Committee, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 14 March 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 23 April 2022.
https://www.esteri.it/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2022/03/cooperazione-allo-sviluppo-la-vice-ministra-sereni-presiede-il-comitato-congiunto/

⁴¹⁴⁹ Italy approves the EU directive on gender equality in the boards of directors, Ministry of Labor and Social Policies (Rome) 15 March 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 23 April 2022. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/notizie/Pagine/L-Italia-approva-la-direttiva-Ue-sulla-parita-di-genere-nei-consigli-di-amministrazione.aspx>

⁴¹⁵⁰ Italy approves the EU directive on gender equality in the boards of directors, Ministry of Labor and Social Policies (Rome) 15 March 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 23 April 2022. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/notizie/Pagine/L-Italia-approva-la-direttiva-Ue-sulla-parita-di-genere-nei-consigli-di-amministrazione.aspx>

⁴¹⁵¹ Orlando and Stefani presented the “Guidelines on the targeted placement of people with disabilities” and the related database, Ministry of Labor and Social Policies (Rome) 16 March 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 23 April 2022. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/priorita/Pagine/I-Ministri-Orlando-e-Stefani-hanno-presentato-le-Linee-guida-in-materia-di-collocamento-mirato-disabili.aspx>

On 16 March 2022, Minister Orlando signed the inter-ministerial decree that allocates EUR140 million to the alternative bilateral solidarity fund for workers in the crafts trade sector.⁴¹⁵² This decree consists of a combined intervention between the Ministry of Labor and Social Policies and with the Ministry of Economy and Finance in favor of the workers and employees of artisan enterprises. Aid will be provided through supplementary services to increase the welfare of workers.

On 17 March 2022, Deputy Minister Sereni addressed the United Nations Commission on the condition of women in the event “Women and Girls in Sub-Saharan Africa: Transforming Education for a Sustainable Future.”⁴¹⁵³ Deputy Minister Sereni emphasized Italy’s stance on the issue by reiterating the country’s participation in the G7 Declaration on women’s education, and its 20 per cent increase in contribution to the Global Partnership for Education.

On 30 March 2022, the annual event “Towards a new culture of inclusion” which focused on the European contribution and Italy’s response took place online.⁴¹⁵⁴ The program was filled with interventions that focused on lines actions aimed at providing support for individuals at risk of discrimination and social exclusion. Sessions were dedicated to equal treatment, the enhancement of differences, diversity management and other inclusion projects targeted at the homeless and transgender communities.

On 31 March 2022, Deputy Minister Sereni chaired the second annual meeting of the Joint Committee for Development Cooperation.⁴¹⁵⁵ The meeting saw the approval of approximately EUR180 million for contributions toward international organizations and for the implementation of bilateral initiatives in Africa, the Middle East and the Balkans. Funds will target areas of sustainable development, education and women’s empowerment, between others.

On 6 April 2022, Minister Orlando attended and addressed the XI Labor Commission in the Senate on the theme “Tools for entering the labor market: internship, training, apprenticeship.”⁴¹⁵⁶ Minister Orlando emphasized the disproportionate unemployment rates for youth and called for action to address these inequalities in the labor market.

On 11 April 2022, a high-level conference took place organized by the Ministry for Equal Opportunities and the Family and the Council of Europe, in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International

⁴¹⁵² Alternative bilateral solidarity fund for workers in the artisan sector: another 140 million euros assigned, Ministry of Labor and Social Policies (Rome) 19 March 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 23 April 2022. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/priorita/Pagine/Fondo-bilaterale-alternativo-per-i-lavoratori-del-settore-artigiano-assegnati-altri-140-milioni-di-euro.aspx>

⁴¹⁵³ Sereni to UN Commission on the status of women: "Women are a powerful factor of change", Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 17 March 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 23 April 2022. https://www.esteri.it/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2022/03/sereni-a-commissione-onu-sulla-condizione-femminile-donne-sono-un-potente-fattore-di-cambiamento/

⁴¹⁵⁴ PON annual event: "Towards a new culture of inclusion. The European contribution and Italy's response", Ministry of Labor and Social Policies (Rome) 29 March 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 23 April 2022. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/notizie/Pagine/Verso-una-nuova-cultura-dell-inclusione.aspx>

⁴¹⁵⁵ Development Cooperation, Sereni chairs the Joint Committee, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 31 March 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 23 April 2022. https://www.esteri.it/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2022/03/cooperazione-allo-sviluppo-sereni-presiede-comitato-congiunto/

⁴¹⁵⁶ Hearing Minister Orlando Labor Commission Senate tools for entry into the labor market, Ministry of Labor and Social Policies (Rome) 6 April 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 23 April 2022. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/notizie/Pagine/Audizione-ministro-Orlando-XI-Commissione-lavoro-Senato-su-strumenti-di-ingresso-nel-mercato-del-lavoro.aspx>

Cooperation.⁴¹⁵⁷ The three sessions scheduled and addressing virtuous example and best practices of reconciling life and work times and the harmonization measures guaranteed by employers. At the heart of the event was the belief that women and girls must participate actively in decisions concerning the balance between private and working life, this being an indispensable prerequisite for ensuring economic independence and overcoming the disparities still present in both the public and private sectors.

On 13 April 2022, the Director General for the Promotion of the Country System of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Lorenzo Angeloni launched the innovative and unprecedented collaboration between Farnesina and eight important digital operators – Adiacent, Bonucchi and Associates, eBay, Google, Italia Online, Metagora, Nexi and Statista – who have offered technical assistance to Italian small- and medium-sized enterprises interested in the digital transition.⁴¹⁵⁸ This is a primary objective for the Italian export system and incorporates both public and private organizations to facilitate the transition.

On 13 April 2022, the Council of Ministers approved the rule proposed by the Minister Orlando to ensure effective action to combat the phenomenon of accidents and to protect health and safety on workplaces in the implementation phases of the National Recovery and Resilience Plan.⁴¹⁵⁹ Measures will include extraordinary training programs on health and safety, research projects and experimentation of technological solutions for the improvement of occupational health and safety standards and the development of tools and advanced organizational models for the analysis and management of health and safety risks in the workplace.

On 20 April 2022, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Luigi Di Maio and the Minister of Ecological Transition Roberto Cingolani signed a Declaration of Intent to develop new activities in the natural gas sector in Angola.⁴¹⁶⁰ Declaring the sustainability benefits of the initiative, Minister Di Maio stated that the initiative reflects “Italy’s commitment to differentiate sourced of energy supply” by working with international partners.

On 23 April 2022, Deputy Minister Sereni met Assistant Secretary General at UN DESA Maria Francesca Spatolisano.⁴¹⁶¹ The meeting covered financing sustainable development and the socio-economic empowerment of young people. The encounter supports Italy’s strong commitment to supporting UN DESA, to which Italy has allocated a voluntary contribution of EUR17million this year.

On 14 May 2022, the G7 Foreign Ministers released a communique following their meeting in Germany. Among other issues, the Ministers discussed the need foster a more sustainable world and increase cooperation on matters of economic security. Pillar 13 of the communique reaffirmed G7 members’ pledges to strengthen economic cooperation in Africa through the G7 Partnership for Infrastructure and Investment, the EU-Africa Global Gateway Investment Package and the G20 Compact with Africa. Pillar 37 highlighted

⁴¹⁵⁷ Work and life balance at the center of tomorrow's high-level conference, at the Farnesina and online. Participation of Undersecretary Benedetto della Vedova and Minister Elena Bonetti, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 11 April 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 23 April 2022.

https://www.esteri.it/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2022/04/equilibrio-vita-e-lavoro-al-centro-della-conferenza-di-alto-livello-di-domani-alla-farnesina-e-online-partecipazione-del-sottosegretario-benedetto-della-vedova-e-della-ministra-elena-bonetti/

⁴¹⁵⁸ Farnesian for digital services for export, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 13 April 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 23 April 2022.

https://www.esteri.it/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2022/04/farnesina-per-servizi-digitali-per-export/.

⁴¹⁵⁹ PNRR: Orlando law arrives for accident prevention and greater safety in the workplace, Ministry of Labor and Social Policies (Rome) 13 April 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 23 April 2022. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/priorita/Pagine/PNRR-arriva-norma-Orlando-per-prevenzione-infortuni-e-maggiore-sicurezza-luoghi-lavoro.aspx>

⁴¹⁶⁰ Signing of a declaration of intent with the Republic of Angola for the strengthening of the energy partnership, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 20 April 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 24 April 2022. https://www.esteri.it/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2022/04/firma-di-una-dichiarazione-dintenti-con-la-repubblica-di-angola-per-il-rafforzamento-della-partnership-energetica/.

⁴¹⁶¹ Development: Serenia before the Conference on SDG16, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 21 April 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 24 April 2022.

https://www.esteri.it/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2022/04/sviluppo-sereni-apre-conferenza-su-sdg16/

the need for infrastructure financing and sustainable connectivity, especially in low- and middle-income countries, including diversifying supply chains and encouraging an efficient and equitable transition to a highly digitalized economy. Additionally, the pillar reaffirmed the need for long-term economic development through sustainable labour practices and open and democratic values in international markets. Pillar 40 underscored the members' commitments toward ensuring novel and emerging technologies could be used to further inclusive growth and using technologies like high-speed internet connectivity to promote sustainability.⁴¹⁶²

On 24 May 2022, the G7 Labour and Employment Ministers agreed on a communique to “facilitate a just transition to a green social market economy.” Particularly, the communique introduced new language concerning resilient supply chains, integration of migrant workers and the direct impacts of changing labour markets and climate change on the international economic system.⁴¹⁶³

On 1 June 2022, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation announced three new organizations with an important role in business management training had joined the Pact for Export. The Pact is part of the Ministry's strategy to mobilize public-private partnership in supporting businesses in the economic recovery process.⁴¹⁶⁴

Italy has partially complied with its commitment to promote strong, resilient, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth. Italy has taken partial action in all three areas of building resilience and sustainability by mobilizing financing for clean energy initiatives, facilitating reallocation through meetings and consultations with various stakeholders, and boosting productivity growth for all and supporting people in transition with a particular emphasis on digitalization. However, Italy has failed to take strong action in any of the three commitment areas.

Thus, Italy receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Juliana Rivas

Japan: +1

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to promote strong, resilient, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth.

On 5 August 2021, the Bank Indonesia and the Ministry of Finance of Japan announced the strengthening of the Japanese Yen and Indonesian Rupiah settlement framework.⁴¹⁶⁵ The strengthened framework is part of the continuous effort to encourage trade and investment, as well as improve macroeconomic stability by promoting more extensive use of local currencies for the settlement of trade and direct investment between Indonesia and Japan.

⁴¹⁶² Foreign Ministers' Communique, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 14 May 2022. Access Date: 29 May 2022. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/foreign/220514-communique.html>

⁴¹⁶³ “Crises forge strong bonds between democracies,” Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (Berlin) 24 May 2022. Access Date: 29 May 2022. <https://www.bmas.de/EN/Services/Press/recent-publications/2022/crises-forge-strong-bonds-between-democracies.html>

⁴¹⁶⁴ Federmanager, Italian Export Forum and Consulenti del Lavoro sign the Pact for Export, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 1 June 2022. Access Date: 3 June 2022. https://www.esteri.it/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2022/06/federmanager-italian-export-forum-e-consulenti-del-lavoro-firmano-il-patto-per-lexport/

⁴¹⁶⁵ Strengthening of the Japanese JPY and Indonesian Rupiah settlement framework, Ministry of Finance of Japan (Tokyo) 5 August 2021. Access Date: 5 December 2021. https://www.mof.go.jp/english/policy/international_policy/financial_cooperation_in_asia/bilateral_financial_cooperation/20210805_Indonesia.html

On 23 August 2021, the Prime Minister of Japan Suga Yoshihide attended the 11th meeting of the Council for Promotion of Regulatory Reform at the Prime Minister's Office.⁴¹⁶⁶ Here, he discussed advancing regulatory reforms centred on the priority areas such as sustainability, digitalization, creating vibrant communities and children and child-rearing. Prime Minister Yoshihide's remarks included relaxing restrictions on the connection of renewable energy generators with power grids, accelerating the use of online consultations and realizing flexible fundraising by agricultural ventures.

On 2 September 2021, the Prime Minister of Japan Suga Yoshihide attended the 13th meeting of the Committee on the Growth Strategy at the Prime Minister's Office.⁴¹⁶⁷ At the meeting, participants engaged in discussions on macroeconomic growth strategy for quarter four of 2021. They discussed making new investments in the green energy, overcoming the declining birth rate, fostering start-ups, inviting advanced semi-conductor factories and legislation to facilitate voluntary liquidation to support the business restructuring of companies.

On 15 September 2021, the 27th ASEAN Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry Consultations were held between Japan, the ASEAN Secretariat and the ASEAN Member States.⁴¹⁶⁸ The Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Kajiyama Hiroshi attended for Japan. The key priorities discussed were the implementation of the ASEAN-Japan Economic Resilience Action Plan; the identification of priority fields for innovation and sustainability in industry, urban areas and rural areas; the upgrade of the ASEAN-Japan Economic Resilience Action Plan and the further promotion of public-private partnerships between ASEAN and Japan based on the Dialogue for Innovative and Sustainable Growth (DISG).

On 12 November 2021, Prime Minister Fumio Kishida attended the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic Leaders' Meeting, whereby he, along with all APEC leaders, agreed to implement the new Aotearoa Plan in order to ensure an inclusive and sustainable economic recovery from the pandemic among other areas of commitment.⁴¹⁶⁹ Specific actions within this area include pledges to advance inclusive and gender-sensitive trade and investment policies, support and promote MSMEs in the global markets and promoting economic and technical cooperation.

On 17 November 2021, the Prime Minister Fumio Kishida held a summit telephone talk with President of the Republic of the Philippines Rodrigo R. Duterte.⁴¹⁷⁰ Prime Minister Kishida expressed his commitment to continuing support to the Philippines' infrastructure development including railways, COVID-19 recovery and capabilities enhancement for maritime law enforcement, among others. The two leaders concurred on advancing concrete cooperation for the realization of a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific" and the "ASEAN Outlook for the Indo-Pacific," including in the Sulu-Celebes Seas and their surrounding areas.

On 17 November 2021, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, and Office of the United States Trade Representative launched the Japan-US Partnership on Trade.⁴¹⁷¹ In this framework, the US and Japan discussed common issues in the area of trade and cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region.

⁴¹⁶⁶ Council for Promotion of Regulatory Reform, Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet (Tokyo) 23 August 2021. Access Date: 5 December 2021. https://japan.kantei.go.jp/99_suga/actions/202108/_00031.html

⁴¹⁶⁷ Committee on Growth Strategy, Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet (Tokyo) 2 September 2021. Access Date: 5 December 2021. https://japan.kantei.go.jp/99_suga/actions/202109/_00005.html

⁴¹⁶⁸ 27th ASEAN Economic Ministers' (AEM) - METI Consultations Held, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan (Tokyo) 15 September 2021. Access Date: 5 December 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0915_001.html

⁴¹⁶⁹ APEC Leaders' Meeting, Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet (Tokyo) 12 November 2021. Access Date: 4 December 2021. https://japan.kantei.go.jp/101_kishida/actions/202111/_00015.html

⁴¹⁷⁰ Japan-Philippines Summit Talks, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 17 November 2021. Access Date: 4 December 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/s_sa/sea2/ph/page4e_001186.html

⁴¹⁷¹ The Launch of Japan-US Partnership on Trade, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 17 November 2021. Access Date: 4 December 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_003058.html

On 25 November 2021, diplomatic notes were exchanged between Japan and the Republic of Finland.⁴¹⁷² For the employees temporarily sent from Japan to the Republic of Finland as well as those temporarily sent from the Republic of Finland to Japan, there are currently problems such as being subject to compulsory coverage under the pension systems and employment insurance systems of both countries, which cause dual payment of social insurance contribution in both countries. Under this Agreement, those employees temporarily sent from either country to the other will be covered in principle, only by the pension system and employment insurance system of the former country provided that the period of such detachment is not expected to exceed five years. The Agreement will also enable employees to establish eligibility to receive pension benefits in each country by totalizing the periods of the coverage of both countries.

On 25 November 2021, Prime Minister Fumio Kishida held the 15th meeting of the Council on Economic and Fiscal Policy in 2021 at the Prime Minister's Office.⁴¹⁷³ At the meeting, the participants engaged in discussions on priority issues on the Integrated Economic and Fiscal Reforms (social security) and improvement in medium-term economic and fiscal management.

On 26 November 2021, Prime Minister Fumio Kishida held the third meeting of the Council of New Form of Capitalism Realization at the Prime Minister's Office. At the meeting, the participants discussed wages and human capital.⁴¹⁷⁴

On 30 November 2021, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Minister Hagiuda Koichi attended a trilateral meeting of the Japanese, US and EU Trade Ministers held via video conference. Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to holding a successful 12th WTO Ministerial Conference, which was postponed due to COVID-19.⁴¹⁷⁵ They also agreed to work trilaterally to address the global challenges posed by countries' non-market policies and practices, discuss them at the administrative level going forward and regularly check progress.

On 3 December 2021, Prime Minister Fumio Kishida held the 16th meeting of the Council on Economic and Fiscal Policy in 2021 at the Prime Minister's Office.⁴¹⁷⁶ At the meeting, participants engaged in discussions on Priority Issues on the Integrated Economic and Fiscal Reforms, leveraging innovation and digitalization (education and culture as well as science and technology, social infrastructure improvement, and local public administration and finance) and the basic principles of FY2022 Budget formulation.

On 3 December 2021, South Korea deposited its Instrument of Ratification of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Agreement to the Secretary-General of ASEAN (the Depository).⁴¹⁷⁷ With this deposit, the RCEP Agreement, to which Japan is a party, will enter into force on 1 February 2022. The agreement resolves to keep markets open, support an open, free and rules-based multilateral trading system and spur post-pandemic recovery, while creating the world's largest free trade area which covers almost 30 per cent of the world's population.

⁴¹⁷² Exchange of Diplomatic Notes for the Entry into Force of the Agreement between Japan and the Republic of Finland on Social Security, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 25 November 2021. Access Date: 4 December 2021. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_003063.html

⁴¹⁷³ Meeting of the Council on Economic and Fiscal Policy, Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet (Tokyo) 25 November 2021. Access Date: 4 December 2021. https://japan.kantei.go.jp/101_kishida/actions/202111/_00041.html

⁴¹⁷⁴ Council of New Form of Capitalism Realization, Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet (Tokyo) 26 November 2021. Access Date: 4 December 2021. https://japan.kantei.go.jp/101_kishida/actions/202111/_00045.html

⁴¹⁷⁵ METI Minister Hagiuda Attends Trilateral Meeting of Trade Ministers, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan (Tokyo) 30 November 2021. Access Date: 8 December 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/1130_001.html

⁴¹⁷⁶ Meeting of the Council on Economic and Fiscal Policy, Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet (Tokyo) 3 December 2021. Access Date: 8 December 2021. https://japan.kantei.go.jp/101_kishida/actions/202112/_00006.html

⁴¹⁷⁷ The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Agreement will enter into force in South Korea, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan (Tokyo) 06 December 2021. Access Date: 8 December 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/1206_002.html

On 10 December 2021, Prime Minister Fumio Kishida attended the General Assembly of Japan's National Council for Export Promotion of Agricultural, Forestry and Fishery Products and Processed Foods held in Tokyo.⁴¹⁷⁸ Here, he made a statement conveying a need to increase the country's export capacity through an all-Japan approach by organizing export promotion bodies by product line. He noted that the Kishida Cabinet will submit a bill to revise an act to facilitate and strongly promote further organization of leading product bodies, including those for rice, Japanese sake and fruits, in the current economic stimulus package without waiting for a legal revision, and hopes to achieve the major export targets of JPY2 trillion in 2025 and JPY5 trillion in 2030.

On 10 December 2021, a WTO joint statement on investment facilitation for development was issued in Geneva, Switzerland.⁴¹⁷⁹ More than 110 countries and regions participated in the negotiations, including Japan, which means conclusion of this agreement will make investing more convenient for investors even with countries with which Japan has not concluded bilateral investment agreements.

On 11 December 2021, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan Hayashi Yoshimasa, who was visiting the United Kingdom to attend G7 Foreign and Development Ministers' Meeting, held a meeting with Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Commonwealth of Australia Senator Marise Payne.⁴¹⁸⁰ The Ministers affirmed that Japan and Australia would continue to assist the efforts to build quality infrastructure in the Indo-Pacific region.

On 23 December 2021, the Minister of Foreign Affairs to Japan Hayashi Yoshimasa held a video conference with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan H. E. Ayman Safadi.⁴¹⁸¹ Minister Hayashi stated that the cooperative relationship between Japan and Jordan is steadily progressing based on the strategic partnership and expressed his hope to strengthen the relationship for further development.

On 23 December 2021, the Prime Minister held the 17th meeting of the Council on Economic and Fiscal Policy in 2021 at the Prime Minister of Japan's Office.⁴¹⁸² At the meeting participants engaged in discussions on the Financial Year 2022 economic outlook and the potential reforms to the New Plan to Advance Economic and Fiscal Revitalization.

On 20 January 2022, Ambassador to the Republic of Moldova Katayama Yoshihiro and Moldova's Director of the Customs Service of the Ministry of Finance Igor Talmazan signed the Customs Mutual Assistance Agreement between Japan and the Republic of Moldova, which would limit restrictions of trade between both countries.⁴¹⁸³

On 9 February 2022, Prime Minister Kishida met with Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.⁴¹⁸⁴ Prime Minister Kishida stated that Canada is an important partner for Japan in the Indo-Pacific region. In response, Prime Minister Trudeau mentioned that he looked forward to further strengthening the cooperation between

⁴¹⁷⁸ General Assembly of Japan's National Council for Export Promotion of Agricultural, Forestry and Fishery Products and Processed Foods, Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet (Tokyo) 10 December 2021. Access Date: 4 January 2022. https://japan.kantei.go.jp/101_kishida/actions/202112/_00011.html

⁴¹⁷⁹ WTO Joint Statement on Investment Facilitation for Development Issued, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan (Tokyo) 14 December 2021. Access Date: 4 January 2022. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/1214_002.html

⁴¹⁸⁰ Japan-Australia Foreign Ministers' meeting, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 11 December 2021. Access Date: 4 January 2022. https://www.mofa.go.jp/page6e_000267.html

⁴¹⁸¹ Japan-Jordan Foreign Ministers' video conference, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 23 December 2021. Access Date: 4 January 2022. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press6e_000361.html

⁴¹⁸² Meeting of the Council on Economic and Fiscal Policy, Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet (Tokyo) 23 December 2021. Access Date: 4 January 2022. https://japan.kantei.go.jp/101_kishida/actions/202112/_00019.html

⁴¹⁸³ Signing of Customs Mutual Assistance Agreement (CMAA) between Japan and the Republic of Moldova, Ministry of Finance (Tokyo) 20 January 2022. Access Date: 26 February 2022. https://www.mof.go.jp/english/policy/customs_tariff/information/ka20220120_e.html

⁴¹⁸⁴ Japan-Canada Summit Telephone Talk, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 9 February 2022. Access Date: 26 February 2022. https://www.mofa.go.jp/na/na1/ca/page4e_001198.html

Japan and Canada to address various challenges facing the international community. The two leaders shared the view to advance further cooperation and collaboration on the concrete aspects of the six priority areas of cooperation toward the realization of a “Free and Open Indo-Pacific.” The two leaders exchanged their views on one of the priority areas of cooperation, free trade promotion and trade agreement implementation.

On 24 February 2022, Minister Koichi held a meeting with the UK’s Secretary of State for International Trade and President of the Board of Trade Anne-Marie Trevelyan.⁴¹⁸⁵ The ministers exchanged views on the G7 Trade Ministers Meeting, the situation in Ukraine and agreed to strengthen cooperation between Japan and the UK in the fields such as economy, trade and energy.

On 25 February 2022, Japan extended the Emergency Grant Aid of USD30 million to Latin American, Caribbean and African countries that suffer from the impact of Novel Coronavirus Disease.⁴¹⁸⁶ This assistance will provide 17 countries with cold chain equipment including medical equipment such as cold-storage facilities and the capacity building assistance for promoting vaccination in each country, as “Last One Mile Support” through the United Nations Children’s Fund.

On 13 April 2022, the Prime Minister of Japan held the fourth meeting of the Council on Economic and Fiscal Policy.⁴¹⁸⁷ The council discussed regional revitalization and Integrated Economic and Fiscal Reforms for social security.

