

3. Trade: Investment

“We strive to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable, and stable trade and investment environment.”

G20 Riyadh Leaders’ Declaration

Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Argentina			+1
Australia			+1
Brazil		0	
Canada		0	
China			+1
France			+1
Germany			+1
India			+1
Indonesia			+1
Italy		0	
Japan			+1
Korea		0	
Mexico		0	
Russia			+1
Saudi Arabia		0	
South Africa		0	
Turkey		0	
United Kingdom			+1
United States		0	
European Union			+1
Average		+0.55 (78%)	

Background

The 2020 G20 Leaders’ Statement acknowledges the importance of “supporting the multilateral trading system” in response to the economic contraction brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic.⁶⁷¹ Additionally, the G20 leaders affirm the need to promote inclusive economic growth, fostering the integration of developing and least developed countries into the international trading system.⁶⁷²

Discussions on realizing the goal of free, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable, and stable trade and investment can be traced back to the 2008 Washington Summit. In the face of the 2007-2008 financial crisis, G20 leaders agreed to “ensure transparency” and “restore stability” while remaining committed to free market principles.⁶⁷³ Accordingly, the G20 leaders committed to

⁶⁷¹ G20 Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 21 November 2021. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-leaders-declaration-1121.html>

⁶⁷² G20 Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 21 November 2021. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-leaders-declaration-1121.html>

⁶⁷³ Declaration of the Summit on Financial Markets and the World Economy, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 15 November 2008. Access Date: 20 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-leaders-declaration-1121.html>

undertaking a Financial Sector Assessment Program report, which consists of a financial stability assessment and a financial development assessment, bolstering transparency and stability.⁶⁷⁴

At the 2010 Toronto Summit, G20 leaders drafted the Principles for Innovative Financial Inclusion, encouraging financial inclusion, stability, and market-based incentives conducive to a competitive economic landscape.⁶⁷⁵ Leaders renewed their commitment to “refrain from raising barriers or imposing new barriers to investment or trade in goods and services,” promoting free trade and investment.⁶⁷⁶ At the 2010 Seoul Summit, leaders delivered the Seoul Action Plan to “enhance the stability of financial markets,” and a modernized International Monetary Fund with “greater representation of dynamic emerging markets and developing countries,” encouraging fair, inclusive, and non-discriminatory international trade.⁶⁷⁷

At the 2012 Los Cabos Summit, leaders “firmly committed to open trade and investment,” underlining the significance of “an open, predictable, rules-based, and transparent” trade environment.⁶⁷⁸ At the 2013 St Petersburg Summit, leaders agreed to achieving “the open, rules-based, transparent and non-discriminatory WTO-based trading system,” and reaffirmed their support of free trade principles, extending their commitment to “removing barriers and impediments to global trade and investment” until the end of 2016.⁶⁷⁹

At the 2017 Hamburg Summit, G20 leaders recognized the importance of “trade and investment frameworks and the principle of non-discrimination,” vowing to fight “all unfair trade practices.”⁶⁸⁰ The leaders reaffirmed the “importance of transparency for predictable and mutually beneficial trade,” and recognized the unequal benefits of international trade and investment, committing to enhancing “international cooperation towards inclusive and sustainable global growth.”⁶⁸¹

At the 2019 Osaka Summit, G20 leaders first stated their commitment “to realize a free, fair, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade and investment environment.”⁶⁸² Additionally, they reaffirmed support for reforms to the World Trade Organization (WTO), recognizing the importance of the WTO and WTO-consistent bilateral and regional trade agreements for realizing their ideal trade and investment environments.⁶⁸³

On 29 June 2020, the WTO published Reports on G20 Trade and Investment Measures, covering mid-October 2019 to mid-May 2020. The report found that of the 154 new trade-related measures

⁶⁷⁴ Financial Sector Assessment Program (FSAP), International Monetary Fund (Washington) 29 October 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <https://www.imf.org/external/np/fsap/fssa.aspx>

⁶⁷⁵ Principles for Innovative Financial Inclusion, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 June 2010. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2010/to-principles.html>

⁶⁷⁶ The G20 Toronto Summit Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 June 2010. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2010/to-communique.html>

⁶⁷⁷ The G20 Seoul Summit Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 12 November 2010. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2010/g20seoul.html>

⁶⁷⁸ G20 Leaders Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 19 June 2012. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2012/2012-0619-loscabos.html>

⁶⁷⁹ G20 Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 6 September 2013. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2013/2013-0906-declaration.html>

⁶⁸⁰ G20 Leaders’ Declaration: Shaping an Interconnected World, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2017. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/2017-G20-leaders-declaration.html>

⁶⁸¹ G20 Leaders’ Declaration: Shaping an Interconnected World, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2017. Access Date: 23 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/2017-G20-leaders-declaration.html>

⁶⁸² G20 Osaka Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 29 June 2019. Access Date 23 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2019/2019-g20-osaka-leaders-declaration.html>

⁶⁸³ G20 Osaka Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 29 June 2019. Access Date 23 February 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2019/2019-g20-osaka-leaders-declaration.html>

implemented by G20 members, 95 were trade-facilitating and 59 were trade-restrictive.⁶⁸⁴ The COVID-19 pandemic was identified as exacerbating the trend of G20 investment policies aimed to “safeguard national security interests against threats associated with international investment.”⁶⁸⁵

Commitment Features

In the face of an economic contraction due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the G20 members “strive to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable, and stable trade and investment environment.” This commitment can be divided into two parts: the first to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable, and stable trade environment, and the second to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable, and stable investment environment.

“Strive” refers “to try very hard to do something or make something happen, especially for a long time or against difficulties.”⁶⁸⁶

The term “trade” is understood to mean the exchange of goods, services, and intellectual property.⁶⁸⁷ In the context of this commitment, a “trade environment” should be understood as the international conditions in which these exchanges take place. The term “investment” is understood to mean the act of allocating funds into something to achieve a result.⁶⁸⁸ In the context of this commitment, an “investment environment” refers to the international conditions in which investment takes place. To “realize” is to “bring into concrete existence; accomplish.”⁶⁸⁹

The WTO outlines four principles that form “the foundation of the multilateral trading system.”⁶⁹⁰ First, non-discriminatory trade mandates that countries “cannot discriminate between trading partners,” and must treat local and imported goods and services equally. Second, free trade dictates that countries will gradually work towards lowering trade barriers such as tariffs and import bans or quotas, progressively liberalizing their markets. Third, predictability encourages nations to make their trade rules clear and transparent. The WTO institutes “binding” commitments, placing a ceiling on customs tariff rates, and in certain agreements requires governments to publicly disclose their practice. The WTO includes “stability” and “transparency” under this principle. Fourth, promoting fair, rules-based trading encourages “undistorted competition.” Finally, “inclusive trade” is understood to mean “all segments of society can take advantage of the opportunities that flow from trade. This means providing equal opportunities for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) that may already be at disadvantage, including women, Indigenous peoples, youth and other underrepresented groups.”⁶⁹¹ Together, these five principles describe trading and investment

⁶⁸⁴ Joint Summary on the G-20 Trade Measures, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 29 June 2020. Access Date 23 February 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/g20_joint_summary_jun20_e.pdf

⁶⁸⁵ Joint Summary on the G-20 Trade Measures, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 29 June 2020. Access Date 23 February 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/g20_joint_summary_jun20_e.pdf

⁶⁸⁶ Strive, Cambridge Dictionary (Cambridge) n.d. Access Date: 1 March 2021. <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/strive>

⁶⁸⁷ What we do, World Trade Organization (Geneva) n.d. Access Date: 24 February 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/whatis_e/what_we_do_e.htm

⁶⁸⁸ Investment, Cambridge Dictionary (Cambridge) n.d. Access Date: 24 February 2021. <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/investment>

⁶⁸⁹ Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 24 February 2021. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf

⁶⁹⁰ Principles of the trading system, World Trade Organization (Geneva) n.d. Access Date: 24 February 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/whatis_e/tif_e/fact2_e.htm

⁶⁹¹ Spotlight on Inclusive Trade, Government of Canada (Ottawa) n.d. Access Date: 22 March 2021. https://www.tradecommissioner.gc.ca/guides/spotlight-pleins_feux/spotlight-trade-pleins-feux-commerce.aspx?lang=eng

environments that are “free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable, and stable,” and will be used to determine the compliance of G20 members with this commitment.

A G20 member can achieve full compliance for the first part of the commitment by striving to realize a trade environment in accordance with four to five of the aforementioned principles. A G20 member will receive a score of non-compliance for the first part of the commitment if it strives to realize a trade environment in accordance with one or none of the aforementioned principles. A G20 member will receive partial compliance for the first part of the commitment if it realizes a trade environment in accordance with two to three of the aforementioned principles.

A G20 member can achieve full compliance for the second part of the commitment by striving to realize an investment environment in accordance with four to five of the aforementioned principles. A G20 member will receive a score of non-compliance for the second part of the commitment if it strives to realize an investment environment in accordance with one or none of the aforementioned principles. A G20 member will receive partial compliance for the second part of the commitment if it realizes an investment environment in accordance with two or three of the aforementioned principles.

As well, this commitment has a depth component of how strong the action taken by the G20 member is. A member can fully realize or partially realize the goal of a trade and/or investment environment in accordance with WTO principles. To achieve full compliance, a G20 member must take significant action in order to fully realize the goal of a trade and investment environment in accordance with WTO principles. Examples of significant actions that warrant full compliance include enforcing WTO principles through legislative action, initiating programs to encourage trade and investment in accordance with WTO principles, and engaging with international institutions that facilitate trade and investment. Examples of actions that warrant partial compliance include reaffirmation of the commitment in official government statements and attending meetings that discuss the international trade and investment environments.

To achieve full compliance for this commitment, G20 members must take strong action towards realizing both a trade environment and an investment environment that is free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable, and stable. Partial compliance will be awarded if a G20 member only takes action towards one of the commitment targets – either trade or investment. Non-compliance will be awarded if a G20 member has completed none of the aforementioned criteria.

Scoring Guidelines

-1	The G20 member has not taken action towards realizing a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable or stable trade nor investment environment.
0	The G20 member has either taken action towards realizing a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade OR investment environment.
+1	The G20 member has taken strong action towards realizing the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade AND investment environment.

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Lead Analyst: Joy Fan*

Argentina: +1

Argentina has fully complied with its commitment to strive to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade and investment environment.

On 30 November 2021, Argentina and the European Union met virtually to discuss trade and economics.⁶⁹² During the meeting both parties discussed concerns with current trade policies, new

⁶⁹² 11th EU-Argentina Joint Committee – Trade and Economic Joint Minutes, EU-Argentina Joint Committee (Brussels) 30 November 2020. Access Date: 16 March 2021. https://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2021/january/tradoc_159395.pdf

taxation laws and interest in varying policy areas.⁶⁹³ The discussions promoted transparency and stability in foreign investment by Argentina into the EU.⁶⁹⁴

On 22 December 2020, Minister for Social Development Daniel Arroyo, Minister of Transport Mario Meoni and Foreign Minister Felipe Solá signed an inter-ministerial framework aimed at strengthening partnerships with Middle Eastern countries regarding the grassroots economy, the social economy and family agriculture exports.⁶⁹⁵ Minister Solá stated that “we are fully committed to opening new markets for traditional or novel products and introducing novel products in traditional markets.”⁶⁹⁶

On 7 January 2021, Argentina met with Japan to “foster mutual trade and investments.”⁶⁹⁷ Both countries noted their shared values of multilateralism, democracy, and the rule of law, and agreed to “intensify trade relations.”⁶⁹⁸

On 4 February 2021, Argentina and Chile enacted their automotive agreement.⁶⁹⁹ The agreement allows Argentina to export 10,000 more vehicles to Chile.⁷⁰⁰

On 5 March 2021, Argentina published ministerial order 37/21 which created a promotional unit in energy and mining investment.⁷⁰¹ The order increases investment attraction in both mining and energy sectors, internationalizing Argentinian companies.⁷⁰² The unit will also identify and support “trade and cooperation agreements to promote foreign investment.”⁷⁰³

⁶⁹³ 11th EU-Argentina Joint Committee – Trade and Economic Joint Minutes, EU-Argentina Joint Committee (Brussels) 30 November 2020. Access Date: 16 March 2021. https://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2021/january/tradoc_159395.pdf

⁶⁹⁴ 11th EU-Argentina Joint Committee – Trade and Economic Joint Minutes, EU-Argentina Joint Committee (Brussels) 30 November 2020. Access Date: 16 March 2021. https://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2021/january/tradoc_159395.pdf

⁶⁹⁵ Foreign minister Solá: “We want the grassroots economy, the social economy and family agriculture to have export capacity,” Ministry of Foreign Affairs Argentina (Buenos Aires) 22 December 2020. Access Date: 16 March 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/en/announcements/news/foreign-minister-sola-we-want-grassroots-economy-social-economy-and-family>

⁶⁹⁶ Foreign minister Solá: “We want the grassroots economy, the social economy and family agriculture to have export capacity,” Ministry of Foreign Affairs Argentina (Buenos Aires) 22 December 2020. Access Date: 16 March 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/en/announcements/news/foreign-minister-sola-we-want-grassroots-economy-social-economy-and-family>

⁶⁹⁷ Argentina – Japan: Foreign Ministers Met to Strengthen Strategic Relationship, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Argentina (Buenos Aires) 7 January 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/en/announcements/news/argentina-japan-foreign-ministers-met-strengthen-strategic-relationship>

⁶⁹⁸ Argentina – Japan: Foreign Ministers Met to Strengthen Strategic Relationship, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Argentina (Buenos Aires) 7 January 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/en/announcements/news/argentina-japan-foreign-ministers-met-strengthen-strategic-relationship>

⁶⁹⁹ Argentina to Export Ten Thousand More Pickup Trucks to Chile, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Argentina, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Argentina (Buenos Aires) 4 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2020.

<https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/en/announcements/news/argentina-export-ten-thousand-more-pickup-trucks-chile>

⁷⁰⁰ Argentina to Export Ten Thousand More Pickup Trucks to Chile, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Argentina, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Argentina (Buenos Aires) 4 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2020.

<https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/en/announcements/news/argentina-export-ten-thousand-more-pickup-trucks-chile>

⁷⁰¹ Foreign Ministry Creates Unit to Promote Energy and Mining Investment, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Argentina (Buenos Aires) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/en/announcements/news/foreign-ministry-creates-unit-promote-energy-and-mining-investment>

⁷⁰² Foreign Ministry Creates Unit to Promote Energy and Mining Investment, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Argentina (Buenos Aires) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/en/announcements/news/foreign-ministry-creates-unit-promote-energy-and-mining-investment>

⁷⁰³ Foreign Ministry Creates Unit to Promote Energy and Mining Investment, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Argentina (Buenos Aires) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/en/announcements/news/foreign-ministry-creates-unit-promote-energy-and-mining-investment>

On 9 March 2021, Argentina and Brazil solved 49 of 54 pending issues pertaining to the trade in agriculture and livestock.⁷⁰⁴ This marks the culmination of work initiated in 2020 and the resolution of these issues will cause a major intensification of the bilateral trade flow of agricultural products.⁷⁰⁵

On 17 March 2021, Argentina met with India and opened India's market to Argentinian yerba mate, a South American tea.⁷⁰⁶ This action promotes market freedom, and reflects a coordinated effort between India, Argentina, and applicable international organizations.⁷⁰⁷

On 19 March 2021, Argentina concluded the Joint Declaration on Financing the Private Sector with the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).⁷⁰⁸ The Joint Declaration mandates that the OPEC Fund will invest in the Argentinian private sector, supporting an inclusive, and non-discriminatory investment environment.⁷⁰⁹

On 25 March 2021, Economy Minister Martin Guzmán and his team held discussions with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) regarding an economic plan that the IMF could support.⁷¹⁰ Both parties agreed on the “importance of policies to boost value-added exports and productivity” which would promote an external shock resiliency as well as a more robust growth trajectory, strengthened by private investments.⁷¹¹

On 5 April 2021, Argentina and Bolivia met virtually for the Second Meeting of the Argentina-Bolivia Binational Committee on Trade, Investments, and Economic Relations.⁷¹² Market access and cooperation on regulatory matters were discussed.⁷¹³ Both countries agreed to virtually hold

⁷⁰⁴ Brazil and Argentina solve pending issues in trade in agricultural products, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Supply (Brasilia) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.br/agricultura/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/brasil-e-argentina-solucionam-49-pendencias-do-comercio-de-produtos-agropecuarios>

⁷⁰⁵ Brazil and Argentina solve pending issues in trade in agricultural products, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Supply (Brasilia) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.br/agricultura/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/brasil-e-argentina-solucionam-49-pendencias-do-comercio-de-produtos-agropecuarios>

⁷⁰⁶ Opening of the Indian Market for Argentine Yerba Mate, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Argentina (Buenos Aires) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/es/actualidad/noticias/apertura-del-mercado-de-la-india-para-la-yerba-mate-argentina>

⁷⁰⁷ Opening of the Indian Market for Argentine Yerba Mate, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Argentina (Buenos Aires) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/es/actualidad/noticias/apertura-del-mercado-de-la-india-para-la-yerba-mate-argentina>

⁷⁰⁸ The Foreign Ministry Agrees with OPEC Investments for the Private Sector, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Argentina (Buenos Aires) 19 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/es/actualidad/noticias/la-cancilleria-acuerda-con-la-opep-inversiones-para-el-sector-privado>

⁷⁰⁹ The Foreign Ministry Agrees with OPEC Investments for the Private Sector, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Argentina (Buenos Aires) 19 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/es/actualidad/noticias/la-cancilleria-acuerda-con-la-opep-inversiones-para-el-sector-privado>

⁷¹⁰ IMF Mission Team Statement on Argentina, International Monetary Fund (Washington D.C) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.imf.org/en/News/Articles/2021/03/25/pr2186-argentina-imf-mission-team-statement-on-argentina>

⁷¹¹ IMF Mission Team Statement on Argentina, International Monetary Fund (Washington D.C) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.imf.org/en/News/Articles/2021/03/25/pr2186-argentina-imf-mission-team-statement-on-argentina>

⁷¹² Second meeting of Argentina-Bolivia Binational Committee on trade, investments, and economic relations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Argentina (Buenos Aires) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/en/announcements/news/second-meeting-argentina-bolivia-binational-committee-trade-investments-and>

⁷¹³ Second meeting of Argentina-Bolivia Binational Committee on trade, investments, and economic relations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Argentina (Buenos Aires) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/en/announcements/news/second-meeting-argentina-bolivia-binational-committee-trade-investments-and>

negotiations in May for “building business partnerships to promote the region’s production in third markets.”⁷¹⁴

On 29 April 2021, Minister Solá virtually closed the First Seminar on Technical Capacities in Foreign Relations which intended on offering tools to the country’s provinces and municipalities.⁷¹⁵ Trade promotion and investments and the multilateral agenda were addressed.⁷¹⁶

Argentina has fully complied with its commitment to strive to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade and investment environment. Argentina has taken action to strive to realize the goal of a fair, free, predictable and inclusive trade environment by engaging in discussions with global partners. Additionally, Argentina has taken action to strive to realize the goal of a non-discriminatory, fair, free, predictable and inclusive investment environment by signing multilateral declarations affirming their support for WTO investment principles.

Thus, Argentina receives a score of +1.

Analyst: AnnaMaria Pavlopoulos

Australia: +1

Australia has fully complied with its commitment to strive to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade and investment environment.

On 26 November 2020, Australia signed on to the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership trade agreement that will build on Australia’s existing free trade agreements in the Asia-Pacific region.⁷¹⁷ The agreement is aimed at improving export access and supply chain opportunities for Australian businesses in fourteen Indo-Pacific countries and boosting trade in services, especially in education, health, engineering, finance and professional services.⁷¹⁸

On 13 December 2020, the Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations Plus (PACER Plus) entered into force.⁷¹⁹ It sets minimum standards of transparency and obligation for Parties beyond the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade.⁷²⁰ The agreement increases awareness of investment opportunities, reinforces legal protections of investors, and

⁷¹⁴ Second meeting of Argentina-Bolivia Binational Committee on trade, investments, and economic relations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Argentina (Buenos Aires) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/en/announcements/news/second-meeting-argentina-bolivia-binational-committee-trade-investments-and>

⁷¹⁵ Felipe Solá closed the Seminar to promote the international insertion of the provinces, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Argentina (Buenos Aires) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/es/actualidad/noticias/felipe-sola-cerro-seminario-para-promover-la-insercion-internacional-de-las>

⁷¹⁶ Felipe Solá closed the Seminar to promote the international insertion of the provinces, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Argentina (Buenos Aires) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/es/actualidad/noticias/felipe-sola-cerro-seminario-para-promover-la-insercion-internacional-de-las>

⁷¹⁷ Australia signs world’s largest free trade agreement, Australian trade and investment commission (Canberra) 26 November 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.austrade.gov.au/news/latest-from-austrade/2020-latest-from-austrade/australia-signs-worlds-largest-free-trade-agreement>

⁷¹⁸ Australia signs world’s largest free trade agreement, Australian trade and investment commission (Canberra) 26 November 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.austrade.gov.au/news/latest-from-austrade/2020-latest-from-austrade/australia-signs-worlds-largest-free-trade-agreement>

⁷¹⁹ Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations (PACER) Plus: Transparency, Department of foreign affairs and trade (Canberra) 13 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.dfat.gov.au/trade/agreements/in-force/pacer/fact-sheets/transparency>

⁷²⁰ Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations (PACER) Plus: Transparency, Department of foreign affairs and trade (Canberra) 13 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.dfat.gov.au/trade/agreements/in-force/pacer/fact-sheets/transparency>

includes commitments to achieving a non-discriminatory, predictable, and stable investment environment.⁷²¹

On 14 December 2020, Japan, Australia and Singapore, issued a Joint Statement Initiative (JSI) on E-Commerce negotiations on behalf of eighty-six WTO members.⁷²² The statement affirms that openness, transparency, and inclusiveness are central to the JSI.⁷²³

On 1 January 2021, several tariff cuts outlined in the Comprehensive Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership came into effect, expanding opportunities for Australian exporters and encouraging a predictable, non-discriminatory, and free trade environment.⁷²⁴ The tariff cuts have improved commodity access across agricultural and seafood exporters.⁷²⁵

On 1 January 2021, the Agreement on Mutual Recognition in Relation to Conformity Assessment, Certificates and Markings between Australia and the UK entered into force.⁷²⁶ The agreement set rules on testing products by a suitable conformity assessment body prior to exportation in order to reduce technical barriers to trade.⁷²⁷

On 6 April 2021, Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment Dan Tehan launched the government's flagship program to advance trade and investment with India.⁷²⁸ The Australia India Business Exchange will provide businesses in both nations with market insights and connections to foster commercial partnerships that will help generate jobs and business opportunities in Australia and India.⁷²⁹

On 6 April 2021, Minister Tehan launched Australia's Services Exports Action Plan in Melbourne.⁷³⁰ According to the plan, Australian businesses can use digital technology to improve their productivity

⁷²¹ Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations (PACER) Plus: Investment, Department of foreign affairs and trade (Canberra) 13 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.dfat.gov.au/trade/agreements/in-force/pacer/fact-sheets/investment>

⁷²² E-commerce co-conveners release update on the negotiations, welcome encouraging progress, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 14 March 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/ecom_14dec20_e.htm

⁷²³ E-commerce co-conveners release update on the negotiations, welcome encouraging progress, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 14 March 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/ecom_14dec20_e.htm

⁷²⁴ Tariff-ic start to 2021 for Australia's farmers, Minister for Agriculture, Drought and Emergency Management (Canberra) 1 January 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://minister.awe.gov.au/littleproud/media-releases/ny-tariff-cuts>

⁷²⁵ Tariff-ic start to 2021 for Australia's farmers, Minister for Agriculture, Drought and Emergency Management (Canberra) 1 January 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://minister.awe.gov.au/littleproud/media-releases/ny-tariff-cuts>

⁷²⁶ Reducing technical barriers to trade, Department of industry, science, energy and resources (Canberra) 1 January 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.industry.gov.au/regulations-and-standards/reducing-technical-barriers-to-trade>

⁷²⁷ Reducing technical barriers to trade, Department of industry, science, energy and resources (Canberra) 1 January 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.industry.gov.au/regulations-and-standards/reducing-technical-barriers-to-trade>

⁷²⁸ Boosting business ties with India, Australian Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment (Canberra) 6 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://www.trademinister.gov.au/minister/dan-tehan/media-release/boosting-business-ties-india>

⁷²⁹ Boosting business ties with India, Australian Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment (Canberra) 6 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://www.trademinister.gov.au/minister/dan-tehan/media-release/boosting-business-ties-india>

⁷³⁰ Australia in a digitised world – a practical, principled and patient approach to Australia's digital trade transformation, Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Canberra) 6 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://www.dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/trade-and-investment/business-envoy-april-2021-digital-trade-edition/australia-digitised-world-practical-principled-and-patient-approach-australias-digital-trade-transformation>

and improve transparency.⁷³¹ In addition, the plan supports the international competitiveness of Australia's service industry.⁷³²

On 7 April 2021, Treasurer Josh Frydenberg delegated additional powers to the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC) under the Corporations Act 2001.⁷³³ This serves to improve the regulation of financial markets.⁷³⁴ Treasurer Frydenberg aims to protect investors and ensure that markets are fair, efficient and transparent.⁷³⁵

On 22 April 2021, Australia attended the WTO general council meeting.⁷³⁶ Attendees agreed to eliminate unnecessary restrictions on exports of medical goods essential to combatting COVID-19, remain transparent about export restrictions deemed "necessary to relieve critical shortages," and give particular considerations to least developed countries.⁷³⁷ Additionally, members agreed to engage with WTO trade monitoring exercises.⁷³⁸

On 22 April 2021, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Women Marise Payne and New Zealand Minister of Foreign Affairs Nanaia Mahuta met in Wellington for the biannual Australia-New Zealand Foreign Minister Consultations.⁷³⁹ They discussed the shared challenges regarding trade and investment.⁷⁴⁰

Australia has fully complied with its commitment to strive to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade and investment environment. Australia has taken action to strive to realize the goal of a non-discriminatory, fair, free, and predictable trade environment by actively lowering barriers to trade. Additionally, Australia has taken action to strive to realize the goal of a non-discriminatory, fair, free, predictable and inclusive investment environment by enacting PACER Plus and increasing ASIC regulatory power.

⁷³¹ Australia in a digitised world – a practical, principled and patient approach to Australia's digital trade transformation, Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Canberra) 6 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://www.dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/trade-and-investment/business-envoy-april-2021-digital-trade-edition/australia-digitised-world-practical-principled-and-patient-approach-australias-digital-trade-transformation>

⁷³² Action plan to boost Australia's services exports, Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Canberra) 6 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://www.trademinister.gov.au/minister/dan-tehan/media-release/action-plan-boost-australias-services-exports>

⁷³³ Guidelines for the exercise of powers delegated to ASIC under Chapter 7 of the Corporations Act 2001 – April 2019, The Treasury of Australian Government (Canberra) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://treasury.gov.au/publication/p2021-164649>

⁷³⁴ Guidelines for the exercise of powers delegated to ASIC under Chapter 7 of the Corporations Act 2001 – April 2019, The Treasury of Australian Government (Canberra) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://treasury.gov.au/publication/p2021-164649>

⁷³⁵ Guidelines for the exercise of powers delegated to ASIC under Chapter 7 of the Corporations Act 2001 – April 2019, The Treasury of Australian Government (Canberra) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://treasury.gov.au/publication/p2021-164649>

⁷³⁶ COVID-19 and beyond: trade and health, WTO general council (Geneva) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=q:/Jobs/GC/251R1.pdf&Open=True>

⁷³⁷ COVID-19 and beyond: trade and health, WTO general council (Geneva) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=q:/Jobs/GC/251R1.pdf&Open=True>

⁷³⁸ COVID-19 and beyond: trade and health, WTO general council (Geneva) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=q:/Jobs/GC/251R1.pdf&Open=True>

⁷³⁹ Strengthening trans-Tasman ties: Australia-New Zealand Foreign Minister Consultations, Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Women (Canberra) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://www.foreignminister.gov.au/minister/marise-payne/media-release/strengthening-trans-tasman-ties-australia-new-zealand-foreign-minister-consultations>

⁷⁴⁰ Strengthening trans-Tasman ties: Australia-New Zealand Foreign Minister Consultations, Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Women (Canberra) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://www.foreignminister.gov.au/minister/marise-payne/media-release/strengthening-trans-tasman-ties-australia-new-zealand-foreign-minister-consultations>

Thus, Australia receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Haobin Chen

Brazil: 0

Brazil has partially complied with its commitment to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable, and stable trade and investment environment.

On 21 December 2020, the Ministry of Economy launched a new tool for sharing information on trade agreements negotiated and under negotiation by Brazil.⁷⁴¹ Foreign Trade Secretary Lucas Ferraz explained that the development of the tool was inspired by the principles of transparency and transparent governance in the agenda of trade negotiations in line with the World Trade Organization (WTO) agreement on Trade Facilitation.⁷⁴²

On 18 January 2021, the Ministry of Economy announced the launch of a new phase of the Single Foreign Trade Portal which seeks to simplify Brazil's exports and imports through a reformulation of procedures, requirements and systems applicable to external commercial transactions.⁷⁴³ These measures reduce time and costs for private actors to complete their trade operations.⁷⁴⁴

On 3 February 2021, Brazil put in an initial offer of market access to join the WTO Government Contracting Agreement, which makes public contracts open to international competition.⁷⁴⁵ Compliance with the agreement will promote reduced public spending and improvement in the quality of government goods and services and encourage Brazilian exports and foreign investment in the country.⁷⁴⁶

On 9 March 2021, Brazil and Argentina solved 49 of 54 pending issues pertaining to the trade in agriculture and livestock.⁷⁴⁷ This marks the culmination of work initiated in 2020 and the and the

⁷⁴¹ Economy launches new stage of the Single Foreign Trade Portal, Ministry of Economy (Brasilia) 21 December 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.br/produtividade-e-comercio-exterior/pt-br/assuntos/comercio-exterior/noticias/2020/dezembro/economia-lanca-ferramenta-com-informacoes-sobre-acordos-comerciais>

⁷⁴² Economy launches new stage of the Single Foreign Trade Portal, Ministry of Economy (Brasilia) 21 December 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.br/produtividade-e-comercio-exterior/pt-br/assuntos/comercio-exterior/noticias/2020/dezembro/economia-lanca-ferramenta-com-informacoes-sobre-acordos-comerciais>

⁷⁴³ Economy launches new stage of the Single Foreign Trade Portal, Ministry of Economy (Brasilia) 18 January 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.br/produtividade-e-comercio-exterior/pt-br/assuntos/comercio-exterior/noticias/2021/janeiro/economia-lanca-nova-etapa-do-portal-unico-de-comercio-exterior>

⁷⁴⁴ Economy launches new stage of the Single Foreign Trade Portal, Ministry of Economy (Brasilia) 18 January 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.br/produtividade-e-comercio-exterior/pt-br/assuntos/comercio-exterior/noticias/2021/janeiro/economia-lanca-nova-etapa-do-portal-unico-de-comercio-exterior>

⁷⁴⁵ Initial Brazilian offer to join the World Trade Organization (WTO) Government Contracting Agreement, Joint note from the Ministries of Economy and Foreign Affairs (Brasilia) 3 February 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.br/produtividade-e-comercio-exterior/pt-br/assuntos/comercio-exterior/noticias/2021/fevereiro/oferta-inicial-brasileira-para-adesao-ao-acordo-sobre-contratacoes-governamentais>

⁷⁴⁶ Initial Brazilian offer to join the World Trade Organization (WTO) Government Contracting Agreement, Joint note from the Ministries of Economy and Foreign Affairs (Brasilia) 3 February 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.br/produtividade-e-comercio-exterior/pt-br/assuntos/comercio-exterior/noticias/2021/fevereiro/oferta-inicial-brasileira-para-adesao-ao-acordo-sobre-contratacoes-governamentais>

⁷⁴⁷ Brazil and Argentina solve pending issues in trade in agricultural products, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Supply (Brasilia) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.br/agricultura/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/brasil-e-argentina-solucionam-49-pendencias-do-comercio-de-produtos-agropecuarios>

resolution of these issues will cause a major intensification of the bilateral trade flow of agricultural products.⁷⁴⁸

On 10 March 2021, the Ministries of Economy and Infrastructure announced the implementation of the Single Waterway Window project as an integrated module of the Unique Foreign Trade Portal, which will unify waterway models necessary for Brazilian logistics operators to meet the requirements of different waterway logistics bodies for foreign trade.⁷⁴⁹ This will result in the streamlining of foreign sea trade logistics by eliminating redundancies and inapplicable procedures and a reduction in costs, thereby increasing the competitiveness of Brazilian foreign trade.⁷⁵⁰

On 31 March 2021, the National Committee on Trade Facilitation approved a work plan for the 2021-2022 biennium to reduce bureaucracy in international trade operations and lower transaction costs for private operators by the coordinated actions of multiple government agencies.⁷⁵¹ A primary feature of this plan is the digital consolidation of foreign trade operations from port to administration in the Facilitation 2.0 system.⁷⁵² The plan also outlines initiatives to improve international trading capabilities of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises.⁷⁵³

On 22 April 2021, Brazil attended the WTO general council meeting.⁷⁵⁴ Attendees agreed to eliminate unnecessary restrictions on exports of medical goods essential to combatting COVID-19, remain transparent about export restrictions deemed “necessary to relieve critical shortages,” and give particular considerations to least developed countries.⁷⁵⁵ Additionally, members agreed to engage with WTO trade monitoring exercises.⁷⁵⁶

Brazil has partially complied with its commitment to strive to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade and investment environment. Brazil has taken action to strive to realize the goal of a predictable and inclusive trade environment through

⁷⁴⁸ Brazil and Argentina solve pending issues in trade in agricultural products, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Supply (Brasilia) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.br/agricultura/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/brasil-e-argentina-solucionam-49-pendencias-do-comercio-de-produtos-agropecuarios>

⁷⁴⁹ Ministries of Economy and Infrastructure announce implementation of the Single Waterway Window project, Ministries of Economy and Infrastructure (Brasilia) 10 March 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.br/produtividade-e-comercio-exterior/pt-br/assuntos/comercio-exterior/noticias/2021/marco/ministerios-da-economia-e-da-infraestrutura-anunciam-implantacao-do-projeto-janela-unica-aquaviaria>

⁷⁵⁰ Ministries of Economy and Infrastructure announce implementation of the Single Waterway Window project, Ministries of Economy and Infrastructure (Brasilia) 10 March 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.br/produtividade-e-comercio-exterior/pt-br/assuntos/comercio-exterior/noticias/2021/marco/ministerios-da-economia-e-da-infraestrutura-anunciam-implantacao-do-projeto-janela-unica-aquaviaria>

⁷⁵¹ National Committee on Trade Facilitation approves Work Plan for the 2021-2022 biennium, Ministry of Economy (Brasilia) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/produtividade-e-comercio-exterior/pt-br/assuntos/comercio-exterior/noticias/2021/abril/comite-nacional-de-facilitacao-do-comercio-aprova-plano-de-trabalho-para-o-bienio-2021-2022>

⁷⁵² National Committee on Trade Facilitation approves Work Plan for the 2021-2022 biennium, Ministry of Economy (Brasilia) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/produtividade-e-comercio-exterior/pt-br/assuntos/comercio-exterior/noticias/2021/abril/comite-nacional-de-facilitacao-do-comercio-aprova-plano-de-trabalho-para-o-bienio-2021-2022>

⁷⁵³ National Committee on Trade Facilitation approves Work Plan for the 2021-2022 biennium, Ministry of Economy (Brasilia) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 3 May 2021. <https://www.gov.br/produtividade-e-comercio-exterior/pt-br/assuntos/comercio-exterior/noticias/2021/abril/comite-nacional-de-facilitacao-do-comercio-aprova-plano-de-trabalho-para-o-bienio-2021-2022>

⁷⁵⁴ COVID-19 and beyond: trade and health, WTO general council (Geneva) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=q:/Jobs/GC/251R1.pdf&Open=True>

⁷⁵⁵ COVID-19 and beyond: trade and health, WTO general council (Geneva) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=q:/Jobs/GC/251R1.pdf&Open=True>

⁷⁵⁶ COVID-19 and beyond: trade and health, WTO general council (Geneva) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=q:/Jobs/GC/251R1.pdf&Open=True>

unilateral initiatives and multilateral commitments. However, Brazil has failed to take specific and substantial action to strive to realize the goal of an investment environment that is non-discriminatory, free, fair, predictable and inclusive.

Thus, Brazil receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Shalin Nayak

Canada: 0

Canada has partially complied with its commitment to strive to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade and investment environment.

On 8 December 2020, Canada and the UK agreed to a “temporary agreement that will head off an automatic increase in tariffs that was set to kick in when Britain leaves the European Union” the following week.⁷⁵⁷ Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland ensured that Canadian goods including maple syrup, lobster, beef, and car parts are not affected by British Tariffs starting on 1 January 2021.⁷⁵⁸ This ensures Canada and the UK will continue to have “preferential access.”⁷⁵⁹

On 9 December 2020, UK Deputy High Commissioner for Canada David Reed and Canadian Deputy Minister of International Trade John Hannaford signed the UK-Canada Trade Continuity Agreement.⁷⁶⁰ It will allow the UK to export goods and services worth GBP11.6 billion and lift a tariff burden of an estimated GBP42 million.⁷⁶¹

On 11 January 2021, Minister of Small Business, Export Promotion and International Trade Mary Ng announced Canada’s commitment to strengthening its trade and investment ties with Asia-Pacific partners.⁷⁶² Canada is planning to advance “parallel opportunities...by expanding trade and investment ties with fast-growing markets, such as Indonesia.”⁷⁶³ The consultations are focused on how Canada should “proceed regarding a possible [comprehensive economic partnership agreement] with Indonesia,” and are happening concurrently with Canada’s continued engagement with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations on a free trade agreement.⁷⁶⁴

On 18 January 2021, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau conversed with Chancellor of Germany Angela Merkel to discuss several issues, including “collaboration between Canada and Germany on shared

⁷⁵⁷ Canada and U.K. make stoppage deal to avert tariffs after Brexit, CBC (Toronto) 22 December 2020. Access Date: 17 April 2021. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/canada-uk-eu-trade-agreement-1.5852314>

⁷⁵⁸ Canada and U.K. make stoppage deal to avert tariffs after Brexit, CBC (Toronto) 22 December 2020. Access Date: 17 April 2021. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/canada-uk-eu-trade-agreement-1.5852314>

⁷⁵⁹ Canada and U.K. make stoppage deal to avert tariffs after Brexit, CBC (Toronto) 22 December 2020. Access Date: 17 April 2021. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/canada-uk-eu-trade-agreement-1.5852314>

⁷⁶⁰ UK and Canada sign trade agreement, UK Government (London) 9 December 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-canada-sign-trade-agreement>

⁷⁶¹ UK and Canada sign trade agreement, UK Government (London) 9 December 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-canada-sign-trade-agreement>

⁷⁶² Consulting Canadians on a possible comprehensive economic partnership agreement with Indonesia, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 8 January 2021. Access Date: 17 April 2021. <https://www.international.gc.ca/trade-commerce/consultations/consulting-indonesia-consultation-indonesie.aspx?lang=eng>

⁷⁶³ Consulting Canadians on a possible comprehensive economic partnership agreement with Indonesia, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 8 January 2021. Access Date: 17 April 2021. <https://www.international.gc.ca/trade-commerce/consultations/consulting-indonesia-consultation-indonesie.aspx?lang=eng>

⁷⁶⁴ Consulting Canadians on a possible comprehensive economic partnership agreement with Indonesia, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 8 January 2021. Access Date: 17 April 2021. <https://www.international.gc.ca/trade-commerce/consultations/consulting-indonesia-consultation-indonesie.aspx?lang=eng>

priorities,” which includes international trade.⁷⁶⁵ They plan to address these issues through “cooperation within the G7, G20, and other multilateral forums.”⁷⁶⁶

On 22 January 2021, Prime Minister Trudeau met with US President Joseph Biden and shared their vision for “strengthening Canada-US supply chain security and resilience.”⁷⁶⁷ The leaders agreed to “avoid measures that may constrain bilateral trade, supply chains, and economic growth” to protect the economic relationships between the two countries.⁷⁶⁸

On 29 January 2021, Minister Ng attended a virtual World Trade Organization (WTO) meeting of fellow ministers.⁷⁶⁹ They discussed priorities to “strengthen the rules-based multilateral trading system in support of an inclusive, sustainable, and resilient global recovery.”⁷⁷⁰ Minister Ng highlighted the government’s efforts to keep markets open, and called on WTO members to implement sustainable trade practices.⁷⁷¹

On 2 February 2021, Prime Minister Trudeau spoke with Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga and “discussed the strong and growing economic ties between Canada and Japan and welcomed the United Kingdom’s formal interest in acceding to the comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership.”⁷⁷²

On 10 February 2021, Prime Minister Trudeau met with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi regarding “their common interest in a free and open Indo-Pacific.”⁷⁷³ They agreed to work together on challenges such as “strengthening global trade” and “reinforcing the rules-based international order.”⁷⁷⁴

⁷⁶⁵ Prime Minister Justin Trudeau speaks with Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany, Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau (Ottawa) 18 January 2021. Access Date: 17 April 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/readouts/2021/01/18/prime-minister-justin-trudeau-speaks-chancellor-angela-merkel-germany>

⁷⁶⁶ Prime Minister Justin Trudeau speaks with Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany, Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau (Ottawa) 18 January 2021. Access Date: 17 April 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/readouts/2021/01/18/prime-minister-justin-trudeau-speaks-chancellor-angela-merkel-germany>

⁷⁶⁷ Prime Minister Justin Trudeau speaks with the President of the United States Joe Biden, Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau (Ottawa) 22 January 2021. Access Date: 17 April 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/readouts/2021/01/22/prime-minister-justin-trudeau-speaks-president-united-states-america-joe>

⁷⁶⁸ Prime Minister Justin Trudeau speaks with the President of the United States Joe Biden, Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau (Ottawa) 22 January 2021. Access Date: 17 April 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/readouts/2021/01/22/prime-minister-justin-trudeau-speaks-president-united-states-america-joe>

⁷⁶⁹ Minister Ng Discusses global trade and economic recovery in WTO ministerial meeting, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 29 January 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2021/01/minister-ng-discusses-global-trade-and-economic-recovery-in-wto-ministerial-meeting.html>

⁷⁷⁰ Minister Ng Discusses global trade and economic recovery in WTO ministerial meeting, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 29 January 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2021/01/minister-ng-discusses-global-trade-and-economic-recovery-in-wto-ministerial-meeting.html>

⁷⁷¹ Minister Ng Discusses global trade and economic recovery in WTO ministerial meeting, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 29 January 2021. Access Date: 12 May 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2021/01/minister-ng-discusses-global-trade-and-economic-recovery-in-wto-ministerial-meeting.html>

⁷⁷² Prime Minister Justin Trudeau speaks with Prime Minister of Japan Suga Yoshihide, Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau (Ottawa) 2 February 2021. Access Date: 17 April 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/readouts/2021/02/02/prime-minister-justin-trudeau-speaks-prime-minister-japan-suga-yoshihide>

⁷⁷³ Prime Minister Justin Trudeau speaks with Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau (Ottawa) 10 February 2021. Access Date: 17 April 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/readouts/2021/02/10/prime-minister-justin-trudeau-speaks-prime-minister-india-narendra-modi>

⁷⁷⁴ Prime Minister Justin Trudeau speaks with Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau (Ottawa) 10 February 2021. Access Date: 17 April 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/readouts/2021/02/10/prime-minister-justin-trudeau-speaks-prime-minister-india-narendra-modi>

On 19 February 2021, Prime Minister Trudeau concluded a meeting with G7 leaders.⁷⁷⁵ He stressed the importance of working with G7 partners to create jobs and economic growth, which includes “building fairer trading systems.”⁷⁷⁶

On 23 February 2021, Prime Minister Trudeau met with US President Joseph Biden to begin a “reset in relations with Canada’s largest trading partner and one of its closest allies after four tumultuous years with President Donald Trump.”⁷⁷⁷ Canadian officials are “optimistic” that President Biden will bring a more cooperative presence despite cancelling the Keystone XL pipeline project previously.⁷⁷⁸ Tariffs may be decreased over this period, improving the free trade environment.⁷⁷⁹

On 23 February 2021, Prime Minister Trudeau and President Biden “promised to work together to build supply chains for electric vehicle battery development.”⁷⁸⁰ They aim to make Canada and the US “global leaders in all aspects of battery development and production.”⁷⁸¹

On 18 March 2021, Prime Minister Trudeau conversed with Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Kristalina Georgieva regarding global economic recovery.⁷⁸² They focused on the need for “international collaboration to address debt and liquidity challenges associated with the economic impacts of COVID-19” and the need to “foster international action to address the unique challenges of highly vulnerable countries” in terms of access to financing.⁷⁸³

On 19 March 2021, Canada agreed to the Trade Continuity Agreement deal.⁷⁸⁴ Canada and the UK are aiming to implement the agreement by 1 April 2021.⁷⁸⁵ The agreement is meant to be a temporary

⁷⁷⁵ Prime Minister concludes productive G7 leaders meeting, Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau (Ottawa) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 17 April 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2021/02/19/prime-minister-concludes-productive-g7-leaders-meeting>

⁷⁷⁶ Prime Minister concludes productive G7 leaders meeting, Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau (Ottawa) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 17 April 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2021/02/19/prime-minister-concludes-productive-g7-leaders-meeting>

⁷⁷⁷ Biden-Trudeau meeting: Canadians glad to get beyond Trump, but new administration brings new friction, Washington Post (Ottawa) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 17 April 2021. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2021/02/23/canada-trudeau-biden-trump-faq/>

⁷⁷⁸ Biden-Trudeau meeting: Canadians glad to get beyond Trump, but new administration brings new friction, Washington Post (Ottawa) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 17 April 2021. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2021/02/23/canada-trudeau-biden-trump-faq/>

⁷⁷⁹ Biden-Trudeau meeting: Canadians glad to get beyond Trump, but new administration brings new friction, Washington Post (Ottawa) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 17 April 2021. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2021/02/23/canada-trudeau-biden-trump-faq/>

⁷⁸⁰ What experts say Canada needs to do to become a leader in the electric vehicle industry, CBC (Toronto) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 18 April 2021. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/technology/trudeau-biden-electric-vehicles-1.5926899>

⁷⁸¹ What experts say Canada needs to do to become a leader in the electric vehicle industry, CBC (Toronto) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 18 April 2021. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/technology/trudeau-biden-electric-vehicles-1.5926899>

⁷⁸² Prime Minister Justin Trudeau speaks with Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund Kristalina Georgieva, Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau (Ottawa) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 18 April 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/readouts/2021/03/18/prime-minister-justin-trudeau-speaks-managing-director-international>

⁷⁸³ Prime Minister Justin Trudeau speaks with Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund Kristalina Georgieva, Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau (Ottawa) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 18 April 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/readouts/2021/03/18/prime-minister-justin-trudeau-speaks-managing-director-international>

⁷⁸⁴ Canada to ratify trade agreement with United Kingdom, CTV News (Toronto) 19 March 2021. Access Date 18 April 2021. <https://www.ctvnews.ca/politics/canada-to-ratify-trade-agreement-with-united-kingdom-1.5353927>

⁷⁸⁵ Canada to ratify trade agreement with United Kingdom, CTV News (Toronto) 19 March 2021. Access Date 18 April 2021. <https://www.ctvnews.ca/politics/canada-to-ratify-trade-agreement-with-united-kingdom-1.5353927>

agreement while both countries negotiate a more “expansive free trade agreement” after the UK exits the EU.⁷⁸⁶

On 25 March 2021, Prime Minister Trudeau spoke with the President of the World Bank David Malpass on economic recovery after the COVID-19 pandemic.⁷⁸⁷ They “discussed the pandemic’s devastating impacts on economies around the world, particularly the fragile economies of developing countries and small island states.”⁷⁸⁸

On 29 March 2021, Prime Minister Trudeau organized a high-level meeting with UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres and Prime Minister of Jamaica Andrew Holness to “[strengthen] financial measures to boost efforts to cope with COVID-19 fallout.”⁷⁸⁹ The meeting directed urgency to the need for concrete action to provide liquidity and address debt vulnerability in developing countries.⁷⁹⁰

From 6 April 2021 to 9 April 2021, Minister Freeland attended numerous meetings with world leaders to discuss the “global economic outlook and international policy response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including actions of the IMF and World Bank.”⁷⁹¹ Minister Freeland engaged in discussions on how to “support vulnerable countries, including low-income countries and small states, which continue to face significant challenges caused by the COVID-19 crisis.”⁷⁹² These meetings include meeting with the G7 Finance Ministers, Central Bank Governors, Coalition of Finance Ministers for Climate Action, G20 Finance Ministers, IMF’s International Monetary and Financial Committee, IMF Managing Director, as well as Ministers of Finance and Central Bank Governors from Latin America, Canada and the United States.⁷⁹³ The Canadian Department of Finance expressed that Canada will “advocate for strong support for vulnerable countries ... to ensure a strong and sustainable economic recovery.”⁷⁹⁴

⁷⁸⁶ Canada to ratify trade agreement with United Kingdom, CTV News (Toronto) 19 March 2021. Access Date 18 April 2021. <https://www.ctvnews.ca/politics/canada-to-ratify-trade-agreement-with-united-kingdom-1.5353927>

⁷⁸⁷ Prime Minister Justin Trudeau speaks with President of the World Bank Group David Malpass, Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau (Ottawa) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021.