On 12 May 2022, the Japan-EU Digital Partnership launched, which would see discussions held on improving bilateral communication and dialogue on telecommunications, digitalization and their role in the global economy.⁴¹⁸⁸

On 13 May 2022, Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Iwata Kazuchika visited South Africa. Topics of discussion included increased bilateral economic cooperation between Japan and African states, specifically on developing stable mineral resource chains, investment opportunities and decarbonizing key industries.⁴¹⁸⁹

On 14 May 2022, the G7 Foreign Ministers released a communique following their meeting in Germany. Among other issues, the Ministers discussed the need foster a more sustainable world and increase cooperation on matters of economic security. Pillar 13 of the communique reaffirmed G7 members’ pledges to strengthen economic cooperation in Africa through the G7 Partnership for Infrastructure and Investment, the EU-Africa Global Gateway Investment Package and the G20 Compact with Africa. Pillar 37 highlighted the need for infrastructure financing and sustainable connectivity, especially in low- and middle-income countries, including diversifying supply chains and encouraging an efficient and equitable transition to a highly digitalized economy. Additionally, the pillar reaffirmed the need for long-term economic development through sustainable labour practices and open and democratic values in international markets. Pillar 40 underscored the members’ commitments toward ensuring novel and emerging technologies could be used to

⁴¹⁸⁵ Minister Hagiuda Holds Meeting with the Secretary of State for International Trade of the United Kingdom, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 25 February 2022. Access Date: 26 February 2022. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2022/0225_001.html

⁴¹⁸⁶ Emergency aid grant for vaccinations in Africa, Latin America and the Carribbean, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 25 February 2022. Access Date: 26 February 2022. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press1e_000266.html

⁴¹⁸⁷ Meeting of the Council on Economic and Fiscal Policy, Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet (Tokyo) 13 April 2022. Access Date: 25 April 2022. https://japan.kantei.go.jp/101_kishida/actions/202204/_00005.html

⁴¹⁸⁸ The Launch of the Japan-EU Digital Partnership, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 12 May 2022. Access Date: 13 June 2022. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2022/0512_004.html

⁴¹⁸⁹ Parliamentary Vice-Minister Iwata Visits the Republic of South Africa, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 13 May 2022. Access Date: 13 June 2022. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2022/0513_002.html

further inclusive growth and using technologies like high-speed internet connectivity to promote sustainability.⁴¹⁹⁰

On 16 May 2022, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Hagiuda Koichi met with his Finnish counterpart to discuss increased bilateral economic cooperation on startups and digitalization.⁴¹⁹¹

On 18 May 2022, Japan and Indonesia held the first meeting of the bilateral Public-Private Economic Dialogue. Topics of discussion included increasing partnership and investments in digital technology, supply chains, educating labour forces and making industry more sustainable.⁴¹⁹²

On 20 May 2022, the G7 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors released their communique, where they pledged to support sustainability, resilience, inclusivity and strength in five core areas among others: macroeconomic stability; digitalization; climate and environment; and financial market stability. Each of these pillars details numerous actions that each G7 member has pledged to implement to support a fairer recovery.⁴¹⁹³

On 20 May 2022, Japanese Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Hagiuda Koichi met with Germany's Federal Minister for Economic Affairs and Climate Action Robert Habeck. Topics of discussion included promoting bilateral development investment.⁴¹⁹⁴

On 22 May 2022, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Hagiuda Koichi attended the APEC Ministers Responsible for Trade Meeting. Along with bilateral meetings with various APEC members pledging increased bilateral economic cooperation, Japan pledged to making supply chains more resilient, overcome key socioeconomic issues and engage in effective WTO reform to promote sustainable growth.⁴¹⁹⁵

On 23 May 2022, Japan attended a meeting hosted by the United States concerning the launch of the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework. The leaders released a statement committing to cooperate in the digital economy space, develop “new and creative approaches to trade and tech policy” that promote sustainability and inclusivity, create transparent, sustainable and resilient supply chains, and work toward decarbonizing industries through strong infrastructure.⁴¹⁹⁶

On 24 May 2022, the G7 Labour and Employment Ministers agreed on a communique to “facilitate a just transition to a green social market economy.” Particularly, the communique introduced new language

⁴¹⁹⁰ Foreign Ministers' Communique, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 14 May 2022. Access Date: 29 May 2022. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/foreign/220514-communique.html>

⁴¹⁹¹ Minister Hagiuda Holds Meeting with H.E. Mr. Ville SKINNARI, Minister for Development Cooperation and Foreign Trade of the Republic of Finland, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 16 May 2022. Access Date: 13 June 2022. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2022/0516_001.html

⁴¹⁹² Japan-Indonesia Public-Private Economic Dialogue (Track 1.5) held, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 18 May 2022. Access Date: 13 June 2022. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2022/0518_001.html

⁴¹⁹³ Foreign Ministers' Communique, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 14 May 2022. Access Date: 29 May 2022. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/foreign/220514-communique.html>

⁴¹⁹⁴ Minister Hagiuda Holds Video Conference with Mr. Robert Habeck, Federal Minister for Economic Affairs and Climate Action, Germany, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 20 May 2022. Access Date: 13 June 2022. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2022/0520_002.html

⁴¹⁹⁵ Minister Hagiuda Attends the APEC Ministers Responsible for Trade Meeting, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 22 May 2022. Access Date: 13 June 2022. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2022/0522_002.html

⁴¹⁹⁶ Regarding the Launch of the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF), Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 23 May 2022. Access Date: 13 June 2022. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2022/0523_001.html

concerning resilient supply chains, integration of migrant workers and the direct impacts of changing labour markets and climate change on the international economic system.⁴¹⁹⁷

On 24 May 2022, representatives from Japan and Malaysia held meetings committing to deepening their economic relationship through improved supply chains among other measures as part of the new Japan-Malaysia Industry Policy Dialogue.⁴¹⁹⁸

On 2 June 2022, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Suzuki Takako met with Tunisian Minister of Foreign Affairs Othman Jerandi. Topics of discussion included strengthening the bilateral relationship between Japan and Tunisia economically, with Japan reaffirming its support for Tunisia's economic and fiscal reforms and building private-public investments between firms in both countries.⁴¹⁹⁹

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to promote strong, resilient, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth. Japan has taken comprehensive action towards economic recovery and beyond through domestic reform as well as multilateral cooperation. Japan has taken sufficient action in all three areas of building resilience and sustainability, facilitating reallocation and boosting productivity growth for all and supporting people in transition.

Thus, Japan receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Pritika Vij

United Kingdom: 0

The United Kingdom has partially complied with its commitment to promote strong, resilient, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth.

On 29 June 2021, Investment Minister Gerry Grimstone announced a new pilot grant funding program that will provide targeted support to UK professional and business service regulators to make recognition arrangements on professional qualifications.⁴²⁰⁰ The recognition arrangements will allow UK businesses and professionals to seize opportunities overseas and boost the appeal of UK qualifications, which improves UK competition in international markets.

On 30 June 2021, Her Majesty's Treasury (HM Treasury) and the United Kingdom Debt Management Office published the UK Government Green Financing Framework, which lists six types of green expenditures that are financed by the Green Gilt and retail Green Saving Bonds: clean transportation, renewable energy, energy efficiency, pollution prevention and control, living and natural resources, and climate change adaptation.⁴²⁰¹ Since launching in September 2021, HM Treasury reported that the green financing program has raised more than GBP16 billion from the sale of Green Gilts and NS&I's Green Saving Bonds, and these funds support

⁴¹⁹⁷ "Crises forge strong bonds between democracies," Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (Berlin) 24 May 2022. Access Date: 29 May 2022. <https://www.bmas.de/EN/Services/Press/recent-publications/2022/crises-forge-strong-bonds-between-democracies.html>

⁴¹⁹⁸ Minister Hagiuda Holds Meeting with Senior Minister Azmin Ali, Malaysian Minister of International Trade and Industry, Ministry of Trade, Economy and Industry (Tokyo) 24 May 2022. Access Date: 13 June 2022. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2022/0524_001.html

⁴¹⁹⁹ Meeting and Dinner between State Minister for Foreign Affairs Suzuki Takako and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Migration and Tunisians Abroad of the Republic of Tunisia H. E. Mr. Othman Jerandi, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Tokyo) 2 June 2022. Access Date: 13 June 2022. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press3e_000403.html

⁴²⁰⁰ New funding to support UK professional and business services regulators, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (London) 29 June 2021. Access Date: 26 November 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-funding-to-support-uk-professional-and-business-services-regulators>

⁴²⁰¹ UK Government Green Financing Framework, HM Treasury and United Kingdom Debt Management Office (London) 30 June 2021. Access Date: 5 December 2021. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1002579/20210630_UK_Government_Green_Financing_Framework_-_large_text.pdf

projects with environmental benefits which supports projects with environmental benefits and promotion to economic sustainability.

On 22 July 2021, the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy announced the UK innovation strategy in supporting businesses innovations by making the most of the UK's research, development and innovation systems.⁴²⁰² The strategy includes four pillars: fueling businesses who want to innovate, attracting talented and innovative people, ensuring research and development serve the needs of businesses and stimulating innovation to tackle major technological challenges.

On 21 September 2021, the Office for the Internal Market (OIM) launched and created a new digital reporting service for businesses to report their issues and concerns about trading between UK nations.⁴²⁰³ The concerns from businesses will contribute to the first State of the UK Internal Market report and help the OIM support the effective operation of the UK internal markets using its economic and technical expertise.

On 4 November 2021, the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy announced the energy-related products policy framework, which sets out the UK's plan on driving products to consume less energy, resources and materials to save carbon, reduce energy demand and help households and businesses reduce their energy bills, promoting both environmental and economic sustainability.⁴²⁰⁴

On 20 October 2021, the UK spearheaded the Agile Nations conference, which is an international summit between the UK, Denmark, Canada, Italy, Japan, Singapore, and the United Arab Emirates.⁴²⁰⁵ The network's main mission is to make it easier for businesses to introduce and scale innovations across markets while upholding protections for citizens and the environment. During this summit, the UK promised to lead a project aimed at helping create a global market for legal services and will work together with Canada and Singapore to iron out potential cyber-security issues.

On 1 December 2021, the Department of Education confirmed reforms for initial teacher training to ensure all children and young people receive an excellent education.⁴²⁰⁶ The reforms are backed by GBP35.7 million allocated to ensure trainees can receive high-quality mentoring support. The package promotes a higher quality of vocational education and provides new opportunities that can boost productivity in the education sector.

On 2 December 2021, the Department of Education launched a GBP30 million target support for teenagers in "hotspot" areas, where incidents of serious youth violence are highest.⁴²⁰⁷ This targeted support intends to protect vulnerable young people from violence, which gives the youth a better education environment that can boost the productivity of the next generation.

⁴²⁰² UK Innovation Strategy: leading the future by creating it, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (London) 22 July 2021. Access Date: 26 November 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-innovation-strategy-leading-the-future-by-creating-it>

⁴²⁰³ Office for the Internal Market opens for business, Competition and Markets Authority and Office for the Internal Market (London) 21 September 2021. Access Date, 3 December 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/office-for-the-internal-market-opens-for-business>

⁴²⁰⁴ Energy-related products policy framework, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (London) 4 November 2021, Access Date: 28 November 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/energy-related-products-policy-framework>

⁴²⁰⁵ UK-led international summit sets new horizons for innovation, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (London) 20 October 2021. Access Date: 9 December 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-led-international-summit-sets-new-horizons-for-innovation>

⁴²⁰⁶ Plans to develop world class teachers through high-quality training and support, Department for Education (London) 1 December 2021. Access Date: 10 December 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/plans-to-develop-world-class-teachers-through-high-quality-training-and-support>

⁴²⁰⁷ Support for vulnerable young people in serious violence hotspots, Department for Education (London) 2 December 2021. Access Date: 3 December 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/support-for-vulnerable-young-people-in-serious-violence-hotspots>

On 20 January 2022, the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy launched the Help to Grow: Digital scheme that provides businesses with discounts of up to GBP5,000 on approved Digital Accounting and Customer Relation Management software that aims to support small businesses.⁴²⁰⁸

On 20 January 2022, UK Export Finance provided GBP42 million to support development projects in Africa, which would enable Mabey Bridge to export 87 emergency bridges to areas impacted by flooding across Ghana.⁴²⁰⁹ This project intends to secure export contracts for UK companies and protect resilient trade growth.

On 24 February 2022, in addition to the existing GBP800 million Dormant Assets Scheme, the Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport released a further GBP880 million from Dormant Assets to boost opportunities across the country, including investment in youth programmes, social enterprises and money management support.⁴²¹⁰

On 28 February 2022, the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy proposed an industrial hydrogen accelerator programme, which would provide funding for innovation projects that can demonstrate end-to-end industrial fuel switching to hydrogen.⁴²¹¹ This proposed programme covers the full technology chain from hydrogen generation and delivery infrastructure through industrial end-use, aiming to improve economic sustainability by supporting the use of renewable energies.

On 25 April 2022, Secretary of State for International Trade Anne-Marie Trevelyan and US Trade Representative Katherine Tai agreed to collaborate deeper on the economic recovery process following the pandemic.⁴²¹² As part of the UK-US Dialogue on the Future of Trade, the two leaders discussed SME support, digitalization of the modern economy, resilience in supply chains and promoting environmental sustainability and a transition to net zero on both sides of the Atlantic.

On 14 May 2022, the G7 Foreign Ministers released a communique following their meeting in Germany. Among other issues, the Ministers discussed the need foster a more sustainable world and increase cooperation on matters of economic security. Pillar 13 of the communique reaffirmed G7 members' pledges to strengthen economic cooperation in Africa through the G7 Partnership for Infrastructure and Investment, the EU-Africa Global Gateway Investment Package and the G20 Compact with Africa. Pillar 37 highlighted the need for infrastructure financing and sustainable connectivity, especially in low- and middle-income countries, including diversifying supply chains and encouraging an efficient and equitable transition to a highly digitalized economy. Additionally, the pillar reaffirmed the need for long-term economic development through sustainable labour practices and open and democratic values in international markets. Pillar 40 underscored the members' commitments toward ensuring novel and emerging technologies could be used to further inclusive growth and using technologies like high-speed internet connectivity to promote sustainability.⁴²¹³

⁴²⁰⁸ Government backs UK entrepreneurs with tech support and software to help them grow, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (London) 20 January 2022. Access Date: 28 February 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-backs-uk-entrepreneurs-with-tech-support-and-software-to-help-them-grow>

⁴²⁰⁹ UK Government helps British business export emergency bridges to Ghana, UK Export Finance (London) 20 January 2022. Access Date: 28 February 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-government-helps-british-business-export-emergency-bridges-to-ghana>

⁴²¹⁰ Measures to release £880 million from dormant assets to boost opportunities across the country, Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport (London) 24 February 2022. Access Date: 28 February 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/measures-to-release-880-million-from-dormant-assets-to-boost-opportunities-across-the-country>

⁴²¹¹ Proposed Industrial Hydrogen Accelerator Program, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (London) 28 February 2022. Access Date: 28 February 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/industrial-hydrogen-accelerator-programme>

⁴²¹² Joint statement on UK-U.S. dialogue on future of Atlantic trade in Aberdeen, Department for International Trade (London) 26 April 2022. Access Date: 11 May 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/joint-statement-on-uk-us-dialogue-on-future-of-atlantic-trade-in-aberdeen>

⁴²¹³ Foreign Ministers' Communique, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 14 May 2022. Access Date: 29 May 2022. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/foreign/220514-communique.html>

On 18 May 2022, the UK invested GBP50 million to design a data innovation hub for SMEs. The hub would increase business productivity, growth and sustainability for over 10,000 firms with over 13,000 jobs supported as part of the UK's long-term economic recovery.⁴²¹⁴

On 20 May 2022, the G7 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors released their communique, where they pledged to support sustainability, resilience, inclusivity and strength in five core areas among others: macroeconomic stability; digitalization; climate and environment; and financial market stability. Each of these pillars details numerous actions that each G7 member has pledged to implement to support a fairer recovery.⁴²¹⁵

On 24 May 2022, the G7 Labour and Employment Ministers agreed on a communique to “facilitate a just transition to a green social market economy.” Particularly, the communique introduced new language concerning resilient supply chains, integration of migrant workers and the direct impacts of changing labour markets and climate change on the international economic system.⁴²¹⁶

On 26 May 2022, the UK launched the Taskforce on Women-Led High-Growth Enterprises. This initiative aims to address barriers of investment for women entrepreneurs and businesses through support from the wider business community and increased capital.⁴²¹⁷

On 27 May 2022, the UK signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the US state of Indiana. The agreement – the first between the UK and any US state – will remove trade and investment barriers in areas of manufacturing and renewable energy among others.⁴²¹⁸

The United Kingdom has partially complied with its commitment to strong, resilient, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth. The UK has taken strong action towards building resilience and sustainability through the introduction of the Green Financing Framework. However, the UK has not taken substantial action towards facilitating reallocation and boosting productivity growth and supporting people in transition.

Thus, the United Kingdom receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Yiran (Sarah) Xie

United States: +1

The United States has fully complied with its commitment to strong, resilient, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth.

From 14 June to 16 June 2021, US Secretary of Commerce Gina M. Raimondo joined President Joe Biden, Secretary of State Antony Blinken, United States Trade Representative Katherine Tai and European Union

⁴²¹⁴ £50 million data innovation hub for manufacturers to accelerate digital tech, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (London) 18 May 2022. Access Date: 13 June 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/50-million-data-innovation-hub-for-manufacturers-to-accelerate-digital-tech>

⁴²¹⁵ Foreign Ministers' Communique, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 14 May 2022. Access Date: 29 May 2022. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/foreign/220514-communique.html>

⁴²¹⁶ “Crises forge strong bonds between democracies,” Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (Berlin) 24 May 2022. Access Date: 29 May 2022. <https://www.bmas.de/EN/Services/Press/recent-publications/2022/crises-forge-strong-bonds-between-democracies.html>

⁴²¹⁷ Government launches taskforce to boost women starting fast-growing companies, Government Equalities Office (London) 26 May 2022. Access Date: 13 June 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-launches-taskforce-to-boost-women-starting-fast-growing-companies>

⁴²¹⁸ UK signs first US state-level agreement with Indiana, Department for International Trade (London) 27 May 2022. Access Date: 13 June 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-signs-first-us-state-level-agreement-with-indiana>

leaders at the US-EU Summit in Brussels.⁴²¹⁹ Both the US and EU set an agenda for the post-pandemic era which included strengthening tech and trade cooperation to ensure openness, fair competition, transparency, and accountability. At the summit Secretary Raimondo focused on how the US and EU can work together to write rules for the transforming economy which included expanding and deepening trade and investment ties and driving a digital transformation that boosts innovation.

On 15 June 2021, the US Department of Labor announced the availability of USD1.5 million to develop partnerships with community-based and non-profits to better inform women about their rights and benefits in the workplace.⁴²²⁰ The initiative is led by the Department's Women's Bureau and Employment and Training Administration.

On 21 June 2021, the US Department of Labor announced USD85.5 million to assist formerly incarcerated individuals in securing employment opportunities in their communities.⁴²²¹ The Department's Employment and Training Administration is administering the program which Secretary of Labor Marty Walsh says helps formerly incarcerated individuals by creating more opportunities "to complete high school and college, enter apprenticeships and share the benefits as our economy continues to recover."

On 29 June 2021, the US Department of Labor announced USD43 million in grants to help reemploy dislocated workers most affected by the economic and employment fallout of the coronavirus pandemic.⁴²²² The program will focus on providing funds to "workers from historically marginalized communities or groups, and those unemployed for an extended period or who have exhausted unemployment insurance or other pandemic unemployment insurance programs." Administered by the Employment and Training Administration, the funds will be distributed by the Comprehensive and Accessible Reemployment through Equitable Employment Recovery National Dislocated Worker Grants. Workers can apply to receive grants for either "workforce services, including career, training and supportive services to help participants gain employment" or "purchasing, building or expanding virtual technology platforms, software systems or services for job search, career guidance, training or other allowable activities."

On 30 June 2021, Secretary of the US Department of Transportation Pete Buttigieg announced that the Biden-Harris Administration intends to award USD905.25 million to 24 projects in 18 states under the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA).⁴²²³ Applicants were judged on a variety of criteria. Recipients of INFRA grants not only demonstrated that their projects would make infrastructure investments which supported local and regional investments, but also how well proposals would "address climate change, environmental justice, and racial equity." Furthermore, projects which focused on rural communities to address underinvestment were also prioritized.

⁴²¹⁹ US Secretary of Commerce Gina M. Raimondo Joins President Biden at US-EU Summit and Advances Tech and Trade Issues with European Union and Private Sector Leaders, US Department of Commerce (Washington D.C.) 23 June 2021. Access date: 10 December 2021. <https://www.commerce.gov/news/blog/2021/06/US-secretary-commerce-gina-m-raimondo-joins-president-biden-US-eu-summit-and>

⁴²²⁰ US Department of Labor Announces Funding Availability Of \$1.5m In Grants To Better Inform Women About Labor Rights, Benefits, US Department of Labor (Washington D.C.) 15 June 2021. Access Date: 10 December 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/wb/wb20210615>

⁴²²¹ US Department of Labor Awards More Than \$85.5m To Improve Employment Outcomes For People Now Or Once Involved In Criminal JUSTice System, US Department of Labor (Washington D.C.) 21 June 2021. Access Date: 10 December 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20210621>

⁴²²² US Department of Labor Announces Availability Of \$43m In Funds To Support Reemployment Of Workers Displaced By The Pandemic, US Department of Labor (Washington D.C.) 29 June 2021. Access Date: 10 December 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20210629>

⁴²²³ US Department of Transportation Announces \$905.25 Million in Proposed Awards for the FY 2021 Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) Grant Program, US Department of Transportation (Washington D.C.) 30 June 2021. Access Date: 10 December 2021. <https://www.transportation.gov/briefing-room/US-department-transportation-announces-90525-million-proposed-awards-fy-2021>

On 1 July 2021, the US in addition to 130 countries showed support for a global minimum tax of 15 per cent for large corporations by signing the Statement on a Two-Pillar Solution to Address the Tax Challenges Arising from the Digitalisation of the Economy.⁴²²⁵ The two-pillar package – the outcome of negotiations coordinated by the OECD for much of the last decade – aims to ensure that large Multinational Enterprises (MNEs) pay tax where they operate and earn profits, while adding much-needed certainty and stability to the international tax system. Pillar one will ensure a fairer distribution of profits and taxing rights among countries with respect to the largest MNEs, including digital companies. It would re-allocate some taxing rights over MNEs from their home countries to the markets where they have business activities and earn profits, regardless of whether firms have a physical presence there. Pillar two seeks to put a floor on competition over corporate income tax, through the introduction of a global minimum corporate tax rate that countries can use to protect their tax bases.

On 6 July 2021, the US Department of Labor announced a USD1.9 million grant for members of the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe in Washington state to provide jobs, employment, and training services to individuals impacted by the health and economic effects of opioid use, addiction, and overdose.⁴²²⁴ This is part of a larger USD6.0 million grant to tribal community participants in Washington's King and Pierce counties. Dislocated worker grants temporarily expand the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014 to the state and local levels by providing funds in response to large, unexpected economic events which cause significant job losses.

On 9 July 2021, President Biden signed an Executive Order promoting competition in the American economy to support the interests of American workers, businesses, and consumers.⁴²²⁵ The 72 actions include promoting greater competition through federal agency's procurement and spending decisions, increasing opportunities for small businesses and increasing competition by breaking up anti-competitive practices.⁴²²⁶ Additionally, the order addresses labor market regulation by making it easier for workers to demand better terms of employment. The plan also introduces competition in the agriculture industry to reduce costs for small farms which are shrinking profits and growing debts.⁴²²⁷

On 15 July 2021, the US Department of Labor announced USD92.6 million for training and employment services for workers adversely affected by trade.⁴²²⁸ The Employment and Training Administration administers the program which supports training, employment and case management services, job search and relocation allowances, and income support during training through the Trade Adjustment Assistance for Workers Program. In addition, the program subsidizes wages of workers 50 or older whose current wages are

⁴²²⁴ US Department of Labor Awards \$1.9m Grant To Muckleshoot Indian Tribe To Provide Employment, Training In Response To Opioid Crisis, US Department of Labor (Washington D.C.) 6 July 2021. Access Date: 10 Dec 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20210706>

⁴²²⁵ Executive Order on Promoting Competition in the American Economy, The White House (Washington D.C.) 9 July 2021. Access Date: 10 December 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/07/09/executive-order-on-promoting-competition-in-the-american-economy/>

⁴²²⁶ FACT SHEET: Executive Order on Promoting Competition in the American Economy, The White House (Washington D.C.) 9 July 2021. Access Date: 10 December 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/07/09/fact-sheet-executive-order-on-promoting-competition-in-the-american-economy/>

⁴²²⁷ Remarks by President Biden At Signing of An Executive Order Promoting Competition in the American Economy, The White House (Washington D.C.) 9 July 2021. Access Date: 10 December 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/speeches-remarks/2021/07/09/remarks-by-president-biden-at-signing-of-an-executive-order-promoting-competition-in-the-american-economy/>

⁴²²⁸ US Department of Labor Announces More Than \$92m In Funding For Training, Employment Services, Wage Subsidies For Workers Harmed By Foreign Trade, US Department of Labor (Washington D.C.) 15 July 2021. Access Date: 10 December 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20210715-0>

lower as a result of reemployment compared to their prior trade-affected employment. As of 5 December 2021, the bill failed to pass Congress, causing funding for the program to end on 30 June 2022.^{4229,4230}

On 20 July 2021, the US Department of Energy (DOE) announced USD127 million to a set of small businesses working on scientific tools and clean, secure energy for Americans.⁴²³¹ The investment, according to Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm, will help “small businesses take their work to the next level, expand their operations and create new jobs, and be part of the fight against the existential crisis of our time – climate change.” Funding for the awards comes from the DOE’s Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer programs.

On 23 July 2021, President Biden signed the American Rescue plan into law which included USD3 billion for economic development.⁴²³² Included in the USD3 billion is USD500 million allocated for workforce training programs and apprenticeships for women, people of color, and underserved communities to be successful in good jobs. Included in the allocation are funds to cover childcare and transportation to make training accessible to all workers.

On 26 July 2021, the DOE announced USD60 million for Industrial Assessment Centers (IACs) which assist “small- and medium-sized manufacturers in reducing their carbon emissions and lowering energy costs, while training the next generation of energy-efficiency workers.”⁴²³³ The investment in IACs will help decarbonize manufacturing industries by reducing barriers. IACs will train workers by partnering with community colleges and technical programs to train students and professionals to do energy-efficiency assessments of buildings, especially those in disadvantaged communities.

On 28 July 2021, Deputy Secretary Don Graves hosted a roundtable with minority-owned business leaders to discuss issues within the care economy.⁴²³⁴ Participants shared their suggestions on how to help minority entrepreneurs facing challenges when it comes to care because women participate in the labour force at lower rates because of the issue of care, particularly for young children.

On 28 July 2021, the US Department of Labor allocated USD3 million to Maine and Indiana, collectively, to continue employment and training services to individuals significantly affected by widespread opioid use, addiction, and overdose.⁴²³⁵ The grant will provide employment in jobs addressing the impacts of the opioid

⁴²²⁹ US Department of Labor Announces More Than \$92m In Funding For Training, Employment Services, Wage Subsidies For Workers Harmed By Foreign Trade, US Department of Labor (Washington D.C.) 15 July 2021. Access Date: 10 December 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20210715-0>

⁴²³⁰ Related Bills - H.R.4242 - 117th Congress (2021-2022): Trade Adjustment Assistance Extension Act of 2021, Library of Congress (Washington D.C.) 29 June 2021. Access Date: 10 December 2021. <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/hoUse-bill/4242/related-bills?q=7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22Trade+AdjUStment+Assistance+for+Workers+Program%22%2C%22Trade%22%2C%22AdjUStment%22%2C%22Assistance%22%2C%22for%22%2C%22Workers%22%2C%22Program%22%5D%7D&r=3&s=1>

⁴²³¹ DOE Announces \$127 Million For Small Business Research And Development Grants, Department of Energy (Washington D.C.) 20 July 2021. Access Date: 10 December 2021. <https://www.energy.gov/articles/doe-announces-127-million-small-business-research-and-development-grants>

⁴²³² Remarks by US Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo at White House Announcement of \$3 Billion EDA Investment in America's Communities, US Department of Commerce (Washington D.C.) 23 July 2021. Access Date: 10 December 2021. <https://www.commerce.gov/news/speeches/2021/07/remarks-us-secretary-commerce-gina-raimondo-white-hoUse-announcement-3>

⁴²³³ DOE Announces New \$60 Million Investment to Increase Energy Efficiency in Manufacturing, US Department of Energy (Washington D.C.) 26 July 2021. Access Date: 10 December 2021. <https://www.energy.gov/articles/doe-announces-new-60-million-investment-increase-energy-efficiency-manufacturing>

⁴²³⁴ Deputy Secretary Don Graves Hosts Roundtable with Minority-Owned Business Leaders to Address Critical Need for Investments in the Care Economy, US Department of Commerce (Washington D.C.) 28 July 2021. Access Date: 10 December 2021. <https://www.commerce.gov/news/blog/2021/07/deputy-secretary-don-graves-hosts-roundtable-minority-owned-business-leaders>

⁴²³⁵ US Department of Labor Awards \$2M In Funding To Continue Employment, Training Services To Combat Maine’s Opioid Crisis, US Department of Labor (Washington D.C.) 28 July 2021. Access Date: 10 December 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20210728>

crisis and may provide services “to reintegrate workers affected by the crisis and train individuals to work in mental health treatment, addiction treatment and pain management.”⁴²³⁶

On 2 August 2021, USTR Tai and Secretary Raimondo co-hosted the Industry Trade Advisory Committee (ITAC) meeting.⁴²³⁷ During the meeting, members committed to “removing barriers to trade, developing an inclusive and sustainable growth strategy, and using the private sector’s expertise to enforce existing trade agreements and inform US commercial advocacy with foreign governments.”