<https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/readouts/2021/03/25/prime-minister-justin-trudeau-speaks-president-world-bank-group-david>

⁷⁸⁸ Prime Minister Justin Trudeau speaks with President of the World Bank Group David Malpass, Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau (Ottawa) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021.

<https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/readouts/2021/03/25/prime-minister-justin-trudeau-speaks-president-world-bank-group-david>

⁷⁸⁹ World leaders to meet on strengthening financial measures to boost efforts to cope with COVID-19 fallout, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 29 March 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2021/03/29/world-leaders-meet-strengthening-financial-measures-boost-efforts>

⁷⁹⁰ World leaders to meet on strengthening financial measures to boost efforts to cope with COVID-19 fallout, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 29 March 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2021/03/29/world-leaders-meet-strengthening-financial-measures-boost-efforts>

⁷⁹¹ Canada to press for continued coordinated COVID-19 support at the G7, G20 and Spring Meetings of the IMF and the World Bank, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 5 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2021/04/canada-to-press-for-continued-coordinated-covid-19-support-at-the-g7-g20-and-spring-meetings-of-the-imf-and-the-world-bank.html>

⁷⁹² Canada to press for continued coordinated COVID-19 support at the G7, G20 and Spring Meetings of the IMF and the World Bank, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 5 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2021/04/canada-to-press-for-continued-coordinated-covid-19-support-at-the-g7-g20-and-spring-meetings-of-the-imf-and-the-world-bank.html>

⁷⁹³ Canada to press for continued coordinated COVID-19 support at the G7, G20 and Spring Meetings of the IMF and the World Bank, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 5 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2021/04/canada-to-press-for-continued-coordinated-covid-19-support-at-the-g7-g20-and-spring-meetings-of-the-imf-and-the-world-bank.html>

⁷⁹⁴ Canada to press for continued coordinated COVID-19 support at the G7, G20 and Spring Meetings of the IMF and the World Bank, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 5 April 2021. Access Date: 20 April 2021.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2021/04/canada-to-press-for-continued-coordinated-covid-19-support-at-the-g7-g20-and-spring-meetings-of-the-imf-and-the-world-bank.html>

On 22 April 2021, Canada attended the WTO general council meeting.⁷⁹⁵ Attendees agreed to eliminate unnecessary restrictions on exports of medical goods essential to combatting COVID-19, remain transparent about export restrictions deemed “necessary to relieve critical shortages,” and give particular considerations to least developed countries.⁷⁹⁶ Additionally, members agreed to engage with WTO trade monitoring exercises.⁷⁹⁷

Canada has partially complied with its commitment to strive to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade and investment environment. Canada has taken action to strive to realize the goal of a non-discriminatory, fair, free and predictable trade environment by engaging in bilateral discussions with heads of state and international organizations. However, Canada has not taken action to strive to realize the goal of an investment environment in accordance with WTO principles.

Thus, Canada receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Jing sen Zhang

China: +1

China has fully complied with its commitment to strive to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade and investment environment.

On 1 December 2020, China confirmed its contribution of USD500,000 to the World Trade Organization (WTO)’s Least Developed Countries and Accessions Programme at a signing ceremony between WTO Deputy Director General Yonov Frederick Agah and Ambassador to the WTO Zhang Xiangchen.⁷⁹⁸ This program “aims to enable least-developed countries (LDCs) to better integrate into the global economy by strengthening their participation in WTO activities.”⁷⁹⁹ It provides financing to support “WTO accessions internships, WTO accessions round table meetings, LDC’s participation in WTO Meetings, South-South Dialogue on LDCs and Development and LDCs Trade Policy Review Follow-up Workshops.”⁸⁰⁰

On 14 December 2020, China and the UK held a meeting between a working group on investment promotion.⁸⁰¹ The two countries discussed “attracting foreign investment, two-way investment policies, mutual concerns and prospects for future cooperation between the two countries.”⁸⁰²

On 16 December 2020, Vice Minister of Commerce Yu Jianhua and Netherlands’ Minister of Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation Sigrid Kaag co-chaired the Sino-Dutch Joint

⁷⁹⁵ COVID-19 and beyond: trade and health, WTO general council (Geneva) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=q:/Jobs/GC/251R1.pdf&Open=True>

⁷⁹⁶ COVID-19 and beyond: trade and health, WTO general council (Geneva) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=q:/Jobs/GC/251R1.pdf&Open=True>

⁷⁹⁷ COVID-19 and beyond: trade and health, WTO general council (Geneva) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=q:/Jobs/GC/251R1.pdf&Open=True>

⁷⁹⁸ China pledges USD 500,000 to support WTO accession and least developed countries, WTO (Geneva) 1 December 2020. Access Date: 21 April 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/pres20_e/pr865_e.htm

⁷⁹⁹ China pledges USD 500,000 to support WTO accession and least developed countries, WTO (Geneva) 1 December 2020. Access Date: 21 April 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/pres20_e/pr865_e.htm

⁸⁰⁰ China pledges USD 500,000 to support WTO accession and least developed countries, WTO (Geneva) 1 December 2020. Access Date: 21 April 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/pres20_e/pr865_e.htm

⁸⁰¹ China and UK held third meeting of the working group on investment promotion, Ministry of Commerce (Beijing) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 22 April 2021.

<http://english.mofcom.gov.cn/article/newsrelease/significantnews/202012/20201203024843.shtml>

⁸⁰² China and UK held third meeting of the working group on investment promotion, Ministry of Commerce (Beijing) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 22 April 2021.

<http://english.mofcom.gov.cn/article/newsrelease/significantnews/202012/20201203024843.shtml>

Economic and Trade Committee.⁸⁰³ China committed to working closely with the Netherlands to reach new levels of bilateral cooperation and views on “economic issues of mutual interest between China and the Netherlands and between China and the EU” were exchanged.⁸⁰⁴

On 18 December 2020, China and Iceland held the fourth meeting of the joint free trade agreement (FTA) committee.⁸⁰⁵ The delegates discussed the “implementation for the China-Iceland FTA” and recognized a “deepened cooperation in trade in goods, services, investment, [and] economic technology.”⁸⁰⁶

On 30 December 2020, China and the EU announced a new investment deal after seven years of negotiation.⁸⁰⁷ The main goal of the deal is “to make foreign investment fairer for European companies which compete against state-funded firms in China.”⁸⁰⁸ China has committed to being transparent on subsidies for state-owned firms and forced technology transfers.⁸⁰⁹ EU Trade Chief Valdis Dombrovskis believes “the main purpose of this agreement is to address the economic imbalance in our relations...[as] the EU’s market is substantially more open to Chinese companies and investment than China’s market is for EU companies.”⁸¹⁰

On 8 January 2021, People’s Bank of China Governor Yi Gang met with the Japanese Ambassador to China Tarumi Hideo.⁸¹¹ They discussed “views on recent developments in the Chinese and Japanese economy and discussed ways to strengthen bilateral financial cooperation.”⁸¹²

On 25 January 2021, China officially signed a deal with New Zealand to improve their existing trade pact, giving commodities exports from New Zealand increased access to Chinese markets.⁸¹³ This deal is expected to “reduce compliance costs for New Zealand exports by millions of dollars each

⁸⁰³ Yu Jianhua, Vice Minister of Commerce and Deputy China International Trade Representative, and Sigrid Kaag, Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, co-chair the 17th session of the Sino-Dutch Joint Economic and Trade Committee, Ministry of Commerce (Beijing) 18 December 2020. Access Date: 22 April 2021. <http://english.mofcom.gov.cn/article/newsrelease/significantnews/202012/20201203026912.shtml>

⁸⁰⁴ Yu Jianhua, Vice Minister of Commerce and Deputy China International Trade Representative, and Sigrid Kaag, Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, co-chair the 17th session of the Sino-Dutch Joint Economic and Trade Committee, Ministry of Commerce (Beijing) 18 December 2020. Access Date: 22 April 2021. <http://english.mofcom.gov.cn/article/newsrelease/significantnews/202012/20201203026912.shtml>

⁸⁰⁵ China and Iceland hold the fourth meeting of the Joint FTA Committee, Ministry of Commerce (Beijing) 20 December 2020. Access Date: 21 April 2021. <http://english.mofcom.gov.cn/article/newsrelease/significantnews/202012/20201203025630.shtml>

⁸⁰⁶ China and Iceland hold the fourth meeting of the Joint FTA Committee, Ministry of Commerce (Beijing) 20 December 2020. Access Date: 21 April 2021. <http://english.mofcom.gov.cn/article/newsrelease/significantnews/202012/20201203025630.shtml>

⁸⁰⁷ China’s investment deal with the EU has raised 3 big concerns in Europe, CNBC (Englewood Cliffs) 6 January 2021. Access Date: 21 April 2021. <https://www.cnbc.com/2021/01/06/china-eu-trade-deal-what-it-is-and-why-it-might-fail.html>

⁸⁰⁸ China’s investment deal with the EU has raised 3 big concerns in Europe, CNBC (Englewood Cliffs) 6 January 2021. Access Date: 21 April 2021. <https://www.cnbc.com/2021/01/06/china-eu-trade-deal-what-it-is-and-why-it-might-fail.html>

⁸⁰⁹ China’s investment deal with the EU has raised 3 big concerns in Europe, CNBC (Englewood Cliffs) 6 January 2021. Access Date: 21 April 2021. <https://www.cnbc.com/2021/01/06/china-eu-trade-deal-what-it-is-and-why-it-might-fail.html>

⁸¹⁰ China’s investment deal with the EU has raised 3 big concerns in Europe, CNBC (Englewood Cliffs) 6 January 2021. Access Date: 21 April 2021. <https://www.cnbc.com/2021/01/06/china-eu-trade-deal-what-it-is-and-why-it-might-fail.html>

⁸¹¹ Governor Yi Gang Meets with Ambassador Tarumi Hideo of Japan, The People’s Bank of China (Beijing) 8 January 2021. Access Date: 21 April 2021. <http://www.pbc.gov.cn/en/3688110/3688172/4157443/4159684/index.html>

⁸¹² Governor Yi Gang Meets with Ambassador Tarumi Hideo of Japan, The People’s Bank of China (Beijing) 8 January 2021. Access Date: 21 April 2021. <http://www.pbc.gov.cn/en/3688110/3688172/4157443/4159684/index.html>

⁸¹³ China, New Zealand ink ungraded free trade deal, Financial Post (Toronto), 25 January 2021. Access Date: 21 April 2021. <https://financialpost.com/pmn/business-pmn/china-new-zealand-ink-upgraded-free-trade-deal>

year.”⁸¹⁴ New Zealand Trade Minister Damien O’Connor stated that “99 [per cent] of New Zealand’s nearly NZ\$3 billion wood and paper trade to China will be granted tariff free access.”⁸¹⁵

On 25 January 2021, People’s Bank of China Deputy Governor Chen Yulu attended the G20 finance and central bank deputies meeting to discuss G20’s financial priorities for 2021.⁸¹⁶ The discussion includes “cooperation on global economic risk monitoring, international financial architecture, financial sector reforms, sustainable finance, infrastructure investment, and international taxation, with the aim to improve macroeconomic and financial policy coordination and support economic recovery.”⁸¹⁷

On 26 January 2021, Governor Yi attended the 2021 virtual Davos Agenda Week of the World Economic Forum. Panelists discussed “emerging financial risks resulting from policy response to COVID-19, and how to make financial institutions more resilient.”⁸¹⁸

On 28 January 2021, China and New Zealand signed the Protocol on Upgrading the Free Trade Agreement.⁸¹⁹ The protocol will increase cooperation, “benefit the businesses and people from both sides, and enrich and substantiate the China-New Zealand comprehensive strategic partnership.”⁸²⁰ The Upgrade Protocol opens markets for timber and paper products; clarifies rules of trade; lowers barriers in aviation, education, finance, elderly care; eases investment thresholds between China and New Zealand; and includes provisions on environmental protection and law enforcement.⁸²¹

On 9 February 2021, the Ministry of Commerce and the economic and trade departments of Albania, Czech Republic, Hungary and Serbia signed cooperation documents on the “establishment of the investment cooperation and trade promotion mechanism.”⁸²² China plans to establish “working groups on investment cooperation with Albania and Serbia,” “a working group on unimpeded trade with the Czech Republic” and “work with Hungary to promote the high-quality development of China-Hungary investment cooperation.”⁸²³

On 26 February 2021, Governor Yi attended a virtual meeting between G20 finance ministers and central bank governors.⁸²⁴ Participants committed to increase international coordination by “adopting

⁸¹⁴ China, New Zealand ink ungraded free trade deal, Financial Post (Toronto), 25 January 2021. Access Date: 21 April 2021. <https://financialpost.com/pm/business-pmn/china-new-zealand-ink-upgraded-free-trade-deal>

⁸¹⁵ China, New Zealand ink ungraded free trade deal, Financial Post (Toronto), 25 January 2021. Access Date: 21 April 2021. <https://financialpost.com/pm/business-pmn/china-new-zealand-ink-upgraded-free-trade-deal>

⁸¹⁶ Deputy Governor Chen Yulu Attended G20 Finance and Central Bank Deputies Virtual Meeting, People’s Bank of China (Beijing) 25 January 2021. Access Date: 21 April 2021. <http://www.pbc.gov.cn/en/3688110/3688172/4157443/4173468/index.html>

⁸¹⁷ Deputy Governor Chen Yulu Attended G20 Finance and Central Bank Deputies Virtual Meeting, People’s Bank of China (Beijing) 25 January 2021. Access Date: 21 April 2021. <http://www.pbc.gov.cn/en/3688110/3688172/4157443/4173468/index.html>

⁸¹⁸ Governor Yi Gang Attends the 2021 Virtual Davos Agenda Week of the World Economics Forum, People’s Bank of China (Beijing) 26 January 2021. Access Date: 21 April 2021. <http://www.pbc.gov.cn/en/3688110/3688172/4157443/4171673/index.html>

⁸¹⁹ China and New Zealand signed FTA upgrade protocol, Ministry of Commerce (Beijing) 28 January 2021. Access Date: 22 April 2021. <http://english.mofcom.gov.cn/article/newsrelease/significantnews/202102/20210203035747.shtml>

⁸²⁰ China and New Zealand signed FTA upgrade protocol, Ministry of Commerce (Beijing) 28 January 2021. Access Date: 22 April 2021. <http://english.mofcom.gov.cn/article/newsrelease/significantnews/202102/20210203035747.shtml>

⁸²¹ China and New Zealand signed FTA upgrade protocol, Ministry of Commerce (Beijing) 28 January 2021. Access Date: 22 April 2021. <http://english.mofcom.gov.cn/article/newsrelease/significantnews/202102/20210203035747.shtml>

⁸²² Ministry of Commerce signed economic and trade cooperation documents with the corresponding departments of CEECs, Ministry of Commerce (Beijing) 12 February 2021. Access Date: 22 April 2021. <http://english.mofcom.gov.cn/article/newsrelease/significantnews/202102/20210203039715.shtml>

⁸²³ Ministry of Commerce signed economic and trade cooperation documents with the corresponding departments of CEECs, Ministry of Commerce (Beijing) 12 February 2021. Access Date: 22 April 2021. <http://english.mofcom.gov.cn/article/newsrelease/significantnews/202102/20210203039715.shtml>

⁸²⁴ Governor Yi Gang Attends G20 Finance and Central Bank Deputies Virtual Meeting, The People’s Bank of China (Beijing) 26 January 2021. Access Date: 21 April 2021. <http://www.pbc.gov.cn/en/3688110/3688172/4157443/4197357/index.html>

a stronger multilateral approach and focusing on a set of core priorities.”⁸²⁵ Governor Yi specifically addressed three key issues, including “endorsing a general [Special Drawing Rights (SDR)] allocation ...to channel to low-income countries,” “joint debt treatment on comparable terms” and “assessing the economic and financial implications of climate change.”⁸²⁶

On 26 February 2021, Minister of Commerce Wang Wentao and Hungarian Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Peter Szijarto discussed views on “implementing the outcomes and consensuses of the China-CEEC Summit and further deepening economic and trade relations and anti-epidemic cooperation.”⁸²⁷ Minister Wentao outlined China’s 14th five-year plan, which aims to “present a broader market and development opportunities for all countries.”⁸²⁸

On 25 March 2021, China and Singapore engaged in negotiations on a FTA upgrade.⁸²⁹ The countries discussed the rules of cross-border trade in services, investment, telecommunications and other areas, and exchanged views on issues related to negotiations on trade in services and investment liberalization.⁸³⁰

On 7 April 2021, Governor Yi met with G20 finance ministers and central bank governors.⁸³¹ During the meeting, “ministers and governors reaffirmed their resolve to use all available policy tools to support the global economic recovery.”⁸³² In addition, “they acknowledged the important role of open and fair trade in restoring growth.”⁸³³ Governor Yi supported upgrading the G20 Sustainable Finance Study Group to a working group, and “committed to working with G20 members in advancing the G20 sustainable finance agenda.”⁸³⁴

On 7 April 2021, China and Belarus began negotiations over a service trade and investment agreement.⁸³⁵ Both countries “agreed on the Terms of Reference, and had an in-depth exchange of

⁸²⁵ Governor Yi Gang Attends G20 Finance and Central Bank Deputies Virtual Meeting, The People’s Bank of China (Beijing) 26 January 2021. Access Date: 21 April 2021. <http://www.pbc.gov.cn/en/3688110/3688172/4157443/4197357/index.html>

⁸²⁶ Governor Yi Gang Attends G20 Finance and Central Bank Deputies Virtual Meeting, The People’s Bank of China (Beijing) 26 January 2021. Access Date: 21 April 2021. <http://www.pbc.gov.cn/en/3688110/3688172/4157443/4197357/index.html>

⁸²⁷ Wang Wentao: Further Deepening China-Hungary Anti-epidemic and Trade and Economic Cooperation to Bring Bilateral Comprehensive Strategic Partnership to a Higher Level, Ministry of Commerce (Beijing) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 22 April 2021. <http://english.mofcom.gov.cn/article/newsrelease/significantnews/202103/20210303042474.shtml>

⁸²⁸ Wang Wentao: Further Deepening China-Hungary Anti-epidemic and Trade and Economic Cooperation to Bring Bilateral Comprehensive Strategic Partnership to a Higher Level, Ministry of Commerce (Beijing) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 22 April 2021. <http://english.mofcom.gov.cn/article/newsrelease/significantnews/202103/20210303042474.shtml>

⁸²⁹ China and Singapore held the first round of follow-up negotiations on FTA upgrade, Ministry of Commerce (Beijing) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 22 April 2021. <http://english.mofcom.gov.cn/article/newsrelease/significantnews/202104/20210403050370.shtml>

⁸³⁰ China and Singapore held the first round of follow-up negotiations on FTA upgrade, Ministry of Commerce (Beijing) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 22 April 2021. <http://english.mofcom.gov.cn/article/newsrelease/significantnews/202104/20210403050370.shtml>

⁸³¹ Governor Yi Gang Attended G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Virtual Meeting, The People’s Bank of China (Beijing) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 21 April 2021. <http://www.pbc.gov.cn/en/3688110/3688172/4157443/4226431/index.html>

⁸³² Governor Yi Gang Attended G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Virtual Meeting, The People’s Bank of China (Beijing) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 21 April 2021. <http://www.pbc.gov.cn/en/3688110/3688172/4157443/4226431/index.html>

⁸³³ Governor Yi Gang Attended G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Virtual Meeting, The People’s Bank of China (Beijing) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 21 April 2021. <http://www.pbc.gov.cn/en/3688110/3688172/4157443/4226431/index.html>

⁸³⁴ Governor Yi Gang Attended G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Virtual Meeting, The People’s Bank of China (Beijing) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 21 April 2021. <http://www.pbc.gov.cn/en/3688110/3688172/4157443/4226431/index.html>

⁸³⁵ China and Belarus held the first round negotiation over service trade and investment agreement, Ministry of Commerce (Beijing) 11 April 2021. Access Date: 22 April 2021. <http://english.mofcom.gov.cn/article/newsrelease/significantnews/202104/20210403051659.shtml>

views on trade, investment and IP [intellectual property] rules.”⁸³⁶ This was an attempt to improve “the bilateral trade and economic rules regarding service trade and investment and foster an enabling environment for expanding bilateral trade and investment cooperation.”⁸³⁷

On 10 April 2021, Minister Wang met with Indonesia’s Trade Minister Muhammad Lutfi to exchange “views on deepening China-Indonesia trade and economic ties and reached broad common understanding.”⁸³⁸ The ministers participated in a signing of the agreement to “establish a Working Group on Promoting Smooth Trade.”⁸³⁹

On 9 April 2021, Governor Yi attended a meeting of the International Monetary and Financial Committee, focusing on the International Monetary Fund’s (IMF) Global Policy Agenda.⁸⁴⁰ Among other topics, Governor Yi expressed that “China supports the IMF’s proposal of a new SDR allocation ...and to channel extra SDRs to vulnerable countries.”⁸⁴¹

On 22 April 2021, China attended the WTO general council meeting.⁸⁴² Attendees agreed to eliminate unnecessary restrictions on exports of medical goods essential to combatting COVID-19, remain transparent about export restrictions deemed “necessary to relieve critical shortages,” and give particular considerations to least developed countries.⁸⁴³ Additionally, members agreed to engage with WTO trade monitoring exercises.⁸⁴⁴

China has fully complied with its commitment to strive to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade and investment environment. China has taken action to strive to realize the goal of a non-discriminatory, fair, free, predictable and inclusive trade environment by contributing funds to the WTO’s LDC and Accession program, actively renegotiating FTAs and attending G20 ministerial meetings. Additionally, China has taken action to strive to realize the goal of a non-discriminatory, fair, free and predictable investment environment by setting a five-year plan in accordance with WTO principles, signing new investment deals and supporting multilateral initiatives for SDR allocation.

⁸³⁶ China and Belarus held the first round negotiation over service trade and investment agreement, Ministry of Commerce (Beijing) 11 April 2021. Access Date: 22 April 2021.