On 4 August 2021, the US Department of Labor announced a partnership with the American Association of Access Equity and Diversity to “promote the inclusion of people with disabilities in the national organization’s workplace equity efforts.”⁴²³⁸ Established by the Office of Disability Employment Policy, the program will provide tools and information to advance inclusion of people with disabilities in the workforce. Office of Disability Employment Policy Deputy Assistant Secretary Jennifer Sheehy said the partnership is one of many partnerships which are “determined to rebuild our economy equitably so that all people – including people with disabilities and others from historically marginalized communities – share in the benefits of our nation’s recovery.”

On 10 August 2021, the Department of Labor announced the Bureau of International Labor Affairs’ intent to grant USD10 million to improve gender equity in Mexican workplaces.⁴²³⁹ The money will fund a project which is intended to “increase the number of women in union leadership, strengthen protections, reduce workplace harassment, and increase wages for women” and “increase women’s participation in collective bargaining and empower worker organizations to undertake sustained action to promote gender equity in the workplace.” The Bureau of International Labor Affairs intends to engage stakeholders and use a worker-centered approach to advance the project.

On 16 August 2021, the US Department of Education and the US Department of Labor announced a program to connect unemployed Americans to postsecondary education which would train them to with skills that could lead to good jobs.⁴²⁴⁰ The US Department of Education created a new website to help unemployed Americans connect with colleges registered under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) meaning recipients of unemployment insurance can receive benefits while attending school.

On 19 August 2021, the Department of Labor announced USD90 million in grants to help workers get services and training for good quality jobs as the economy recovers.⁴²⁴¹ The grants are focused on individuals who were displaced by the pandemic, historically marginalized communities and those who have exhausted unemployment benefits. This announcement doubles the initial investment of USD43 million announced on 29 June 2021.

⁴²³⁶ US Department of Labor Awards \$1M Incremental Funding to Continue Employment, Training Service to Combat Indiana Opioid Crisis, US Department of Labor (Washington D.C.) 28 July 2021. Access Date: 10 December 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20210728-0>

⁴²³⁷ Readout of the Inaugural Industry Trade Advisory Committee Meeting, US Department of Commerce (Washington D.C.) 2 August 2021. Access Date: 10 December 2021 <https://www.commerce.gov/news/press-releases/2021/08/readout-inaugural-industry-trade-advisory-committee-meeting>

⁴²³⁸ US Department of Labor Announces Alliance With National Organization Of Equal Opportunity Professionals To Promote Workplace Diversity, US Department of Labor (Washington D.C.) 4 August 2021. Access Date: 10 December 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/odep/odep20210804>

⁴²³⁹ US Department of Labor Announces \$10m Funding Availability To Improve Gender Equity Among Workers In Mexico, US Department of Labor (Washington D.C.) 10 August 2021. Access Date: 10 December 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/ilab/ilab20210810>

⁴²⁴⁰ Education, Labor Departments Renew Efforts to Help Unemployed Americans Pursue Postsecondary Education, US Department of Education (Washington D.C.) 16 August 2021. Access Date: 10 December 2021. <https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/education-labor-departments-renew-efforts-help-unemployed-americans-pursue-postsecondary-education>

⁴²⁴¹ US Department of Labor Announces \$90m In Grants To Support Training, Employment Services For Workers Displaced By The Pandemic, US Department of Labor (Washington D.C.) 19 August 2021. Access Date: 10 December 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20210819-0>

On 31 August 2021, the Department of Labor announced the establishment of the Office of Unemployment Insurance Modernization which is intended to help states modernize and reform the unemployment insurance system.⁴²⁴² The Office is intended to implement the strategic vision announced in the Unemployment Insurance modernization plans which includes USD260 million to improve access for lower-income claimants, among other goals. The Unemployment Insurance modernization plans also include increasing public awareness and service delivery which helps improve racial and ethnic disparities in administering and delivering unemployment benefits.

On 1 September 2021, Secretary Raimondo met with Ukrainian First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economy Oleksiy Lyubchenko and signed a memorandum of understanding which outlined renewed cooperation on trade in addition to US support for Ukrainian efforts to improve its business and investment climate.⁴²⁴³ The memorandum outlines cooperation on Ukrainian economic transformation in sectors, allowing US companies to increase economic relations with Ukrainian companies.

On 7 September 2021, the Department of Labor announced the 2021 National Apprenticeship Week will be celebrated 15 to 21 November allowing various industries to demonstrate their support for apprenticeships that train highly skilled workers.⁴²⁴⁴ During Apprenticeship Week, the Biden-Harris administration was recognized for “encouraging and increasing apprenticeship opportunities for women and communities underrepresented in apprenticeships.” Several events were planned for the week which focused on bringing underrepresented groups into apprenticeship programs. The week was designed to promote programs which are designed to upskill and reskill workers including youth, supporting workers learning skills to use in the workforce.

On 9 September 2021, Secretary Raimondo co-chaired a relaunched US-Mexico High-Level Economic Dialogue to advance shared economic and commercial goals, such as promoting inclusive trade.⁴²⁴⁵ Secretary Raimondo was joined by high-level US and Mexico officials to discuss improving US-Mexico relations in areas important to both countries.

On 9 September 2021, Secretary Marty Walsh from the Department of Labor announced a USD33 million grant, administered by the Women’s Bureau and Employment and Training Administration, to “recruit, train and retain more women in quality pre-apprenticeship and registered apprenticeship programs as well as nontraditional occupations.”⁴²⁴⁶ These grants are intended to reduce barriers to entry into apprenticeships and nontraditional careers for women and empower women to get the training required to pursue well-paying jobs and create a more inclusive workforce.

On 10 September 2021, the Department of Labor announced the availability of funds to support new contracts which launch, support, and expand apprenticeships in critical industries impacted by the “coronavirus pandemic and industries that have not traditionally used apprenticeship to meet employer and

⁴²⁴² US Department of Labor Announces Establishment Of Office To Modernize, Reform States’ Unemployment Insurance Systems, US Department of Labor (Washington D.C.) 31 August 2021. Access Date: 10 December 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20210831>

⁴²⁴³ Supporting Allies Through Trade: US & Ukrainian Leaders Sign Memorandum of Understanding on Commercial Cooperation, US Department of Commerce (Washington D.C.) 1 September 2021. Access Date: 10 December 2021 <https://www.commerce.gov/news/press-releases/2021/09/supporting-allies-through-trade-US-ukrainian-leaders-sign-memorandum>

⁴²⁴⁴ US Department of Labor Will Highlight ‘Learn-as-you-earn’ Model During National Apprenticeship Week, Nov. 15-21, US Department of Labor (Washington D.C.) 7 September 2021. Access Date: 10 December 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20210907>

⁴²⁴⁵ Secretary of Commerce Gina M. Raimondo Co-chairs US-Mexico High Level Economic Dialogue, US Department of Commerce (Washington D.C.) 9 September 2021. Access Date: 10 December 2021 <https://www.commerce.gov/news/press-releases/2021/09/secretary-commerce-gina-m-raimondo-co-chairs-US-mexico-high-level>

⁴²⁴⁶ US Department of Labor Announces \$3.3m In Grants To Expand Job Opportunities For Women In Apprenticeships, Nontraditional Occupations, US Department of Labor (Philadelphia) 9 September 2021. Access Date: 10 December 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/wb/wb20210909>

sector needs.”⁴²⁴⁷ Not only will the funds help industries impacted by the coronavirus pandemic, but they will also “increase opportunities for under-represented populations and leverage existing resources to support and sustain Registered Apprenticeship programs at the local and national level.”

On 15 September 2021, The US Treasury released a report titled “The Economics of Childcare,” confirming that childcare remains expensive and inaccessible for many and makes it possible for parents to work.⁴²⁴⁸ In a speech announcing the report, Vice President Harris promoted the Build Back Better Agenda which would extend the Child Tax Credit, expand family leave, and lower childcare costs by USD15,000. The proposed investments in childcare would also increase gender parity in the workforce and boost GDP.

On 20 September 2021, the US Department of Transportation (USDOT) announced 44 projects will be designated as INFRA (Infrastructure for Rebuilding America) Extra making them eligible to apply to the Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) credit assistance for up to cover up to 49 per cent of project costs, up from 33 per cent.⁴²⁴⁹ Projects are evaluated on several criteria including environmental impact.⁴²⁵⁰ TIFIA is administered by the USDOT’s Build America Bureau.

On 20 September 2021, the Department of Labor announced a USD2 million grant to conduct outreach to low-income and marginalized women workers through community-based organizations and non-profits to help these individuals understand and exercise their rights and benefits in the workplace.⁴²⁵¹ The program was designed in response to the disproportionate impact the coronavirus pandemic had on women and the subsequent recovery. The focus is on making sure women benefit from the ongoing national recovery.

On 20 September 2021, Secretary Raimondo announced initiatives and tools to help the Department of Commerce enhance equitable economic growth and spur good-paying jobs.⁴²⁵² Among the tools the department announced, The Opportunity Project is a program designed to spur innovation aimed at advancing equitable economic growth by using federal data to develop new technologies and new solutions.

On 21 September 2021, the Department of Labor and the Hawaii Department of Labor and Industrial Relations agreed to improve access for individuals seeking to file claims for unemployment insurance benefits who have limited English proficiency and eligible non-US citizens.⁴²⁵³ The announcement ensures Hawaii’s unemployment insurance services are not discriminating against protected groups by civil rights law.

⁴²⁴⁷ US Department of Labor Announces Available Funding To Promote, Develop, Expand Registered Apprenticeship In Critical, Non-traditional Industries, US Department of Labor (Washington D.C.) 10 September 2021. Access Date: 10 December 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20210910>

⁴²⁴⁸ Remarks by Vice President Harris on the Administration’s Proposed Investments in Childcare, The White House (Washington D.C.) 15 September 2021. Access Date: 10 December 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/speeches-remarks/2021/09/15/remarks-by-vice-president-harris-on-the-administrations-proposed-investments-in-childcare/>

⁴²⁴⁹ US Department of Transportation Announces First Ever INFRA Extra Project Designations to Help Fund Dozens of Priority Projects in Communities Around the Country, US Department of Transportation (Washington D.C.) 20 September 2021. Access Date: 10 December 2021. <https://www.transportation.gov/briefing-room/US-department-transportation-announces-first-ever-infra-extra-project-designations>

⁴²⁵⁰ Eligibility, US Department of Transportation Build America Bureau (Washington D.C.) 17 October 2014. Access Date: 10 December 2021. <https://www.transportation.gov/buildamerica/financing/tifia/eligibility>

⁴²⁵¹ US Department of Labor Awards \$2m In Grants To Support Awareness, Use Of Employment Rights, Benefits By Low-income, Marginalized Women, US Department of Labor (Washington D.C.) 20 September 2021. Access Date: 10 December 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/wb/wb20210920>

⁴²⁵² US Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo Announces New Data Strategy to Enhance Equitable Economic Growth, Spur Good-Paying Jobs for All Americans, US Department of Commerce (Washington D.C.) 20 September 2021. Access Date: 10 December 2021 <https://www.commerce.gov/news/press-releases/2021/09/US-secretary-commerce-gina-raimondo-announces-new-data-strategy-enhance>

⁴²⁵³ US Department of Labor Reaches Voluntary Conciliation Agreement With Hawaii To Improve Language Access To Unemployment Insurance, US Department of Labor (Washington D.C.) 21 September 2021. Access Date: 10 December 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/osec/osec20210921>

On 27 September 2021, the Department of Labor in conjunction with the Appalachian Regional Commission and Delta Regional Authority announced a USD29 million grant to organizations which provide employment and training services to regional and local workers.⁴²⁵⁴ The grant is intended to provide funding for projects investing in education, training, and career support services for high quality careers in high-demand industries such as aerospace and defense manufacturing, agricultural technology and renewable energy. The grant is targeted towards the rural Appalachian and lower Mississippi Delta region to provide opportunities for workers in these regions to improve their technical skills.

On 28 September 2021, Secretary Raimondo gave a speech highlighting the Commerce Department's priorities to increase American competitiveness.⁴²⁵⁵ She touched on several topics including calling on Congress to increase investments in small and medium manufacturers, promoting the Department's program which invests in workforce training and registered apprenticeships for women, people of color, and underserved communities, and investing in innovation.

On 29 September 2021, the Department of Labor announced USD68 million in grant funding to help organizations connect job seekers to jobs.⁴²⁵⁶ The award is a portion of the USD90 million grant announced on 19 August 2021 to help workers displaced by the coronavirus pandemic find work. These grants fund "reemployment services that support job seekers with search assistance, career guidance and childcare and transportation costs" or upgrade services which enable accessibility and capacity to job seekers.

On 29 September 2021, the Trade and Technology council established at the US-EU summit in June 2021 had their inaugural meeting where the two members committed to work together to generate economic growth with a focus on small and medium-sized enterprises.⁴²⁵⁷ The US and EU committed to closely coordinate on several issues including to "strengthen their competitiveness and technological leadership by developing common strategies to mitigate the impact of non-market practices at home and in third countries and by working to avoid new and unnecessary barriers to trade, especially in products and services derived from emerging technologies." The co-chairs asked working groups to cooperate on issues including promoting small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) access to digital tools, securing critical supply chains, and cooperating on emerging technology standards in addition to other areas.⁴²⁵⁸

On 7 October 2021, Secretary Raimondo and Singapore Minister for Trade and Industry Gan Kim Yong signed a memorandum of understanding implementing the "US-Singapore Partnership for Growth and Innovation, which aims to strengthen US-Singapore trade and investment collaboration."⁴²⁵⁹ The partnership

⁴²⁵⁴ US Department of Labor Announces \$29m In Grants For Job Training, Supportive Services In Appalachian Region, Lower Mississippi Delta, US Department of Labor (Washington D.C.) 27 September 2021. Access Date: 10 December 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20210927>

⁴²⁵⁵ Secretary Raimondo Outlines Agenda to Increase American Competitiveness, US Department of Commerce (Washington D.C.) 28 September 2021. Access Date: 10 December 2021. <https://www.commerce.gov/news/speeches/2021/09/secretary-raimondo-outlines-agenda-increase-american-competitiveness>

⁴²⁵⁶ US Department of Labor Awards \$68m In Grants For Training, Reemployment, Supportive Services To Unemployed, Underemployed Workers, US Department of Labor (Washington D.C.) 29 September 2021. Access Date: 10 December 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20210929>

⁴²⁵⁷ FACT SHEET: US-EU Establish Common Principles to Update the Rules for the 21st Century Economy at Inaugural Trade and Technology Council Meeting, US Department of Commerce (Washington D.C.) 29 September 2021. Access Date: 10 December 2021 <https://www.commerce.gov/news/fact-sheets/2021/09/fact-sheet-US-eu-establish-common-principles-update-rules-21st-century>

⁴²⁵⁸ US-EU Trade and Technology Council Inaugural Joint Statement, US Department of Commerce (Washington D.C.) 29 September 2021. Access Date: 10 December 2021 <https://www.commerce.gov/news/press-releases/2021/09/US-eu-trade-and-technology-council-inaugural-joint-statement>

⁴²⁵⁹ US-Singapore Partnership for Growth and Innovation: A Joint Statement by US Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo and Singapore Minister for Trade and Industry Gan Kim Yong, US Department of Commerce (Washington D.C.) 7 October 2021. Access Date: 10 December 2021 <https://www.commerce.gov/news/press-releases/2021/10/US-singapore-partnership-growth-and-innovation-joint-statement-US>

will further integrate US-Singapore economic integration by promoting partnerships and exchanges which will bring inclusive growth in both country's economies and regions.

On 14 October 2021, Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen gave remarks at the Joint IMFC and Development Committee.⁴²⁶⁰ Secretary Yellen's remarks voice support for several issues pertinent to this commitment. In IDA-20 (International Development Association) Secretary Yellen encouraged World Bank leaders to support IDA countries "in enhancing investments to address crisis and pandemic preparedness, increasing debt vulnerabilities, and inclusion for all, including women, girls, and LGBTQIA+ people." Additionally, Secretary Yellen called on countries with the ability to, should allocate some of their Special Drawing Rights (SDR) to countries which need them through the Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust (PRGT) and a new Resilience and Sustainability Trust (RST) at the IMF. Secretary Yellen called on IMF Governors to voice their support for the RST because she believes the RST is important to "supporting vulnerable countries undergoing structural transformations that will strengthen public health systems and create more sustainable, low-emission and climate-resilient economies."

On 14 October 2021, Deputy Secretary Don Graves announced a USD3.6 million grant to establish an adult technical training and workforce development facility in Cleveland.⁴²⁶¹ The investment is meant to create jobs for individuals including women and people of color. The grant is part of a larger USD3 billion allocation by the American Rescue Act passed by Congress to fund programs which bring Americans back to work by connecting employers with skilled employees who are trained in high-demand skills which lead to good jobs.

On 18 October 2021, the DOE announced USD105 million for small businesses to pursue deployment of clean energy technologies, part of the Biden-Harris Administration's commitment to building a clean energy economy and achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2050.⁴²⁶² The investment, according to US Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm, will "boost innovation, foster the next generation of diverse clean energy leaders from underrepresented communities and set up our small businesses for success as we transform and strengthen our energy infrastructure to fight climate change." Small businesses receiving funding can apply for awards for research opportunities for student entrepreneurs from underrepresented groups, including women and those from socially and economically disadvantaged communities, in addition to this opportunity.

On 15 October 2021, the Department of Labor reopened Job Corps for in-person instruction and job training.⁴²⁶³ The reopening of Job Corps for in-person instruction means students can take full advantage of career-training services, better equipping them for the workforce.

On 22 October 2021, President Biden released the US National Strategy on Gender Equity and Equality which illustrates a country where every individual have "equal access to opportunities, the safety and security of people of every gender is guaranteed; and where everyone is treated fairly at home and in their schools,

⁴²⁶⁰ Statement from Secretary of the Treasury Janet L. Yellen for the Joint IMFC and Development Committee, US Department of the Treasury (Washington D.C.) 14 October 2021. Access Date: 10 December 2021. <https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/jy0407>

⁴²⁶¹ Manufacturing Month: Deputy Secretary Don Graves Stresses Administration's Commitment to Equitable Workforce Training in Ohio: Announces \$3.6 Million Grant for Workforce Development Facility in Cleveland, US Department of Commerce (Cleveland) 14 October 2021. Access Date: 10 December 2021 <https://www.commerce.gov/news/blog/2021/10/manufacturing-month-deputy-secretary-don-graves-stresses-administrations>

⁴²⁶² DOE Announces \$105 Million for Small Businesses to Invest in Clean Energy Research and Development, US Department of Energy (Washington D.C.) 18 October 2021. Access Date: 10 December 2021. <https://www.energy.gov/articles/doe-announces-105-million-small-bUSinesses-invest-clean-energy-research-and-development>

⁴²⁶³ US Department of Labor Announces Resumption Of Job Corps' New Student Enrollment For In-person Instruction, Training, US Department of Labor (Washington D.C.) 15 October 2021. Access Date: 10 December 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20211015>

workplaces and communities.”⁴²⁶⁴ The report sets forth an “aspirational vision and a comprehensive agenda to advance gender equity and equality in domestic and foreign policy.”⁴²⁶⁵ In the report, President Biden announced priorities including economic security which means equal access to jobs, investments in care infrastructure and dismantling barriers to equal opportunity. The Department of Commerce has taken actions to support President Biden’s plan including creating initiatives, programs and councils to address the issues highlighted by President Biden.⁴²⁶⁶

On 27 October 2021, Secretary Raimondo announced her new role as Chair of the re-branded Council for Inclusive Innovation which will develop a strategy to create a more inclusive innovation system.⁴²⁶⁷ With leaders from industry, academia, non-profit and government, the Council is focusing on increasing diversity among inventors holding patents.

On 31 October 2021, the US announced it “allow duty-free importation steel and aluminum from the EU at a historical-based volume,” suspending section 232 duties and the EU will “suspend related tariffs on US products.”⁴²⁶⁸ Aside from tariff reductions, the US and EU announced a negotiation to address carbon intensity and overcapacity of steel and aluminum as part of the deal. Included in the deal are agreements to “cooperate in trade remedies and customs matters and development of additional actions” which indicates increased cooperation to reduce barriers to trade. In the joint statement, the US and EU announced they would suspend WTO disputes as a result of the deal. Along with steel and aluminum, the deal eliminates the threat of tariffs on “brands like Harley Davidson and the Kentucky bourbon industry.”⁴²⁶⁹

On 31 October 2021, the US and UK announced they were working closely together to address issues related to steel and aluminum.⁴²⁷⁰ The US and UK state they were focusing on “impacts of overcapacity on the global steel and aluminum markets; the need for like-minded countries to take collective action to address the root causes of the problem; and the climate impacts of the sector.”

On 1 November 2021, the Department of Labor, supported by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014, announced USD1.3 million allocated to Rhode Island as an Opioid Disaster Recovery Dislocated Worker Grants.⁴²⁷¹ The grant is intended to support jobs and workforce training by “creating

⁴²⁶⁴ Secretary Raimondo Applauds White House Release of National Strategy Gender Equity, Reaffirms Commerce Department’s Commitment to Promoting Gender Equity, US Department of Commerce (Washington D.C.) 22 October 2021. Access Date: 10 December 2021 <https://www.commerce.gov/news/press-releases/2021/10/secretary-raimondo-applauds-white-hoUSe-release-national-strategy>

⁴²⁶⁵ Fact Sheet: National Strategy on Gender Equity and Equality, The White House (Washington D.C.) 22 October 2021. Access Date: 10 December 2021. <https://www.whitehoUSe.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/10/22/fact-sheet-national-strategy-on-gender-equity-and-equality/>

⁴²⁶⁶ Secretary Raimondo Applauds White House Release of National Strategy Gender Equity, Reaffirms Commerce Department’s Commitment to Promoting Gender Equity, US Department of Commerce (Washington D.C.) 22 October 2021. Access Date: 10 December 2021 <https://www.commerce.gov/news/press-releases/2021/10/secretary-raimondo-applauds-white-hoUSe-release-national-strategy>

⁴²⁶⁷ US Secretary of Commerce Gina M. Raimondo to Chair Council for Inclusive Innovation (CI2), US Department of Commerce (Washington D.C.) 27 October 2021. Access Date: 10 December 2021 <https://www.commerce.gov/news/press-releases/2021/10/US-secretary-commerce-gina-m-raimondo-chair-council-inclusive>

⁴²⁶⁸ Joint US-EU Statement on Trade in Steel and Aluminum, Executive Office of the President Office of the United States Trade Representative (Washington D.C.) 31 October 2021. Access Date: 10 December 2021. <https://UStr.gov/about-US/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2021/october/joint-US-eu-statement-trade-steel-and-aluminum>

⁴²⁶⁹ Raimondo, Tai Statements on 232 Tariff Agreements, US Department of Commerce (Washington D.C.) 31 October 2021. Access Date: 10 December 2021 <https://www.commerce.gov/news/press-releases/2021/10/raimondo-tai-statements-232-tariff-agreements>

⁴²⁷⁰ Department of Commerce Issues Statement on Consultations with the UK on Steel and Aluminum, US Department of Commerce (Washington D.C.) 31 October 2021. Access Date: 10 December 2021 <https://www.commerce.gov/news/press-releases/2021/10/departement-commerce-issues-statement-consultations-uk-steel-and>

⁴²⁷¹ US Department of Labor Awards \$1.3m In Funding To Continue Employment, Training Services To Combat Rhode Island’s Opioid Crisis, US Department of Labor (Washington D.C.) 1 November 2021. Access Date: 10 December 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20211101>

temporary jobs and provide services to reintegrate workers affected by the [opioid] crisis and train individuals to work in addiction treatment, mental health treatment and pain management.”

On 1 November 2021, The US Department of Housing and Urban Development announced the allocation of more than USD2 billion under the Extending Government Funding and Delivering Emergency Assistance Act to recover and build resilience to natural disasters with a focus on low- and moderate-income populations.⁴²⁷² HUD is providing assistance to 10 states for 15 separate major disasters that occurred in the calendar year 2020. Funds are to be used for “disaster relief, long-term recovery, restoration of infrastructure and housing, economic revitalization, and mitigation, in the most impacted and distressed areas.” Funds are distributed in accordance with HUD’s Climate Action Plan, focusing on equitable disaster recovery and resilience. HUD’s Climate Action Plan notes that the Department is committed to advancing the goals of Executive Order 13985, requiring HUD to allocate resources in a manner that equitably invests in underserved communities, especially communities of color. HUD’s Climate Action Plan and implementation of Extending Government Funding and Delivering Emergency Assistance Act illustrates HUD’s commitment to investing in climate resiliency to reinforce its mission of creating strong, sustainable, and inclusive communities with affordable homes for all.

On 4 November 2021, US Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm announced President Biden’s Build Back Better Agenda containing USD800 billion for clean energy and climate action at COP26 Energy Day Opening Plenary: Accelerating a Just and Inclusive Energy Transition.⁴²⁷³ The money allocated for clean energy and climate action is intended for creating jobs for individuals within communities, leading to a more diversified, resilient economy that can address longstanding inequities and offer stability, sustainability, and safety to all who take part and want to take part in the economy. Furthermore, Secretary Granholm pledged “support for developing nations as they work to stake their own claims in this clean energy opportunity.”

On 9 November 2021, the Department of Commerce and philanthropic, non-profit, labor and advocacy leaders met at the Interagency Convening on Equitable Economic Growth.⁴²⁷⁴ In Deputy Secretary Don Graves’s remarks he stated support for several of President Biden’s legislative initiatives.⁴²⁷⁵ He reiterated the commitment by the Biden administration in the Build Back Better agenda to design an inclusive growth strategy for Americans. He also mentioned that the House of Representatives passed the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act which includes “statutory authority to make the Minority Business Development Agency permanent.” Finally, he mentioned the Economic Development Administration was allocated USD3 billion to help communities in the American Rescue Act, of which portion of the funds were allocated to workforce training programs and apprenticeships among other initiatives intended to create inclusive growth.

On 9 November 2021, the DOE released a fact sheet highlighting how the passage of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act by the US Congress supports the Department’s goals. The DOE noted the bill provided USD750 million to support the transition of coal communities to energy technology manufacturing

⁴²⁷² HUD Allocates More than \$2 Billion to Advance Equitable Disaster Recovery, Build Climate Change Resilience, Department of Housing and Urban Development (Washington D.C.) 1 November 2021. Access Date: 9 December 2021.

https://www.hud.gov/press/press_releases_media_advisories/HUD_No_21_181

⁴²⁷³ Remarks as Delivered at the COP26 Energy Day Opening Plenary: Accelerating a JUST and Inclusive Energy Transition, US Department of Energy (Washington D.C.) 4 November 2021. Access Date: 10 December 2021.

<https://www.energy.gov/articles/remarks-delivered-cop26-energy-day-opening-plenary-accelerating-just-and-inclusive-energy>

⁴²⁷⁴ ADVISORY: Department of Commerce, Ford Foundation to Host Interagency Convening on Equitable Economic Growth, US Department of Commerce (Washington D.C.) 4 November 2021. Access Date: 10 December 2021 <https://www.commerce.gov/news/press-releases/2021/11/advisory-department-commerce-ford-foundation-host-interagency-convening>

⁴²⁷⁵ Remarks by US Deputy Secretary of Commerce Don Graves at the Deputies’ Convening on Equitable Economic Growth, US Department of Commerce (Washington D.C.) 9 November 2021. Access Date: 10 December 2021 <https://www.commerce.gov/news/speeches/2021/11/remarks-us-deputy-secretary-commerce-don-graves-deputies-convening-equitable>

projects.⁴²⁷⁶ Additionally, the facts sheet notes the bill will “invest hundreds of millions in workforce development, giving workers in the electric grid, clean buildings, and industrial sectors access to training in cutting-edge technologies that will spur their careers in the years to come.”

On 9 November 2021, the Department of Commerce held the first Interagency Equity Convening. At the Convening, experts from different agencies and sectors discussed issues in building an inclusive economic recovery and solutions such as community investing, quality job creation, workforce training, supporting small businesses, diversity in corporate America and leveraging data and disclosure for transparency and racial and gender equity.⁴²⁷⁷

On 9 November 2021, the HUD announced USD36 million to boost local economic development and affordable housing programs.⁴²⁷⁸ The funding is intended to reach 250 communities across the country to increase the economic impact of local community development and affordable housing programs for low- and moderate-income persons. Funding will support three national organizations to produce approximately 8,000 units of affordable housing nationwide and stimulate nearly USD150 million in investment. Funding will go towards increasing technical and administrative support of projects providing adequate housing, education, employment and shopping, safe streets, and transportation.

On 10 November 2021, the Department of Commerce released its plan to use the USD65 billion allocated to expanding broadband across the US allocated in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.⁴²⁷⁹ Within the plan, USD48 billion is allocated for the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) to oversee the broadband expansion. Of the USD48 billion, USD42.45 billion will be awarded in grants to states and the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico to fund the deployment of high-speed broadband or making the service more affordable in underserved communities. USD2 billion will go towards Tribal broadband grants through the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program. USD2.75 billion will go towards promoting digital equity by instituting three grant programs to promote digital inclusion and equity for communities that lack the skills, technologies and support needed to take advantage of broadband connections. NTIA will also implement a formula-based state grant program and a competitive grant program to accelerate the adoption of broadband through digital literacy training, workforce development, devices access programs and other digital inclusion measures.

On 12 November 2021, the Department of Labor announced a proposal to rescind the Industry-Recognized Apprenticeship Program in order to direct more funding to Registered Apprenticeships and suspend reviewing applications for the Standard Recognitions Entities in response to President Bidens’s Executive Order 14016.⁴²⁸⁰ The proposal is intended to strengthen the Registered Apprenticeship model, including “investing in pipelines to these programs, and improving the quality of apprenticeship programs,” by rescinding the framework which governs IRAPs and finding pathways for it to become program sponsors or

⁴²⁷⁶ DOE Fact Sheet: The Bipartisan Infrastructure Deal Will Deliver For American Workers, Families and USher in the Clean Energy Future, US Department of Energy (Washington D.C.) 9 November 2021. Access Date: 10 December 2021.

<https://www.energy.gov/articles/doe-fact-sheet-bipartisan-infrastructure-deal-will-deliver-american-workers-families-and-0>

⁴²⁷⁷ Department of Commerce Hosts Biden Administration’s First Interagency Equity Convening, US Department of Commerce (Washington D.C.) 12 November 2021. Access Date: 15 January 2021.

<https://www.commerce.gov/news/blog/2021/11/department-commerce-hosts-biden-administrations-first-interagency-equity>

⁴²⁷⁸ HUD Awards \$36 Million To Boost Local Economic Development And Affordable Housing Programs, Department of Housing and Urban Development (Washington D.C.) 9 November 2021. Access Date: 9 December 2021.

https://www.hud.gov/press/press_releases_media_advisories/HUD_No_21_184

⁴²⁷⁹ Fact Sheet: Department of Commerce’s Use of Bipartisan Infrastructure Deal Funding to Help Close the Digital Divide, US Department of Commerce (Washington D.C.) 10 November 2021. Access Date: 15 January 2021.

<https://www.commerce.gov/news/fact-sheets/2021/11/fact-sheet-department-commerces-use-bipartisan-infrastructure-deal-funding>

⁴²⁸⁰ US Department of Labor Announces Proposal To Rescind Industry-Recognized Apprenticeship Program, US Department of Labor (Washington D.C.) 12 November 2021. Access Date: 10 December 2021.

<https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/ETA/ETA20211112>

intermediaries in the Registered Apprenticeship program. This proposal will incentivize apprentices to join the program and develop local, diverse and well-trained workers to meet employment needs.

On 15 November 2021, Secretary Raimondo and Minister Hagiuda Koichi met to deepen the US-Japan economic relationship.⁴²⁸¹ At the meeting, the Secretary and Minister established the US-Japan Commercial and Industrial Partnership (JUCIP) to work together on various economic issues the countries share. For example, some issues the JUCIP will work on include “strengthen collaboration in the protection of critical technologies and the development of infrastructure, addressing market-distorting measures to counter unfair trade practices” and “place a priority on promoting the development and use of clean energy and related technologies” with the intention of increasing competitiveness and address shared challenges.

On 15 November 2021, the Department of Labor, supported by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014, announced USD3 million allocated to New Jersey as an Opioid Disaster Recovery Dislocated Worker Grants.⁴²⁸² The grant is intended to support jobs and workforce training by “creating temporary jobs in peer recovery positions and provide services to reintegrate workers affected by the [opioid] crisis back into the workforce.”

On 15 November 2021, the US Congress passed H.R.3684 - Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.⁴²⁸³ The law addresses economic disparities in the economy, especially communities of color, and considers environmental issues when making economic policy. The bill includes investments in broadband internet affordable and available (USD65 billion), invests in public transportation (USD48.5 billion), rebuilds infrastructure damaged by natural disasters and strengthens its resilience in the face of disaster (USD52 billion), a national network of electric car chargers and stimulates opportunities for American businesses to participate in producing the goods needed for the proposed infrastructure investments. Additionally, the bill contributes funds to projects and research hubs to develop technology for these projects. Americans earning less than USD400 thousand will not experience tax increases to pay for the bill. The bill seeks to address implements to economic growth that will benefit economically disadvantaged individuals who will experience a reduction in income inequality and more equitable access to jobs. Furthermore, the bill makes infrastructure improvements in areas venerable to the effects of climate change which is where people of color are more likely to live.⁴²⁸⁴

On 16 November 2021, the Department of Labor launched an online dialogue to increase access to Registered Apprenticeships for job seekers in underrepresented communities with stakeholders.⁴²⁸⁵ The conversation focuses on “developing and shaping Registered Apprenticeship programs and funding opportunities, and foster diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility” in order to address “occupational segregation and underrepresentation” so workers and employers from all communities understand the benefits of Registered Apprenticeships. The dialogue was launched in participation with National Apprenticeships Week.

⁴²⁸¹ Joint Statement between Department of Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo and Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry Minister Hagiuda Koichi, US Department of Commerce (Washington D.C.) 15 November 2021. Access Date: 10 December 2021 <https://www.commerce.gov/news/press-releases/2021/11/joint-statement-between-department-commerce-secretary-gina-raimondo-and>

⁴²⁸² US Department of Labor Awards \$3m In Incremental Funding To Continue Employment, Training Services To Combat New Jersey’s Opioid Crisis, US Department of Labor (Washington D.C.) 15 November 2021. Access Date: 10 December 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20211115-0>

⁴²⁸³ H.R.3684 - Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, Congress.gov (Washington D.C.) Access Date: 10 December 2021. <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/hoUse-bill/3684/text>

⁴²⁸⁴ Fact Sheet: Bipartisan Infrastructure Framework Will Address Barriers Communities of Color Face to Economic Opportunity, The White House (Washington D.C.) 29 June 2021. Access Date: 10 December 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/06/29/fact-sheet-bipartisan-infrastructure-framework-will-address-barriers-communities-of-color-face-to-economic-opportunity/>

⁴²⁸⁵ US Department of Labor Opens Online Dialogue With Stakeholders To Expand Access Among Underrepresented Communities To Registered Apprenticeships, US Department of Labor (Washington D.C.) 16 November 2021. Access Date: 10 December 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20211116>

On 16 November 2021, Vice President Kamala Harris announced that the US Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) has awarded the first three grants as part of the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program. The initial awards total USD1.4 million and will go towards providing broadband services, computers and digital skills training to tribal members in two projects and one project will fund a tribal broadband planning project.⁴²⁸⁶

On 18 November 2021, Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona, Secretary of Labor Marty Walsh, Deputy Secretary of Commerce Don Graves and Switzerland's President Guy Parmelin signed a Memorandum of Understanding expand in apprenticeships in Swiss companies and Swiss-invested companies.⁴²⁸⁷ Additionally, the memorandum states Swiss companies will invest in 500,000 manufacturing jobs in the US with an average salary of USD101,800. This memorandum will allow "Americans, especially those in underserved communities with the right skills to reemerge from the pandemic stronger than ever," according to Secretary Cardona. He added, "the \$122 billion American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund gives America's high school students a path to rewarding and high-paying careers through work-based learning and career and technical education, and this partnership will allow more students to benefit from these opportunities."

On 18 November 2021, Secretary of Commerce Gina M. Raimondo announced that the US Department of Commerce Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) has been permanently authorized as a result of the passage of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. Secretary Raimondo described the permanent passage of the MBDA as a "historic moment...because we recognize that America's road to recovery runs through our minority business community."⁴²⁸⁸ Making MBDA a statutory Agency provides MBDA with the authorities, workforce and resources needed to help level the playing field on behalf of minority businesses and minority entrepreneurs." Department of Commerce Deputy Secretary Don Graves added that the legislation is a "new era in minority business development and progress toward addressing the long-standing racial disparities in access to capital, contracts, and business ecosystems."

On 19 November 2021, Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg announced the Biden Administration will invest nearly USD1 billion in American infrastructure through the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity grants.⁴²⁸⁹ Projects receiving grants will advance equity and combat climate change among other characteristics. Projects were selected on their ability to "encompass safety, environmental sustainability quality of life, economic competitiveness, state of good repair, innovation, and partnerships with a broad range of stakeholders" and reflected the Department's priorities of "creating good-paying jobs, improving safety, applying transformative technology, and explicitly addressing climate change and advancing racial equity."

On 19 November 2021, the US House of Representatives passed the Build Back Better Act.⁴²⁹⁰ The framework of the bill includes investments in childcare to reduce the cost, provide two years of free preschool, extending the expanded Child Tax Credit, and expand access to high-quality home care for older

⁴²⁸⁶ Department of Commerce's NTIA Awards First Grants to Tribal Groups Seeking to Expand Broadband, US Department of Commerce (Washington D.C.) 16 November 2021. Access Date: 15 January 2021. <https://www.commerce.gov/news/press-releases/2021/11/departement-commerces-ntia-awards-first-grants-tribal-groups-seeking>

⁴²⁸⁷ Secretary Cardona, Secretary Walsh, Swiss President Parmelin Sign Memorandum of Understanding to Expand Registered Apprenticeship Programs in the United States, US Department of Education (Washington D.C.) 18 November 2021. Access Date: 10 December 2021. <https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/secretary-cardona-secretary-walsh-swiss-president-parmelin-sign-memorandum-understanding-expand-registered-apprenticeship-programs-united-states>

⁴²⁸⁸ The Minority Business Development Agency is Permanently Authorized in Bipartisan Infrastructure Deal, US Department of Commerce (Washington D.C.) 18 November 2021. Access Date: 15 January 2021.

<https://www.commerce.gov/news/blog/2021/11/minority-bUSiness-development-agency-permanently-authorized-bipartisan>

⁴²⁸⁹ US Secretary of Transportation Buttigieg Announces Nearly \$1 Billion in Grant Awards for America's Infrastructure, US Department of Transportation (Washington D.C.) 19 November 2021. Access Date: 10 December 2021.

<https://www.transportation.gov/briefing-room/US-secretary-transportation-buttigieg-announces-nearly-1-billion-grant-awards>

⁴²⁹⁰ H.R.5376 - Build Back Better Act, Congress (Washington D.C.) Access Date: 10 December 2021. <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/hoUse-bill/5376>

Americans and people with disabilities. The bill also strengthens the middle class by expanding access to affordable, high-quality education beyond high school and will cut taxes for 17 million low-wage workers by extending the expanded Earned Income Tax Credit and invests in gender equitable workforce development programs and career pathways for women through Women in Apprenticeship and Non-Traditional Occupations grants. More broadly the framework proposes a subsidized jobs program which will create employment opportunities for workers “adversely affected by the economic crisis, especially public assistance recipients, long-term unemployed individuals and the underemployed.”⁴²⁹¹ Investments include the creation of career pathway programs in middle and high schools, prioritizing increased access to high-quality career and technical programs which connect underrepresented students programs training them in in-demand sectors through “partnerships with both institutions of higher education and employers.”

On 23 November 2021, the Department of Labor announced a USD90 million funding opportunity in the YouthBuild program, administered by the Employment and Training Administration.⁴²⁹² The program is intended to bridge the divide between the richest and poorest students by providing poor communities with “occupational skills training, employment services and educational support to disadvantaged youth, ages 16-24, in communities where inequalities hinder basic academic and career skills development.” The program will fund pre-apprenticeship services for in-demand industries.

On 3 December 2021, the Department of Labor announced a USD800,000 grant to the Washington State Department of Employment Security to support job creation and workforce training services to individuals impacted by the health and economic effects of opioid use, addiction, and overdose.⁴²⁹³ Opioid Disaster Recovery Dislocated Worker Grants temporarily expand the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014 to the state and local levels by providing funds in response to large, unexpected economic events which cause significant job losses.

On 7 December 2021, Secretary of Labor Marty Walsh announced the Multilateral Partnership for Organizing, Worker Empowerment and Rights (M-POWER) initiative.⁴²⁹⁴ This initiative is the largest commitment by the US government to advance worker empowerment and support trade union rights in the global economy. M-POWER incorporates more than USD120 million funded by the Department of Labor, Department of State and the US Agency for International Development to Strengthen free and independent trade unions, support labor law reform and enforcement, promote worker organizing and innovative use of collective bargaining, and extend labor law coverage to protect workers employed in low-wage jobs and sectors often excluded from labor law protection, particularly in the informal economy.

On 13 December 2021, Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona today announced grant awards to 30 school districts, institutions of higher education, and nonprofit organizations across the United States as part of the Education Innovation and Research (EIR) program.⁴²⁹⁵ The Department of Education is investing USD182

⁴²⁹¹ President Biden Announces the Build Back Better Framework, The White House (Washington D.C.) 28 October 2021. Access Date: 10 December 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/10/28/president-biden-announces-the-build-back-better-framework>

⁴²⁹² US Department of Labor Announces Funding Opportunity For \$90m In Grants To Support Academic, Skills Training, Pre-Apprenticeship Services, US Department of Labor (Washington D.C.) 23 November 2021. Access Date: 10 December 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20211123>

⁴²⁹³ US Department of Labor Awards \$800k In Funding For Employment, Training Services To Combat Washington State’s Opioid Crisis, US Department of Labor (Washington D.C.) 3 December 2021. Access Date: 15 January 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20211203>

⁴²⁹⁴ Secretary Walsh Announces Major Global Initiative To Empower Workers, Ensure Rights, Promote Democracy, US Department of Labor (Washington D.C.) 7 December 2021. Access Date: 15 January 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/osec/osec20211207>

⁴²⁹⁵ US Department of Education Announces \$182 Million in Education Innovation and Research Grants to Improve Academic Achievement for Underserved Students, US Department of Education (Washington D.C.) 13 December 2021. Access Date: 15 January 2021. <https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/US-department-education-announces-182-million-education-innovation-and-research-grants-improve-academic-achievement-underserved-students>

million to support local efforts to develop, implement, and take to scale entrepreneurial and evidence-based projects which could improve academic achievement for underserved students. 26 of the 30 recipients addressed promoting equity in student access to high-quality educational resources and opportunities or responding to the impact of the pandemic in their proposals. The EIR program funding recipients are exploring ways to address the impact of school closures and lost instructional time. EIR program funding supports USD46 million in grants to rural areas, USD67 million in grants focused on STEM education (including computer science), and USD73 million in grants supporting social-emotional learning projects.

On 13 December 2021, Secretary Raimondo announced 60 finalists for the US Economic Development Administration's USD1 billion "Build Back Better Regional Challenge."⁴²⁹⁶ The Challenge provides investments – up to USD100 million per grantee – to develop and strengthen regional industry clusters across the country, all while embracing economic equity, creating good-paying jobs and enhancing US competitiveness globally. Finalists were provided with USD500,000 to further develop their projects in advance of applying for Phase 2 funding awards. Phase 2 will grant up to USD100 million for 20-30 regional coalitions to implement 3-8 projects. Projects focus on industries unique to each region of the US.

On 14 December 2021, Secretary Yellen and Vice President Kamala Harris announced more than USD8.7 billion in investments made possible by the Emergency Capital Investment Program (ECIP) to increase lending to small and minority-owned businesses, and low- and moderate-income consumers in underserved communities, including rural areas.⁴²⁹⁷ ECIP enables Treasury to directly invest in banks, credit unions, and holding companies designated as a Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) or a Minority Depository Institution (MDI). The investment includes USD3.1 billion in ECIP investments offered to 57 minority depository institutions. Lending to CDFIs and MDIs is critical because these institutions often make smaller loans and work with borrowers facing barriers in the economy and may require more time-intensive and personalized technical support. ECIP investments are designed to support responsible investments in low- and moderate-income and minority communities disproportionately impacted by the pandemic.

On 14 December 2021, Secretary Granholm and Secretary Buttigieg signed a memorandum of understanding to create a Joint Office of Energy and Transportation to support the deployment of USD7.5 billion from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to build a national electric vehicle charging network, with a focus on filling gaps in rural, disadvantaged and hard-to-reach locations.⁴²⁹⁸ The Joint Office will facilitate deployment of a convenient, reliable, affordable and equitable national network of charging stations by providing technical assistance to States and localities to strategically build electric vehicle charging stations. Assistance will include help to develop comprehensive plans for charging station networks to guide implementation of the program.

On 21 December 2021, the Department of Labor today announced the award of a USD10 million cooperative agreement to Partners of the Americas to strengthen gender equity efforts in Mexico and reduce workplace discrimination and harassment.⁴²⁹⁹ Directed by the Bureau of International Labor Affairs, this project will work with multiple stakeholders to advance the gender equity goals of the US-Mexico-Canada Agreement including increasing the number of women in leadership positions in Mexico's unions, better protect women from workplace discrimination and harassment, and raise wages to achieve equity. The project enables worker

⁴²⁹⁶ US Secretary of Commerce Gina M. Raimondo Announces Finalists for \$1 Billion "Build Back Better Regional Challenge", US Department of Commerce (Washington D.C.) 13 December 2021. Access Date: 15 January 2022.

<https://www.commerce.gov/news/press-releases/2021/12/US-secretary-commerce-gina-m-raimondo-announces-finalists-1-billion>

⁴²⁹⁷ Secretary of the Treasury Janet L. Yellen and Vice President Kamala Harris to Announce \$8.7 billion in Investments for a More Equitable Economy at 2021 Freedman's Bank Forum, US Department of the Treasury (Washington D.C.) 14 December 2021. Access Date: 10 December 2021. <https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/jy0530>

⁴²⁹⁸ DOE and DOT Launch Joint Effort to Build Out Nationwide Electric Vehicle Charging Network, US Department of Transportation (Washington D.C.) 19 November 2021. Access Date: 15 January 2022. <https://www.transportation.gov/briefing-room/doe-and-dot-launch-joint-effort-build-out-nationwide-electric-vehicle-charging>

⁴²⁹⁹ US Department of Labor Awards \$10m To Promote Gender Equity, Reduce Workplace Discrimination, Harassment In Mexico, US Department of Labor (Washington D.C.) 21 December 2021. Access Date: 15 January 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/ilab/ilab20211221-0>

organizations to advance issues of gender equity in their own institutions. The program will also take actions to promote gender equity in the workplace with employers, such as through collective bargaining.

On 21 December 2021, the HUD today announced a USD9 million loan guarantee to the City of Cleveland, Ohio for the development of a mixed-used site that includes nearly 200 housing units and a 40,000 square foot grocery store.⁴³⁰⁰ The funding was provided under Section 108 Loan Guarantee Program (Section 108), which provides Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) recipients with the ability to leverage their annual grant allocation to access low-cost, flexible financing for economic development, housing, public facility, and infrastructure projects.

On 22 December 2021, Secretary Raimondo announced that the Department will be awarding USD4.2 million to Tribal communities in Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Oregon and Wisconsin in order for them to build broadband infrastructure and increase connectivity on Tribal lands.⁴³⁰¹ The Economic Development Administration (EDA) is awarding a USD3.2 million grant for Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, Towaoc, Colorado to construct broadband infrastructure and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) is awarding USD1 million for Tribes Arizona and Wisconsin to expand broadband connectivity. In addition to initial investment from the government, the EDA's investment is expected to create 33 jobs and generate USD550,000 in private investment. Funding was made available for these projects as a result of the passage of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act passed earlier in the year.

On 29 December 2021, the Department of Labor announced a USD8.4 million cooperative agreement to the Pan American Development Foundation to address unacceptable working conditions in El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras.⁴³⁰² The project will provide direct training, mentorship and small grant funding to at least 45 civil society and workers' organizations from across six departments in El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras. The project will train 1,200 individuals, representing civil society, government and the private sector, on labor rights and inclusion to apply their knowledge and build national and multi-country coalitions to increase collective actions to improve working conditions. The project will promote gender and racial equity and prioritize people of African descent, Garifuna and indigenous communities.

On 6 January 2022, the DOE announced USD35 million in funding for diverse small businesses to pursue scientific, clean energy and climate solutions.⁴³⁰³ 158 projects from 29 states were chosen because they aim to develop various clean energy technologies, from climate research tools to improved batteries for electric vehicles. Alongside investment in research, the money will create good-paying jobs, build a diverse climate workforce, and help achieve President Biden's goal of a net-zero carbon economy by 2050. Funding for the grants comes from the DOE's Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer programs which support businesses in sectors relevant to the DOE's missions.

On 1 March 2022, the Department of Labor announced an award of more than USD20 million in grant funding to promote equitable access to state unemployment insurance (UI) systems by improving public

⁴³⁰⁰ HUD Announces \$9 Million Loan Guarantee To Cleveland For Development With Nearly 200 Housing Units, Grocery Store, Department of Housing and Urban Development (Washington D.C.) 21 December 2021. Access Date: 15 January 2021. https://www.hud.gov/press/press_releases_media_advisories/HUD_No_21_209

⁴³⁰¹ Commerce Awards \$4.2 Million to Expand Broadband for Tribal Communities in Arizona, Colorado, Wisconsin, US Department of Commerce (Washington D.C.) 22 December 2021. Access Date: 15 January 2022. <https://www.commerce.gov/news/press-releases/2021/12/commerce-awards-42-million-expand-broadband-tribal-communities-arizona>

⁴³⁰² US Department of Labor Awards \$8.4m Grant To Address Child Labor, Forced Labor, Unacceptable Work Conditions In El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, US Department of Labor (Washington D.C.) 29 December 2021. Access Date: 15 January 2021. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/ilab/ilab20211229>

⁴³⁰³ DOE Awards \$35 Million to Small Businesses Pursuing Clean Energy and Climate Solutions, Families and Usher in the Clean Energy Future, US Department of Energy (Washington D.C.) 06 January 2021. Access Date: 15 January 2022. <https://www.energy.gov/articles/doe-awards-35-million-small-bUSinesses-pursuing-clean-energy-and-climate-solutions>

awareness and service delivery.⁴³⁰⁴ Funding is aimed at addressing disparities in administering and delivering UI benefits by race, ethnicity, language proficiency and disability status, among other groups in Oregon, Pennsylvania, Virginia and the District of Columbia.

On 1 March 2022, Secretary Walsh and Secretary Buttigieg announced a partnership with the American Trucking Associations to join the Biden-Harris administration's 90-Day Trucking Apprenticeship Challenge and launch Registered Apprenticeships for trucking.⁴³⁰⁵ The partnership marks the start of a national Registered Apprenticeship program for truck drivers designed to support recruitment and retention of drivers in good trucking jobs.