<http://english.mofcom.gov.cn/article/newsrelease/significantnews/202104/20210403051659.shtml>

⁸³⁷ China and Belarus held the first round negotiation over service trade and investment agreement, Ministry of Commerce (Beijing) 11 April 2021. Access Date: 22 April 2021.

<http://english.mofcom.gov.cn/article/newsrelease/significantnews/202104/20210403051659.shtml>

⁸³⁸ Wang Wentao: Working for high-level development of China-Indonesia Trade and Economic links, Ministry of Commerce PRC (Beijing) 11 April 2021. Access Date: 22 April 2021.

<http://wangwentao2.mofcom.gov.cn/article/activity/202104/20210403051673.shtml>

⁸³⁹ Wang Wentao: Working for high-level development of China-Indonesia Trade and Economic links, Ministry of Commerce PRC (Beijing) 11 April 2021. Access Date: 22 April 2021.

<http://wangwentao2.mofcom.gov.cn/article/activity/202104/20210403051673.shtml>

⁸⁴⁰ Governor Yi Gang Attends the Forty-Third Meeting of the International Monetary and Financial Committee, The People’s Bank of China (Beijing) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 21 April 2021.

<http://www.pbc.gov.cn/en/3688110/3688172/4157443/4228360/index.html>

⁸⁴¹ Governor Yi Gang Attends the Forty-Third Meeting of the International Monetary and Financial Committee, The People’s Bank of China (Beijing) 9 April 2021. Access Date: 21 April 2021.

<http://www.pbc.gov.cn/en/3688110/3688172/4157443/4228360/index.html>

⁸⁴² COVID-19 and beyond: trade and health, WTO general council (Geneva) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021.

<https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=q:/Jobs/GC/251R1.pdf&Open=True>

⁸⁴³ COVID-19 and beyond: trade and health, WTO general council (Geneva) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021.

<https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=q:/Jobs/GC/251R1.pdf&Open=True>

⁸⁴⁴ COVID-19 and beyond: trade and health, WTO general council (Geneva) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021.

<https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=q:/Jobs/GC/251R1.pdf&Open=True>

Thus, China receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Jing sen Zhang

France: +1

France has fully complied with its commitment to strive to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade and investment environment.

On 30 December 2020, after a call between President Emmanuel Macron, Chinese President Xi Jinping, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, European Council President Charles Michel, and German Chancellor Angela Merkel on behalf of the Presidency of the EU council, the EU and China have concluded the principle negotiations for a Comprehensive Agreement on Investment.⁸⁴⁵ This agreement allows for a better balance between EU and Chinese trade relations and “set[s] a high benchmark in terms of transparency, level playing field, marketing access commitments and sustainable development.”⁸⁴⁶ This agreement has yet to be ratified.⁸⁴⁷

On 23 February 2021, Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs Jean-Yves Le Drian spoke on the telephone with Indonesian Minister of Foreign Affairs Retno Marsudi.⁸⁴⁸ Minister Le Drian reaffirmed France’s interests in strengthening the partnership between France and Indonesia, as well as within the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.⁸⁴⁹

On 1 March 2021, Minister Delegate for Foreign Trade and Economic Attractiveness, attached to the Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs Franck Riester spoke with German Minister for the Economy and Energy Peter Altmaier via video conference.⁸⁵⁰ Ministers discussed the new trade policy strategy that was presented by the European Commission on 18 February 2021.⁸⁵¹ They also

⁸⁴⁵ EU and China reach agreement in principle on investment, European Commission (Brussels) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_2541

⁸⁴⁶ EU and China reach agreement in principle on investment, European Commission (Brussels) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_2541

⁸⁴⁷ EU and China reach agreement in principle on investment, European Commission (Brussels) 30 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_2541

⁸⁴⁸ Indonesia – Call between Mr Jean-Yves Le Drian and his Indonesian Counterpart, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/indonesia/news/article/indonesia-call-between-mr-jean-yves-le-drian-and-his-indonesian-counterpart-26>

⁸⁴⁹ Indonesia – Call between Mr Jean-Yves Le Drian and his Indonesian Counterpart, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/indonesia/news/article/indonesia-call-between-mr-jean-yves-le-drian-and-his-indonesian-counterpart-26>

⁸⁵⁰ International trade – Conversation between Franck Riester and Germany’s minister for the economy and energy, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 1 March 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/economic-diplomacy-foreign-trade/news/article/international-trade-conversation-between-franck-riester-and-germany-s-minister>

⁸⁵¹ International trade – Conversation between Franck Riester and Germany’s minister for the economy and energy, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 1 March 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/economic-diplomacy-foreign-trade/news/article/international-trade-conversation-between-franck-riester-and-germany-s-minister>

discussed the draft agreement between the EU and Mercosur.⁸⁵² This agreement paves the way for reducing trade barriers and facilitating free trade between the EU and Mercosur.⁸⁵³

On 5 March 2021, Minister of the Economy, Finance and the Recovery Bruno Le Maire and Minister Riester welcomed the agreement between the EU and the United States, which enacted a mutual suspension of punitive tariffs that emerged in the Airbus-Boeing dispute.⁸⁵⁴ The EU, and thereby France, will suspend the additional tariffs that it had been imposing on American products valued at USD4 billion since 10 November 2020.⁸⁵⁵ The goal of this four-month suspension is to allocate resources towards finalizing a permanent resolution to the dispute and implement new regulations that will “provide better protection against unfair competition and distortions linked to industrial subsidies.”⁸⁵⁶

On 5 March 2021, 20 interns from developing countries taking part in the French-Irish Mission Internship Programme were welcomed at a virtual ceremony.⁸⁵⁷ This program is co-funded by France and Ireland, and seeks to “build sustainable trade-related capacity in beneficiary countries by providing officials with an opportunity to participate in the World Trade Organization’s (WTO) work in Geneva.”⁸⁵⁸ France’s WTO Permanent Representative Jean-Marie Paugam said: “France and the beneficiaries of the programme are certain of its importance in helping to build a multilateral trading system adapted to the needs of all members at all levels of development.⁸⁵⁹ France will continue to discuss with the WTO Secretariat the next phases for this trade-related capacity-building fund so that it continues to be of benefit to developing countries.”⁸⁶⁰

On 30 March 2021, Minister Riester spoke with Director General of the International Labor Organization (ILO) Guy Ryder, via video conference.⁸⁶¹ This meeting follows the renewal of

⁸⁵² International trade – Conversation between Franck Riester and Germany’s minister for the economy and energy, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 1 March 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021.

<https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/economic-diplomacy-foreign-trade/news/article/international-trade-conversation-between-franck-riester-and-germany-s-minister>

⁸⁵³ International trade – Conversation between Franck Riester and Germany’s minister for the economy and energy, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 1 March 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021.

<https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/economic-diplomacy-foreign-trade/news/article/international-trade-conversation-between-franck-riester-and-germany-s-minister>

⁸⁵⁴ Press Release – EU and US agree four-month suspension of mutual sanctions in Airbus-Boeing dispute, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2021.

<https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/economic-diplomacy-foreign-trade/news/article/press-release-eu-and-us-agree-four-month-suspension-of-mutual-sanctions-in>

⁸⁵⁵ Press Release – EU and US agree four-month suspension of mutual sanctions in Airbus-Boeing dispute, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2021.

<https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/economic-diplomacy-foreign-trade/news/article/press-release-eu-and-us-agree-four-month-suspension-of-mutual-sanctions-in>

⁸⁵⁶ Press Release – EU and US agree four-month suspension of mutual sanctions in Airbus-Boeing dispute, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2021.

<https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/economic-diplomacy-foreign-trade/news/article/press-release-eu-and-us-agree-four-month-suspension-of-mutual-sanctions-in>

⁸⁵⁷ Students and Young Professionals, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021.

https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news21_e/stud_05mar21_e.htm

⁸⁵⁸ Students and Young Professionals, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021.

https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news21_e/stud_05mar21_e.htm

⁸⁵⁹ Students and Young Professionals, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021.

https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news21_e/stud_05mar21_e.htm

⁸⁶⁰ Students and Young Professionals, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021.

https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news21_e/stud_05mar21_e.htm

⁸⁶¹ International Labor Organization – Meeting between Franck Riester and Guy Ryder, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 30 March 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/economic-diplomacy-foreign-trade/news/article/international-labor-organization-meeting-between-franck-riester-and-guy-ryder>

France's partnership with the ILO for the period of 2020 to 2024.⁸⁶² Minister Riester reaffirmed France's support of the ILO and its initiatives.⁸⁶³ Minister Riester and Director Ryder discussed the role of trade policy in relation to ILO norms and conventions, and placed emphasis on the strengthening of trade and investment in the facilitation of sustainable development.⁸⁶⁴

On 1 April 2021, Minister Riester and Minister Le Maire visited Geneva, and met with Director General of the WTO Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala.⁸⁶⁵ They discussed WTO reform that will preserve and sustain the rules-based multilateral trade system, sustainable development, and fair trade.⁸⁶⁶ Minister Riester met with Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization Daren Tang and Director General of the French National Institute of Industrial Property Pascal Faure, with whom he reaffirmed the importance of "protecting geographical indications" for French companies in order to support exportations and international expansion.⁸⁶⁷

On 2 April 2021, Minister Riester met with the Minister Delegate for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises, attached to the Minister of Economy, France and the Recovery Alain Griset and the Strategic Export Council via videoconference.⁸⁶⁸ They discussed the results of the export dimension of the France Relance recovery plan, noting that "in January 2021, exports of French products had practically returned to January 2020 levels."⁸⁶⁹

On 2 May 2021, Minister Le Drian attended the G7 Foreign and Development Ministers' Meeting in London.⁸⁷⁰ In the communiqué, Ministers reaffirmed their support for "free and fair trade conducted within a system of transparent and predictable international rules and standards."⁸⁷¹ Ministers urged

⁸⁶² International Labor Organization – Meeting between Franck Riester and Guy Ryder, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 30 March 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/economic-diplomacy-foreign-trade/news/article/international-labor-organization-meeting-between-franck-riester-and-guy-ryder>

⁸⁶³ International Labor Organization – Meeting between Franck Riester and Guy Ryder, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 30 March 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/economic-diplomacy-foreign-trade/news/article/international-labor-organization-meeting-between-franck-riester-and-guy-ryder>

⁸⁶⁴ International Labor Organization – Meeting between Franck Riester and Guy Ryder, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 30 March 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/economic-diplomacy-foreign-trade/news/article/international-labor-organization-meeting-between-franck-riester-and-guy-ryder>

⁸⁶⁵ International trade – Visit by Franck Riester, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/economic-diplomacy-foreign-trade/news/article/international-trade-visit-by-franck-riester-geneva-1-apr-2021>

⁸⁶⁶ International trade – Visit by Franck Riester, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/economic-diplomacy-foreign-trade/news/article/international-trade-visit-by-franck-riester-geneva-1-apr-2021>

⁸⁶⁷ International trade – Visit by Franck Riester, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/economic-diplomacy-foreign-trade/news/article/international-trade-visit-by-franck-riester-geneva-1-apr-2021>

⁸⁶⁸ Foreign trade – Meeting of the Strategic Export Council, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 2 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/economic-diplomacy-foreign-trade/news/article/foreign-trade-meeting-of-the-strategic-export-council-02-apr-21>

⁸⁶⁹ Foreign trade – Meeting of the Strategic Export Council, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 2 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/economic-diplomacy-foreign-trade/news/article/foreign-trade-meeting-of-the-strategic-export-council-02-apr-21>

⁸⁷⁰ G7 Foreign and Development Ministers' Meeting Communique, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 5 May 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/news/2021/article/g7-foreign-and-development-ministers-meeting-communique-london-5-may-2021>

⁸⁷¹ G7 Foreign and Development Ministers' Meeting Communique, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 5 May 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/news/2021/article/g7-foreign-and-development-ministers-meeting-communique-london-5-may-2021>

greater collaboration with African governments to increase trade and unlock private investment opportunities.⁸⁷²

France has fully complied with its commitment to strive to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade and investment environment. France has taken action to strive to realize the goal of a fair, free, predictable and inclusive trade environment by engaging in multilateral trade initiatives and lowering barriers to trade. Additionally, France has taken action to strive to realize the goal of a non-discriminatory, fair, free, and predictable investment environment by attending the G7 Foreign and Development Ministers' Meeting.

Thus, France receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Sabar Fatima

Germany: +1

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to strive to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade and investment environment.

On 24 November 2020, Chancellor Angela Merkel stated that Germany hopes to complete a China-EU investment agreement to strengthen cooperation in vaccine distribution, investment, climate change and environmental protection.⁸⁷³ Merkel's statement promotes the development of Germany-China and EU-China trade and investment relations.⁸⁷⁴

On 27 November 2020, Germany approved an investment of EUR10 billion between 2021 and 2030 with hopes of creating an additional EUR20 billion in private venture capital investments to promote start-ups in the country.⁸⁷⁵ The President of the Federal Association of German Start-Ups Christian Miele stated that the Bundestag created the necessary budgetary conditions for significantly improving the financing of start-ups through this "future fund."⁸⁷⁶

On 3 December 2020, Germany and Estonia pledged EUR815,000 to the Enhanced Integrated Framework, a global development program for helping least-developed-countries (LDC) enhance their trading capacities and for creating an inclusive trade environment.⁸⁷⁷ The new funding will support 47 LDCs across Africa, Asia, the Pacific and 4 countries that recently graduated from LDC status: Cabo Verde, Equatorial Guinea, Maldives and Samoa.⁸⁷⁸

⁸⁷² G7 Foreign and Development Ministers' Meeting Communique, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 5 May 2021. Access Date: 15 May 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/news/2021/article/g7-foreign-and-development-ministers-meeting-communique-london-5-may-2021>

⁸⁷³ Xi Jinping and Angela Merkel discuss vaccine distribution after G20 summit, CGTN (Beijing) 24 November 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://news.cgtn.com/news/2020-11-24/Xi-Jinping-and-Merkel-discusses-vaccine-distribution-after-G20-summit--VGu8YoolzO/index.html>

⁸⁷⁴ Xi Jinping and Angela Merkel discuss vaccine distribution after G20 summit, CGTN (Beijing) 24 November 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2021. <https://news.cgtn.com/news/2020-11-24/Xi-Jinping-and-Merkel-discusses-vaccine-distribution-after-G20-summit--VGu8YoolzO/index.html>

⁸⁷⁵ Germany to Invest €10 Billion in Start-Up Support, Germany Trade & Invest (Berlin) 27 November 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.gtai.de/gtai-en/meta/press/germany-ten-billion-startup-fund-585322>

⁸⁷⁶ Germany to Invest €10 Billion in Start-Up Support, Germany Trade & Invest (Berlin) 27 November 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.gtai.de/gtai-en/meta/press/germany-ten-billion-startup-fund-585322>

⁸⁷⁷ Germany, Estonia contribute to EIF to help poorest countries expand role in world trade, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 3 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/if_03dec20_e.htm

⁸⁷⁸ Germany, Estonia contribute to EIF to help poorest countries expand role in world trade, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 3 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/if_03dec20_e.htm

On 7 December 2020, Minister for Economic Affairs and Energy Peter Altmaier stated that the government is “continuing to work on putting the right policy environment in place for forward-looking investments in a digital and green economy in Germany and Europe.”⁸⁷⁹

On 12 January 2021, Minister Altmaier and Vietnam’s Minister of Industry and Trade Tran Tuan Anh co-chaired the first session of the German-Vietnamese Economic Committee, which aims to advance German-Vietnamese trade relations.⁸⁸⁰ Minister Altmaier continued the promotion of open markets and free trade between the two countries following the success of the August 2020 German-Vietnamese free trade agreement.⁸⁸¹

On 18 January 2021, Chancellor Merkel and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau discussed several issues, including “collaboration between Canada and Germany on shared priorities,” which includes international trade.⁸⁸² They plan to address these issues through “cooperation within the G7, G20, and other multilateral forums.”⁸⁸³

On 26 January 2021, Minister Altmaier met with New Zealand’s Trade Minister Damien O’Connor via video conference to exchange views concerning German-New Zealand economic relations and developments in global trade policy.⁸⁸⁴ Minister Altmaier stated that Germany continues to cooperate with New Zealand and that the continued negotiations for a free trade agreement between the EU and New Zealand reinforces this cooperation, strengthens the multilateral trade environment, and promotes free trade.⁸⁸⁵

On 26 January 2021, Chancellor Merkel announced that the country will continue to work on reinforcing rules-based international trade structures and supporting bilateral international trade agreements.⁸⁸⁶ The announcement confirms that Germany will maintain its efforts to strengthen the

⁸⁷⁹ 2020 further bolstered Germany’s reputation around the world, Germany Trade & Invest (Berlin) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 11 March 2021. <https://www.gtai.de/gtai-en/meta/press/germany-reputation-international-surveys-rankings-588572>

⁸⁸⁰ Minister Altmaier co-chairs first session of German-Vietnamese Joint Economic Committee, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin) 12 January 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2021/01/20210112-minister-altmaier-co-chairs-first-session-of-german-vietnamese-joint-economic-committee.html>

⁸⁸¹ Minister Altmaier co-chairs first session of German-Vietnamese Joint Economic Committee, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin) 12 January 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2021/01/20210112-minister-altmaier-co-chairs-first-session-of-german-vietnamese-joint-economic-committee.html>

⁸⁸² Prime Minister Justin Trudeau speaks with Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany, Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau (Ottawa) 18 January 2021. Access Date: 17 April 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/readouts/2021/01/18/prime-minister-justin-trudeau-speaks-chancellor-angela-merkel-germany>

⁸⁸³ Prime Minister Justin Trudeau speaks with Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany, Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau (Ottawa) 18 January 2021. Access Date: 17 April 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/readouts/2021/01/18/prime-minister-justin-trudeau-speaks-chancellor-angela-merkel-germany>

⁸⁸⁴ Federal Minister Peter Altmaier discusses current trade policy issues with New Zealand Trade Minister Damien O’Connor, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin) 26 January 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2021/01/20210126-federal-minister-peter-altmaier-discusses-current-trade-policy-issues-with-new-zealand-trade-minister-damien-o-connor.html>

⁸⁸⁵ Federal Minister Peter Altmaier discusses current trade policy issues with New Zealand Trade Minister Damien O’Connor, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin) 26 January 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2021/01/20210126-federal-minister-peter-altmaier-discusses-current-trade-policy-issues-with-new-zealand-trade-minister-damien-o-connor.html>

⁸⁸⁶ Speech by Federal Chancellor Dr Angela Merkel at the World Economic Forum’s Davos Dialogue on 26 January 2021 (video conference), The Federal Government (Berlin) 26 January 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/news/speech-by-federal-chancellor-dr-angela-merkel-at-the-world-economic-forum-s-davos-dialogue-on-26-january-2021-video-conference--1846772>

World Trade Organization (WTO), which Merkel believes to be the “core element of rules-based global trade.”⁸⁸⁷

On 15 February 2021, Transatlantic Coordinator Peter Beyer announced that Germany wants Europe and the US to bolster transatlantic relations with a trade deal that eliminates industrial tariffs, reforms the WTO to increase pressure on China to “play by international trade rules” and that establishes a joint carbon-emission trading system for climate protection.⁸⁸⁸ Beyer also argued that the new US administration should “withdraw punitive tariffs” imposed by Former US President Donald Trump on European imports of aluminum and steel as a first step towards “rebuilding trust” between the US and the EU.⁸⁸⁹

On 24 March 2021, Minister Altmaier met with the new Director-General of the WTO Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala via video conference to discuss WTO reform and the priorities of the new Director-General.⁸⁹⁰ The talks prioritized strengthening the multilateral trading system by reforming the WTO.⁸⁹¹ Minister Altmaier claimed that the COVID-19 pandemic and changing global conditions underline the need for this reform.⁸⁹²

On 24 March 2021, Minister Altmaier met with US Trade Representative Katherine Tai to discuss the importance of the trade and investment relationship between the two countries.⁸⁹³ Minister Altmaier and Representative Tai committed to strengthening US-German cooperation on shared objectives related to unfair trade practices of large non-market economies and focussed on the two countries’ “strong interest” in resolving a long-running US-EU aircraft subsidy dispute and addressing the global excess steel and aluminum capacity.⁸⁹⁴

On 25 March 2021, Federal Minister of Finance Olaf Scholz and Minister Altmaier tasked the KfW, a government owned development bank, with the execution of the Zukunftsfonds (Future Fund).⁸⁹⁵ The Zukunftsfonds offers innovative technology start-ups better access to capital through a EUR10

⁸⁸⁷ Speech by Federal Chancellor Dr Angela Merkel at the World Economic Forum’s Davos Dialogue on 26 January 2021 (video conference), The Federal Government (Berlin) 26 January 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021.

<https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/news/speech-by-federal-chancellor-dr-angela-merkel-at-the-world-economic-forum-s-davos-dialogue-on-26-january-2021-video-conference--1846772>

⁸⁸⁸ 'Let's think big' – Germany wants to work closely with Biden on trade, China, climate, Reuters (Berlin) 15 February 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-germany-usa-idUSKBN2AF160>

⁸⁸⁹ 'Let's think big' – Germany wants to work closely with Biden on trade, China, climate, Reuters (Berlin) 15 February 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-germany-usa-idUSKBN2AF160>

⁸⁹⁰ Minister Altmaier talks with Dr Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, new Director-General of the World Trade Organization, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin) 24 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021.

<https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2021/03/20210324-minister-altmaier-talks-with-dr-ngozi-okonjo-iweala-new-director-general-of-the-world-trade-organization.html>

⁸⁹¹ Minister Altmaier talks with Dr Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, new Director-General of the World Trade Organization, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin) 24 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021.

<https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2021/03/20210324-minister-altmaier-talks-with-dr-ngozi-okonjo-iweala-new-director-general-of-the-world-trade-organization.html>

⁸⁹² Minister Altmaier talks with Dr Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, new Director-General of the World Trade Organization, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin) 24 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021.

<https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2021/03/20210324-minister-altmaier-talks-with-dr-ngozi-okonjo-iweala-new-director-general-of-the-world-trade-organization.html>

⁸⁹³ USTR says Tai, Germany's Altmaier discuss aircraft dispute, excess metals capacity, Reuters (Washington) 24 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-trade-tai-germany-idUSKBN2BG2XL>

⁸⁹⁴ USTR says Tai, Germany's Altmaier discuss aircraft dispute, excess metals capacity, Reuters (Washington) 24 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-trade-tai-germany-idUSKBN2BG2XL>

⁸⁹⁵ Launch of the Zukunftsfonds – federal government bolsters financing for start-ups in Germany, Federal Ministry of Finance (Berlin) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Content/EN/Standardartikel/Topics/Financial_markets/Articles/2021-03-25-launch-of-the-zukunftsfonds.html

billion investment from the federal government and at least EUR30 billion in venture capital from private and public investors.⁸⁹⁶

On 29 April 2021, Germany passed a law that permits over 4,000 institutional investment funds to invest as much as 20 per cent of their portfolio in crypto currencies.⁸⁹⁷ Experts claim that this law could boost Germany's position as a financial investment hub and in turn boosts the crypto currency sector by legitimising the asset class.⁸⁹⁸ Member of the Bundestag Frank Schäffler stated that the addition of crypto assets in such investment funds is a crucial step for their acceptance.⁸⁹⁹

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to strive to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade and investment environment. Germany has taken action to strive to realize the goal of a non-discriminatory, fair, free, predictable and inclusive trade environment by fostering the trading environments of LDCs. Additionally, Germany has taken action to strive to realize the goal of a non-discriminatory, fair, free, predictable and inclusive investment environment by developing forward-looking investment plans.

Thus, Germany receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Arees Chooljian

India: +1

India has fully complied with its commitment to strive to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade and investment environment.