On 2 March 2022, the Department of Labor announced USD45 million in funding under the Strengthening Community Colleges Training Grants to help marginalized people and underrepresented populations overcome barriers to access career and technical education programs that can help connect them with good-paying jobs. Funding focuses on accelerating learning strategies to support career pathway development through rapid reskilling, training and employment.⁴³⁰⁶

On 3 March 2022, the Department of Treasury launched an initiative to collect demographic information to measure equity outcomes for small businesses supported by the State Small Business Credit Initiative program.⁴³⁰⁷ Information collected will inform future investment, through access to capital, for businesses owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals.

On 4 March 2022, Deputy Secretary Graves thanked the government of Bahrain for collaborating with the US to establish a US Trade Zone (USTZ) in Bahrain.⁴³⁰⁸ The USTZ enhances trade and investment between Bahrain and the US, building on existing free trade agreements to further deepen economic and industrial cooperation.

On 7 March 2022, Secretary Walsh and Secretary Buttigieg signed a memorandum of understanding of a partnership to promote the creation of good infrastructure and transportation jobs, focusing on equitable workforce development.⁴³⁰⁹ The Departments will promote investments which create good-paying jobs within unions and workforce development strategies, such as Registered Apprenticeship, focusing on workers in underserved communities.

⁴³⁰⁴ US Department Of Labor Announces Initial Award Of More Than \$20m In Grants To Promote Equitable Access To Unemployment Insurance Systems, US Department of Labor (Washington D.C.) 1 March 2022. Access Date: 19 March 2022. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20220301>

⁴³⁰⁵ Readout: Nation's Largest Trucking Industry Association Accepts '90-Day Trucking Apprenticeship Challenge, US Department of Labor (Washington D.C.) 1 March 2022. Access Date: 19 March 2022. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/osec/osec20220301>

⁴³⁰⁶ US Department Of Labor Announces \$45m Grant Funding Availability To Help Close Equity Gaps, Expand Access To Training Needed For Good-Paying Jobs, US Department of Labor (Washington D.C.) 2 March 2022. Access Date: 19 March 2022. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20220302>

⁴³⁰⁷ Treasury Launches Historic Equity Measurements for American Rescue Plan Small Business Investments Program, US Department of the Treasury (Washington D.C.) 3 March 2022. Access Date: 19 March 2022. <https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/jy0626>

⁴³⁰⁸ Remarks by U.S. Deputy Secretary of Commerce Don Graves at the Launch of Bahrain's U.S. Trade Zone, US Department of Commerce (Washington D.C.) 4 March 2022. Access Date: 19 March 2022. <https://www.commerce.gov/news/speeches/2022/03/remarks-us-deputy-secretary-commerce-don-graves-launch-bahrains-us-trade-zone>

⁴³⁰⁹ US Departments Of Labor, Transportation Announce Cooperative Effort To Advance Infrastructure Jobs For Underrepresented Populations, US Department of Labor (Washington D.C.) 7 March 2022. Access Date: 19 March 2022. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/osec/osec20220307>

On 7 March 2022, Secretary Buttigieg and Federal Transit Administration Administrator Nuria Fernandez announced USD1.47 billion in competitive grant funds to modernize bus fleets and facilities.⁴³¹⁰ Proposals will include information on how projects will address climate change, improve air quality, open new opportunities and include workforce training to help workers transition to operating and maintaining investments. Proposals are required to allocate five per cent of funding for workforce development and training, resulting in partnership with labor and the use of registered apprenticeships.

On 7 March 2022, the Department of Labor announced availability of USD55 million in Pathway Home 3 Grants, reducing barriers to employment by providing training and employment services to incarcerated individuals before their release from state correctional facilities, or county or local jails.⁴³¹¹ Funding will support educating individuals being released from jail foundational skills such as job readiness and job search strategies, and to provide apprenticeships and occupational training leading to industry-recognized credentials.

On 9 March 2022, the Department of Labor announced its partnership with the Trucking Alliance to join the 90-Day Trucking Apprenticeship Challenge and promote the apprenticeship model as a solution to get more well-trained drivers to work in good-paying jobs.⁴³¹² The Registered Apprenticeship programs promoted by the challenge will be tailored to increase outreach to underrepresented communities such as veterans, women, people with disabilities and people of colour.

On 9 March 2022, the Department of Labor announced USD10 million in grant funding to expand local work readiness programs and support workforce development activities.⁴³¹³ Funding will support efforts to connect out-of-school time organizations with state and local workforce partners to develop and implement career-focused programming. Programs include work experience, youth placement services for employment, education or training and work readiness.

On 14 March 2022, President Biden and the Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration (FTA) awarded USD409.3 million in grants to 70 projects in 39 states to modernize and electrify America's buses, make bus systems and routes more reliable and safer.⁴³¹⁴ Secretary Buttigieg said the grants would make public transportation more accessible for residents. Grants modernize and improve public transit, allowing communities to buy new-technology and electric buses, reducing or eliminating greenhouse gas emissions, promoting cleaner air and helping address the climate crisis.

On 15 March 2022, President Biden authorized an executive order to eliminate discriminatory pay practices which inhibit the economy, efficiency and effectiveness of the Federal workforce and the procurement of

⁴³¹⁰ Biden-Harris Administration and the U.S. Department of Transportation Announce Nearly \$1.5 Billion in Grants Funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to Modernize Bus Fleets and Facilities, US Department of Transportation (Washington D.C.) 7 March 2022. Access Date: 19 March 2022. <https://www.transportation.gov/briefing-room/biden-harris-administration-and-us-department-transportation-announce-nearly-15>

⁴³¹¹ US Department Of Labor Announces Availability Of \$55m In Grants To Provide Pre-Release Training, Employment Services To Incarcerated People, US Department of Labor (Washington D.C.) 7 March 2022. Access Date: 19 March 2022. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20220307>

⁴³¹² US Department Of Labor, Trucking Alliance Partnership Seeks To Expand Use Of Registered Apprenticeships To Train, Employ Needed Drivers, US Department of Labor (Washington D.C.) 9 March 2022. Access Date: 19 March 2022. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20220309-0>

⁴³¹³ US Department Of Labor Announces \$10m In Available Funding To Expand Workforce Development Services For Out-Of-School Time Organizations, US Department of Labor (Washington D.C.) 9 March 2022. Access Date: 19 March 2022. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20220309>

⁴³¹⁴ President Biden and the U.S. Department of Transportation Announce \$409 Million for 70 Transportation Projects in 39 States, US Department of Transportation (Washington D.C.) 14 March 2022. Access Date: 19 March 2022. <https://www.transportation.gov/briefing-room/president-biden-and-us-department-transportation-announce-409-million-70>

property and services by the Federal Government.⁴³¹⁵ The order requires federal departments to consider issuing rules regarding pay transparency and equity for federal contractors and subcontractors.

On 15 March 2022, the Department of Labor's Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs (OFCCP) issued a new directive to promote greater contractor attention concerning the proactive and effective use of pay equity audits to identify barriers to equal pay in their pay-setting and employment practices.⁴³¹⁶ OFCCP's directive to conduct audits will help employers address and prevent pay inequality and remove barriers to pay equity, according to the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs Director Jenny Yang.

On 15 March 2022, President Biden signed an Executive Order requiring pay equity and transparency when hiring for federal jobs.⁴³¹⁷ Under the Order, the Office of Personnel Management will issue a proposed rule to address the use of salary history in the hiring and pay-setting processes for Federal employees. This action imitates the Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council which, in consultation with the Secretary of Labor and other relevant stakeholders, shall consider issuing proposed rules to enhance pay equity and transparency for job applicants and employees of Federal contractors and subcontractors. While these actions do not specifically mention gender, the intent is to address systemic gender occupational inequalities in labour markets.

On 18 March 2022, the Department of Education's Rehabilitation Services Administration announced it would be accepting invitations for the Subminimum Wage to Competitive Integrated Employment (SWTCIE) project to increase access for individuals with disabilities to well-paying jobs.⁴³¹⁸ SWTCIE will sponsor innovative approaches which enable individuals with disabilities to secure jobs with equal pay compared to their non-disabled peers. SWTCIE is an example of a program which addresses inequalities in the labor market.

On 21 March 2022, the Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy announced a webinar to share strategies to better serve jobseekers with disabilities.⁴³¹⁹ The webinar is designed to help federal partners, states, and service providers assist individuals with significant disabilities maximize opportunities to set and achieve personal goals for employment. By learning how to better assist individuals with disabilities, local partners increase access to social safety net programs for these individuals, and as a result, expand the reach of unemployment services.

On 21 March 2022, the Department of Labor announced USD2.8 million in funding from the National Dislocated Worker Grant funding for the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services.⁴³²⁰ As a result of the funding, the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services will create positions as peer recovery coaches,

⁴³¹⁵ Executive Order on Advancing Economy, Efficiency, and Effectiveness in Federal Contracting by Promoting Pay Equity and Transparency, The White House (Washington D.C.) 15 March 2022. Access Date: 19 March 2022. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2022/03/15/executive-order-on-advancing-economy-efficiency-and-effectiveness-in-federal-contracting-by-promoting-pay-equity-and-transparency/>

⁴³¹⁶ US Department Of Labor Announces Pay Equity Audit Directive For Federal Contractors To Identify Barriers To Equal Pay, US Department of Labor (Washington D.C.) 15 March 2022. Access Date: 19 March 2022. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/ofccp/ofccp20220315>

⁴³¹⁷ Executive Order on Advancing Economy, Efficiency, and Effectiveness in Federal Contracting by Promoting Pay Equity and Transparency, The White House (Washington D.C.) 15 March 2022. Access Date: 24 April 2022. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2022/03/15/executive-order-on-advancing-economy-efficiency-and-effectiveness-in-federal-contracting-by-promoting-pay-equity-and-transparency/>

⁴³¹⁸ Education Department Launches Historic Real Pay for Real Jobs Initiative for People with Disabilities, US Department of Education (Washington D.C.) 18 March 2022. Access Date: 24 April 2022. <https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/education-department-launches-historic-real-pay-real-jobs-initiative-people-disabilities>

⁴³¹⁹ US Department Of Labor Announces Webinar On Best Practices For Increasing Competitive Integrated Employment For People With Disabilities, US Department Of Labor (Washington D.C.) 21 March 2022. Access Date: 24 April 2022. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/odep/odep20220321>

⁴³²⁰ US Department Of Labor Awards \$2.8m In Funding To Provide Employment, Training Services To Combat Ohio's Opioid Crisis, US Department of Labor (Washington D.C.) 21 March 2022. Access Date: 24 April 2022. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20220321>

support staff in hospitals and social service aids. Supported by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014, Opioid Disaster Recovery Dislocated Worker Grants create temporary jobs in peer recovery positions and provide services to reintegrate workers affected by the opioid crisis into the workforce. Grants issued to Ohio highlights the US' commitment to provide recovering addicts pursue skills which will help them in the workforce and additional jobs which deal with the consequences of the opioid crisis.

On 21 March 2022, Vice President Harris and Deputy Secretary Graves discussed the USD29.9 million awarded to Louisiana to expand broadband service.⁴³²¹ The award will invest in the Acadiana Regional Public/Private Partnership project to expand last-mile broadband deployment to the Acadiana region of Louisiana, serving 22,196 households. In addition to Louisiana, the Department of Commerce awarded 13 grants to different states as part of the Broadband Infrastructure Program totaling more than USD277 million and serving more than 133,000 unserved households. Overall, the Broadband Infrastructure Program will improve access to the internet for underserved households.

On 22 March 2022, the HUD announced USD3 billion allocated for Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) to aid in recovery from disasters and build inclusive resilience to climate change.⁴³²² The funds are allocated for disaster relief, long-term recovery, restoration of infrastructure and housing, economic revitalization, and mitigation focusing on low- and middle-income communities. The announcement suggests support for investing in infrastructure which accounts for the effects of climate disasters, especially in underserved communities.

On 22 March 2022, Secretary Raimondo and USTR Tai announced a new tariff agreement with the United Kingdom.⁴³²³ The agreement allows sustainable volumes of UK steel and aluminum products to enter the US market without the application of Section 232 tariffs. The agreement lifts retaliatory tariffs on over USD500 million worth of US exports of distilled spirits, various agriculture products and consumer goods to the UK. Lifting tariffs between the US and UK reduce barriers to trade by removing tariffs from goods.

On 25 March 2022, Deputy Secretary Graves joined Senator Roger Wicker to detail a USD32.7 million broadband infrastructure grant to help close the digital divide and expand access to high-speed internet in Mississippi.⁴³²⁴ The Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration will use the money to support 10 projects across rural Mississippi serving 12,487 underserved households, 256 businesses and 26 anchor institutions that include schools and libraries. The award makes internet infrastructure accessible to rural Mississippians.

On 28 March 2022, the HUD's Office of Multifamily Housing finalized Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) transaction with the Housing and Redevelopment Authority of Duluth, Minnesota, to rehabilitate and

⁴³²¹ Vice President Harris, Commerce Deputy Secretary Graves Travel to Louisiana to Highlight Historic Broadband Infrastructure Investments Coming to the State, US Department of Commerce (Washington D.C.) 21 March 2022. Access Date: 24 April 2022. <https://www.commerce.gov/news/press-releases/2022/03/vice-president-harris-commerce-deputy-secretary-graves-travel-louisiana>

⁴³²² HUD Announces \$3 Billion to Advance Equitable Disaster Recovery, Build Climate Resilience, Department of HUD (Washington D.C.) 22 March 2022. Access Date: 24 April 2022. https://www.hud.gov/press/press_releases_media_advisories/HUD_No_22_049

⁴³²³ Raimondo, Tai Statements on 232 Tariff Agreement with United Kingdom, US Department of Commerce (Washington D.C.) 22 March 2022. Access Date: 24 April 2022. <https://www.commerce.gov/news/press-releases/2022/03/raimondo-tai-statements-232-tariff-agreement-united-kingdom>

⁴³²⁴ Commerce Deputy Secretary Graves Joins Senator Wicker in Mississippi to Spotlight Historic Broadband Infrastructure Investments Coming to the State, US Department of Commerce (Washington D.C.) 25 March 2022. Access Date: 24 April 2022. <https://www.commerce.gov/news/press-releases/2022/03/commerce-deputy-secretary-graves-joins-senator-wicker-mississippi>

maintain many affordable homes.⁴³²⁵ The agreement includes USD218,000 in initial investment and USD4.2 million for the property's reserve funds for future repairs.

On 28 March 2022, the Department of the Treasury released the General Explanations of the Administration's FY2023 Revenue Proposals, or "Greenbook," explaining adjustments to the tax code in the FY2023 budget.⁴³²⁶ Included in the proposal are reforms to business and international taxation, modifying fossil fuel taxation, strengthening taxation of high-income taxpayers, modifying estate and gift taxation, close tax loopholes, modifying rules to accommodate digital assets, and improve compliance. The Greenbook outlines reforms and modifications to the US Tax Code which support the FY 2023 budget.

On 29 March 2022, the Department of Labor awarded USD15.9 million in equity grant funding to state unemployment insurance systems in Alabama, Idaho, Missouri and New Mexico.⁴³²⁷ Grants will support projects which make accessing unemployment services more equitable across race, age, ethnicity, language proficiency, disability status, geographic location or other systemic barriers. By funding initiatives to reduce barriers to unemployment services, the Department of Labor is increasing access to social safety net programs.

On 31 March 2022, the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs under the Department of Labor announced a directive to promote effective enforcement and increased federal contractor compliance with equal employment opportunity laws.⁴³²⁸ The directive will strengthen compliance evaluations, expedite exchange of information, and clarify expectations regarding development of affirmative action programs and support data. Strengthening enforcement of equal employment opportunity laws reduces discrimination and addresses systemic gender and racial occupational inequalities in labour markets.

On 6 April 2022, President Biden and the Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration announced more than USD20 billion investment in American transit.⁴³²⁹ The announcement represents an increase in funding for communities to upgrade, maintain, and expand existing public transit infrastructure. Expanded funding for transit infrastructure by the Biden Administration means access to public services is improved and, as a result, individuals may choose to use public transit which represents progress towards achieving climate goals.

On 8 April 2022, the Department of Labor awarded more than USD189 million to workforce agencies to operate their Reemployment Services and Eligibility Assessments programs.⁴³³⁰ The funding represents a USD40 million increase in funding for unemployment services. Reemployment Services and Eligibility Assessments programs support state's workforce development by helping states implement workforce development more equitably and expand access to service. The investment by the Department of Labor represents an expansion in support for social safety net programs designed to help individuals find work.

⁴³²⁵ HUD Closes Rental Assistance Demonstration Conversion Transaction With The Housing Authority Of Duluth, Minnesota, To Preserve 387 Homes For Low-Income Iron Range Families, Department of HUD (Washington D.C.) 28 March 2022. Access Date: 24 April 2022. https://www.hud.gov/press/press_releases_media_advisories/HUD_No_22_056

⁴³²⁶ U.S. Department of the Treasury Releases Greenbook, Outlining Tax Proposals Will Help Build a Better America, US Department of the Treasury (Washington D.C.) 28 March 2022. Access Date: 24 April 2022. <https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/jy0683>

⁴³²⁷ US Department Of Labor Awards Nearly \$16m In Additional Funding To Promote Equitable Access To Unemployment Insurance Systems, US Department of Labor (Washington D.C.) 29 March 2022. Access Date: 24 April 2022. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20220329-0>

⁴³²⁸ US Department Of Labor Issues Directive Promoting Effective Enforcement To Advance Equal Employment Opportunity, Greater Compliance, US Department of Labor (Washington D.C.) 31 March 2022. Access Date: 24 April 2022. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/ofccp/ofccp20220331>

⁴³²⁹ President Biden, USDOT Announce More than \$20 Billion for Communities of All Sizes to Support Transit This Year, US Department of Transportation (Washington D.C.) 6 April 2022. Access Date: 24 April 2022. <https://www.transportation.gov/briefing-room/president-biden-usdot-announce-more-20-billion-communities-all-sizes-support-transit>

⁴³³⁰ US Department Of Labor Awards More Than \$189m To Support Workforce Agencies' Efforts To Help Unemployed Workers Find Good Jobs, US Department of Labor (Washington D.C.) 8 April 2022. Access Date: 24 April 2022. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20220408>

On 13 April 2022, Secretary Walsh and Austria's Minister for Digital and Economic Affairs Margarete Schramböck signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to expand Registered Apprenticeships among Austrian companies and Austrian-invested companies in the US to promote job creation in both countries.⁴³³¹ Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona and Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo also signed the MOU between the US Departments of Labor, Education and Commerce and Austria's Federal Ministries for Digital and Economic Affairs, Labor, Education, Science and Research. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona commented on the MOU, emphasizing that individuals from "historically underserved and marginalized communities, have access to high-quality career and technical education and the skills." The MOU signed between the US and Austria promotes registered apprenticeships which aid in training individuals in important skills for jobs and creates jobs in the process.

On 13 April 2022, the Department of HUD announced it entered into a Voluntary Compliance Agreement with JCL Management, LLC and Pilot Cove Manor Housing Development Fund Company, Inc., resolving issues of discrimination in marketing and tenanting procedures.⁴³³² The agreement comes after evidence of disproportionately low participation rates of Black, Hispanic, and Asian residents compared to the housing area. The agreement will better enforce policies which were established to create equal access to affordable housing infrastructure.

On 14 April 2022, the Department of Transportation announced that the Build America Bureau provided a USD1.76 billion low-interest loan to Purple Line Transit Partners for the Purple Line Light Rail Transit Project in Maryland.⁴³³³ The line will connect five major city centers and connect 16 stations in the community, enhancing the potential for development. Construction of the rail line will increase accessibility to public transit infrastructure for communities near the line.

On 22 April 2022, Secretary Raimondo announced a Department Administrative Order requiring integration of climate considerations into policies, strategic planning, and programs.⁴³³⁴ The order will establish the Department of Commerce Climate Council to provide recommendations to address climate change. The Department will consider mitigation measures, adaptation and resilience measures, and environmental justice measures into its policies, strategic planning, and programs. The announcement by Secretary of Commerce Raimondo explicitly supports developing economic policy with consideration for environmental effects.

On 11 May 2022, the US and Malaysia signed a Memorandum of Understanding regarding semiconductors. The agreement aims to build supply chain resiliency and foster sustainable growth in the industry which is experiencing shortages.⁴³³⁵

On 14 May 2022, the G7 Foreign Ministers released a communique following their meeting in Germany. Among other issues, the Ministers discussed the need foster a more sustainable world and increase cooperation on matters of economic security. Pillar 13 of the communique reaffirmed G7 members' pledges

⁴³³¹ Secretary Raimondo, Minister Schramböck sign memorandum of understanding to expand Registered Apprenticeship programs in the U.S., US Department of Commerce (Washington D.C.) 13 April 2022. Access Date: 24 April 2022. <https://www.commerce.gov/news/press-releases/2022/04/secretary-raimondo-minister-schrambock-sign-memorandum-understanding>

⁴³³² HUD Announces Racial Equity Agreement With Affordable Rental Housing Provider, Department of HUD (Washington D.C.) 13 April 2022. Access Date: 24 April 2022. https://www.hud.gov/press/press_releases_media_advisories/HUD_No_22_066

⁴³³³ U.S. Department of Transportation Announces up to \$1.76 Billion Loan for the Purple Line Light Rail Transit Project in Maryland, US Department of Transportation (Washington D.C.) 14 April 2022. Access Date: 24 April 2022. <https://www.transportation.gov/briefing-room/us-department-transportation-announces-176-billion-loan-purple-line-light-rail>

⁴³³⁴ Secretary Raimondo Establishes Commerce Climate Council, Directs Department to Integrate Climate Considerations into Policies, Strategic Planning, and Programs, US Department of Commerce (Washington D.C.) 22 April 2022. Access Date: 24 April 2022. <https://www.commerce.gov/news/press-releases/2022/04/secretary-raimondo-establishes-commerce-climate-council-directs>

⁴³³⁵ Joint Press Release: U.S. Department of Commerce and Malaysian Ministry of International Trade and Industry Sign Memorandum of Cooperation to Strengthen Semiconductor Supply Chain Resiliency and Promote Sustainable Growth, Department of Commerce (Washington D.C.) 11 May 2022. Access Date: 13 June 2022. <https://www.commerce.gov/news/press-releases/2022/05/joint-press-release-us-department-commerce-and-malaysian-ministry>

to strengthen economic cooperation in Africa through the G7 Partnership for Infrastructure and Investment, the EU-Africa Global Gateway Investment Package and the G20 Compact with Africa. Pillar 37 highlighted the need for infrastructure financing and sustainable connectivity, especially in low- and middle-income countries, including diversifying supply chains and encouraging an efficient and equitable transition to a highly digitalized economy. Additionally, the pillar reaffirmed the need for long-term economic development through sustainable labour practices and open and democratic values in international markets. Pillar 40 underscored the members' commitments toward ensuring novel and emerging technologies could be used to further inclusive growth and using technologies like high-speed internet connectivity to promote sustainability.⁴³³⁶

On 20 May 2022, the G7 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors released their communique, where they pledged to support sustainability, resilience, inclusivity and strength in five core areas among others: macroeconomic stability; digitalization; climate and environment and financial market stability. Each of these pillars details numerous actions that each G7 member has pledged to implement to support a fairer recovery.⁴³³⁷

On 23 May 2022, the US hosted a meeting concerning the launch of the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework. The leaders released a statement committing to cooperate in the digital economy space, develop “new and creative approaches to trade and tech policy” that promote sustainability and inclusivity, create transparent, sustainable and resilient supply chains, and work toward decarbonizing industries through strong infrastructure.⁴³³⁸

On 24 May 2022, the G7 Labour and Employment Ministers agreed on a communique to “facilitate a just transition to a green social market economy.” Particularly, the communique introduced new language concerning resilient supply chains, integration of migrant workers and the direct impacts of changing labour markets and climate change on the international economic system.⁴³³⁹

The United States has fully complied with its commitment to strong, resilient, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth. The US has fully complied with its commitment to build resilience and sustainability by implementing clear policies addressing access to sustainable and accessible infrastructure most notably through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act which was signed into law. Additionally, the US has complied with facilitating reallocation and boosting productivity growth for all by placing small- and medium-sized enterprises at the center of several commerce policies including limiting anti-competitive practices and providing financial incentives to innovate. Lastly, the US has taken strong action towards supporting people in transition by investing in policies designed to upskill and reskill workers through workforce training and apprenticeship programs including programs specifically designed to help women, people of color, and underrepresented groups.

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

Analyst: Julia Rychlik

⁴³³⁶ Foreign Ministers' Communique, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 14 May 2022. Access Date: 29 May 2022. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/foreign/220514-communique.html>

⁴³³⁷ Foreign Ministers' Communique, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 14 May 2022. Access Date: 29 May 2022. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/foreign/220514-communique.html>

⁴³³⁸ Regarding the Launch of the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF), Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 23 May 2022. Access Date: 13 June 2022. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2022/0523_001.html

⁴³³⁹ “Crises forge strong bonds between democracies,” Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (Berlin) 24 May 2022. Access Date: 29 May 2022. <https://www.bmas.de/EN/Services/Press/recent-publications/2022/crises-forge-strong-bonds-between-democracies.html>

European Union: +1

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to strong, resilient, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth.

On 14 June 2021, the Council of the European Union approved conclusions of the annual report to the European Council on EU Development Aid Targets for 2020. The report showed Official Development Assistance (ODA) increased 15 per cent (EUR8.9 billion) from 2019.⁴³⁴⁰ Additionally, the report noted the EU as the largest contributor of ODA (46.2 per cent of total ODA), representing 0.5 per cent of EU Gross National Income (a 0.09 per cent increase from 2019).

On 14 June 2021, the Council of the EU adopted conclusions on enhancing the European financial architecture for development. The conclusions stress the need to increase development impact and address development challenges reinforced by the COVID-19 pandemic.⁴³⁴¹ The conclusions encourage the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) to work together more effectively, efficiently and cooperatively with the European development banks and financial institutions as part of Team Europe. The report focuses on the importance of investment in developing countries and fragile countries affected by conflict or the COVID-19 pandemic. The report also emphasized the need to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals.

On 15 June 2021, the EU and US released a statement following their summit. In the statement, both members agreed to renew their commitment to their transatlantic partnership and collaborate on an agenda for the post pandemic era.⁴³⁴² Commitments included intentions to engage in a sustainable global recovery, foster green growth, and strengthen trade and cooperation. Both members agreed to establish an EU-US Trade and Technology Council (TTC) whose goals include growing the bilateral trade and investment, avoiding new unnecessary technical barriers to trade and coordinating and seeking commonalities and cooperation on technology, digital issues and supply chains.