On 25 November 2020, the cabinet approved a capital infusion of INR60 billion in the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) over the next two years.⁹⁰⁰ Minister of Information and Broadcasting Prakash Javadekar stated that the government would invest INR24 billion in the NIIF during the current financial year ending in March 2021, which would help generate up to INR1.1 trillion for investments.⁹⁰¹

On 15 December 2020, Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal welcomed foreign investors to “be a part of India's growth story” and stated that India continues to open up to global investors in order to strengthen economic plans for the future.⁹⁰² Goyal also cited the continuous

⁸⁹⁶ Launch of the Zukunftsfonds – federal government bolsters financing for start-ups in Germany, Federal Ministry of Finance (Berlin) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Content/EN/Standardartikel/Topics/Financial_markets/Articles/2021-03-25-launch-of-the-zukunftsfonds.html

⁸⁹⁷ Germany allows institutional funds to invest in cryptos, CoinJournal (Manchester) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://coinjournal.net/news/germany-allows-institutional-funds-to-invest-in-cryptos/>

⁸⁹⁸ Germany allows institutional funds to invest in cryptos, CoinJournal (Manchester) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://coinjournal.net/news/germany-allows-institutional-funds-to-invest-in-cryptos/>

⁸⁹⁹ Germany allows institutional funds to invest in cryptos, CoinJournal (Manchester) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://coinjournal.net/news/germany-allows-institutional-funds-to-invest-in-cryptos/>

⁹⁰⁰ Indian Government to Invest \$812 Million in NIIF: Minister, Businessworld (New Delhi) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. <http://www.businessworld.in/article/Indian-Government-To-Invest-812-Million-In-NIIF-Minister/25-11-2020-346535/>

⁹⁰¹ Indian Government to Invest \$812 Million in NIIF: Minister, Businessworld (New Delhi) 25 November 2020. Access Date: 13 March 2021. <http://www.businessworld.in/article/Indian-Government-To-Invest-812-Million-In-NIIF-Minister/25-11-2020-346535/>

⁹⁰² Shri Piyush Goyal invites Foreign Investors to be a part of India's growth story, Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry (New Delhi) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://commerce.gov.in/press-releases/shri-piyush-goyal-invites-foreign-investors-to-be-a-part-of-indias-growth-story/>

growth of India's Foreign Direct Investment, which facilitates a non-discriminatory investment environment in the country.⁹⁰³

On 25 January 2021, Ambassador to Cambodia Devyani Uttam Khobragade and Cambodian Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Prak Sokhonn reached a consensus to speed up negotiations on the Bilateral Investment Treaty and the draft operating conditions for Cambodia-India Joint Working Group on Trade and Investment, which are intended to expand trade and investment between the countries.⁹⁰⁴ On 3 February 2021, Commerce Secretary Anup Wadhawan announced that the country's budget for 2021-22 aims to enhance the physical environment for investment, targeting a "plug and play eco-system for investors," easing trade facilitation measures and addressing unfair trade practices.⁹⁰⁵ Secretary Wadhawan added that he hopes the domestic playing field will be levelled by addressing unfair trade practices.⁹⁰⁶

On 8 February 2021, Minister Goyal and British Foreign Secretary Liz Truss released a statement laying the groundwork for an "Enhanced Trade Partnership."⁹⁰⁷ Details of the partnership include discussions of a full free trade agreement and a commitment to long-term India-UK partnership, all while understanding each country's priorities and trade sensitivities.⁹⁰⁸

On 18 February 2021, Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla met Russia's Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov to discuss the development of an important partnership between the two countries.⁹⁰⁹ Shringla and Lavrov emphasized the two countries' aspiration to increase trade and economic turnover by expanding cooperation in traditional and high-tech spheres and taking forward the cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region.⁹¹⁰

On 18 February 2021, Minister Goyal delivered the keynote address at India-Singapore CEO Forum, in which he invited businesses from both countries to "bring in sparkle" into India and Singapore's partnership, encouraging international investment and creating an inclusive investment environment.⁹¹¹ Minister Goyal said he is looking at expanding bilateral ties with Singapore.⁹¹²

⁹⁰³ Shri Piyush Goyal invites Foreign Investors to be a part of India's growth story, Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry (New Delhi) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://commerce.gov.in/press-releases/shri-piyush-goyal-invites-foreign-investors-to-be-a-part-of-indias-growth-story/>

⁹⁰⁴ Rush order on India signings, The Phnom Penh Post (Phnom Penh) 27 January 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.phnompenhpost.com/business/rush-order-india-signings>

⁹⁰⁵ Commerce Secretary DrAnup Wadhawan says the Budget 2021-22 will enhance India's growth in manufacturing, trade and other sectors, Ministry of Commerce and Industry (New Delhi) 3 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://commerce.gov.in/press-releases/commerce-secretary-dranup-wadhawan-says-the-budget-2021-22-will-enhance-indias-growth-in-manufacturing-trade-and-other-sectors/>

⁹⁰⁶ Commerce Secretary DrAnup Wadhawan says the Budget 2021-22 will enhance India's growth in manufacturing, trade and other sectors, Ministry of Commerce and Industry (New Delhi) 3 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://commerce.gov.in/press-releases/commerce-secretary-dranup-wadhawan-says-the-budget-2021-22-will-enhance-indias-growth-in-manufacturing-trade-and-other-sectors/>

⁹⁰⁷ India, UK Agree to Immediate 'Enhanced Trade Partnership,' India Briefing (Kowloon) 8 February 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. <https://www.india-briefing.com/news/india-uk-agree-to-immediate-enhanced-trade-partnership-21667.html/>

⁹⁰⁸ India, UK Agree to Immediate 'Enhanced Trade Partnership,' India Briefing (Kowloon) 8 February 2021. Access Date: 13 March 2021. <https://www.india-briefing.com/news/india-uk-agree-to-immediate-enhanced-trade-partnership-21667.html/>

⁹⁰⁹ Foreign Secretary Shringla Discusses Ways to Strengthen Strategic Partnership with Russian Minister, Mint (New Delhi) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/foreign-secretary-shringla-discusses-ways-to-strengthen-strategic-partnership-with-russian-minister-11613613614268.html>

⁹¹⁰ Foreign Secretary Shringla Discusses Ways to Strengthen Strategic Partnership with Russian Minister, Mint (New Delhi) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/foreign-secretary-shringla-discusses-ways-to-strengthen-strategic-partnership-with-russian-minister-11613613614268.html>

⁹¹¹ Shri Piyush Goyal delivers keynote address at India-Singapore CEO Forum, Ministry of Commerce and Industry (New Delhi) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://commerce.gov.in/press-releases/shri-piyush-goyal-delivers-keynote-address-at-india-singapore-ceo-forum/>

On 19 February 2021, India and the EU “expressed hope to forge a host of bilateral cooperation arrangements with a view to boost bilateral trade” by continuing negotiations on the Bilateral Trade and Investment Agreement, in which the EU seeks greater market access for its commodities in India.⁹¹³

On 22 February 2021, India and Mauritius signed the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement (CECPA), a free trade agreement, during a meeting between Minister of External Affairs Subrahmanyam Jaishankar and Prime Minister of Mauritius Pravind Jugnauth.⁹¹⁴ CECPA will provide preferential access to Mauritius for the bulk of trade and many “aspirational items” in the Indian market, boost the dynamism of the services sector in Mauritius and provide Mauritius with an additional 100,000 doses of Made in India COVID-19 vaccines.⁹¹⁵ Minister Jaishankar said that CECPA would also enable Indian investors to use Mauritius as a launch pad for business expansion into continental Africa and help the prospect of Mauritius emerging as a “hub of Africa.”⁹¹⁶

On 2 March 2021, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced a long-term USD82 billion investment plan for the country’s seaports, which includes plans to develop renewable power to supply more than half of the energy needs of India’s ports by 2030.⁹¹⁷ During the Maritime India Summit, Prime Minister Modi also called for massive public and private commitments to improve infrastructure for maritime trade.⁹¹⁸

On 16 March 2021, Prime Minister Modi and Prime Minister of Finland Sanna Marin, met virtually to review and express their desire to further expand and diversify the ongoing bilateral engagements relating to sectors such as trade and investment, innovation, education, and emerging technologies.⁹¹⁹ Prime Minister Modi reaffirmed India’s commitment to work for multilateralism, a rules-based international order, sustainable development and climate change.⁹²⁰

⁹¹² Shri Piyush Goyal delivers keynote address at India-Singapore CEO Forum, Ministry of Commerce and Industry (New Delhi) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://commerce.gov.in/press-releases/shri-piyush-goyal-delivers-keynote-address-at-india-singapore-ceo-forum/>

⁹¹³ India, EU Express Hope to Forge Host of Bilateral Cooperation Arrangements, Business Standard (New Delhi) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/india-eu-express-hope-to-forge-host-of-bilateral-cooperation-arrangements-121021901306_1.html

⁹¹⁴ India signs free trade agreement with Mauritius, delivers additional 100,000 Covid-19 vaccines, The Times of India (Mumbai) 22 February 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/india-signs-free-trade-agreement-with-mauritius-delivers-additional-100000-covid-19-vaccines/articleshow/81156219.cms>

⁹¹⁵ India signs free trade agreement with Mauritius, delivers additional 100,000 Covid-19 vaccines, The Times of India (Mumbai) 22 February 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/india-signs-free-trade-agreement-with-mauritius-delivers-additional-100000-covid-19-vaccines/articleshow/81156219.cms>

⁹¹⁶ India signs free trade agreement with Mauritius, delivers additional 100,000 Covid-19 vaccines, The Times of India (Mumbai) 22 February 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/india-signs-free-trade-agreement-with-mauritius-delivers-additional-100000-covid-19-vaccines/articleshow/81156219.cms>

⁹¹⁷ India Announces \$82B Port Infrastructure Plan, The Maritime Executive (Fort Lauderdale) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 23 April 2021. <https://www.maritime-executive.com/article/india-announces-82b-port-infrastructure-plan>

⁹¹⁸ India Announces \$82B Port Infrastructure Plan, The Maritime Executive (Fort Lauderdale) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 23 April 2021. <https://www.maritime-executive.com/article/india-announces-82b-port-infrastructure-plan>

⁹¹⁹ India-Finland Virtual Summit, Ministry of External Affairs (New Delhi) 16 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/33631/IndiaFinland+Virtual+Summit>

⁹²⁰ India-Finland Virtual Summit, Ministry of External Affairs (New Delhi) 16 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/33631/IndiaFinland+Virtual+Summit>

On 17 March 2021, India met with Argentina and opened India's market to Argentinian yerba mate, a South American tea.⁹²¹ This action promotes market freedom, and reflects a coordinated effort between India, Argentina, and applicable international organizations.⁹²²

On 25 March 2021, Minister Goyal and US Trade Representative Katherine Tai agreed to work on resolving outstanding bilateral trade issues and look at ways to expand the trade relationship between India and the US.⁹²³ They also agreed to revitalise engagement through the US-India Trade Policy Forum.⁹²⁴

On 28 March 2021, Prime Minister Modi and Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina agreed on the need to remove non-tariff barriers to increase bilateral trade.⁹²⁵ They committed to fast tracking the on-going joint study on the feasibility of a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement between the two countries.⁹²⁶

On 6 April 2021, Minister Jaishankar and Russia's Minister Lavrov discussed ways to enhance the bilateral relationship in sectors such as investment, energy and military equipment production.⁹²⁷ They agreed on moving forward on the negotiations for a free trade agreement between India and the Eurasian Economic Union, which includes Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Russia.⁹²⁸

India has fully complied with its commitment to strive to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade and investment environment. India has taken action to strive to realize the goal of a non-discriminatory, fair, and free trade environment by fighting unfair trading practices and actively renegotiating FTAs. Additionally, India has taken action to strive to realize the goal of a non-discriminatory, fair, free, predictable and inclusive investment environment by promoting foreign investment and easing investment restrictions.

Thus, India receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Arees Chooljian

⁹²¹ Opening of the Indian Market for Argentine Yerba Mate, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Argentina (Buenos Aires) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/es/actualidad/noticias/apertura-del-mercado-de-la-india-para-la-yerba-mate-argentina>

⁹²² Opening of the Indian Market for Argentine Yerba Mate, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Argentina (Buenos Aires) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/es/actualidad/noticias/apertura-del-mercado-de-la-india-para-la-yerba-mate-argentina>

⁹²³ India, US agree to resolve outstanding trade issues, Hindustan Times (New Delhi) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 23 April 2021. <https://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/india-us-agree-to-resolve-outstanding-trade-issues-101616696904959.html>

⁹²⁴ India, US agree to resolve outstanding trade issues, Hindustan Times (New Delhi) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 23 April 2021. <https://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/india-us-agree-to-resolve-outstanding-trade-issues-101616696904959.html>

⁹²⁵ PM Modi, Hasina agree to remove non-tariff barriers in trade, speed up report on CEPA, The Hindu Business Line (Chennai) 28 March 2021. Access Date: 23 April 2021. <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/pm-modi-hasina-agree-to-remove-non-tariff-barriers-in-trade-speed-up-report-on-cepa/article34181981.ece>

⁹²⁶ PM Modi, Hasina agree to remove non-tariff barriers in trade, speed up report on CEPA, The Hindu Business Line (Chennai) 28 March 2021. Access Date: 23 April 2021. <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/pm-modi-hasina-agree-to-remove-non-tariff-barriers-in-trade-speed-up-report-on-cepa/article34181981.ece>

⁹²⁷ India, Russia discuss deepening of partnership in trade, space, defence, energy, The Hindu Business Line (Chennai) 6 April 2021. Access Date: 23 April 2021. <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/india-russia-discuss-deepening-of-partnership-in-trade-space-defence-energy/article34254354.ece>

⁹²⁸ India, Russia discuss deepening of partnership in trade, space, defence, energy, The Hindu Business Line (Chennai) 6 April 2021. Access Date: 23 April 2021. <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/india-russia-discuss-deepening-of-partnership-in-trade-space-defence-energy/article34254354.ece>

Indonesia: +1

Indonesia has fully complied with its commitment to strive to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade and investment environment.

On 9 December 2020, Indonesia's 7th Trade Policy Review took place, with subsequent reports from both the World Trade Organization (WTO) Secretariat and the Indonesian government.⁹²⁹ Trade policy reviews are a WTO mandated exercise in which a countries' trade policies are examined and evaluated at regular intervals.⁹³⁰ Indonesia was praised for its active participation in the Multilateral Trading System, its role in the Joint Statement Initiatives on investment facilitation, and its trade-related structural reforms, which improved transparency in policy making.⁹³¹

On 9 December 2020, Indonesia presented an opening statement at the 7th Trade Policy Review, which summarized several ongoing trade initiatives.⁹³² Indonesia upgraded preferential trade agreements with Pakistan and Japan; began negotiations with Chile on trade and investment; entered into trade negotiations with the EU, Tunisia, Turkey, Bangladesh, Mauritius and Morocco; initiated exploratory talks with countries in Africa, South Asia, the Eurasian Economic Union, Mercosur, and members of the Gulf Cooperation Council; begun implementation of the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement with Australia; and is in the final process of ratifying trade agreements with Mozambique and the European Free Trade Association.⁹³³ Indonesia concluded with wishes that the trade policy review will restore the "strong confidence in the multilateral trading system which should allow an open, fair and predictable trade environment for all Members of the WTO."⁹³⁴

On 18 December 2020, Indonesia and Korea signed the Korea-Indonesia Comprehensive Economic Partners Agreement after eight years of negotiations.⁹³⁵ It will eliminate tariffs on 95.8 per cent of Indonesian goods, and 94.8 per cent of South Korean goods and improve investment conditions.⁹³⁶

On 22 February 2021, Indonesia and the EU met for the 10th round of negotiations on the EU-Indonesian Free Trade Agreement.⁹³⁷ Progress was made in several chapters including technical

⁹²⁹ Trade policy review: Indonesia, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 9 December 2020. Access Date: 14 March 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/tp_r_e/tp501_e.htm

⁹³⁰ Trade policy review: Indonesia, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 9 December 2020. Access Date: 14 March 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/tp_r_e/tp501_e.htm

⁹³¹ Concluding remarks by the Chairperson, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 9 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/tp_r_e/tp501_crc_e.htm

⁹³² The Seventh Trade Policy Review of Indonesia Opening Statement of The Government of Indonesia, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Indonesia (Geneva) 9 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://mission-indonesia.org/2020/12/09/the-seventh-trade-policy-review-of-indonesia-opening-statement-of-the-government-of-indonesia-geneva-9-december-2020/>

⁹³³ The Seventh Trade Policy Review of Indonesia Opening Statement of The Government of Indonesia, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Indonesia (Geneva) 9 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://mission-indonesia.org/2020/12/09/the-seventh-trade-policy-review-of-indonesia-opening-statement-of-the-government-of-indonesia-geneva-9-december-2020/>

⁹³⁴ The Seventh Trade Policy Review of Indonesia Opening Statement of The Government of Indonesia, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Indonesia (Geneva) 9 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://mission-indonesia.org/2020/12/09/the-seventh-trade-policy-review-of-indonesia-opening-statement-of-the-government-of-indonesia-geneva-9-december-2020/>

⁹³⁵ Korea, Indonesia sign CEPA, Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy (Sejong-si) 18 December 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. https://english.motie.go.kr/en/tp/ftaeconomiccooperation/bbs/bbsView.do?bbs_seq_n=1022&bbs_cd_n=1&view_type_v=TOPIC¤tPage=1&search_key_n=&search_val_v=&cate_n=4

⁹³⁶ S. Korea signs CEPA with Indonesia for near tariff free trade, Pulse News (Seoul) 18 December 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://pulsenews.co.kr/view.php?year=2020&no=1299046>

⁹³⁷ Report of the 10th round of negotiations for a Free Trade Agreement between the European Union and Indonesia, European Commission (Brussels) 12 March 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. https://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2021/march/tradoc_159484.pdf

barriers to trade, services and investment, with both sides agreeing to further negotiations in July 2021.⁹³⁸

On 14 January 2021, Foreign Minister Reno Marsudi met with the Chinese Minister of Foreign Affairs Wang Yi and discussed economic recovery.⁹³⁹ Minister Marsudi encouraged joint efforts to remove trade barriers, especially for Indonesia's leading exports, and increase investment cooperation in infrastructure development.⁹⁴⁰

On 18 January 2021, Ambassador to Russia Jose Tavares stated the two countries uphold similar values to strengthen the WTO multilateral free trade agreements and increase trade and investment.⁹⁴¹ Ambassador Tavares stated that the bilateral relations with Russia need to be enhanced.⁹⁴²

On 3 February 2021, Indonesia and Iran improved trade relations by signing procurement contracts of 700 hemodialysis equipment until 2025.⁹⁴³ Ambassador to Iran Ronny Yuliantoro expressed that the countries would increase collaboration, especially in pharmaceuticals and medical devices.⁹⁴⁴

On 17 February 2021, Minister Marsudi and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary Peter Szijarto signed a letter of intent for the formation of an Indonesian-Hungary Investment Fund.⁹⁴⁵

⁹³⁸ Report of the 10th round of negotiations for a Free Trade Agreement between the European Union and Indonesia, European Commission (Brussels) 12 March 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021.

https://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2021/march/tradoc_159484.pdf

⁹³⁹ Indonesia and China Agree to Strengthen Collaboration to Promote Economic Recovery and Prevent Pandemic, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 14 January 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021.

<https://kemlu.go.id/portal/en/read/2069/berita/indonesia-and-china-agree-to-strengthen-collaboration-to-promote-economic-recovery-and-prevent-pandemic>

⁹⁴⁰ Indonesia and China Agree to Strengthen Collaboration to Promote Economic Recovery and Prevent Pandemic, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 14 January 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021.

<https://kemlu.go.id/portal/en/read/2069/berita/indonesia-and-china-agree-to-strengthen-collaboration-to-promote-economic-recovery-and-prevent-pandemic>

⁹⁴¹ Indonesia and Russia Enhance Cooperation in Facing Global Uncertainty, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 18 January 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021.

<https://kemlu.go.id/portal/en/read/2076/berita/indonesia-and-russia-enhance-cooperation-in-facing-global-uncertainty>

⁹⁴² Indonesia and Russia Enhance Cooperation in Facing Global Uncertainty, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 18 January 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021.

<https://kemlu.go.id/portal/en/read/2076/berita/indonesia-and-russia-enhance-cooperation-in-facing-global-uncertainty>

⁹⁴³ Indonesian and Iranian Business Partnership in Procurement of Hemodialysis Equipment, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia (Tehran) 2 February 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021.

<https://kemlu.go.id/portal/en/read/2129/berita/indonesian-and-iranian-business-partnership-in-procurement-of-hemodialysis-equipment>

⁹⁴⁴ Indonesian and Iranian Business Partnership in Procurement of Hemodialysis Equipment, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia (Tehran) 2 February 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021.

<https://kemlu.go.id/portal/en/read/2129/berita/indonesian-and-iranian-business-partnership-in-procurement-of-hemodialysis-equipment>

⁹⁴⁵ Indonesian Minister for Foreign Affairs and Hungarian Minister for Trade Sign Letter of Intent on Formation of Indonesia-Hungary Investment Fund, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 17 February 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://kemlu.go.id/portal/en/read/2165/berita/indonesian-minister-for-foreign-affairs-and-hungarian-minister-for-trade-sign-letter-of-intent-on-formation-of-indonesia-hungary-investment-fund>

The fund will “ensure a source of funding for national strategic projects.”⁹⁴⁶ The meeting also set up a distribution centre for Indonesian products in Hungary, which will increase bilateral trade.⁹⁴⁷

On 4 March 2021, Indonesia and Russia agreed to remove trade barriers at the 4th Indonesia-Russia Bilateral Consultations Forum to achieve USD5 billion target trade volume.⁹⁴⁸ The countries identified tourism, health and education as potential points for cooperation.⁹⁴⁹

On 9 March 2021, Indonesia and Singapore ratified the Bilateral Investment Treaty.⁹⁵⁰ The treaty is a move towards open and fair economic cooperation, establishes rules on the treatment of investors and investments for both countries and grants additional protection from discriminatory treatment.⁹⁵¹

On 22 March 2021, Ambassador to Senegal Dindin Wahyudin met with President of Cabo Verde Jorge Carlos de Almeida Fonseca and encouraged businesses to participate in business forums and trade shows to increase trade activities between the two countries.⁹⁵² Ambassador Dindin conveyed hopes to strengthen bilateral ties.⁹⁵³

On 7 April 2021, the 3rd Indonesia-UK Partnership Forum was held.⁹⁵⁴ Both countries agreed to advance the economy and trade in ten priority sectors and sign a memorandum of understanding on the Joint Economic and Trade Committee on 19 April 2021.⁹⁵⁵ Minister Marsudi reaffirmed the implementation of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Outlook on the Indo-

⁹⁴⁶ Indonesian Minister for Foreign Affairs and Hungarian Minister for Trade Sign Letter of Intent on Formation of Indonesia-Hungary Investment Fund, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 17 February 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://kemlu.go.id/portal/en/read/2165/berita/indonesian-minister-for-foreign-affairs-and-hungarian-minister-for-trade-sign-letter-of-intent-on-formation-of-indonesia-hungary-investment-fund>

⁹⁴⁷ Indonesian Minister for Foreign Affairs and Hungarian Minister for Trade Sign Letter of Intent on Formation of Indonesia-Hungary Investment Fund, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 17 February 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://kemlu.go.id/portal/en/read/2165/berita/indonesian-minister-for-foreign-affairs-and-hungarian-minister-for-trade-sign-letter-of-intent-on-formation-of-indonesia-hungary-investment-fund>

⁹⁴⁸ Indonesia-Russia Committed to Removing Trade Barriers Between Two Countries, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://kemlu.go.id/portal/en/read/2218/berita/indonesia-russia-committed-to-remove-trade-barriers-between-two-countries>

⁹⁴⁹ Indonesia-Russia Committed to Removing Trade Barriers Between Two Countries, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://kemlu.go.id/portal/en/read/2218/berita/indonesia-russia-committed-to-remove-trade-barriers-between-two-countries>

⁹⁵⁰ S'Pore bilateral investment treaty with Indonesia enters into force, The Straits Time (Singapore) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.straitstimes.com/business/economy/bilateral-investment-treaty-between-singapore-and-indonesia-comes-into-force>

⁹⁵¹ S'Pore bilateral investment treaty with Indonesia enters into force, The Straits Time (Singapore) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.straitstimes.com/business/economy/bilateral-investment-treaty-between-singapore-and-indonesia-comes-into-force>

⁹⁵² Indonesian Ambassador Encourages Indonesia Cabo Verde Tourism Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia (Senegal) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://kemlu.go.id/portal/en/read/2275/berita/indonesian-ambassador-encourages-indonesia-cabo-verde-tourism-cooperation>

⁹⁵³ Indonesian Ambassador Encourages Indonesia Cabo Verde Tourism Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia (Senegal) 22 March 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://kemlu.go.id/portal/en/read/2275/berita/indonesian-ambassador-encourages-indonesia-cabo-verde-tourism-cooperation>

⁹⁵⁴ Indonesia-United Kingdom Partnership Forum 2021: joint statement, Government of the United Kingdom Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (London) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/indonesia-united-kingdom-partnership-forum-2021-joint-statement/indonesia-united-kingdom-partnership-forum-2021-joint-statement>

⁹⁵⁵ Indonesia and UK Strengthen Cooperation to Overcome Pandemic and Terrorism, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://kemlu.go.id/portal/en/read/2347/berita/indonesia-and-uk-strengthen-cooperation-to-overcome-pandemic-and-terrorism>

Pacific, which includes an area of economic and trade cooperation, is “based on key principles such as inclusiveness, transparency, openness, and cooperation.”⁹⁵⁶

On 8 April 2021, Minister Marsudi attended the ASEAN-UK Open-ended Troika Dialogue and encouraged ASEAN countries and the UK to overcome trade barriers.⁹⁵⁷ Minister Marsudi suggested that cooperation with the UK can be further expanded in the future.⁹⁵⁸

On 12 April 2021, the House of Representatives approved the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement between Indonesia and the European Free Trade Association composed of Iceland, Lichtenstein, Norway and Switzerland.⁹⁵⁹ It will be Indonesia’s first trade agreement with European countries once it is brought into force.⁹⁶⁰

On 26 April 2021, Minister of Trade Muhammad Lutfi and UK Secretary of State for International Trade Elizabeth Truss signed a memorandum of understanding to establish the Joint Economic Trade Committee to lower the trade barriers and promote a rules-based trade system.⁹⁶¹ The UK is a key trade partner of the UK, with trade amounting to GBP3 billion in 2019.⁹⁶²

Indonesia has fully complied with its commitment to strive to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade and investment environment. Indonesia has taken action to strive to realize the goal of a non-discriminatory, fair, free, predictable and inclusive trade environment by cooperating with WTO trade policy reviews. Additionally, Indonesia has taken action to strive to realize the goal of a fair, free, and predictable investment environment by improving policy transparency and facilitating open, rules-based investing.