From 18 June 2021 to 5 October 2021, the European Commission has been approving member country's recovery plans in line with the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) passed by the European Parliament on 10 February 2021 as part of NextGenerationEU.⁴³⁴³ Member States have been submitting their national recovery and resilience plans, which are being assessed by the Commission and adopted by the Council before members can access the EUR672.5 billion in loans and grants allocated by the bill. Recovery and resilience plans outline the reforms and public investment projects that members will pursue with funding from the RRF. The RRF is constructed around "six objectives: green transition, digital transformation, economic cohesion, productivity and competitiveness, social and territorial cohesion, health, economic, social and institutional resilience, and policies for the next generation." In addition to meeting the six objectives of the RRF, plans must allocate a minimum of 37 per cent of funding towards climate objectives and a minimum of 20 per cent of funding supporting the digital transition (developing skills through education and increasing the availability and efficiency of public services using new digital tools). The RRF will support

⁴³⁴⁰ Official Development Assistance: Council approves the Annual Report to the European Council on EU Development Aid Targets, Council of the EU and European Council (Brussels) 14 June 2021. Access Date: 10 December 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2021/06/14/official-development-assistance-council-approves-the-annual-report-to-the-european-council-on-eu-development-aid-targets/>

⁴³⁴¹ Council adopts conclusions on enhancing the European financial architecture for development, Council of the EU and European Council (Brussels) 14 June 2021. Access Date: 10 December 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2021/06/14/council-adopts-conclusions-on-enhancing-the-european-financial-architecture-for-development/>

⁴³⁴² EU-US summit statement: "Towards a renewed Transatlantic partnership", Council of the EU and European Council (Brussels) 15 June 2021. Access Date: 10 December 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2021/06/15/eu-us-summit-statement-towards-a-renewed-transatlantic-partnership/>

⁴³⁴³ Commission welcomes European Parliament's approval of Recovery and Resilience Facility, European Commission (Brussels) 10 February 2021. Access Date: Access Date: 10 December 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_423

investment increasing internet speeds, education and training and new technologies to help build a more sustainable and resilient economies.

On 21 June 2021, the EIB Group and Landesbank Baden Württemberg (LBBW) collaborated to support small- and medium-sized companies in the recovery from the COVID-19 crisis.⁴³⁴⁴ The EIB provided a EUR95 million guarantee to Landesbank which enables them to provide up to EUR570 million in new lending to small- and medium-sized companies to alleviate liquidity shortages and support 28,000 jobs. Support for the agreement comes from the European Fund for Strategic Investments, a component of the Investment Plan for Europe to increase investments in the European economy.

On 23 June 2021, the European Parliament adopted three EU funds to strengthen the EU's economic, social and territorial cohesion totaling EUR243 billion.⁴³⁴⁵ The European Territorial Cooperation Goal (Interreg), the European Regional Development Fund and Cohesion Fund, and the Common Provisions Regulation will all have to devote 30 per cent of resources to climate action, the circular economy and investments in sustainable growth and job creation. The Parliament foresees specific measures for SMEs and outermost regions being added.

On 24 June 2021, The European Commission announced direct equity investment through the European Innovation Council (EIC) Fund for innovative start-ups and small and medium-sized businesses (SMEs).⁴³⁴⁶ The EIC invested in 69 new investments totaling EUR500 million. Investments range from EUR0.5 to EUR15 million per company and complement grants up to EUR2.5 million.

On 7 July 2021, Prime Minister of Slovenia Janez Janša announced that the Slovenian presidency of the European Parliament will focus on priorities including recovery and resilience, translating ambitious green goals into binding legislation, and the digital transition. Most Members of European Parliament (MEPs) welcomed the Slovenian presidency's priorities.⁴³⁴⁷

On 7 July 2021, the European Parliament adopted the 2021-2027 European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund to encourage more competition, investment in a sustainable economy, new markets, and technology in fisheries and aquaculture.⁴³⁴⁸ Needs of small fisheries need to be accounted for as well as plans on how to help them develop. Also, included in the EUR6.1 billion fund are provisions to compensate “fishermen who have to temporarily stop working to abide with certain conservation measures.”

On 8 July 2021, the European Central Bank (ECB) decided on an action plan to incorporate climate change considerations into policy to more efficiently allocate resources.⁴³⁴⁹ The ECB plan aligns with “progress on EU policies and initiatives in the field of environmental sustainability disclosure and reporting, including the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive, the Taxonomy Regulation and the Regulation on sustainability-related disclosures in the financial services sector.”

⁴³⁴⁴ Germany: EIB Group and LBBW join forces to support small and medium-sized companies in the COVID-19 crisis, European Commission (Brussels) 21 June 2021. Access Date: 10 December 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_3108

⁴³⁴⁵ MEPs adopt greener funds for regional development and cooperation, European Parliament (Strasbourg) 23 June 2021. Access Date: 14 January 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210621IPR06628/meps-adopt-greener-funds-for-regional-development-and-cooperation>

⁴³⁴⁶ European Innovation Council Fund: equity investments surpass €500 million in breakthrough innovations, European Commission (Brussels) 24 June 2021. Access Date: 10 December 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_3155

⁴³⁴⁷ Slovenian Presidency to focus on digital and green reforms and future of Europe, European Parliament (Strasbourg) 6 July 2021. Access Date: 14 January 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210701IPR07510/slovenian-presidency-to-focus-on-digital-and-green-reforms-and-future-of-europe>

⁴³⁴⁸ €6.1 billion to promote sustainable fisheries and safeguard fishing communities, European Parliament (Strasbourg) 6 July 2021. Access Date: 14 January 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210701IPR07518/EU6-1-billion-to-promote-sustainable-fisheries-and-safeguard-fishing-communities>

⁴³⁴⁹ ECB presents action plan to include climate change considerations in its monetary policy strategy, European Central Bank (Frankfurt) 8 July 2021. Access Date: 10 December 2021. https://www.ecb.europa.eu/press/pr/date/2021/html/ecb.pr210708_1~f104919225.en.html

On 13 July 2021, EU finance and economic ministers adopted the Council implementing decisions on the approval of national recovery and resilience plans for 12 countries to sign grant and loan agreements that will allow for up to 13 per cent pre-financing.⁴³⁵⁰ Projects are centered around six policy areas which include “green and digital transition, smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, and social and territorial cohesion.” The finance and economic minister’s decision is the final step before the countries can conclude grant and loan agreements with the Commission to receive funds and implement plans.

On 13 July 2021, President von der Leyen gave a speech at the Rome W20 Summit emphasizing the importance of women’s issues. Specifically, President von der Leyen emphasized the European Commission’s increased contribution to the Global Partnership for Education to EUR100 million per year, guaranteed for seven years, to help 40 million more girls attend school by 2026.⁴³⁵¹ Second she stressed the importance of creating equal access for women in the job market. She highlighted the EU’s agreement to cut the gender employment gap by 50 per cent by 2030. Finally, she discussed reforms and the need for more resources for parental payments and parental leave for mothers and fathers, improved childcare, and strengthening elderly care which NextGenerationEU and the new EU budget address.

On 14 July 2021, the European Commission adopted a package of proposals to make EU policies reduce net greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55 per cent by 2030.⁴³⁵² The proposals focus on climate change; however, there are policies which address development. First, there is a proposal to revise the Energy Taxation Directive to safeguard and improve the Single Market and support the green transition by setting the right incentives and removing outdated exemptions which encourage using fossil fuels. Additionally, a new Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism aims to address carbon leakage by putting a carbon price on imports of targeted products. Leakage occurs when companies based in the EU move carbon-intensive production abroad to take advantage of lax standards. To guarantee a fair transition, a Social Climate Fund is proposed to provide funding to Member States to help citizens finance investments which reduce carbon output. The Social Climate Fund is financed by the EU budget, using 25 per cent of the expected revenues of emissions trading for building and road transport fuels. It will provide EUR72.2 billion of funding to Member States, from 2025 to 2032, based on a targeted amendment to the multiannual financial framework, and would match member state funding, mobilizing EUR144.4 billion for a socially fair transition.

On 19 July 2021, the EIB provided EUR15 million to Agricover Credit IFN to support farmers in Romania.⁴³⁵³ These funds are in addition to EUR7.5 million already made available which is intended to provide “loan support to medium and small farmers, expanding its financing to facilitate the sustainable growth of agriculture and farm businesses.”

On 19 July 2021, the EESC announced its support for the new trade strategy launched by the European Commission in February 2021 as a way of improving market access and levelling the playing field.⁴³⁵⁴ The EESC welcomes the trade agenda, however, believes the agenda lacks the involvement of bodies like the expert group on FTAs. The EESC also argues that Domestic Advisory Groups (DAGs) which monitor pillars of modern FTAs, should be reinforced.

⁴³⁵⁰ Council gives green light to first recovery disbursements, Council of the EU and European Council (Brussels) 13 July 2021. Access Date: 10 December 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2021/07/13/council-gives-green-light-to-first-recovery-disbursements/>

⁴³⁵¹ Speech by President von der Leyen at the Rome W20 Summit, Council of the EU and European Council (Rome) 13 July 2021. Access Date: 10 December 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/speech_21_3684

⁴³⁵² European Green Deal: Commission proposes transformation of EU economy and society to meet climate ambitions, European Commission (Brussels) 14 July 2021. Access Date: 12 January 2022. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_3541

⁴³⁵³ Romania: Agricover Credit NFI Romania - EIB make €7.5 million of new funds available to agricultural SMEs, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 19 July 2021. Access Date: 10 December 2021. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2021-270-agricover-credit-nfi-romania-eib-make-eur7-5-million-of-new-funds-available-to-agricultural-smes>

⁴³⁵⁴ EESC supports an open, sustainable and assertive EU trade policy, European Economic and Social Committee (Brussels) 19 July 2021. Access Date: 10 December 2021. <https://www.eesc.europa.eu/en/news-media/news/eesc-supports-open-sustainable-and-assertive-eu-trade-policy>

On 22 July 2021, the EIB approved financing for high-impact investment across Europe.⁴³⁵⁵ The EIB approved EUR10.2 billion of financial support which included EUR3.8 billion for corporate innovation and small business financing, EUR2.4 billion for renewable energy and energy networks, and EUR796 million for sustainable transport among other priorities. The funds are allocated for projects across Europe which support the goals of the allocation.

On 26 July 2021, the EIB and BNP Paribas Leasing Services announced a collaboration to support small and medium sized enterprises and invest in climate change.⁴³⁵⁶ The EIB and BNP Paribas Leasing Services announced a EUR200 million loan to assist financing for small and mid-sized companies in Poland with a minimum of 20 per cent of the loan portfolio being marked for climate action. The loans will encourage investment in cohesion districts will low gross domestic product per capita, reducing economic disparity. Additionally, 20 per cent of the loan will go towards fighting climate change by investing in green infrastructure.

On 27 July 2021, Delta AM completed its first closing of the SME senior secured fund with EU support.⁴³⁵⁷ Delta AM raised EUR75 million from the European Investment Fund (EIF), backed by the Investment Plan for Europe along with other investors. The program supports French SME growth strategies while considering environmental, social and governance criteria based on companies' philosophies on climate, job creation and social inclusion. The EIF commitment is supported by the "Private Credit Tailored for SMEs" programme.

On 29 July 2021, the European Union and its Member States, as Team Europe, pledged EUR1.7 billion to the Global Partnership for Education (GPE).⁴³⁵⁸ The money the EU and Team Europe pledged is going towards three goals which focus on quality, equality, and equity. First, investing in well-trained and motivated teachers to equip students with skills for the future. The first goal includes recruiting 69 million teachers by 2030, including 17 million in Africa. The second goal aims to improve investment in girls education (aligned with the EU Gender Action Plan III) and leveraging digital innovation. The third goal promotes investment in skills to prepare students for the future, including professionals, business leaders, and decision makers for the green and digital transformation.

On 2 August 2021, the EIB announced it would guarantee a portion of Berenberg's portfolio, allowing the German bank to increase loans to small and medium sized businesses.⁴³⁵⁹ The EIB announced it would cover 75 per cent of a portfolio of up to EUR250 million under the Pan-European Guarantee Fund to help small and medium-sized companies recover from the economic effects of COVID. The loan is important because banking has shifted to low-risk assets, making it hard for SMEs to obtain financing to restart at the end of the pandemic.

On 15 September 2021, Nordea and EIB Group signed an agreement to free up capital in Sweden and Finland for investments in green projects. The EIB Group will guarantee EUR1.8 billion of Nordea loans with attractive

⁴³⁵⁵ EIB approves EUR 10.2 billion financing for private sector, energy, transport, health, housing and education, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 22 July 2021. Access Date: 10 December 2021. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2021-274-eib-approves-eur-10-2-billion-financing-for-private-sector-energy-transport-health-housing-and-education>

⁴³⁵⁶ Poland: EIB and BNP Paribas Leasing Services join forces to support small and mid-sized companies and invest in climate action, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 26 July 2021. Access Date: 10 December 2021. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2021-276-poland-eib-and-bnp-paribas-leasing-services-join-forces-to-support-small-and-mid-sized-companies-and-invest-in-climate-action>

⁴³⁵⁷ Delta AM completes first €75 million closing of its SME senior secured fund with EU support, European Commission (Brussels) 27 July 2021. Access Date: 10 December 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_3924

⁴³⁵⁸ Global Education Summit: Team Europe pledges leading contribution of €1.7 billion to the Global Partnership for Education, European Commission (Brussels) 29 July 2021. Access Date: 11 January 2022. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_3906

⁴³⁵⁹ Germany: EIB enables Berenberg Bank to expand their SME and mid-cap lending portfolio, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 2 August 2021. Access Date: 10 December 2021. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2021-276-poland-eib-and-bnp-paribas-leasing-services-join-forces-to-support-small-and-mid-sized-companies-and-invest-in-climate-action>

terms for SMEs pursuing certain green projects.⁴³⁶⁰ The funding is supported by the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI) under the European Commission as part of the Investment Plan for Europe. Swedish and Finnish SMEs which meet sustainability criteria are eligible for loans with lower than usual rates.

On 17 September 2021, under REACT-EU, Italy received funding to support the country's response to the pandemic and continue a sustainable socio-economic recovery.⁴³⁶¹ The European Commission granted EUR4.7 billion to Italy as a result of the modification of the European Social Fund (ESF) and Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived (FEAD). The money will support employment by increasing the number of young people and women hired, allowing workers to participate in training, and support tailor-made services for job seekers in addition to supporting SMEs in certain regions. Specifically, EUR2.7 billion will be used to reduce taxes paid by small businesses on social security contributions by 30 per cent in certain regions. Next, Italy will invest EUR200 million to reduce the social security contribution for employers who, in 2021 and 2022, hire people under the age of 36 with open-ended contracts. Additionally, EUR37.5 million will be used to incentivize employers who hire women, by reducing social security contributions. Furthermore, the 'New Skills Fund' will be supported with EUR1 billion by covering hours not worked assuming they are used by workers to attend training courses. In addition EUR500 million will be invested to reinforce and modernize the network of public employment services for implementing active labour market policies, making job centers more accessible for the unemployed.

On 22 September 2021, the ECB conducted a climate stress test which showed firms and banks could benefit from adopting green policies.⁴³⁶² The results of the stress test reveal firms and banks benefit from adopting green policies early on to encourage the transition to a zero-carbon economy. The tests also reveal the costs and the impact of climate risk is concentrated in regions and sectors most exposed to the physical risk of climate change which would affect their creditworthiness.

On 23 September 2021, the European Investment Fund (EIF) made an investment in Fasanara European Alternative Crowdfunding Fund, under the Private Credit Tailored for SMEs Programme of the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI).⁴³⁶³ The EIF contributed EUR20 million to jumpstart private investment. The Private Credit Tailored for SMEs programme is intended to court private institutional investment in support of market-based and tailor-made funding solutions for European SMEs. Fasanara Capital announced the fund target size is EUR250 million to support financing for European businesses, representing more than 100,000 jobs across Europe.

On 28 September 2021, the Council of the EU adopted a EUR5 billion Brexit adjustment reserve. The Brexit adjustment reserve is a fund designed to support firms such as SMEs and regional and local community organizations in response to disruption of trade flows, including new costs for custom checks and administrative procedures as a result of Britain leaving the EU.⁴³⁶⁴

⁴³⁶⁰ Nordea and EIB Group to offer new support for green SMEs in the Nordics, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 15 September 2021. Access Date: 10 December 2021. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2021-303-nordea-and-eib-group-to-offer-new-support-for-green-smes-in-the-nordics>

⁴³⁶¹ REACT-EU: €4.7 billion to support jobs, skills and people most in need in Italy, European Commission (Brussels) 17 September 2021. Access Date: 10 December 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_4731

⁴³⁶² Firms and banks to benefit from early adoption of green policies, ECB's economy-wide climate stress test shows, European Central Bank (Frankfurt) 22 September 2021. Access Date: 10 December 2021. <https://www.ecb.europa.eu/press/pr/date/2021/html/ecb.pr210922~59ade4710b.en.html>

⁴³⁶³ New Fasanara €250 million fintech fund anchored by the EIF to support SMEs across the EU, European Commission (Brussels) 23 September 2021. Access Date: 10 December 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_4861

⁴³⁶⁴ Council adopts a €5 billion Brexit adjustment reserve, Council of the EU and European Council (Brussels) 28 September 2021. Access Date: 10 December 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2021/09/28/council-adopts-a-5-billion-brexit-adjustment-reserve/>

On 29 September 2021, the Trade and Technology council established at the US-EU summit in June 2021 had their inaugural meeting where the two members worked on a variety of issues.⁴³⁶⁵ The US and EU committed to closely coordinate on several issues including promoting small- and medium-sized enterprises' (SMEs) access to digital tools, securing critical supply chains, and cooperating on emerging technology standards in addition to other areas. On the issue of technology, the members expressed a desire to drive the digital transformation that enables trade and investment, benefits workers, protects the environment and climate, strengthens technological and industrial leadership, sets high standards globally, boosts innovation, and protects and promotes critical and emerging technologies and infrastructure. They established a working group to address this issue. On the issue of trade, the members committed to work together in a working group to avoid new and unnecessary trade barriers maintain competitive, free, and fair transatlantic commerce in new and emerging technologies. The members also established a working group on Climate and Clean Tech to identify way to support technology development, transatlantic trade and investment in climate neutral technologies, products and services, including collaboration in third countries, research and innovation. Finally, the members committed to a working group on SMEs to facilitate outreach that will offer opportunities for SMEs and underserved communities, and their representatives, to express their needs, experience, strategies and best practices with policymakers with the intention of communicating barriers to digital empowerment.

On 6 October 2021, the EIB provided a loan to the Slovenian Regional Development Fund of EUR30 million for industries hardest hit by the pandemic.⁴³⁶⁶ Funds will be used to improve infrastructure, environmental protection and energy efficiency and boost the knowledge economy in Slovenia.

On 7 October 2021, Rabobank and the EIB announced they would provide more funding for impact loans to fund sustainable entrepreneurship in the Netherlands. Rabobank will match the EUR250 million the EIB provided to the bank to support entrepreneurs and SMEs who hold sustainability labels which certify the business is committed to environmental and social sustainability.⁴³⁶⁷

On 7 October 2021, the European Parliament issued its priorities for reforming the EU's policy on harmful tax policies.⁴³⁶⁸ Problems in the EU's tax system arise because there is no set of common principles that should govern how countries use their tax regimes and policies to attract businesses and profits and legislation has not kept up with innovative tax schemes. MEPs have made several proposals to reform the tax system including asking the Commission to issue guidelines on how to design fair and transparent tax incentives, reform and replace tools to fight harmful tax policies, and assess the usefulness of patent boxes and intellectual property regimes. Finally, leaders proposed a reform to the Code of Conduct on Business Taxation (CoC), suggesting that the "criteria and scope [for judging outdated taxpractices] should be broader and include an effective tax rate criterion in line with the internationally agreed minimum effective tax rate, as well as clear economic substance requirements."

On 8 October 2021, European Commission President Ursula von der LeJPY welcomed the agreement on global tax reform. In a speech she said the agreement "is a major step forward in making our global tax

⁴³⁶⁵ EU-US Trade and Technology Council Inaugural Joint Statement, European Commission (Brussels) 29 September 2021. Access Date: 12 January 2022. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/statement_21_4951

⁴³⁶⁶ Slovenia: EIB to provide €30 million to SRDF for faster COVID-19 recovery of SMEs, mid-caps and municipalities, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 6 October 2021. Access Date: 10 December 2021. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2021-325-eib-to-provide-eur30-million-to-slovenia-s-srdf-for-faster-covid-19-recovery-of-smes-mid-caps-and-municipalities>

⁴³⁶⁷ Netherlands: Rabobank and EIB - €500m extra funding for sustainable Dutch entrepreneurs, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 7 October 2021. Access Date: 10 December 2021. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2021-329-rabobank-and-eib-eur500m-extra-funding-for-sustainable-dutch-entrepreneurs>

⁴³⁶⁸ EU must step up its game against harmful tax practices, says Parliament, European Parliament (Strasbourg) 7 October 2021. Access Date: 15 January 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210930IPR13932/eu-must-step-up-its-game-against-harmful-tax-practices-says-parliament>

system fairer.”⁴³⁶⁹ Once the details of the agreement are finalized at the G20 Summit in Rome, President von der LeJPy said “We will work closely with the Member States to ensure that the EU moves forward in a united manner” suggesting swift implementation of the agreement.

On 12 October 2021, the European Commission issued the first NextGenerationEU green bond, raising EUR12 billion to be used exclusively for green and sustainable investments across the EU.⁴³⁷⁰ The bond was 11 times oversubscribed, with books exceeding EUR135 billion and interested a variety of investors. The bonds result from the adoption of the NextGenerationEU Green Bond framework earlier in September. The framework is compliant with the Green Bond Principles of the International Capital Market Association (ICMA) which reassures investors that the funds will be used for green investments. Funds will go towards financing green and sustainable projects under the Recovery and Resilience Facility.

On 13 October 2021, Commissioner Paolo Gentiloni expressed support for the “implementation of the historic global tax reform” endorsed by the G20 finance ministers.⁴³⁷¹ Once the OECD finalizes the rules for Pillar 2, Gentiloni said the “Commission will swiftly put forward a directive for its implementation in the EU.”

On 13 October 2021, Eurogroup President Paschal Donohoe gave a speech at the IMF Governor Talk.⁴³⁷² In his speech, Mr. Donohoe discussed the European economic recovery from COVID-19 as well as the challenges Europe faces. One challenge Mr. Donohoe discussed was the asymmetric impacts of the recovery on labor-intensive occupations. He stressed the importance of finance ministers balancing tax and welfare systems which protect incomes of the most vulnerable while not alienating certain skill sets and occupations. Finally, he emphasized the need to provide retraining and reskilling programs for individuals with new work arrangements.

On 14 October 2021, the European Innovation Council announced new start-up and SME champions of innovation.⁴³⁷³ Of the applicants, 65 start-ups and SMEs were selected to receive EUR363 million in funding for developing and scaling breakthrough innovations.

On 19 October 2021, the European Commission adopted the 2022 Work Programme, setting a bold and transformative agenda towards a Europe that is greener, fairer, more digital, and more resilient.⁴³⁷⁴ The agenda includes several actions to make European technology more competitive and accessible. To address the supply of semi-conductors, the Commission will adopt a European Chips Act to develop new markets for revolutionary technology and promote an advanced ecosystem. Additionally, the Commission will establish common cybersecurity standards by proposing a European Cyber Resilience Act. Finally, actions will be taken to encourage the adoption of digital skills in schools and higher education. In addition to technology, the Commission will follow up on the European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan to encourage quality jobs, fair working conditions and a better work-life balance. In addition, the Commission will strengthen social safety

⁴³⁶⁹ Statement by President von der LeJPy following the OECD/G20 Inclusive Framework meeting on the Global Agreement on International Taxation Reform, European Commission (Brussels) 8 October 2021. Access Date: 12 January 2022.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/statement_21_5166

⁴³⁷⁰ NextGenerationEU: European Commission successfully issues first green bond to finance the sustainable recovery, European Commission (Brussels) 12 October 2021. Access Date: 14 January 2022.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_5207

⁴³⁷¹ Statement by Commissioner Gentiloni on the G20's endorsement of the agreement on international taxation reform, European Commission (Brussels) 13 October 2021. Access Date: 14 January 2022.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/statement_21_5247

⁴³⁷² Speech by the Eurogroup President, Paschal Donohoe, at the IMF Governor Talk on "Euro area recovery from Covid-19 – economic policy reflections and challenges ahead", 12 October 2021, Council of the EU and European Council (Brussels) 13 October 2021. Access Date: 10 December 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2021/10/13/speech-by-the-eurogroup-president-paschal-donohoe-at-imf-annual-meetings-conference-on-euro-area-recovery-from-covid-19-economic-policy-reflections-and-challenges-ahead-12-october-2021/>

⁴³⁷³ European Innovation Council announces new wave of start-up champions, European Commission (Brussels) 14 October 2021. Access Date: 10 December 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_5225

⁴³⁷⁴ 2022 Commission Work Programme: Making Europe stronger together, European Commission (Brussels) 19 October 2021. Access Date: 10 December 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_5246

nets by creating an initiative on minimum income. Finally, once a new international corporate tax framework is finalized, the Commission will assist in its swift and consistent implementation across the EU.

On 20 October 2021, leaders of the EU met virtually at the Tripartite Social Summit to discuss “transforming Europe’s recovery into long-term sustainable growth supporting more and better jobs.”⁴³⁷⁵ At the Summit, leaders echoed each other, suggesting a need to “invest in skills and implement active labour market policies” including the “right skills to adapt to changing career paths and find new jobs in an evolving labour market.” Prime Minister of Slovenia Janez Janša emphasized learning programs to help Europeans to help ensure “green and digital transitions, even during the post-pandemic recovery, take place in a society that is able to face the challenges of the future in a sustainable way.”

On 21 October 2021, the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) called on policymakers to implement a comprehensive and holistic strategy for balanced, cohesive, equitable and sustainable rural and urban development.⁴³⁷⁶ ESC President Christa Schweng noted “we need to ensure that no areas or citizens are left behind in the just transition to a climate-neutral, sustainable and prosperous European Union.” The press release argued the challenges rural communities face (including the digital divide, low incomes, limited access to certain services, the need for better employment prospects, and specific impacts of climate change) need to be addressed holistically and with the needs of the community in mind. Solutions to make rural areas attractive places to live include good-quality services, housing, energy, leisure, education and training, lifelong learning and healthcare systems.