Thus, Indonesia receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Wing Ka Tsang

Italy: 0

Italy has partially complied with its commitment to strive to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, transparent, predictable, and stable trade and investment environment.

On 10 December 2020, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Luigi Di Maio met virtually with the Turkish Minister of Trade Ruhsar Pekcan in the Italy-Turkey Joint Economic

⁹⁵⁶ Indonesia and UK Strengthen Cooperation to Overcome Pandemic and Terrorism, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 7 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://kemlu.go.id/portal/en/read/2347/berita/indonesia-and-uk-strengthen-cooperation-to-overcome-pandemic-and-terrorism>

⁹⁵⁷ Indonesia Urges the United Kingdom to Support Equal and Fair Access to Vaccine, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://kemlu.go.id/portal/en/read/2353/berita/indonesia-urges-the-united-kingdom-to-support-equal-and-fair-access-to-vaccine>

⁹⁵⁸ Indonesia Urges the United Kingdom to Support Equal and Fair Access to Vaccine, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://kemlu.go.id/portal/en/read/2353/berita/indonesia-urges-the-united-kingdom-to-support-equal-and-fair-access-to-vaccine>

⁹⁵⁹ House Approves Indonesia-EFTA Trade Deal, The Jakarta Post (Jakarta) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://www.thejakartapost.com/paper/2021/04/11/house-approves-indonesia-efta-trade-deal.html>

⁹⁶⁰ House Approves Indonesia-EFTA Trade Deal, The Jakarta Post (Jakarta) 12 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://www.thejakartapost.com/paper/2021/04/11/house-approves-indonesia-efta-trade-deal.html>

⁹⁶¹ UK and Indonesia announce new Joint Economic and Trade Committee, UK Government (London) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-indonesia-announce-new-joint-economic-and-trade-committee>

⁹⁶² UK and Indonesia announce new Joint Economic and Trade Committee, UK Government (London) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-indonesia-announce-new-joint-economic-and-trade-committee>

and Trade Commission meeting.⁹⁶³ Minister Di Maio recognized the importance of increasing the bilateral flow of investment, and the ministers signed a memorandum of understanding between the Italian Trade Agency and its Turkish counterpart in order to “strengthen cooperation between the two agencies.”⁹⁶⁴

On 12 December 2020, Minister Di Maio participated virtually with the Vice-Prime Minister and Minister for Investment and Foreign Trade of Uzbekistan Sardor Umurzakov in the Italy-Uzbekistan Business Forum, encouraging bilateral trade and investment between the two countries.⁹⁶⁵ Following the forum, the minister discusses bilateral relations.⁹⁶⁶

On 14 December 2020, Deputy Minister Manlio Di Stefano met with Vietnamese Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade Dang Hoang An, in the 6th Italy-Vietnam Joint Economic Committee in virtual format.⁹⁶⁷ At the meeting the forthcoming signing of a memorandum of understanding between the ICE-Italian Trade Agency and the Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry was announced.⁹⁶⁸

On 15 January 2021, Deputy Minister Di Stefano met with the Foreign Investment Attraction Committee to discuss investment projects in the health sector and the creation of a legal framework more conducive to foreign direct investment.⁹⁶⁹

On 15 April 2021, Prime Minister Mario Draghi and Minister of Economy and Finance Daniele Franco specified some aspects of the Euronext-Borsa Italiana operation.⁹⁷⁰ The operation aims to improve access to capital markets for all Italian issuers and international investors.⁹⁷¹

On 19 April 2021, Minister Di Maio and Minister of Economic Development Giancarlo Giorgetti attended the meeting session with the Control Room.⁹⁷² The meeting is dedicated to attracting

⁹⁶³ Italy-Turkey joint Economic and Trade Commission (JETCO) meeting, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and international cooperation (Rome) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021.

https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/12/seconda-sessione-in-formato-virtuale-della-joint-economic-and-trade-commission-jetco-italia-turchia.html

⁹⁶⁴ Italy-Turkey joint Economic and Trade Commission (JETCO) meeting, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and international cooperation (Rome) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021.

https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/12/seconda-sessione-in-formato-virtuale-della-joint-economic-and-trade-commission-jetco-italia-turchia.html

⁹⁶⁵ Italy-Uzbekistan Business Forum, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and international cooperation (Rome) 12 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021.

https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/12/business-forum-italia-uzbekistan.html

⁹⁶⁶ Italy-Uzbekistan Business Forum, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and international cooperation (Rome) 12 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021.

https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/12/business-forum-italia-uzbekistan.html

⁹⁶⁷ 6th Italy-Vietnam Joint Economic Committee, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/eventi/2020/12/vi-edizione-commissione-economica-mista-italia-vietnam_0.html

⁹⁶⁸ 6th Italy-Vietnam Joint Economic Committee, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/eventi/2020/12/vi-edizione-commissione-economica-mista-italia-vietnam_0.html

⁹⁶⁹ Ministry of Foreign Affairs at the forefront of the Foreign Investment Attraction Committee, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 15 January 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021.

https://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2021/01/farnesina-in-prima-linea-al-comitato-attrazione-investimenti-esteri-caie.html

⁹⁷⁰ The Euronext operation and the Italian nature of the Stock Exchange, Italian Ministry of Economy and Finances (Rome) 15 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.mef.gov.it/inevidenza/Loperazione-Euronext-e-litalianita-di-Borsa/>

⁹⁷¹ The Euronext operation and the Italian nature of the Stock Exchange, Italian Ministry of Economy and Finances (Rome) 15 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.mef.gov.it/inevidenza/Loperazione-Euronext-e-litalianita-di-Borsa/>

foreign direct investments to support the economic and employment growth of post COVID-19 Italy.⁹⁷³

On 25 April 2021, Minister Di Maio visited the Dubai Future Foundation.⁹⁷⁴ Minister Di Maio attended the meeting with partner companies and sponsors of the Italian Pavilion in EXPO2020 Dubai and participated in the bilateral meeting with United Arab Emirates Minister of Culture and Knowledge Development Noura Al Kaabi.⁹⁷⁵

Italy has partially complied with its commitment to strive to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade and investment environment. Italy has taken action to strive to realize the goal of a non-discriminatory and inclusive investment environment by improving access of foreign investors to Italian capital markets and engaging in bilateral and multilateral meetings. However, Italy has failed to take specific and substantial action to strive to realize the goal of a trade environment that is non-discriminatory, free, fair, predictable and inclusive.

Thus, Italy receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Haobin Chen

Japan: +1

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to strive to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade and investment environment.

On 4 December 2020, the parliament ratified the Japan-UK Economic Partnership Agreement that will enter into force on 1 January 2021.⁹⁷⁶ The free trade agreement will abolish tariffs on import and exports of industrial goods. Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi said the agreement “ensures continuity for Japanese and British companies, and it is hoped that bilateral trade and investment will advance under the agreement’s high standards.”⁹⁷⁷

On 14 December 2020, Japan, Australia and Singapore, issued a Joint Statement Initiative (JSI) on E-Commerce negotiations on behalf of eighty-six World Trade Organization (WTO) members.⁹⁷⁸ The statement affirms that openness, transparency, and inclusiveness are central to the JSI.⁹⁷⁹

⁹⁷² Control room for internationalization – Extraordinary session for attracting foreign investments, Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021.

https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/approfondimenti/cabina-di-regia-per-l-internazionalizzazione-sessione-straordinaria-per-l-attrazione-investimenti-esteri.html

⁹⁷³ Control room for internationalization – Extraordinary session for attracting foreign investments, Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 19 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021.

https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/approfondimenti/cabina-di-regia-per-l-internazionalizzazione-sessione-straordinaria-per-l-attrazione-investimenti-esteri.html

⁹⁷⁴ Mission of Minister Luigi Di Maio to the United Arab Emirates, Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 25 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/approfondimenti/2021/04/missione-del-ministro-luigi-di-maio-negli-emirati-arabi-uniti.html

⁹⁷⁵ Mission of Minister Luigi Di Maio to the United Arab Emirates, Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 25 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/approfondimenti/2021/04/missione-del-ministro-luigi-di-maio-negli-emirati-arabi-uniti.html

⁹⁷⁶ Japan ratifies UK trade deal to take effect Jan. 1, Nikkei Asia (Tokyo) 5 December 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://asia.nikkei.com/Economy/Trade/Japan-ratifies-UK-trade-deal-to-take-effect-Jan.-1>

⁹⁷⁷ Japan ratifies UK trade deal to take effect Jan. 1, Nikkei Asia (Tokyo) 5 December 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://asia.nikkei.com/Economy/Trade/Japan-ratifies-UK-trade-deal-to-take-effect-Jan.-1>

⁹⁷⁸ E-commerce co-conveners release update on the negotiations, welcome encouraging progress, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 14 March 2021.

https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/ecom_14dec20_e.htm

On 8 January 2021, People's Bank of China Governor Yi Gang met with the Japanese Ambassador to China Hideo Tarumi.⁹⁸⁰ They discussed “views on recent developments in the Chinese and Japanese economy and discussed ways to strengthen bilateral financial cooperation.”⁹⁸¹

On 29 January 2021, Minister of Economy, Trade, and Industry Hiroshi Kajiyama attended the WTO Informal Ministerial Meeting with over twenty-nine WTO members.⁹⁸² At the meeting, Japan indicated its intentions to continue discussions on curbing export restrictions on the supply chain of medical supplies.⁹⁸³

On 2 February 2021, Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga spoke with Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and “discussed the strong and growing economic ties between Canada and Japan and welcomed the United Kingdom’s formal interest in acceding to the comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership.”⁹⁸⁴

On 21 February 2021, Japan donated CHF160,000 to support the developing countries and least-developed countries (LDCs) trading capabilities.⁹⁸⁵ Japan’s WTO Ambassador Kazuyuki Yamazaki said the country is pleased to “further contribute to strengthening the multilateral trading system, which is key to enhancing global prosperity.”⁹⁸⁶

On 22 February 2021, Japan contributed over CHF72,000 to the Enhanced Integrated Framework to help LDCs to recover from COVID-19 by enhancing their capacity to trade.⁹⁸⁷ It is the only multilateral partnership dedicated exclusively to help LDCs use trade as the mechanism for growth, sustainable development and poverty reduction.⁹⁸⁸

On 24 February 2021, Japan’s cabinet approved the bill to ratify the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership.⁹⁸⁹ The agreement is the world’s largest free trade deal comprising 15 Asia-

⁹⁷⁹ E-commerce co-conveners release update on the negotiations, welcome encouraging progress, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 14 March 2021.

https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/ecom_14dec20_e.htm

⁹⁸⁰ Governor Yi Gang Meets with Ambassador Tarumi Hideo of Japan, The People’s Bank of China (Beijing) 8 January 2021. Access Date: 21 April 2021. <http://www.pbc.gov.cn/en/3688110/3688172/4157443/4159684/index.html>

⁹⁸¹ Governor Yi Gang Meets with Ambassador Tarumi Hideo of Japan, The People’s Bank of China (Beijing) 8 January 2021. Access Date: 21 April 2021. <http://www.pbc.gov.cn/en/3688110/3688172/4157443/4159684/index.html>

⁹⁸² Minister Kajiyama attends WTO Informal Ministerial Meeting, Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry (Tokyo) 29 January 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0129_001.html

⁹⁸³ Minister Kajiyama attends WTO Informal Ministerial Meeting, Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry (Tokyo) 29 January 2021. Access Date: 14 March 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0129_001.html

⁹⁸⁴ Prime Minister Justin Trudeau speaks with Prime Minister of Japan Suga Yoshihide, Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau (Ottawa) 2 February 2021. Access Date: 17 April 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/readouts/2021/02/02/prime-minister-justin-trudeau-speaks-prime-minister-japan-suga-yoshihide>

⁹⁸⁵ Japan gives CHF 160,000 to help developing countries strengthen negotiating skill-set, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 24 February 2021. Access Date: 14 March 14, 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/pres21_e/pr873_e.htm

⁹⁸⁶ Japan gives CHF 160,000 to help developing countries strengthen negotiating skill-set, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 24 February 2021. Access Date: 14 March 14, 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/pres21_e/pr873_e.htm

⁹⁸⁷ Japan supports EIF to help poorest countries recover from COVID-19, expand trade capacity, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 22 February 2021. Access Date: https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/pres21_e/pr872_e.htm

⁹⁸⁸ Japan supports EIF to help poorest countries recover from COVID-19, expand trade capacity, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 22 February 2021. Access Date: https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/pres21_e/pr872_e.htm

⁹⁸⁹ Japan Cabinet Oks bill to ratify RCEP trade deal including China, Kyodo News (Tokyo) 24 February 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://english.kyodonews.net/news/2021/02/2ae304227c45-japan-cabinet-oks-bill-to-ratify-rcep-trade-deal-including-china.html>

Pacific countries that will eliminate 91 per cent tariffs on goods and create a rules-based environment for trade and investment.⁹⁹⁰

On 26 February 2021, Ambassador Yamazaki attended a meeting with the World Trade Institute and higher education from Taiwan and discussed special and differential treatment for developing members on WTO negotiations.⁹⁹¹ He spoke about the importance of the WTO helping all countries achieve sustainable growth.⁹⁹²

On 7 January 2021, Japan met with Argentina met to “foster mutual trade and investments.”⁹⁹³ Both countries noted their shared values of multilateralism, democracy, and the rule of law, and agreed to “intensify trade relations.”⁹⁹⁴

On 29 March 2021, Minister Kajiyama met with Executive Vice President of the European Commission Valdis Dombrovskis to discuss trade and transparency mechanisms for exports of COVID-19 vaccines.⁹⁹⁵ Minister Kajiyama asked Executive Vice President Dombrovskis to ensure smooth delivery of vaccines from Europe to Japan.⁹⁹⁶

On 1 April 2021, Minister Kajiyama attended the G7 Trade Ministers’ Meeting.⁹⁹⁷ The G7 Trade Ministers reaffirmed the importance of a multilateral trading system and reforming the WTO.⁹⁹⁸

On 5 April 2021, Japan and Malaysia signed a memorandum of cooperation between the Japan External Trade Organization and Malaysia External Trade Development Cooperation to strengthen the countries’ economic relationship through trade and investment.⁹⁹⁹ The countries agreed to deepen their economic relationship.¹⁰⁰⁰

⁹⁹⁰ Japan Cabinet Oks bill to ratify RCEP trade deal including China, Kyodo News (Tokyo) 24 February 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://english.kyodonews.net/news/2021/02/2ae304227c45-japan-cabinet-oks-bill-to-ratify-rcep-trade-deal-including-china.html>

⁹⁹¹ Ambassador Yamazaki Attends a Webinar on Special and Differential Treatment in the WTO, The Permanent Mission of Japan to the International Organizations in Geneva (Geneva) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. https://www.geneve-mission.emb-japan.go.jp/itprtop_en/event_20210226.html

⁹⁹² Ambassador Yamazaki Attends a Webinar on Special and Differential Treatment in the WTO, The Permanent Mission of Japan to the International Organizations in Geneva (Geneva) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. https://www.geneve-mission.emb-japan.go.jp/itprtop_en/event_20210226.html

⁹⁹³ Argentina – Japan: Foreign Ministers Met to Strengthen Strategic Relationship, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Argentina (Buenos Aires) 7 January 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/en/announcements/news/argentina-japan-foreign-ministers-met-strengthen-strategic-relationship>

⁹⁹⁴ Argentina – Japan: Foreign Ministers Met to Strengthen Strategic Relationship, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Argentina (Buenos Aires) 7 January 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/en/announcements/news/argentina-japan-foreign-ministers-met-strengthen-strategic-relationship>

⁹⁹⁵ Minister Kajiyama Holds Meeting with H.E. Mr. Valdis Dombrovskis, Executive Vice President of the European Commission for an Economy that Works for People via Video Conference, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 29 March 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0329_001.html

⁹⁹⁶ Minister Kajiyama Holds Meeting with H.E. Mr. Valdis Dombrovskis, Executive Vice President of the European Commission for an Economy that Works for People via Video Conference, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 29 March 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0329_001.html

⁹⁹⁷ Minister Kajiyama Attends the G7 Trade Ministers’ Meeting, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0401_003.html

⁹⁹⁸ Minister Kajiyama Attends the G7 Trade Ministers’ Meeting, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0401_003.html

⁹⁹⁹ Minister Kajiyama Holds Meeting with Minister Azmin Ali, Malaysian Minister of International Trade and Industry, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 6 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0406_003.html

¹⁰⁰⁰ Minister Kajiyama Holds Meeting with Minister Azmin Ali, Malaysian Minister of International Trade and Industry, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 6 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0406_003.html

On 16 April 2021, Japan and the US released a joint leaders' statement which renewed bilateral relations and agreed to support transparent terms of trade, further WTO reform, and improve non-discriminatory trade practices.¹⁰⁰¹ The countries also launched a new Competitive and Resilience Partnership to support the global economic recovery.¹⁰⁰²

On 22 April 2021, Japan attended the WTO general council meeting.¹⁰⁰³ Attendees agreed to eliminate unnecessary restrictions on exports of medical goods essential to combatting COVID-19, remain transparent about export restrictions deemed "necessary to relieve critical shortages," and give particular considerations to least developed countries.¹⁰⁰⁴ Additionally, members agreed to engage with WTO trade monitoring exercises.¹⁰⁰⁵

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to strive to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade and investment environment. Japan has taken action to strive to realize the goal of a non-discriminatory, fair, free, and predictable trade environment by providing financial support to LDCs and entering into multilateral initiatives. Additionally, Japan has taken action to strive to realize the goal of a non-discriminatory, fair, free, and predictable investment environment by entering into economic partnerships.

Thus, Japan receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Wing Ka Tsang

Korea: 0

Korea has partially complied with its commitment to strive to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade and investment environment.

On 3 December 2020, Director of International Cooperation Bureau Sang-Man Lee re-signed the Agreement on Agricultural and Fisheries Cooperation with New Zealand, replacing the previous agreement and promoting agricultural and fisheries cooperation.¹⁰⁰⁶ Korea and New Zealand made the initial agreement in November 2019.¹⁰⁰⁷

¹⁰⁰¹ U.S.-Japan Joint Leaders' Statement: "U.S.-Japan Global Partnership For A New Era, The White House (Washington) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/04/16/u-s-japan-joint-leaders-statement-u-s-japan-global-partnership-for-a-new-era/>

¹⁰⁰² U.S.-Japan Joint Leaders' Statement: "U.S.-Japan Global Partnership For A New Era, The White House (Washington) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/04/16/u-s-japan-joint-leaders-statement-u-s-japan-global-partnership-for-a-new-era/>

¹⁰⁰³ COVID-19 and beyond: trade and health, WTO general council (Geneva) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=q:/Jobs/GC/251R1.pdf&Open=True>

¹⁰⁰⁴ COVID-19 and beyond: trade and health, WTO general council (Geneva) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=q:/Jobs/GC/251R1.pdf&Open=True>

¹⁰⁰⁵ COVID-19 and beyond: trade and health, WTO general council (Geneva) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=q:/Jobs/GC/251R1.pdf&Open=True>

¹⁰⁰⁶ Korea-New Zealand's Agricultural and Fisheries Cooperation Continues, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (Sejong) 3 December 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021.

<https://www.mafra.go.kr/english/756/subview.do?enc=Zm5jdDF8QEB8JTJGYmJzJTJGZW5nbGlzaCUyRjI1JTJGMzI2MDkwlTJGYXJOY2xWaWV3LmRvJTNGYmJzQ2xTZXEIMQIMjZyZ3NFbmkZVN0ciUzRCUyNmJic09wZW5XcmRTZXEIMQIMjZyZ3NCZ25kZVN0ciUzRCUyNnBhc3N3b3JkTNEJTI2c3JjaENvbHVtbiUzRCUyNnVjdyUzRDEwJTI2aXNWaWV3TWluZSUzRGZhbnHlJTI2cGFuZSUzRDEIMjZzcmNoV3JkTNEJTI2>

¹⁰⁰⁷ Korea-New Zealand's Agricultural and Fisheries Cooperation Continues, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (Sejong) 3 December 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021.

<https://www.mafra.go.kr/english/756/subview.do?enc=Zm5jdDF8QEB8JTJGYmJzJTJGZW5nbGlzaCUyRjI1JTJGMzI2MDkwlTJGYXJOY2xWaWV3LmRvJTNGYmJzQ2xTZXEIMQIMjZyZ3NFbmkZVN0ciUzRCUyNmJic09wZW5XcmRTZXEIMQIMjZyZ3NCZ25kZVN0ciUzRCUyNnBhc3N3b3JkTNEJTI2c3JjaENvbHVtbiUzRCUyNnVjdyUzRDEwJTI2aXNWaWV3TWluZSUzRGZhbnHlJTI2cGFuZSUzRDEIMjZzcmNoV3JkTNEJTI2>

On 8 December 2020, President Moon Jae-in announced Korea's potential participation in the Comprehensive and Progress Agreement for the Trans-Pacific Partnership, a free trade agreement involving eleven states.¹⁰⁰⁸ It will introduce Korea to an extensive Asia-Pacific multilateral free trade network.¹⁰⁰⁹ President Moon described the agreement as a "new window of opportunity, especially for small and medium-sized firms."¹⁰¹⁰

On 18 December 2020, Minister of Trade, Industry and Energy Sung Yun-Mo signed the comprehensive economic partnership agreement with Indonesia.¹⁰¹¹ Korea will lift tariffs on 95.8 per cent of goods traded with Indonesia and allow local exporters access to the Southeast Asian market.¹⁰¹² The agreement is waiting for approval from the National Assembly.¹⁰¹³

On 1 January 2021, Korea and the UK implemented their bilateral free trade agreement.¹⁰¹⁴ It accounts for the UK's departure from the European Union.¹⁰¹⁵

On 28 January 2021, President Moon introduced bilateral free trade negotiations with Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev.¹⁰¹⁶ Korea and Uzbekistan signed a memorandum of understanding on digital industrial cooperation.¹⁰¹⁷ Both will serve as a part of Korea's policy to promote bilateral free trade and cooperation.¹⁰¹⁸

On 25 February 2021, Korea stated that the free trade agreement with Costa Rica, El Salvador, Panama, Honduras and Nicaragua would be fully effective from March.¹⁰¹⁹ It will lift tariffs on more than 95 per cent of goods traded between the countries.¹⁰²⁰

On 4 March 2021, Minister of Trade, Industry and Energy Sung Yun-Mo and the United Arab Emirates' Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber agreed to seek cooperation in sustainable alternatives to fossil fuels and eventually to reduce carbon footprints.¹⁰²¹

¹⁰⁰⁸ (LEAD) Moon: S. Korea to consider joining CPTPP to expand its free trade network, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20201208003851315>

¹⁰⁰⁹ (LEAD) Moon: S. Korea to consider joining CPTPP to expand its free trade network, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20201208003851315>

¹⁰¹⁰ (LEAD) Moon: S. Korea to consider joining CPTPP to expand its free trade network, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20201208003851315>

¹⁰¹¹ S. Korea inks free trade pact with Indonesia, The Korea Herald (Seoul) 18 December 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20201218000288>

¹⁰¹² S. Korea inks free trade pact with Indonesia, The Korea Herald (Seoul) 18 December 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20201218000288>

¹⁰¹³ S. Korea inks free trade pact with Indonesia, The Korea Herald (Seoul) 18 December 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20201218000288>

¹⁰¹⁴ S. Korea's FTA networks set to further expand in 2021, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 4 January 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210104001200320>

¹⁰¹⁵ S. Korea's FTA networks set to further expand in 2021, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 4 January 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210104001200320>

¹⁰¹⁶ President Moon, Uzbekistan announce launch of free trade talks, Korea.net (Sejong) 29 January 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.korea.net/NewsFocus/policies/view?articleId=194416>

¹⁰¹⁷ President Moon, Uzbekistan announce launch of free trade talks, Korea.net (Sejong) 29 January 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.korea.net/NewsFocus/policies/view?articleId=194416>

¹⁰¹⁸ President Moon, Uzbekistan announce launch of free trade talks, Korea.net (Sejong) 29 January 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.korea.net/NewsFocus/policies/view?articleId=194416>

¹⁰¹⁹ S. Korea-Central America FTA set for full implementation in March, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210225001200320>

¹⁰²⁰ S. Korea-Central America FTA set for full implementation in March, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210225001200320>

¹⁰²¹ (LEAD) S. Korea, UAE to expand ties in hydrogen industry, reduce carbon footprint, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210304002451320>

Ministers Sung and Al Jaber signed a memorandum of understanding to promote trade and technological exchanges related to hydrogen energy.¹⁰²²

On 16 March 2021, the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy stated that it plans to establish facilities that include free trade agreement support centers overseas worth KRW11.9 billion.¹⁰²³ Korea expects it to help exporters to benefit further from the free trade agreement during the pandemic.¹⁰²⁴

On 1 April 2021, Minister for Trade Yoo Myung-hee and Malaysian Minister of International Trade and Industry Mohamed Azmin bin Ali agreed to expand bilateral exchanges to overcome the economic difficulties under the pandemic situation and endeavour the implementation of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership.¹⁰²⁵ Korea seeks to sign an independent bilateral free trade agreement with Malaysia, separate from one with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.¹⁰²⁶

On 20 April 2021, the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy stated it plans to cooperate with major trade partners to address technical barriers to trade, a form of non-tariff restrictions.¹⁰²⁷ Korea will seek to negotiate with major shareholders in its trade, such as China, to lower trade barriers through the World Trade Organization and other international bodies.¹⁰²⁸

On 20 April 2021, the Ministry of Economy and Finance announced Korea would gain a permanent board member status of the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI) from 1 August 2021.¹⁰²⁹ Korea has invested USD630 million in CABEI to achieve an eight per cent threshold for permanent board membership.¹⁰³⁰

Korea has partially complied with its commitment to strive to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade and investment environment. Korea has taken action to strive to realize the goal of a fair, free, and inclusive trade environment by entering into new multilateral trade agreements and expanding upon existing free trade agreements. However, Korea has failed to take specific and substantial action to strive to realize the goal of an investment environment that is non-discriminatory, free, fair, predictable and inclusive.

Thus, Korea receives a score of 0.

Analyst: June Young Lee

¹⁰²² (LEAD) S. Korea, UAE to expand ties in hydrogen industry, reduce carbon footprint, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210304002451320>

¹⁰²³ S. Korea to help exporters further utilize FTAs with new support centers, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 16 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210316001500320>

¹⁰²⁴ S. Korea to help exporters further utilize FTAs with new support centers, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 16 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210316001500320>

¹⁰²⁵ S. Korea, Malaysia agree to expand economic ties, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210331010200320>

¹⁰²⁶ S. Korea, Malaysia agree to expand economic ties, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 1 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210331010200320>

¹⁰²⁷ S. Korea seeks to tackle rising non-tariff trade barriers, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210420001200320>

¹⁰²⁸ S. Korea seeks to tackle rising non-tariff trade barriers, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 20 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210420001200320>

¹⁰²⁹ Korea to permanently join board of C. American financial body, Korea.net (Sejong) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.korea.net/NewsFocus/policies/view?articleId=197229&pageIndex=1>

¹⁰³⁰ Korea to permanently join board of C. American financial body, Korea.net (Sejong) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.korea.net/NewsFocus/policies/view?articleId=197229&pageIndex=1>

Mexico: 0

Mexico has partially complied with its commitment to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable, and stable trade and investment environment.

On 15 December 2020, Mexico and the UK signed a Trade Continuity agreement to maintain free trade relations between the two countries. The Trade Continuity agreement maintains the existing trade regime between Mexico and the UK and Northern Ireland under the existing Free Trade Agreement between Mexico and the European Union.¹⁰³¹

On 25 February 2021, Mexico and Argentina in a joint statement agreed to further cooperation in matters related to the trade of bovine meat products.¹⁰³² Both countries agreed to advance the opening of the Mexican market to Argentine beef products.¹⁰³³

On 3 March 2021, the Ministry of Economy, in collaboration with ConnectAmericas, unveiled a digital platform known as Comercia MX to help businesses, especially small and medium sized ones, expand their reach to the global market.¹⁰³⁴ The Secretary of Economy Tatiana Clouthier Carillo stated that this platform will address the problems faced by micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises in gaining access to information to enter the global market.¹⁰³⁵

On 16 March 2021, the Ministry of Economy formally announced the installation of the National Committee for Trade Facilitation, whose goal is to facilitate coordination between agencies, Public Administration and autonomous constitutional bodies in the regulation of programs related to foreign trade.¹⁰³⁶ The committee represents a substantive advance in the fulfillment of Mexico's international commitments in promoting fair trade.¹⁰³⁷

On 22 April 2021, Mexico attended the World Trade Organization (WTO) general council meeting.¹⁰³⁸ Attendees agreed to eliminate unnecessary restrictions on exports of medical goods essential to combatting COVID-19, remain transparent about export restrictions deemed “necessary

¹⁰³¹Mexico and the United Kingdom sign a Trade Continuity Agreement that maintains free trade between both countries, Ministry of Economy (Mexico City) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 25 March 2021.

<https://www.gob.mx/se/prensa/mexico-y-reino-unido-firman-acuerdo-de-continuidad-comercial-que-mantiene-el-libre-comercio-entre-ambos-paises-259437?idiom=es>

¹⁰³²Mexico and Argentina agree to strengthen cooperation in agri-food matters, Ministry of Economy (Mexico City) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/se/prensa/acuerdan-mexico-y-argentina-fortalecer-cooperacion-en-materia-agroalimentaria?idiom=es>

¹⁰³³Mexico and Argentina agree to strengthen cooperation in agri-food matters, Ministry of Economy (Mexico City) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 15 March 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/se/prensa/acuerdan-mexico-y-argentina-fortalecer-cooperacion-en-materia-agroalimentaria?idiom=es>

¹⁰³⁴ Ministry of Economy presents Comercia MX, the new digital and global network for Mexican MSMEs, Ministry of Economy (Mexico City) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/se/prensa/secretaria-de-economia-presenta-comercia-mx-la-nueva-red-digital-y-global-para-las-mipymes-mexicanas?idiom=es>

¹⁰³⁵ Ministry of Economy presents Comercia MX, the new digital and global network for Mexican MSMEs, Ministry of Economy (Mexico City) 3 March 2021. Access Date: 23 March 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/se/prensa/secretaria-de-economia-presenta-comercia-mx-la-nueva-red-digital-y-global-para-las-mipymes-mexicanas?idiom=es>

¹⁰³⁶ Ministry of Economy installs the National Committee for Trade Facilitation, Ministry of Economy (Mexico City) 16 March 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/se/prensa/secretaria-de-economia-instala-el-comite-nacional-de-facilitacion-del-comercio-266784?idiom=es>

¹⁰³⁷ Ministry of Economy installs the National Committee for Trade Facilitation, Ministry of Economy (Mexico City) 16 March 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/se/prensa/secretaria-de-economia-instala-el-comite-nacional-de-facilitacion-del-comercio-266784?idiom=es>

¹⁰³⁸ COVID-19 and beyond: trade and health, WTO general council (Geneva) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=q:/Jobs/GC/251R1.pdf&Open=True>

to relieve critical shortages,” and give particular considerations to least developed countries.¹⁰³⁹ Additionally, members agreed to engage with WTO trade monitoring exercises.¹⁰⁴⁰

Mexico has partially complied with its commitment to strive to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade and investment environment. Mexico has taken action to strive to realize the goal of a fair, predictable and inclusive trade environment through the introduction of Comercia MX and the National Committee for Trade Facilitation. However, Mexico has failed to take specific and substantial action to strive to realize the goal of an investment environment that is non-discriminatory, free, fair, predictable and inclusive.

Thus, Mexico receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Shalin Nayak

Russia: +1

Russia has fully complied with its commitment to strive to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable, and stable trade and investment environment.

On 23 November 2020, Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin signed Resolution No. 3001-r to open the one-stop-shop system on 26 November 2020.¹⁰⁴¹ This allows Russian exporters access to online services from companies entering the foreign market, and helps Russian exporters engage in foreign trade.¹⁰⁴²

On 30 November 2020, Prime Minister Mishustin announced at the Shanghai Cooperation Organization meeting that Russia would adopt a five-year plan for the implementation of the Program of Multilateral Trade and Economic Cooperation for the next 15 years until 2035.¹⁰⁴³ Prime Minister Mishustin emphasized the importance of following WTO regulations for ensuring a predictable trade environment.¹⁰⁴⁴

On 4 December 2020, Prime Minister Mishustin declared that Russia has been finalizing provisions of the Strategic Directions for Developing the Eurasian Economic Integration until 2025.¹⁰⁴⁵ The primary objective is for Russia to secure free movement of goods, services, capital and workforce in the internal market of the Eurasian Economic Union.¹⁰⁴⁶

On 18 December 2020, Ambassador to Ireland Yuriy Filatov addressed the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence, affirming Russia’s aim to promote mutually beneficial and equal partnerships founded upon the principles of independence and sovereignty, pragmatism,

¹⁰³⁹ COVID-19 and beyond: trade and health, WTO general council (Geneva) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=q:/Jobs/GC/251R1.pdf&Open=True>

¹⁰⁴⁰ COVID-19 and beyond: trade and health, WTO general council (Geneva) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=q:/Jobs/GC/251R1.pdf&Open=True>

¹⁰⁴¹ Mikhail Mishustin signs a resolution to expand the one-stop-shop system for exporters, the Russian Government (Moscow) 23 November 2020. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <http://government.ru/en/docs/40924/>

¹⁰⁴² Mikhail Mishustin signs a resolution to expand the one-stop-shop system for exporters, the Russian Government (Moscow) 23 November 2020. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <http://government.ru/en/docs/40924/>

¹⁰⁴³ Meeting of the SCO Heads of Government Council, the Russian Government (Moscow) 30 November 2020. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/40979/>

¹⁰⁴⁴ Meeting of the SCO Heads of Government Council, the Russian Government (Moscow) 30 November 2020. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/40979/>

¹⁰⁴⁵ Eurasian Intergovernmental Council meeting, the Russian Government (Moscow) 4 December 2020. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/41030/>

¹⁰⁴⁶ Eurasian Intergovernmental Council meeting, the Russian Government (Moscow) 4 December 2020. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/41030/>

transparency, and predictability.¹⁰⁴⁷ The goal is to seek stability, and fair opportunities for all countries.¹⁰⁴⁸

On 14 January 2021, a statement by Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov affirmed the close economic cooperation between the Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF) and the Public Investment Fund of Saudi Arabia, highlighting a joint USD2.5 billion investment fund.¹⁰⁴⁹ The RDIF has 12 active projects in different areas.¹⁰⁵⁰

On 25 January 2021, Russia announced the new Strategy for the Development of the Timber Industry to establish a cost-effective timber industry by balancing the forestry sector and the lumber industry's interests.¹⁰⁵¹ This is expected to increase the industry's transparency through digitalization and introducing industry-specific information systems, and to attract investments.¹⁰⁵²

On 1 February 2021, Russia announced an active investment policy with strategic objectives of economic modernization, renovation and diversification of the production sphere in the Voronezh Region.¹⁰⁵³ It is intended to create conditions for the mobilization and inflow of external investment resources into the region's economy, expand the sources of investment in business projects, and develop the regional infrastructure by using public-private partnership mechanisms.¹⁰⁵⁴

On 18 February 2021, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Maria Zakharova announced that Russia is focusing on creating a free, non-discriminatory, transparent and predictable trade and investment environment, digitalizing different economic sectors and government management systems, and striving to achieve sustainable development.¹⁰⁵⁵ The spokeswoman announced efforts to enhance

¹⁰⁴⁷ ADDRESS by the Ambassador of the Russian Federation to Ireland Yuriy Filatov to the Orieachtas Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2020. https://www.mid.ru/en/web/guest/maps/ie/-/asset_publisher/osOx7Ma1e0ne/content/id/4501698

¹⁰⁴⁸ ADDRESS by the Ambassador of the Russian Federation to Ireland Yuriy Filatov to the Orieachtas Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2020. https://www.mid.ru/en/web/guest/maps/ie/-/asset_publisher/osOx7Ma1e0ne/content/id/4501698

¹⁰⁴⁹ Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov's statement and answers to media questions during a joint news conference following talks with Foreign Minister of Saudi Arabia Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud, Moscow, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 14 February 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. https://www.mid.ru/en/web/guest/foreign_policy/international_safety/conflicts/-/asset_publisher/xIEMTQ3OvzcA/content/id/4520105

¹⁰⁵⁰ Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov's statement and answers to media questions during a joint news conference following talks with Foreign Minister of Saudi Arabia Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud, Moscow, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 14 February 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. https://www.mid.ru/en/web/guest/foreign_policy/international_safety/conflicts/-/asset_publisher/xIEMTQ3OvzcA/content/id/4520105

¹⁰⁵¹ Work on the new version of the Strategy for the Development of the Timber Industry, The Russian Government (Moscow) 25 January 2021. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/41382/>

¹⁰⁵² Work on the new version of the Strategy for the Development of the Timber Industry, The Russian Government (Moscow) 25 January 2021. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/41382/>

¹⁰⁵³ Passport of the Voronezh Region, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. https://www.mid.ru/en/web/guest/vnesneekonomiceskie-svazi-sub-ektov-rossijskoj-federacii/-/asset_publisher/ykggrK2nCl8c/content/id/125246

¹⁰⁵⁴ Passport of the Voronezh Region, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. https://www.mid.ru/en/web/guest/vnesneekonomiceskie-svazi-sub-ektov-rossijskoj-federacii/-/asset_publisher/ykggrK2nCl8c/content/id/125246

¹⁰⁵⁵ APEC Forum in Briefing by Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021. https://www.mid.ru/en/web/guest/foreign_policy/news/-/asset_publisher/cKNonkJE02Bw/content/id/4580881

cooperation between the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation and other regional institutions to create a Greater Eurasian Partnership.¹⁰⁵⁶

On 25 February 2021, Prime Minister Mishustin discussed the economic and cultural relationship between Russia and Kyrgyzstan.¹⁰⁵⁷ The prime minister expressed a goal to restore the dynamics of trade and economic interactions between Russia and Kyrgyzstan, which had been hampered by the coronavirus pandemic.¹⁰⁵⁸

On 9 March 2021, in a joint news conference with Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the UAE Abdullah bin Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, Minister Lavrov described the common understanding between Russia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to establish cooperation between RDIF and the UAE's Mubadala Investment Company.¹⁰⁵⁹ This will promote a closer bilateral coordination in the global hydrocarbon market.¹⁰⁶⁰

On 15 March 2021, Deputy Prime Minister Alexei Overchuk discussed the current trade and economic cooperation and development between Russia and Uzbekistan during a working meeting with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Investments and Foreign Trade of Uzbekistan Sardor Umurakov.¹⁰⁶¹ The ministers arrived at a goal to enhance the bilateral and multilateral economic dialogue between Russia and Uzbekistan.¹⁰⁶²

On 15 April 2021, Prime Minister Mishustin met with Prime Minister of Lebanon Saad al-Hariri to discuss creating a favourable investment environment.¹⁰⁶³ The ministers reached a consensus in restoring and expanding mutual trade between the two countries.¹⁰⁶⁴

On 15 April 2021, Prime Minister Mishustin discussed current investment issues with Prime Minister of Libya Abdul Hamid Dbeibeh.¹⁰⁶⁵ Prime Minister Mishustin noted the importance of fostering a rules-based investment environment in Libya.¹⁰⁶⁶

¹⁰⁵⁶ APEC Forum in Briefing by Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021.

https://www.mid.ru/en/web/guest/foreign_policy/news/-/asset_publisher/ckNonkJE02Bw/content/id/4580881

¹⁰⁵⁷ Mikhail Mishustin's meeting with President of Kyrgyzstan Sadyr Japarov, The Russian Government (Moscow) 25 January 2021. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/41608/>

¹⁰⁵⁸ Mikhail Mishustin's meeting with President of Kyrgyzstan Sadyr Japarov, The Russian Government (Moscow) 25 January 2021. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/41608/>

¹⁰⁵⁹ Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov's remarks and answers to media questions at a joint news conference with Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the UAE Abdullah bin Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, Abu Dhabi, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021.

https://www.mid.ru/en/web/guest/aderno-nerasprostranenie/-/asset_publisher/JrcRGi5UdnBO/content/id/4613115

¹⁰⁶⁰ Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov's remarks and answers to media questions at a joint news conference with Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the UAE Abdullah bin Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, Abu Dhabi, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021.

https://www.mid.ru/en/web/guest/aderno-nerasprostranenie/-/asset_publisher/JrcRGi5UdnBO/content/id/4613115

¹⁰⁶¹ Alexei Overchuk's working meeting with Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Investments and Foreign Trade of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sardor Umurakov, The Russian Government (Moscow) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/41738/>

¹⁰⁶² Alexei Overchuk's working meeting with Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Investments and Foreign Trade of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sardor Umurakov, The Russian Government (Moscow) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/41738/>

¹⁰⁶³ Mikhail Mishustin holds talks with Prime Minister of Lebanon Saad al-Hariri, Government House (Moscow) 15 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/41968/>

¹⁰⁶⁴ Mikhail Mishustin holds talks with Prime Minister of Lebanon Saad al-Hariri, Government House (Moscow) 15 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/41968/>

¹⁰⁶⁵ Mikhail Mishustin holds talks with Prime Minister of Libya's Government of National Unity Abdul Hamid Dbeibeh, Government House (Moscow) 15 April 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/41969/>

On 21 April 2021, Deputy Prime Minister Overchuk met with First Deputy Prime Minister of Kyrgyzstan Artyom Novikov.¹⁰⁶⁷ The ministers agreed to draft proposals and projects to increase investment cooperation and economic integration between the two countries.¹⁰⁶⁸

On 22 April 2021, Deputy Prime Minister Overchuk attended a meeting of the Eurasian Economic Commission's Council during which the participants decided to provide a tariff privilege in the form of duty-free sugar imports from 15 May to 30 September 2021.¹⁰⁶⁹ The tariff privilege aims to promote sustainable development of the Union's sugar market.¹⁰⁷⁰

On 23 April 2021, Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Novak exchanged views on current and prospective energy cooperation between Russian regions and Saxony with Minister-President of Saxony Michael Kretschmer.¹⁰⁷¹ The ministers reaffirmed promising aspects of expanding economic cooperation and continued investments between Germany and Russia.¹⁰⁷²

On 28 April 2021, Prime Minister Mishustin signed a comprehensive program of economic cooperation for 2021-2025 with Prime Minister of Kazakhstan Askar Mamin.¹⁰⁷³ The program seeks to encourage their cooperation within the Eurasian Economic Union.¹⁰⁷⁴

On 29 April 2021, Prime Minister Mishustin declared that Russia is preparing new initiatives to increase trade and mutual investment with Armenia.¹⁰⁷⁵ The initiatives aim to open all economic and transport communications between Russia and Armenia, create new infrastructure routes, and establish conditions for sustainable development in the South Caucasus.¹⁰⁷⁶

On 29 April 2021, Prime Minister Mishustin expressed the desire to restore bilateral trade with Tajikistan through joint efforts during a meeting with Prime Minister of Tajikistan Kahir Rasulzoda.¹⁰⁷⁷ The ministers agreed on improving economic relations between Russia and Tajikistan and imbuing them with new promising joint projects.¹⁰⁷⁸

¹⁰⁶⁶ Mikhail Mishustin holds talks with Prime Minister of Libya's Government of National Unity Abdul Hamid Dbeibeh, Government House (Moscow) 15 April 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/41969/>

¹⁰⁶⁷ Alexei Overchuk's meeting with First Deputy Prime Minister of the Kyrgyz Republic Artyom Novikov, Government House (Moscow) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/42022/>

¹⁰⁶⁸ Alexei Overchuk's meeting with First Deputy Prime Minister of the Kyrgyz Republic Artyom Novikov, Government House (Moscow) 21 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/42022/>

¹⁰⁶⁹ Alexei Overchuk attends a meeting of the Eurasian Economic Commission's Council, the Russian Government (Moscow) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/42029/>

¹⁰⁷⁰ Alexei Overchuk attends a meeting of the Eurasian Economic Commission's Council, the Russian Government (Moscow) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/42029/>

¹⁰⁷¹ Alexander Novak's meeting with Minister-President of Saxony Michael Kretschmer, the Russian Government (Moscow) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/42044/>

¹⁰⁷² Alexander Novak's meeting with Minister-President of Saxony Michael Kretschmer, the Russian Government (Moscow) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/42044/>

¹⁰⁷³ Mikhail Mishustin's conversation with Prime Minister of the Republic of Kazakhstan Askar Mamin, the Russian Government (Moscow) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/42079/>

¹⁰⁷⁴ Mikhail Mishustin's conversation with Prime Minister of the Republic of Kazakhstan Askar Mamin, the Russian Government (Moscow) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/42079/>

¹⁰⁷⁵ Mikhail Mishustin's conversation with Acting Prime Minister of Armenia Nikol Pashinyan, the Russian Government (Moscow) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/42091/>

¹⁰⁷⁶ Mikhail Mishustin's conversation with Acting Prime Minister of Armenia Nikol Pashinyan, the Russian Government (Moscow) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/42091/>

¹⁰⁷⁷ Mikhail Mishustin's conversation with Prime Minister of the Republic of Tajikistan Kahir Rasulzoda, the Russian Government (Moscow) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/42087/>

¹⁰⁷⁸ Mikhail Mishustin's conversation with Prime Minister of the Republic of Tajikistan Kahir Rasulzoda, the Russian Government (Moscow) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 28 April 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/42087/>

Russia has fully complied with its commitment to strive to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade and investment environment. Russia has taken action to strive to realize the goal of a non-discriminatory, free, fair, predictable and inclusive trade environment by increasing cooperation with regional institutions in accordance with WTO principles. Additionally, Russia has taken action to strive to realize the goal of a non-discriminatory, free, fair and predictable investment environment.