From 21 October to 22 October 2021, EU leaders met for a European Council summit where leaders had a “strategic discussion on EU trade policy.”⁴³⁷⁷ European Council President Charles Michel noted exchanges reflected the importance of transparency in trade negotiations and using trade to increase prosperity and jobs by promoting important standards especially on climate and social matters. Leaders also discussed Europe’s digital transformation and its impacts on economic growth, job creation and competitiveness, emphasizing “inclusive and sustainable digital policies, particularly in terms of digital skills and education.”

On 22 October 2021, the European Commission adopted a framework to increase the inclusiveness and diversity of the Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps programmes for the period 2021-2027.⁴³⁷⁸ The framework improves equity and inclusion in the European Education Area, upholding the first pillar of the European Pillar of Social Rights which contends everyone has a right to an inclusive and quality education. The framework includes: increased financial support for people with fewer opportunities to cover any additional expenses or needs, the opportunity to benefit from linguistic support, preparatory visits or reinforced mentorship for example before, during and after their project or mobility, additional help for organizations involved in inclusive projects, wider array of project and mobility opportunities of different duration and formats, priority to quality projects involving participants with fewer opportunities and addressing the themes of inclusion and diversity, and availability of more user-friendly, accessible and multilingual documents and materials.

⁴³⁷⁵ Main messages from the Tripartite Social Summit, 20 October 2021, Council of the EU and European Council (Brussels) 20 October 2021. Access Date: 10 December 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2021/10/20/main-messages-from-the-tripartite-social-summit-20-october-2021/>

⁴³⁷⁶ Dealing with sustainable and balanced rural and urban development the key to EU citizens' well-being, says EESC, European Economic and Social Committee (Brussels) 21 October 2021. Access Date: 14 January 2021. <https://www.eesc.europa.eu/en/news-media/press-releases/dealing-sustainable-and-balanced-rural-and-urban-development-key-eu-citizens-well-being-says-eesc>

⁴³⁷⁷ European Council conclusions on COVID-19, energy, trade and external relations, 21 October 2021, Council of the EU and European Council (Brussels) 21 October 2021. Access Date: 10 December 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2021/10/22/european-council-conclusions-on-covid-19-energy-trade-and-external-relations-21-october-2021/>

⁴³⁷⁸ The Commission makes Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps more inclusive, European Commission (Brussels) 22 October 2021. Access Date: 14 January 2022. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_5402

From 25 October to 28 October 2021, the European Parliament held the European Gender Equality Week. During this event, committees and delegations hosted discussions and hearings related to gender equality.⁴³⁷⁹ The agenda includes the Economic and Monetary Affairs Committee holding a public hearing on how the recovery can be designed to protect women and promote gender equality and the Women's Rights and Gender Equality Committee hosting a Conference on the Future of Europe side-event on "building an inclusive economy for women in the green and digital transformation," among other events.

On 26 October 2021, the European Commission announced a second call for large-scale projects under the Innovation Fund, to demonstrate low-carbon technologies, financed by revenues from the auction of emission allowances from the EU's Emissions Trading System.⁴³⁸⁰ The Commission is investing EUR1.5 billion to finance breakthrough technologies for renewable energy, energy-intensive industries, energy storage and carbon capture, use and storage. The Commission aims to finance projects which avoid greenhouse gas emissions, their innovation potential, their financial and technical maturity, their potential for scaling up and their cost efficiency.

On 27 October 2021, the European Commission released a report on Implementation and Enforcement of EU Trade Agreements which suggested EU exports increased as a result of effective implementation and enforcement of agreements.⁴³⁸¹ The report highlights the removal of 33 trade barriers resulting in EUR4 billion more of exports. Additionally, the report notes the Access to Markets online platform was successful in supporting 584,000 SMEs in making the process of exporting easier and faster.

On 28 October 2021, the EIB loaned Bank Ochrony Środowiska money to invest in climate action taken by SMEs.⁴³⁸² The EIB loaned EUR75 million to increase financing for SMEs with 50 per cent of the financing going towards projects with a focus on climate action including developing energy efficiency and renewable energy.

On 28 October 2021, the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) released a statement saying a sustainable industrial strategy for the EU must be inclusive of civil society and consider social impacts.⁴³⁸³ In a report on the updates to the industrial strategy for the EU, the EESC said trade unions, industry and SMEs, and public authorities must be included to shape Europe's future. The EESC also said indicators measuring the industrial strategy must measure inclusion, working conditions, and environmental sustainability. The EESC called on indicators besides investment such as wellbeing, sustainable growth, assess the shift to a "no-waste" circular economy, and how well one can access "decent work" must be included in performance indicators to make Europe's industries sustainable.

On 29 October 2021, the EU Aid for Trade Progress Report 2021 was released and highlighted the EU's support for reducing poverty and boosting inclusive and sustainable economic growth through trade, building trade capacity and infrastructure investment in partner countries.⁴³⁸⁴ The report found the EU and its Member States were the largest Aid for Trade (AfT) provider providing EUR17.9 billion in 2019. The aid

⁴³⁷⁹ Parliament to hold its second European Gender Equality Week, says Parliament, European Parliament (Strasbourg) 22 October 2021. Access Date: 15 January 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20211014IPR14936/parliament-to-hold-its-second-european-gender-equality-week>

⁴³⁸⁰ Boosting Europe's green transition: Commission invests €1.5 billion in innovative clean tech projects, European Commission (Brussels) 26 October 2021. Access Date: 14 January 2022. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_5473

⁴³⁸¹ EU exports boosted thanks to stronger implementation and enforcement of trade deals and global rules, European Commission (Brussels) 27 October 2021. Access Date: 10 December 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_5545

⁴³⁸² Poland: EIB loan to Bank Ochrony Środowiska focuses on climate action by small and medium-sized businesses, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 28 October 2021. Access Date: 10 December 2021. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2021-355-poland-eib-loan-to-bank-ochrony-srodowiska-focuses-on-climate-action-by-small-and-medium-sized-businesses>

⁴³⁸³ The EESC says a sustainable industrial strategy for the EU must be inclusive and consider social impacts to succeed, European Economic and Social Committee (Brussels) 28 October 2021. Access Date: 10 December 2021. <https://www.eesc.europa.eu/en/news-media/news/eesc-says-sustainable-industrial-strategy-eu-must-be-inclusive-and-consider-social-impacts-succeed>

⁴³⁸⁴ Aid for Trade: European Union remains the world's leading provider with €17.9 billion, European Commission (Brussels) 29 October 2021. Access Date: 12 January 2022. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_5641

benefited 140 countries and territories eligible for Official Development Assistance (Africa received the largest share of aid), and focused on women's economic empowerment, environment and biodiversity protection, and digitalization. The EU's aid is combined with investments and market access through Free Trade Agreements and Generalized Scheme of Preferences. Additionally, the EU launched global and regional initiatives for trade that promote gender equality, protect the environment, and foster decent work and digitalization, such as the Digital for Development Hub in 2020.

On 2 November 2021, US President Joe Biden, European Commission President von der Leyen and UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced a commitment to address climate change through infrastructure development.⁴³⁸⁵ President Biden, President von der Leyen, and Prime Minister Johnson endorsed five principles for infrastructure development. The first principle the leaders endorsed states "infrastructure should be climate resilient and developed through a climate lens." This principle commits the leaders to build low- and zero-carbon infrastructure systems that are aligned with net-zero emissions targets by 2050. Second, leaders agreed that "strong and inclusive partnerships between host countries, developed country support, and the private sector are critical to developing sustainable infrastructure." The intention is to develop infrastructure that lasts longer, is more inclusive, and generates greater and more sustainable development impacts. Third, the leaders resolved to finance, construct, develop, operate and maintain projects with high standards in accordance with G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investments as the baseline. Fourth, leaders agreed to usher in a "new paradigm of climate finance" to raise the capital needed to develop investment. Finally, leaders agreed that "climate-smart infrastructure development should play an important role in boosting economic recovery and sustainable job creation, where infrastructure development should contribute to equitable, inclusive and sustainable economic development worldwide."

On 8 November 2021, the Council of the EU hosted a dialogue focused on the economic outlook and digital transformation.⁴³⁸⁶ At the meeting leaders agreed that digital technology presents an opportunity for productivity and growth; however, workers need to have access to upskilling and reskilling opportunities to ensure inclusive growth.

On 9 November 2021, the Council of the EU released conclusions on the future of the European Semester in the context of the Recovery and Resilience Facility. The Council underlined that the European Semester and the Recovery and Resilience Facility should continue to "strengthen economic resilience and sustainable, dynamic and inclusive long-term growth."⁴³⁸⁷ The Council also stressed continued surveillance of fiscal, financial, economic and employment policies, paying particular attention to the green and digital transition and promote sustainable economic growth, well-functioning labour markets and social inclusion.

On 9 November 2021, the CDC Group, the EBRD, and the EIB collaborated to promote gender equality and women's empowerment in climate finance investments under the framework of the 2X Climate Finance

⁴³⁸⁵ US President Biden, European Commission President von der LeJYPY and UK Prime minister Johnson announce Commitment to addressing climate crisis through infrastructure development, European Commission (Brussels) 2 November 2021. Access Date: 14 January 2022. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/statement_21_5767

⁴³⁸⁶ Macroeconomic dialogue at political level on 8 November 2021, Council of the EU and European Council (Brussels) 8 November 2021. Access Date: 10 December 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2021/11/08/macroeconomic-dialogue-at-political-level-on-8-november-2021/>

⁴³⁸⁷ The future of the European Semester in the context of the Recovery and Resilience Facility - Council conclusions, Council of the EU and European Council (Brussels) 9 November 2021. Access Date: 10 December 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2021/11/09/the-future-of-the-european-semester-in-the-context-of-the-recovery-and-resilience-facility-council-conclusions/>

Task Force at COP 26.⁴³⁸⁸ On behalf of the 2X Collaborative, they introduced the Gender-Smart Climate Finance Guide a global industry body for gender-lens investing.

On 11 November 2021, the European Parliament announced a draft law to establish minimum requirements to protect wages across the EU by either establishing a minimum wage or the right for all workers to negotiate their wage with their employer.⁴³⁸⁹ The draft law states Member States must evaluate whether statutory minimum wages are sufficient by using criteria to put in place decent working and living conditions and include elements such as purchasing power and the poverty rate. Additionally, Member States where collective bargaining is rare should actively promote it and are forbidden to undermine collective bargaining or collective wage setting agreements.

On 16 November 2021, the European Parliament and European Council reached a provisional agreement on the 2022 EU Budget.⁴³⁹⁰ Included in the budget is an increase Erasmus+ by EUR35 million. Also included in the budget is money for SMEs and climate action.

On 16 November 2021, the EESC organized a seminar where the priorities for the recovery and reconstruction of Europe after the pandemic were discussed.⁴³⁹¹ One theme of the seminar was the need to reform EU budgetary rules to meet social and environmental goals while maintaining financial responsibilities.

On 18 November 2021, the EIB and the Instituto de Crédito Oficial (ICO) announced they would provide funds to promote export activities and international expansion of Spanish SMEs.⁴³⁹² The EIB would provide EUR300 million to the ICO and ICO will match the EIB's funding, providing EUR600 million between the two for SMEs. Specifically, the funding will go towards SMEs recovering their production capacity to strengthen their exports and expansion.

On 18 November 2021, the European Investment Fund (EIF) backed Keen Venture Partners with financing of EUR30 million to support SMEs across the EU.⁴³⁹³ The money came from the European Fund for Strategic Investments which supports the European Commission's Investment Plan for Europe and will support European SMEs their early growth stage focused on technology.

On 23 November 2021, the Internal Market and Consumer Protection Committee adopted the Digital Markets Act (DMA) proposal, setting rules on what companies with "gatekeeper" status can and cannot do in the EU. In the proposal, lawmakers outline which companies are considered gatekeepers, what they can and cannot do to ensure fair market access and prevent acquisitions which may damage the market. The law

⁴³⁸⁸ EIB and international partners promote gender equality: New guide for gender-smart climate finance on Gender Day at COP26, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 9 November 2021. Access Date: 10 December 2021. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2021-388-eib-and-international-partners-promote-gender-equality-new-guide-for-gender-smart-climate-finance-on-gender-day-at-cop26>

⁴³⁸⁹ New rules for fair minimum wages in the EU, European Parliament (Strasbourg) 11 November 2021. Access Date: 15 January 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20211107IPR16808/new-rules-for-fair-minimum-wages-in-the-eu>

⁴³⁹⁰ EU Budget 2022 deal: investing more for a strong recovery, European Parliament (Strasbourg) 16 November 2021. Access Date: 15 January 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20211115IPR17306/eu-budget-2022-deal-investing-more-for-a-strong-recovery>

⁴³⁹¹ A new vision for a new Europe: prosperous, inclusive and sustainable, European Economic and Social Committee (Brussels) 17 November 2021. Access Date: 14 January 2021. <https://www.eesc.europa.eu/en/news-media/press-releases/new-vision-new-europe-prosperous-inclusive-and-sustainable>

⁴³⁹² Spain: EIB and ICO provide €600 million to promote exports and international expansion of SMEs, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 18 November 2021. Access Date: 10 December 2021. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2021-411-spain-eib-and-ico-provide-eur600-million-to-promote-exports-and-international-expansion-of-smes>

⁴³⁹³ Keen Venture Partners gets boost from EIF to support European technology SMEs, European Commission (Brussels) 18 November 2021. Access Date: 10 December 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_6109

proposes enforcement by the European High-Level Group of Digital Regulators, a body which will facilitate coordination between the Commission and Member States.⁴³⁹⁴

On 24 November 2021, the European Commission launched the calls for proposals under Erasmus+, a program which provides opportunities for study periods abroad, traineeships, apprenticeships and staff exchanges and cross border cooperation projects in different areas of education and training, youth and sport.⁴³⁹⁵ The program provides opportunities for “high-quality and inclusive digital education and the adaptation of education and training systems to the green transition,” in addition to third countries having the opportunity to participate in targeted projects and exchanges, especially in the fields of vocational education, training and sport.

On 24 November 2021, Ecobank Group, the leading pan-African banking group, secured a long-term credit facility from the EIB to fund SMEs.⁴³⁹⁶ Ecobank Group secured EUR100 million long-term credit facility over 9 years with the EIB to support business investment across Africa. The loan will also contain technical assistance under the EIB program titled African Women Rising Initiative, focusing on training and capacity building for lending to women entrepreneurs.

On 24 November 2021, the European Commission launched the 2022 European Semester cycle of economic policy coordination. The package outlines how the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) will be better integrated into the European Semester cycle and avoid unnecessary administrative hurdles for Member States.⁴³⁹⁷ The RRF embeds EU priorities and will support Member States successfully pursuing green and digital transitions and building a more resilient EU economy. The Annual Sustainable Growth Survey outlines how SDGs will be further integrated into the European Semester to fully update and maintain consistent SDG reporting. Also included in the package is the Joint Employment Report, which indicates that the COVID-19 crisis disproportionately affected young people, workers in non-standard forms of employment, the self-employed and third-country nationals. Additionally, the report noted that consistent with labor shortages, businesses are emerging with financial difficulties, and some jobs may disappear while others will be created through the green and digital transition. Furthermore, participation in adult learning is not the standard practice throughout the EU and has been impacted by the pandemic, with wide differences across Member States.

On 24 November 2021, the European Commission launched a call for projects for the Interregional Innovation Investment Instrument (I3).⁴³⁹⁸ The I3 seeks to grant EUR570 million to support the commercialization and scaling up of interregional innovation projects which have two components. The first component is “financial and advisory support for investments in interregional innovation projects.” This strand is focused on partnerships to help accelerate market uptake and scale-up of innovative solutions in priority areas, as well as to develop a portfolio of investment projects especially in small- and medium-enterprises and start-ups. Secondly, investment focuses on “financial and advisory support to the development of value chains in less developed regions.” This strand focuses on increasing the capacity of regional innovation ecosystems especially in less developed regions to enable them to participate in global

⁴³⁹⁴ Digital Markets Act: ending unfair practices of big online platforms, European Parliament (Strasbourg) 23 November 2021. Access Date: 15 January 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20211118IPR17636/digital-markets-act-ending-unfair-practices-of-big-online-platforms>

⁴³⁹⁵ Erasmus+: nearly €3.9 billion in 2022 for mobility and cooperation in education, training, youth and sport, European Commission (Brussels) 24 November 2021. Access Date: 10 December 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_6180

⁴³⁹⁶ The Ecobank Group secures €100 million credit facility from EIB to fund SMEs, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 24 November 2021. Access Date: 10 December 2021. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2021-420-le-groupe-ecobank-obtient-une-facilite-de-credit-de-100-millions-d-euros-pour-financer-des-prme>

⁴³⁹⁷ European Semester Autumn Package: rebounding stronger from the crisis and making Europe greener and more digital, European Commission (Brussels) 24 November 2021. Access Date: 12 January 2022. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_6105

⁴³⁹⁸ Commission launches the €570 million interregional innovation investment instrument, European Commission (Brussels) 24 November 2021. Access Date: 14 January 2022. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_6129

value chains, as well as the capacity to participate in partnerships with other regions. Commissioner for Cohesion and Reforms Elisa Ferreira called this project an opportunity to “combine investment support in key European priorities like the green and digital transition with the strongest areas of innovation of each European region.”

On 25 November 2021, the Council of the EU agreed to their approach on the Digital Market Act (DMA).⁴³⁹⁹ The goal of the DMA is to ensure a competitive and fair digital sector by promoting “innovation, high-quality digital products and services, fair prices, and high quality and choice” in the digital sector. The DMA will achieve its goals by creating a level playing field by outlining rights and obligations for large platforms to promote competition. The conclusion of this step provides the Council President with a mandate for future discussion with the European Parliament which will take place in 2022.

On 25 November 2021, the EIB provided EUR185 million in additional funding for climate projects by Benelux SMEs, in conjunction with the EUR370 million provided in loans to climate-conscious SMEs in the Benelux.⁴⁴⁰⁰

On 25 November 2021, the European Commission adopted measures to improve companies’ abilities to raise capital across the EU and ensure Europeans receive the best deals for their savings and investments.⁴⁴⁰¹ Proposals include access to company trading data, increasing transparency and safety of cross-border trades, increasing integration and broadening opportunity. The Commission also adopted a proposal on the European Single Access Point (ESAP) consolidating public financial and sustainability-related information about EU companies and EU investment products, increasing potential sources of funding. ESAP is important for small companies in small capital markets, increasing their visibility to the EU and international investors. Sustainability-related information released by companies supports objectives of the European Green Deal.

On 1 December 2021, the EIB provided EXIMBANKA SR with funding to help SMEs sustain jobs, maintain liquidity, and continue to invest to maintain competitiveness.⁴⁴⁰² The EIB provided EXIMBANKA SR with EUR30 million for export-oriented companies to address disruptions in their value chains. This funding will aid Slovakia’s recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic by helping 99.9 per cent of businesses in the country and improve access to financing and come with favorable terms for SMEs.

On 2 December 2021, leaders from the EU and Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) held a virtual meeting and agreed to several items which promote growth.⁴⁴⁰³ First, leaders announced EUR3.4 billion would be available through the NDICI-Global Europe (2021-2027) for LAC to support sustainable long-term recovery from the pandemic. The program will include the European Fund for Sustainable Development Plus (EFSD+), leveraging more than EUR12 billion of investment in the region and EUR800 million will support the Caribbean’s implementation of the Post-Cotonou agreement. Second, leaders said they look forward to launching an EU-LAC Digital Alliance in 2022 to promote digital innovation and converge digital rules and standards to foster human-centric digitalization. Third, leaders encouraged the use of trade associations and

⁴³⁹⁹ Regulating ‘big tech’: Council agrees on enhancing competition in the digital sphere, Council of the EU and European Council (Brussels) 25 November 2021. Access Date: 10 December 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2021/11/25/regulating-big-tech-council-agrees-on-enhancing-competition-in-the-digital-sphere/>

⁴⁴⁰⁰ DLL and EIB: €370 million in extra funding for climate projects by Benelux SMEs, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 25 November 2021. Access Date: 10 December 2021. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2021-426-dll-and-eib-eur370-million-in-extra-funding-for-climate-projects-by-benelux-smes>

⁴⁴⁰¹ Capital Markets Union: Commission proposes new measures to boost Europe’s capital markets, European Commission (Brussels) 25 November 2021. Access Date: 10 December 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_6251

⁴⁴⁰² Slovakia: EIB provides €30 million to EXIMBANKA SR to accelerate COVID-19 recovery of SMEs and mid-caps, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 1 December 2021. Access Date: 10 December 2021. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2021-431-eib-provides-eur30-million-to-eximbanka-sr-to-accelerate-covid-19-recovery-of-smes-and-mid-caps>

⁴⁴⁰³ EU-Latin America & Caribbean Leaders’ Meeting: Joining forces for a sustainable post-COVID recovery - Press release by Presidents Michel and von der LeJNY, Council of the EU and European Council (Brussels) 2 December 2021. Access Date: 10 December 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2021/12/02/eu-latin-america-caribbean-leaders-meeting-joining-forces-for-a-sustainable-post-covid-recovery/>

agreements as a driver of economic recovery, job creation and business, and investment opportunities. Finally, at the meeting leaders discussed cooperation to confront rising inequality and promote social cohesion. During this discussion, the EU announced the launch of a new Team Europe Initiative in 2022 focusing on “addressing structural challenges, such as building resilient social protection systems, reshaping fiscal policies and promoting inclusive public policy design.”

On 6 December 2021, the Council of the EU agreed to its position on a draft law on pay transparency.⁴⁴⁰⁴ The purpose of the law is to decrease pay discrimination and promote closing the gender pay gap. Specifically, the law mandates employers provide “objective and gender-neutral criteria used to define their pay and career progression” and gives employees the right to request information on the “pay level and the average pay levels for workers doing the same work or work of equal value, broken down by sex.”

On 8 December 2021, the EIB Group and Deutsche Bank announced a collaboration to help SMEs during the COVID-19 pandemic.⁴⁴⁰⁵ The EIB Group provided a guarantee of EUR75 million allowing Deutsche Bank to loan EUR300 million to small and medium-sized companies to relieve liquidity shortages caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The loan is funded by the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI), a pillar of the Investment Plan for Europe.

On 8 December 2021, the EIB and Tesi co-invested in innovative SMEs affected by the COVID-19 pandemic whose growth was hampered by the pandemic and don’t have easy access to venture capital.⁴⁴⁰⁶ Both the EIB and Tesi invested EUR50 million each to aid Finnish SMEs grow and innovate despite effects of the pandemic. The European Guarantee Fund (EGF) was established by a package passed by the EU to provide funding to parts of the EU economy affected by the pandemic. In this case, the EGF protects companies who are affected by the pandemic by providing funds for the EIB and EIF to make loans, guarantees, asset-backed securities, equity, and other financial instruments available to mostly SMEs.

On 9 December 2021, the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) asked the European Commission to be more ambitious in directing the European economy to be more sustainable.⁴⁴⁰⁷ The EESC proposed a series of new indicators be developed which integrates the European Green Deal and EU economic governance framework, revising and better tracking the ‘greening’ of finance. The EESC also recommended sustainability factors should be considered in financial sector risk management and rules on capital provisions and implement measures to prevent loopholes allowing companies to greenwash. The EESC embraces the European Green Bond Standard to directing investors towards investments in projects benefiting the environment.

On 9 December 2021, Vice President of the EIB Ricardo Mourinho Félix announced a series of deals totaling EUR63 million to strengthen its support for entrepreneurship, innovation and social infrastructure in

⁴⁴⁰⁴ Council agrees on common position to tackle gender pay gap, Council of the EU and European Council (Brussels) 6 December 2021. Access Date: 10 December 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2021/12/06/council-agrees-on-common-position-to-tackle-gender-pay-gap/>

⁴⁴⁰⁵ Germany: EIB Group and Deutsche Bank join forces to support small and medium-sized companies during the COVID-19 crisis, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 8 December 2021. Access Date: 10 December 2021. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2021-442-germany-eib-group-and-deutsche-bank-join-forces-to-support-small-and-medium-sized-companies-during-the-covid-19-crisis>

⁴⁴⁰⁶ Finland: EIB and Tesi - €100 million in new financing for SMEs, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 8 December 2021. Access Date: 10 December 2021. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2021-441-eib-and-tesi-eur100-million-in-new-financing-for-finnish-smes>

⁴⁴⁰⁷ EESC asks the European Commission to be more ambitious in efforts to steer the EU economy and finance toward sustainability, European Economic and Social Committee (Brussels) 9 December 2021. Access Date: 14 January 2021. <https://www.eesc.europa.eu/en/news-media/press-releases/eesc-asks-european-commission-be-more-ambitious-efforts-steer-eu-economy-and-finance-toward-sustainability>

Tunisia.⁴⁴⁰⁸ Included in the deal is EUR45 million for the public transport authority Transtu to support more inclusive and sustainable mobility. The deal is co-financed by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development for an overall amount of EUR90 million. A EUR9 million deal was signed by the Vice President Felix with Enda Tamweel to strengthen the EIB's support for Tunisian micro-entrepreneurs. The money goes towards financing OneTech Group's investments in research, development and innovation, while strengthening its production capacity. The initial loan has already helped create 1,300 jobs, 50 per cent of which are held by women.

On 14 December 2021, the European Parliament confirmed the decision to organize youth-focused and youth-centric activities and initiatives across all Member States in line with the 2022 European Year of Youth.⁴⁴⁰⁹ Designating 2022 the Year of Youth means efforts will be made to include youth priorities in relevant policy and consult leading youth organizations in the policy process. Leaders in the European Parliament added EUR8 million for the Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps programmes. This initiative is supported by the European Parliament's Culture and Education chair Sabine VerhejPY who suggested that you be engaged in issues including but not limited to pensions, attractiveness of rural areas, digitization or climate change. Chair VerhejPY emphasized the need to engage youth on issues of entrepreneurship and economic development because "young professionals in particular need to be empowered to create space for bold young innovations and forward-looking start-ups."⁴⁴¹⁰ Finally, she stressed the challenges that youth face in school and entering the labor market and underlined the need for lawmakers and youth to work together to find solutions to these problems.

On 15 December 2021, Team Europe, EIB and the European Commission announced a collaboration to modernize vocational education. An EIB loan of EUR58 million to finance the construction, renovation and upgrade of existing vocational education and training (VET) school will be provided to the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine.⁴⁴¹¹ The EU's Neighbourhood Investment Platform (NIP) will provide an additional investment of EUR8.5 million grant for technical assistance. The loan supplements implementation of the EU4Skills: Better Skills for Modern Ukraine programme of the European Union, co-funded with the governments of Germany, Finland, Poland and Estonia. The loan supports the reform and modernization of Ukraine's educational system and green and sustainable social and economic growth. Modernized VET infrastructure will allow Ukrainians to develop in demand skills desired by the local job market, reducing unemployment, accelerate economic growth, and increase the competitiveness of local companies with a skilled workforce.

On 15 December 2021, the EIB and Alitheia IDF announced a deal to close the investment gap between male and female entrepreneurs to encourage African women as producers, distributors and consumers.⁴⁴¹² It is estimated that African women receive less than five per cent of all investment on the continent even though over 40 per cent of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Africa are women-led. The EIB invested

⁴⁴⁰⁸ Tunisia: EIB mobilises €63 million to strengthen its support for entrepreneurship, innovation and social infrastructure, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 9 December 2021. Access Date: 14 January 2021. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2021-444-tunisie-la-bei-mobilise-63-millions-d-euros-pour-renforcer-son-soutien-a-l-entreprenariat-a-l-innovation-et-aux-infrastructures-sociales>

⁴⁴⁰⁹ European Year of Youth 2022 to empower young people, European Parliament (Strasbourg) 14 December 2021. Access Date: 15 January 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20211210IPR19216/european-year-of-youth-2022-to-empower-young-people>

⁴⁴¹⁰ Year of European Youth in 2022: CULT chair VerhejPY congratulates Commission's proposal, European Parliament (Strasbourg) 15 September 2021. Access Date: 15 January 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210915IPR12628/year-of-european-youth-in-2022-verhejPY-congratulates-commission-s-proposal>

⁴⁴¹¹ Ukraine: Team Europe - EIB and the European Commission join forces to modernise vocational education, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 15 December 2021. Access Date: 14 January 2021. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2021-461-ukraine-team-europe-eib-and-the-european-commission-join-forces-to-modernise-vocational-education>

⁴⁴¹² EIB-supported gender lens investment fund Alitheia IDF announces final close at \$100 million, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 15 December 2021. Access Date: 14 January 2021. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2021-455-eib-supported-gender-lens-investment-fund-alitheia-idf-announces-final-close-at-usd100-million>

EUR24.6 million to make Alitheia IDF the largest gender-lens private equity fund by value in Africa. All together Alitheia IDF was able to create a EUR100 million fund to support women entrepreneurs in Africa.

On 21 December 2021, the European Investment Fund and its parent, the European Investment Bank, signed a securitization transaction with Santander Leasing S.A. that will help Santander Bank Polska group.⁴⁴¹³ Under the deal, the EIB Group will provide a First Loss Piece (FLP) guarantee EUR74 million in a synthetic securitization of a EUR591 million granular portfolio of leasing and loan receivables originated by Santander Leasing S.A., a member of Santander Bank Polska group. EIB Group's FLP tranche exposure is backed by the EGF and the senior tranche will be retained by the originator. The money is intended to address working capital and liquidity needs, and the investment constraints of SMEs in the context of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the recovery. Santander Bank Polska will make EUR44 million of new lending available to Polish SMEs on favorable terms.

On 21 December 2021, the EIB and Carbios announced a loan agreement supported by the European Commission InnovFin Energy Demonstration Programme.⁴⁴¹⁴ The EIB is providing a loan of EUR30 million to support high potential innovative projects developed by companies aiming to achieve transformative changes aligned with the EU Climate goals and contribute to the EU industry's leadership in the development of sustainable technologies. Carbios will use the loan to support the strategic industrial and commercial development of PET[1] enzymatic recycling aiming at transforming post-consumer PET plastic and polyester fibers to their original building blocks (monomers) through a biological enzymatic depolymerization process. The technology would allow PET plastic producers to replace petrochemicals with monomers from PET plastic waste, resulting in 100 per cent recycled PET content in new products.

On 23 December 2021, the EIB supported Ercros' innovation, decarbonization, and modernization strategy with EUR40 million.⁴⁴¹⁵ The money will help Ercros reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 39 per cent by 2050 and strengthen its competitive position. Ercros will focus on improving energy efficiency and extending the use of renewable energy to achieve emissions reduction. Money for Ercros comes from the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI). Specifically, loan will support investments to increase safety of facilities, develop more efficient production processes with lower emissions, and promote the development of new biodegradable products and products that use recycled materials in their composition.

On 17 and 18 February 2022, the European Union-African Union Summit took place in Brussels.⁴⁴¹⁶ The summit focused on renewing the relationship between the EU and the African Union whilst providing the opportunity for foundations to be laid for enhanced cooperation. Prosperity was one of the key priorities of this encounter.

⁴⁴¹³ Poland: EIB Group and Santander Bank Polska group agree new financing for SMEs under the European Guarantee Fund, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 21 December 2021. Access Date: 14 January 2021. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2021-481-poland-eib-group-and-santander-bank-polska-group-agree-new-financing-for-polish-smes-under-the-european-guarantee-fund>

⁴⁴¹⁴ France: The EIB, with the support of the European Commission, is financing a €30m loan for Carbios' enzymatic recycling technology to support the circular economy, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 21 December 2021. Access Date: 14 January 2021. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2021-476-the-eib-with-the-support-of-the-european-commission-is-financing-a-eur30m-loan-for-carbios-enzymatic-recycling-technology-to-support-the-circular-economy>

⁴⁴¹⁵ Spain: EIB supports Ercros' innovation, decarbonisation and modernisation strategy with EUR 40 million, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 23 December 2021. Access Date: 14 January 2021. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2021-486-spain-eib-supports-ercros-innovation-decarbonisation-and-modernisation-strategy-with-eur-40-million>

⁴⁴¹⁶ The European Union-African Union Summit: Renewing a Special Partnership (17-18 Feb.2022), France Diplomacy (Paris) 17 February 2022. Access Date: 27 February 2022. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/afrika/news/article/the-european-union-african-union-summit-renewing-a-special-partnership-17-18>

On 8 March 2022, the European Globalization Adjustment Fund for Displaced Workers approved a request for Spain for an amount of EUR2.8 million.⁴⁴¹⁷ Funds will cover most costs for tools for dismissed workers from a Nissan production plant in Spain to find jobs. Tools for workers include guidance and advice, support to develop new skills, and help to start their own business. The initiative will help ensure workers are not left behind by reducing barriers to employment through retraining.

On 9 March 2022, Duferco Energia SpA with Cassa Depositi e Prestiti (CDP), Crédit Agricole Italia and the EIB entered into a EUR26 million finance contract to add 1,800 new EV charging stations in Italy.⁴⁴¹⁸ The project will install EV charging stations connected to distribution networks, located mainly in central and northern Italian regions.

On 14 March 2022, the EIB Group announced a synthetic securitization allowing BNL BNP Paribas to provide subsidized loans up to EUR470 million to Italian SMEs.⁴⁴¹⁹ Loans to SMEs can be applied to various investments including research and innovation.

On 14 March 2022, member states in the EU adopted a directive to set quantitative target for the proportion of members of the under-represented sex on the boards of listed companies.⁴⁴²⁰ The directive states companies must reach equality by 2027 to reach a minimum target of having 40 per cent of non-executive director positions held by members of the under-represented sex, or 33 per cent if all board members are included. Furthermore, the directive mentions member states need to ensure that companies give priority to candidates of the under-represented sex when choosing between candidates who are equally qualified in terms of suitability, competence and professional performance.

On 14 March 2022, EU Parliament and Council negotiators agreed on setting up the international procurement instrument (IPI) to help open markets to EU member countries.⁴⁴²¹ IPI tools empower the Commission to determine whether and to what extent companies from a third country must be subject to an IPI measure, depending on the extent of the trade barriers and will include new provisions taking into consideration social, environmental, and labour requirements when judging bids.

On 15 March 2022, the EIB Group (EIB and EIF) and Bank Millennium S.A. announced PLN4.2 billion will be made available to Polish small and medium-sized companies via a synthetic securitization of a portfolio of SME loans.⁴⁴²² The EIB's guarantee will support working capital and liquidity needs and the investment constraints of Polish SMEs affected by the COVID-19 crisis. Investment by the EIB Group will help Polish SMEs be more competitive in markets resulting from a quick recovery from the impacts of the COVID-19 crisis, making them more competitive in the long run.

⁴⁴¹⁷ EU job-search aid worth €2.8m for 450 dismissed car industry workers in Spain, European Parliament (Strasbourg) 8 March 2022. Access Date: 20 March 2022. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20220304IPR24797/eu-job-search-aid-worth-EU2-8m-for-450-dismissed-car-industry-workers-in-spain>

⁴⁴¹⁸ Italy: €26 million to Duferco to strengthen the national electric charging network, EIB (Luxembourg) 9 March 2022. Access Date: 20 March 2022. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2022-120-energy-eur26-million-to-duferco-to-strengthen-the-national-electric-charging-network>

⁴⁴¹⁹ Italy: BNL BNP Paribas and the EIB Group - €470 million credit line to support businesses, EIB (Luxembourg) 14 March 2022. Access Date: 20 March 2022. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2022-127-bnl-bnp-paribas-and-the-eib-group-eur470-million-credit-line-to-support-businesses>

⁴⁴²⁰ Council agrees on common position to tackle gender pay gap, Council of the EU and European Council (Brussels) 14 March 2022. Access Date: 20 March 2022. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2022/03/14/les-etats-membres-arretent-leur-position-sur-une-directive-europeenne-visant-a-renforcer-l-egalite-entre-les-femmes-et-les-hommes-dans-les-conseils-d-administration/>

⁴⁴²¹ International public procurement instrument: New tool to support EU firms, European Parliament (Strasbourg) 14 March 2022. Access Date: 20 March 2022. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20220309IPR25152/international-public-procurement-instrument-new-tool-to-support-eu-firms>

⁴⁴²² Poland: EIB Group and Bank Millennium S.A. support small and medium-sized companies, EIB (Luxembourg) 15 March 2022. Access Date: 20 March 2022. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2022-129-poland-eib-group-and-bank-millennium-s-a-support-polish-small-and-medium-sized-companies>

On 16 March 2022, the EU imposed anti-subsidy duties on imports of stainless-steel cold-rolled flat products originating in Indonesia and India.⁴⁴²³ The duties counter trade-distorting export restrictions on key raw materials resulting from financing provided by China to Indonesia. The arrangement is part of a complex subsidy arrangement designed to target goods exported to the EU. This action by the EU does not support reducing barriers to trade because it increases tariffs on goods from Indonesia and India.

On 17 March 2022, the committees on Women's Rights and Employment announced their support for the European Commission's proposal on a Pay Transparency Directive.⁴⁴²⁴ The MEPs position states that companies with 50 employees are required to disclose pay information broken down by sex, allowing for easier comparison of pay and expose existing gender pay gaps. Additionally, the proposal would shift the burden of proof to companies to prove they have fair pay practices in court.

On 21 March 2022, the European Commission approved EUR2 billion in Austrian aid under the Recovery and Resilience Facility to expand infrastructure for broadband access.⁴⁴²⁵ The spending will support installation of broadband access networks offering speeds of at least 100 Mbps download and 100 Mbps upload and able to increase speeds in the future. Priority financing will support internet infrastructure investment in areas where end users do not yet have broadband access at download speeds of at least 30 Mbps. Approval for Austria to use Recovery and Resilience Facility funds to increase internet infrastructure supports the EU's commitment to make investments which improve access to infrastructure.

On 22 March 2022, African and European multilateral and bilateral partners (including the EIB) signed a working arrangement to institute an alliance to support private sector growth in Africa.⁴⁴²⁶ The alliance aims to improve Africa's business environment and support the growth and success of SMEs, women in business and young entrepreneurs by expanding financing options. Additionally, there will be a focus on supporting reforms to improve the business and investment climate across Africa and facilitate the growth of private sector initiatives in more sustainable green and digital sectors.

On 24 March 2022, MEPs approved France's request for EUR4 million in support from the European Globalization Adjustment Fund for Displaced Workers.⁴⁴²⁷ Former workers of vending machine company Selecta will receive support in terms of learning new skills through vocational training, job search assistance, and funding to start their own business in response to losing their jobs. MEPs approval of France's request suggests support for policies designed to upskill and reskill workers and temporarily expanding the social safety net to support displaced workers.

On 24 March 2022, the European Parliament, European Commission, and Council of the EU negotiators provisionally agreed to text on the Digital Markets Act (DMA).⁴⁴²⁸ Lawmakers agreed that messaging services

⁴⁴²³ EU counters steel subsidies resulting from export restrictions on raw materials and transnational subsidies from China, European Commission (Brussels) 16 March 2022. Access Date: 20 March 2022.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_22_1774

⁴⁴²⁴ Gender pay gap: MEPs back binding pay-transparency measures, European Parliament (Strasbourg) 17 March 2022. Access Date: 23 April 2022. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20220309IPR25158/gender-pay-gap-meps-back-binding-pay-transparency-measures>

⁴⁴²⁵ State aid: Commission approves €2 billion Austrian scheme under Recovery and Resilience Facility to support roll out of broadband networks, European Commission (Brussels) 21 March 2022. Access Date: 23 April 2022.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_22_1922

⁴⁴²⁶ IFC, African and European Partners Launch Alliance to Support Private Sector Growth in Africa, EIB (Luxembourg) 22 March 2022. Access Date: 23 April 2022. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2022-139-ifc-et-des-partenaires-africains-et-europeens-s-allient-pour-soutenir-le-developpement-du-secteur-privé-en-afrique>

⁴⁴²⁷ COVID-19: EU job-search aid worth €4 million for 473 dismissed workers in France, European Parliament (Strasbourg) 24 March 2022. Access Date: 23 April 2022. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20220321IPR25921/covid-19-eu-job-search-aid-worth-EU4-million-for-473-dismissed-workers-in-france>

⁴⁴²⁸ Deal on Digital Markets Act: EU rules to ensure fair competition and more choice for users, European Parliament (Strasbourg) 24 March 2022. Access Date: 23 April 2022. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20220315IPR25504/deal-on-digital-markets-act-ensuring-fair-competition-and-more-choice-for-users>

must interoperate with smaller messaging platforms allowing users to better integrate communication across different messaging products, increasing choice. The agreement also included language requiring personal data for targeted advertising only to be used with explicit consent to the gatekeeper. The agreement between lawmakers represents an update to competition policy for the digital age.

On 25 March 2022, the Council of the EU and European Parliament reached a provisional agreement on the DMA.⁴⁴²⁹ The agreement defines clear rules for large online platforms to make the digital sector fairer and more competitive. The legislation ensures a large online platform acting as a ‘gatekeeper’ cannot abuse its position to the detriment of other companies desiring access to users. The DMA adapts digital competition policy to limit the reach of ‘gatekeeper’ companies, thereby encouraging fair competition.

On 28 March 2022, Telecom Egypt signed an agreement with the EIB to secure a loan of EUR150 million to expand 4G broadband network across Egypt.⁴⁴³⁰ The agreement will expand coverage to include less densely populated areas and improve competition and affordability of services for customers. By expanding mobile network infrastructure, Telecom Egypt’s network provides Egyptians with sustainable and accessible internet access.

On 29 March 2022, the European Commission approved Sweden’s EUR3.3 billion Recovery and Resilience Plan.⁴⁴³¹ According to the Commission, Sweden’s plan includes 44.4 percent of funding supporting climate objectives and focuses on investments to support the low carbon and energy transitions, as well as sustainable infrastructure. Additionally, the plan includes reforms and investments to improve vocational training and skill development through both increasing the number of training opportunities and study places, focusing on individuals who currently have difficulties finding employment. Finally, Sweden’s plan includes measures to alleviate shortages in affordable housing infrastructure. Sweden’s Recovery and Resilience Plan includes investments which consider environmental impacts, educational policies designed to upskill and reskill workers, and increase in access to accessible infrastructure.

On 1 April 2022, the InvestEU Investment Committee confirmed the EU guarantee for EIB financing totaling EUR1.9 billion.⁴⁴³² InvestEU will support investment in clean energy, education, improved internet connection, water, and wastewater infrastructure. The first investments from the program will support InvestEU’s social investments, skills window, and sustainable infrastructure window. InvestEU financially supports safe, sustainable infrastructure projects which improve accessibility to resources for individuals in addition to jobs programs.

On 4 April 2022, the Council of the EU followed the European Parliament’s action in approving an extension to the roam like at home scheme until 2032.⁴⁴³³ The policy allows individuals to make calls, text, and use the internet from their phones while traveling in the EU at no additional cost. The scheme adapts digital policy for the digital age by eliminating additional cellular costs for Europeans while traveling in Europe.

⁴⁴²⁹ Digital Markets Act (DMA): agreement between the Council and the European Parliament, Council of the EU and European Council (Brussels) 25 March 2022. Access Date: 23 April 2022. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2022/03/25/council-and-european-parliament-reach-agreement-on-the-digital-markets-act/>

⁴⁴³⁰ Egypt: Telecom Egypt cooperates with EIB to secure a €150 million investment to expand mobile broadband network, EIB (Luxembourg) 28 March 2022. Access Date: 23 April 2022. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2022-175-telecom-egypt-cooperates-with-eib-to-secure-a-eur150-million-investment-to-expand-mobile-broadband-network>

⁴⁴³¹ NextGenerationEU: European Commission endorses Sweden's €3.3 billion recovery and resilience plan, European Commission (Brussels) 29 March 2022. Access Date: 23 April 2022. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_22_1992

⁴⁴³² InvestEU Fund backs first projects, EIB (Luxembourg) 4 April 2022. Access Date: 23 April 2022. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/news/investeu-fund-backs-first-projects>

⁴⁴³³ Mobile roaming with no extra fees to continue, following Council approval, Council of the EU and European Council (Brussels) 4 April 2022. Access Date: 23 April 2022. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2022/04/04/mobile-roaming-with-no-extra-fees-to-continue-as-council-approves-revised-regulation/>.

On 5 April 2022, the European Commission raised an additional EUR6 billion in NextGenerationEU funds with its second NextGenerationEU green bond syndication.⁴⁴³⁴ Funds will support Europe's green transformation by financing sustainable investments in the Member States' Recovery and Resilience Plans. These additional resources will further support building a greener, more digital and more resilient Europe. NextGenerationEU is an example of a program which assesses environmental impact as a condition of funding.

On 5 April 2022, the European Parliament agreed to enter into negotiations with EU governments on a European Commission proposal for a Pay Transparency Directive.⁴⁴³⁵ MEPs supported text which was advanced by the committees on Women's Rights and Employment. Once a final agreement is achieved, the Directive will begin to address systemic gender occupational inequalities in labour markets.

On 6 April 2022, the European Commission published a recommendation on recognition of Ukrainian academic and professional qualifications.⁴⁴³⁶ Commissioner Thierry Breton noted the recommendation "will help those fleeing the war find a path to meaningful employment, while facilitating their integration."⁴⁴³⁷ The Commission's recommendation reduces barriers for Ukrainian refugees to find employment in Europe.

On 7 April 2022, the Board of Directors of the EIB approved EUR316 million for urban and rural development and EUR15 million for high-speed connection.⁴⁴³⁸ Specifically, a portion of the development funding will go to Poland to improve urban transport, enhance schools and reduce energy use. The investment in high-speed connection will increase high-capacity and low latency connectivity and improve Latin America, Africa, and the Middle East's connection. The investments by the board of directors improve accessibility to public infrastructure and communication.

On 7 April 2022, the European Commission endorsed Bulgaria's EUR6.3 billion Recovery and Resilience Plan.⁴⁴³⁹ Bulgaria's plan dedicates 59 per cent of funding towards measures supporting climate change objectives. Additionally, the Bulgarian plan includes proposals to foster social inclusion, by strengthening the adequacy and coverage of the minimum income scheme and improving the provision of employment and social services and their integration. These proposals suggest support from Bulgaria and the EU for making economic policy decisions with consideration given for the environment and improving social safety net programs, respectively.

On 7 April 2022, the European Parliament adopted its position on the Right to Repair.⁴⁴⁴⁰ MEPs adopted the proposal demanding products should be designed to last longer, to be safely repaired, and their parts easily removed. Parliament members decided that practices which limit the right to repair or lead to obsolescence could be considered as "unfair commercial practices" and banned under EU law. MEPs demanding devices

⁴⁴³⁴ NextGenerationEU: European Commission supports Europe's sustainable transition with second green bond syndication, European Commission (Brussels) 5 April 2022. Access Date: 23 April 2022. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_22_2271

⁴⁴³⁵ Gender pay gap: Parliament backs binding pay-transparency measures, European Parliament (Strasbourg) 5 April 2022. Access Date: 23 April 2022. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20220401IPR26532/gender-pay-gap-parliament-backs-binding-pay-transparency-measures>

⁴⁴³⁶ Ukraine: Commission helps professionally qualified refugees access jobs in the EU, European Commission (Brussels) 6 April 2022. Access Date: 23 April 2022. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_22_2296

⁴⁴³⁷ Ukraine: Commission helps professionally qualified refugees access jobs in the EU, European Commission (Brussels) 6 April 2022. Access Date: 23 April 2022. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_22_2296

⁴⁴³⁸ EIB supports Ukraine and backs € 791 million clean energy, health and water investment, EIB (Luxembourg) 7 April 2022. Access Date: 23 April 2022. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2022-192-eib-supports-ukraine-and-backs-eur-791-million-clean-energy-health-and-water-investment>

⁴⁴³⁹ NextGenerationEU: European Commission endorses Bulgaria's €6.3 billion recovery and resilience plan, European Commission (Brussels) 7 April 2022. Access Date: 23 April 2022. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_22_2282

⁴⁴⁴⁰ Right to repair: MEPs want more durable and more easily repairable products, European Parliament (Brussels) 7 April 2022. Access Date: 23 April 2022. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20220401IPR26537/right-to-repair-meps-want-more-durable-and-more-easily-repairable-products>

should be easily repairable leads to greater competition in the markets, encouraging innovation and adapts competition policy for devices.

On 12 April 2022, the EIB signed a loan agreement of up to EUR8 million with Swedish company DanAds, enabling publishers to accept SMEs.⁴⁴⁴¹ Because SMEs have small advertising budgets, cooperation with DanAds to provide advertising space will boost sales and, by extension, promote innovation, growth and job creation. By providing access to advertising to SMEs will small advertising budgets, DanAds allows SMEs to better compete with larger corporations.

On 12 May 2022, the Japan-EU Digital Partnership launched, which would see discussions held on improving bilateral communication and dialogue on telecommunications, digitalization and their role in the global economy.⁴⁴⁴²

On 14 May 2022, the G7 Foreign Ministers released a communique following their meeting in Germany. Among other issues, the Ministers discussed the need foster a more sustainable world and increase cooperation on matters of economic security. Pillar 13 of the communique reaffirmed G7 members' pledges to strengthen economic cooperation in Africa through the G7 Partnership for Infrastructure and Investment, the EU-Africa Global Gateway Investment Package and the G20 Compact with Africa. Pillar 37 highlighted the need for infrastructure financing and sustainable connectivity, especially in low- and middle-income countries, including diversifying supply chains and encouraging an efficient and equitable transition to a highly digitalized economy. Additionally, the pillar reaffirmed the need for long-term economic development through sustainable labour practices and open and democratic values in international markets. Pillar 40 underscored the members' commitments toward ensuring novel and emerging technologies could be used to further inclusive growth and using technologies like high-speed internet connectivity to promote sustainability.⁴⁴⁴³

On 16 May 2022, the Trade and Technology Council Meeting (TTC) took place between the EU and the US. Established in 2021, the TTC exists as a discussion platform where the EU and US can coordinate trade, economic and technology policy. The meeting allowed representatives to discuss resilient supply chains, sustainability in the digital transition and encouraging a more productive digital environment amid increased transatlantic cooperation.⁴⁴⁴⁴

On 20 May 2022, the G7 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors released their communique, where they pledged to support sustainability, resilience, inclusivity and strength in five core areas among others: macroeconomic stability; digitalization; climate and environment; and financial market stability. Each of these pillars details numerous actions that each G7 member has pledged to implement to support a fairer recovery.⁴⁴⁴⁵

On 24 May 2022, the G7 Labour and Employment Ministers agreed on a communique to “facilitate a just transition to a green social market economy.” Particularly, the communique introduced new language

⁴⁴⁴¹ Sweden: EU backs Swedish IT champion to boost marketing reach for SMEs, EIB (Luxembourg) 12 April 2022. Access Date: 23 April 2022. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2022-194-eu-backs-swedish-it-champion-to-boost-marketing-reach-for-smes>

⁴⁴⁴² The Launch of the Japan-EU Digital Partnership, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 12 May 2022. Access Date: 13 June 2022. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2022/0512_004.html

⁴⁴⁴³ Foreign Ministers' Communique, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 14 May 2022. Access Date: 29 May 2022. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/foreign/220514-communique.html>

⁴⁴⁴⁴ EU/US Trade and Technology Council (Paris-Saclay – 15&16 May 2022), Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 16 May 2022. Access Date: 29 May 2022. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/europe/news/article/eu-us-trade-and-technology-council-paris-saclay-15-16-may-2022>

⁴⁴⁴⁵ Foreign Ministers' Communique, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 14 May 2022. Access Date: 29 May 2022. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/foreign/220514-communique.html>

concerning resilient supply chains, integration of migrant workers and the direct impacts of changing labour markets and climate change on the international economic system.⁴⁴⁴⁶

On 7 June 2022, the European Parliament and Commission announced a new minimum wage directive which would commence discussions on establishing a European-wide minimum wage. Following Germany's agreement to increase its minimum wage, the discussions would ensure that Europeans are not living under the poverty line.⁴⁴⁴⁷

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to promote strong, resilient, sustainable, balanced, and inclusive growth. The EU has fully complied with its commitment to build resilience and sustainability by incorporating environmental considerations into economic policymaking and allocating funds towards the improvement of infrastructure. Additionally, the EU has fully complied with facilitating reallocation and boosting productivity growth for all by supporting investment and innovation in SMEs. Lastly, the EU has partially complied with its commitment to support people in transition by taking steps to improve access to unemployment insurance programs, promote educational policies designed to upskill and reskill workers, develop work-based education for youth and reduce financial barriers to adult learning programs.

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

Analyst: Julia Rychlik

⁴⁴⁴⁶ "Crises forge strong bonds between democracies," Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (Berlin) 24 May 2022. Access Date: 29 May 2022. <https://www.bmas.de/EN/Services/Press/recent-publications/2022/crises-forge-strong-bonds-between-democracies.html>

⁴⁴⁴⁷ Agreement on a minimum wage directive in Europe, Federal Ministry for Work and Social Policy (Berlin) 7 June 2022. Access Date: 13 June 2022. <https://www.bmas.de/DE/Service/Presse/Meldungen/2022/einigung-ueber-eine-richtlinie-fuer-mindestloehne-in-europa.html>