Thus, Russia receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Xin Han

Saudi Arabia: 0

Saudi Arabia has partially complied with its commitment to strive to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade and investment environment.

On 15 December 2020, the Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry and the Ministry of Investment jointly held the 5th Ministerial Meeting on “Saudi-Japan Vision 2030” with the participation of Japanese and Saudi ministers.¹⁰⁷⁹ Minister of Investment Khalid Al-Falih stated that Saudi Arabia is fully committed to enabling Japanese investors to expand their role in Saudi Arabia, while promoting cooperation projects to enable the achievement of the Saudi-Japan Vision 2030.¹⁰⁸⁰

On 15 and 16 December 2020, the General Authority for Foreign Trade organized technical online meetings between the Saudi team and experts from the World Trade Organization (WTO) to review the country’s trade and investment policies.¹⁰⁸¹ The goal is to clarify and discuss some policies, information and data related to the country’s policies which are subject under review.¹⁰⁸²

On 31 December 2020, the Ministry of Commerce issued the Commercial Registrations for practicing the activity of collecting debts without requiring a license.¹⁰⁸³ This is expected to facilitate and ease business, improve the business and economic environment in the country and realize the goals of Saudi Arabia’s Vision 2030.¹⁰⁸⁴

On 5 March 2021, the WTO conducted the 3rd Trade Policy Review of Saudi Arabia.¹⁰⁸⁵ The review recognized the country’s opening of economic sectors, wide-ranging institutional changes, and facilitation of an open trade and investment environment.¹⁰⁸⁶ The review called upon Saudi Arabia to

¹⁰⁷⁹ Fifth Ministerial Meeting on Saudi-Japan Vision 2030 Held, Ministry of Investment (Riyadh) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://investsaudi.sa/en/news/SAUDI-JAPAN-VISION-2030>

¹⁰⁸⁰ Fifth Ministerial Meeting on Saudi-Japan Vision 2030 Held, Ministry of Investment (Riyadh) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://investsaudi.sa/en/news/SAUDI-JAPAN-VISION-2030>

¹⁰⁸¹ Foreign Trade Authority Discusses the Procedures for Reviewing the Kingdom’s Third Trade Policies with the World Trade Organization, Ministry of Commerce (Riyadh) 18 December 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://mci.gov.sa/en/mediacenter/News/Pages/18-12-20-01.aspx>

¹⁰⁸² Foreign Trade Authority Discusses the Procedures for Reviewing the Kingdom’s Third Trade Policies with the World Trade Organization, Ministry of Commerce (Riyadh) 18 December 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://mci.gov.sa/en/mediacenter/News/Pages/18-12-20-01.aspx>

¹⁰⁸³ The Ministry of Commerce Announces the Cancellation of Licensing Requirement for Debt Collection Activity, Ministry of Commerce (Riyadh) 31 December 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://mci.gov.sa/en/mediacenter/News/Pages/31-12-20-01.aspx>

¹⁰⁸⁴ The Ministry of Commerce Announces the Cancellation of Licensing Requirement for Debt Collection Activity, Ministry of Commerce (Riyadh) 31 December 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://mci.gov.sa/en/mediacenter/News/Pages/31-12-20-01.aspx>

¹⁰⁸⁵ Concluding remarks by the Chairperson, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/tpr_e/tp507_crc_e.htm

¹⁰⁸⁶ Concluding remarks by the Chairperson, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/tpr_e/tp507_crc_e.htm

continue its efforts to enhance transparency in trade and investment, raising concerns regarding policies that appear to restrict trade, the increase in customs during the pandemic, and systematic discrimination in customs practices.¹⁰⁸⁷

On 18 March 2021, the National Industrial Development and Logistics Program and Riyadh Bank signed a cooperation agreement to work on developing investment and financing capabilities.¹⁰⁸⁸ Minister of Industry and Mineral Resources Bandar bin Ibrahim Al-Khorayef affirmed the importance of cooperation between public and private sectors in achieving the goals of Saudi Vision 2030.¹⁰⁸⁹

On 24 March 2021, Saudi Arabia attended the online discussion of “Digital Trade and Economic Development of Arab and Middle Eastern Countries” organized by WTO’s online Regional Trade Policy Course for WTO members.¹⁰⁹⁰ The themes discussed included digital solutions for financial inclusion, economic diversification, and responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.¹⁰⁹¹

On 31 March 2021, Deputy Prime Minister and Chairman of the Council of Economic and Development Affairs Mohammed bin Salman Al Saud established the “Shareek” Program which is designed to provide financial support to generate SR5 trillion of private sector investment by 2030.¹⁰⁹² The “Shareek” Program is an essential part of the national investment strategy.¹⁰⁹³

On 8 April 2021, Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Economy and Planning for International Economic Affairs Bandar Al-Khamis met with Vietnamese Ambassador Vu Viet Dung to discuss investment opportunities between Saudi Arabia and Vietnam.¹⁰⁹⁴ The two sides agreed to enhance bilateral cooperation in investment and trade.¹⁰⁹⁵

On 29 April 2021, Minister Al-Khorayef held a meeting with the Malaysian Minister of International Trade and Industry Mohamed Azmin Ali to discuss investment opportunities.¹⁰⁹⁶ The ministers agreed to enhance economic relations between the two countries.¹⁰⁹⁷

¹⁰⁸⁷ Concluding remarks by the Chairperson, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/tpr_e/tp507_crc_e.htm

¹⁰⁸⁸ NIDLP, Riyadh Bank Sign Cooperation Agreement to Support, Develop Financing and Investment Capabilities, the Government of Saudi Arabia (Riyadh) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.my.gov.sa/wps/portal/snp/content/news/newsDetails/CONT-news-180320211>

¹⁰⁸⁹ NIDLP, Riyadh Bank Sign Cooperation Agreement to Support, Develop Financing and Investment Capabilities, the Government of Saudi Arabia (Riyadh) 18 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.my.gov.sa/wps/portal/snp/content/news/newsDetails/CONT-news-180320211>

¹⁰⁹⁰ WTO holds online discussion on trade issues in Arab and Middle Eastern region, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 24 March 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news21_e/tech_24mar21_e.htm

¹⁰⁹¹ WTO holds online discussion on trade issues in Arab and Middle Eastern region, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 24 March 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news21_e/tech_24mar21_e.htm

¹⁰⁹² “Shareek” Program aims to strengthen cooperation between public and private sectors, the Government of Saudi Arabia (Riyadh) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.my.gov.sa/wps/portal/snp/content/news/newsDetails/CONT-news-310320212>

¹⁰⁹³ “Shareek” Program aims to strengthen cooperation between public and private sectors, the Government of Saudi Arabia (Riyadh) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.my.gov.sa/wps/portal/snp/content/news/newsDetails/CONT-news-310320212>

¹⁰⁹⁴ Saudi-Vietnamese Joint Committee Holds Virtual Meeting, the Government of Saudi Arabia (Riyadh) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.my.gov.sa/wps/portal/snp/content/news/newsDetails/CONT-news-080420212>

¹⁰⁹⁵ Saudi-Vietnamese Joint Committee Holds Virtual Meeting, the Government of Saudi Arabia (Riyadh) 8 April 2021. Access Date: 29 April 2021. <https://www.my.gov.sa/wps/portal/snp/content/news/newsDetails/CONT-news-080420212>

¹⁰⁹⁶ Al-Khorayef discusses with his Malaysian counterpart investment opportunities in industrial sector, the Government of Saudi Arabia (Riyadh) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.my.gov.sa/wps/portal/snp/content/news/newsDetails/CONT-news-290420211>

Saudi Arabia has partially with its commitment to strive to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade and investment environment. Saudi Arabia has taken action to strive to realize the goal of a free and inclusive trade and investment environment by opening sectors and improving bilateral cooperation. However, Saudi Arabia has failed to take strong action to strive to realize the goal of a non-discriminatory, fair, and predictable trade and investment environment.

Thus, Saudi Arabia receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Xin Han

South Africa: 0

South Africa has partially complied with its commitment to strive to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable, and stable trade and investment environment.

On 7 December 2020, President Cyril Ramaphosa assembled the African Union and agreed to commence trading under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) on 1 January 2021.¹⁰⁹⁸ The AfCFTA Agreement will progressively reduce tariffs and other trade barriers between African countries and is expected to boost manufacturing and trade across the continent.¹⁰⁹⁹ The World Bank calculates that AfCFTA could lead to a 7 per cent yearly increase in African GDP, lifting 30 million people out of extreme poverty by 2035.¹¹⁰⁰

On 8 December 2020, the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition and the National Cleaner Production Centre South Africa partnered with the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation to launch the Global Eco-Industrial Parks Program.¹¹⁰¹ The program is expected to improve the environmental, economic, and social performance and competitive advantage of industrial parks.¹¹⁰²

On 1 January 2021, South Africa enacted the legal and the administrative processes for preferential trade under the AfCFTA.¹¹⁰³ The Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition Ebrahim Patel publicly promoted the new opportunities in export markets to South African farmers.¹¹⁰⁴

¹⁰⁹⁷ Al-Khorayef discusses with his Malaysian counterpart investment opportunities in industrial sector, the Government of Saudi Arabia (Riyadh) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021.

<https://www.my.gov.sa/wps/portal/snp/content/news/newsDetails/CONT-news-290420211>

¹⁰⁹⁸ Trade, Industry and Competition exports hand sanitizers to other African countries, Republic of South Africa (Pretoria) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/export-hand-sanitiser-other-african-countries-reaches-more-r16-billion-during-last-6-months>

¹⁰⁹⁹ Trade, Industry and Competition exports hand sanitizers to other African countries, Republic of South Africa (Pretoria) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/export-hand-sanitiser-other-african-countries-reaches-more-r16-billion-during-last-6-months>

¹¹⁰⁰ Trade, Industry and Competition exports hand sanitizers to other African countries, Republic of South Africa (Pretoria) 7 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/export-hand-sanitiser-other-african-countries-reaches-more-r16-billion-during-last-6-months>

¹¹⁰¹ Trade, Industry and Competition launches Global Eco-Industrial Parks Programme, Republic of South Africa (Pretoria) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/dtic-international-partners-launch-project-drive-green-industrial-parks-revitalization>

¹¹⁰² Trade, Industry and Competition launches Global Eco-Industrial Parks Programme, Republic of South Africa (Pretoria) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/dtic-international-partners-launch-project-drive-green-industrial-parks-revitalization>

¹¹⁰³ Trade, Industry and Competition on new trade agreements in effect from 2021, Republic of South Africa (Pretoria) 1 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/trade-industry-and-competition-new-trade-agreements-effect-2021-1-jan-2021-0000>

On 2 February 2021, President Cyril Ramaphosa visited the Tshwane Automotive Special Economic Zone. The Department of Trade, Industry and Competition supported infrastructure in this region, generating an estimated R3.15 billion over the next three years and creating 2,000 manufacturing jobs.¹¹⁰⁵ During his visit, the president announced a USD1 billion investment from Ford Motors.¹¹⁰⁶

On 9 March 2021, the heads of state and governments of South Africa attended a meeting along with representatives from Costa Rica, Ethiopia, New Zealand, Bangladesh, Canada, Jordan, Korea, Tunisia, Swedish Prime Minister Stefan Löfven, and Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez, together with United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres.¹¹⁰⁷ The representatives discussed the importance of supporting the World Health Organisation, and rebuilding a global economy that is stable, equal, and resilient.¹¹⁰⁸

On 15 March 2021, the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition collaborated with the South African Consulate General in Dubai, the South African Fruit & Vegetable Cannery Association and the Fresh Produce Exporters' Forum of South Africa to host a virtual trade and investment webinar with their counterparts.¹¹⁰⁹ The goal of the webinar is to deepen the relationship that South Africa has with the United Arab Emirates.¹¹¹⁰

On 16 March 2021, the Deputy Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition Fikile Majola publicly communicated the role of Special Economic Zones Program.¹¹¹¹ The Special Economic Zones Program plays a significant role in supporting the implementation of the country's economic and recovery plan as it is structured to stimulate local and foreign direct investments.¹¹¹²

South Africa has partially complied with its commitment to strive to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade and investment environment. South Africa has taken action to strive to realize the goal of a fair, free, and inclusive trade environment by lowering barriers to trade through the African Union and directly promoting export opportunities to South African farmers. However, South Africa has failed to take specific and

¹¹⁰⁴ Trade, Industry and Competition on new trade agreements in effect from 2021, Republic of South Africa (Pretoria) 1 January 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/trade-industry-and-competition-new-trade-agreements-effect-2021-1-jan-2021-0000>

¹¹⁰⁵ President Cyril Ramaphosa: Visit to Tshwane Automotive Special Economic Zone, Republic of South Africa (Pretoria) 2 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-visit-tshwane-automotive-special-economic-zone-2-feb-2021-0000>

¹¹⁰⁶ President Cyril Ramaphosa: Visit to Tshwane Automotive Special Economic Zone, Republic of South Africa (Pretoria) 2 February 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-visit-tshwane-automotive-special-economic-zone-2-feb-2021-0000>

¹¹⁰⁷ Joint Press Statement – Meeting of the Leaders' Network with United Nations Secretary-General, António Guterres, 9 March 2021, Department of Foreign Affairs, Republic of South Africa (Pretoria) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <http://www.dirco.gov.za/docs/2021/un0309.htm>

¹¹⁰⁸ Joint Press Statement – Meeting of the Leaders' Network with United Nations Secretary-General, António Guterres, 9 March 2021, Department of Foreign Affairs, Republic of South Africa (Pretoria) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <http://www.dirco.gov.za/docs/2021/un0309.htm>

¹¹⁰⁹ South Africa and United Arab Emirates to Host a Trade and Investment Webinar, the DTIC, Republic of South Africa (Pretoria) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <http://www.thedtic.gov.za/south-africa-and-united-arab-emirates-to-host-a-trade-and-investment-webinar/>

¹¹¹⁰ South Africa and United Arab Emirates to Host a Trade and Investment Webinar, the DTIC, Republic of South Africa (Pretoria) 15 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <http://www.thedtic.gov.za/south-africa-and-united-arab-emirates-to-host-a-trade-and-investment-webinar/>

¹¹¹¹ Deputy Minister Fikile Majola on Special Economic Zones, Republic of South Africa (Pretoria) 16 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/deputy-minister-fikile-majola-special-economic-zones-16-mar-2021-0000>

¹¹¹² Deputy Minister Fikile Majola on Special Economic Zones, Republic of South Africa (Pretoria) 16 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/deputy-minister-fikile-majola-special-economic-zones-16-mar-2021-0000>

substantial action to strive to realize the goal of an investment environment that is non-discriminatory, free, fair, predictable and inclusive.

Thus, South Africa receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Andy Lin

Turkey: 0

Turkey has partially complied with its commitment to strive to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade and investment environment.

On 4 December 2020, the first train carrying export cargo travelled from Turkey to China, following the Trans Caspian East-West Middle Corridor via Baku-Tbilisi-Kars railway.¹¹¹³ The goal is to “further enhance connectivity between the East and the West and to consolidate its central position in the region.”¹¹¹⁴

On 17 December 2020, Turkey “extended the suspension of 20 per cent tariffs on wheat, barley, and corn imports” until 30 April 2021.¹¹¹⁵ This takes precedence over a previous decree announced on 30 October 2020 that initially suspended tariffs on wheat, barley and corn imports until 31 December 2020.¹¹¹⁶

On 25 December 2020, the EU and the UK reached a deal regarding post-Brexit relations.¹¹¹⁷ Turkey and the UK are in the final stages of signing a Free Trade Agreement between the two countries.¹¹¹⁸

On 22 January 2021, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development opened a regional Centre focused on global relations in Istanbul, Turkey.¹¹¹⁹ The purpose of the centre is to create “a dedicated base for deepening cooperation with partner countries and helping them with policy guidance and technical support to build more inclusive and prosperous societies.”¹¹²⁰ The

¹¹¹³ No: 314, 4 December 2020, Press Release Regarding the Departure of the First Export Train from Turkey to China, Republic of Turkey Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Ankara) 4 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. http://www.mfa.gov.tr/no_-314_-turkiye-den-cin-e-gidecek-ilk-ihracat-treninin-yola-cikmasi-hk.en.mfa

¹¹¹⁴ No: 314, 4 December 2020, Press Release Regarding the Departure of the First Export Train from Turkey to China, Republic of Turkey Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Ankara) 4 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. http://www.mfa.gov.tr/no_-314_-turkiye-den-cin-e-gidecek-ilk-ihracat-treninin-yola-cikmasi-hk.en.mfa

¹¹¹⁵ Turkey extends zero-tariffs on wheat imports to April, Hurriyet Daily News (Istanbul) 18 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkey-extends-zero-tariffs-on-wheat-imports-to-april-160933>

¹¹¹⁶ Turkey extends zero-tariffs on wheat imports to April, Hurriyet Daily News (Istanbul) 18 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkey-extends-zero-tariffs-on-wheat-imports-to-april-160933>

¹¹¹⁷ No: 333, 25 December 2020, Press Release Regarding the Deal Reached Between the United Kingdom and the European Union on the Negotiations on Post-Brexit Future Relations, Republic of Turkey Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Ankara) 25 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. http://www.mfa.gov.tr/no_-333_-birlesik-krallik-ile-ab-arasinda-brexit-sonrasi-iliskilerin-gelecegine-iliskin-muzakerelerde-uzlasiya-varilmasi-hk.en.mfa

¹¹¹⁸ No: 333, 25 December 2020, Press Release Regarding the Deal Reached Between the United Kingdom and the European Union on the Negotiations on Post-Brexit Future Relations, Republic of Turkey Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Ankara) 25 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. http://www.mfa.gov.tr/no_-333_-birlesik-krallik-ile-ab-arasinda-brexit-sonrasi-iliskilerin-gelecegine-iliskin-muzakerelerde-uzlasiya-varilmasi-hk.en.mfa

¹¹¹⁹ OECD opens Istanbul Centre for Global Relations to support work with partner countries, Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (Paris) 22 January 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.oecd.org/turkey/oecd-opens-istanbul-centre-for-global-relations-to-support-work-with-partner-countries.htm>

¹¹²⁰ OECD opens Istanbul Centre for Global Relations to support work with partner countries, Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (Paris) 22 January 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.oecd.org/turkey/oecd-opens-istanbul-centre-for-global-relations-to-support-work-with-partner-countries.htm>

centre will also “strengthen multilateral cooperation, encourage regional collaboration and offer guidance in areas like governance, [and] transparency.”¹¹²¹

On 9 February 2021, Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu visited Kuwait and met with Crown Prince Sheikh Mishaal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah of Kuwait, Kuwaiti Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khalid Al-Sabah and Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Ahmed Nasser Al-Mohammed Al-Sabah.¹¹²² Minister Çavuşoğlu noted that Turkey sought to advance economic co-operation with Kuwait and maintain the Turkey-Kuwait bilateral trade volume.¹¹²³

On 9 and 10 February 2021, Minister Çavuşoğlu visited Oman and met with Omani Minister of Foreign Affairs Sayyid Badr Al-Busaidi and Deputy Prime Minister for Council of Ministers in Oman Sayyid Fahd.¹¹²⁴ Minister Çavuşoğlu reiterated that Turkey sought to advance bilateral economic relations with Oman and was “pleased with the increasing interest of Turkish companies to Oman.”¹¹²⁵

On 9 March 2021, Minister Çavuşoğlu visited Uzbekistan and met with his Uzbek counterpart, Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Investments of Foreign Trade of Uzbekistan Sardor Umurzakov.¹¹²⁶ Minister Çavuşoğlu reiterated that Turkey and Uzbekistan’s bilateral trade volume had not decreased amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, and intended on further increasing the bilateral trade volume from USD2.3 billion to USD5 billion.¹¹²⁷ Minister Çavuşoğlu sought to conclude the Preferential Trade Agreement and begin negotiations of a Free Trade Agreement with Uzbekistan.¹¹²⁸

On 30 March 2021, Minister Çavuşoğlu attended the 9th Ministerial Conference of the Heart of Asia Istanbul Process.¹¹²⁹ Minister Çavuşoğlu evaluated bilateral relations and economic cooperation with Turkey-Tajikistan Joint European Commission (JEC) Co-Chair and Minister of Industry and New

¹¹²¹ OECD opens Istanbul Centre for Global Relations to support work with partner countries, Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (Paris) 22 January 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.oecd.org/turkey/oecd-opens-istanbul-centre-for-global-relations-to-support-work-with-partner-countries.htm>

¹¹²² Visit of Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu to Kuwait, 9 February 2021, Republic of Turkey Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Ankara) 9 February 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <http://www.mfa.gov.tr/sayin-bakanimizin-kuveyt-i-ziyareti-9-2-2021.en.mfa>

¹¹²³ Visit of Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu to Kuwait, 9 February 2021, Republic of Turkey Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Ankara) 9 February 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <http://www.mfa.gov.tr/sayin-bakanimizin-kuveyt-i-ziyareti-9-2-2021.en.mfa>

¹¹²⁴ Visit of Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu to Oman, 9-10 February 2021, Republic of Turkey Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Ankara) 10 February 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <http://www.mfa.gov.tr/sayin-bakanimizin-umman-i-ziyareti-10-2-2021.en.mfa>

¹¹²⁵ Visit of Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu to Oman, 9-10 February 2021, Republic of Turkey Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Ankara) 10 February 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <http://www.mfa.gov.tr/sayin-bakanimizin-umman-i-ziyareti-10-2-2021.en.mfa>

¹¹²⁶ Visit of Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu to Uzbekistan, 7-9 March 2021, Republic of Turkey Ministry of Foreign Affairs, (Ankara) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <http://www.mfa.gov.tr/sayin-bakanimizin-uzbekistan-i-ziyareti-9-3-2021.en.mfa>

¹¹²⁷ Visit of Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu to Uzbekistan, 7-9 March 2021, Republic of Turkey Ministry of Foreign Affairs, (Ankara) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <http://www.mfa.gov.tr/sayin-bakanimizin-uzbekistan-i-ziyareti-9-3-2021.en.mfa>

¹¹²⁸ Visit of Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu to Uzbekistan, 7-9 March 2021, Republic of Turkey Ministry of Foreign Affairs, (Ankara) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <http://www.mfa.gov.tr/sayin-bakanimizin-uzbekistan-i-ziyareti-9-3-2021.en.mfa>

¹¹²⁹ Visit of Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu to Tajikistan to attend the 9th Ministerial Conference of the Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process (Ankara) 30 March 2021. Access Date: 26 April 2021. <https://www.mfa.gov.tr/sayin-bakanimizin-tacikistan-i-ziyareti-30-3-2021.en.mfa>

Technologies of Tajikistan Sherali Kabir.¹¹³⁰ Minister Çavuşoğlu noted that the 11th JEC meeting would occur in Dushanbe in August and advocated towards the signing of a Preferential Trade Agreement to increase commercial trade relations.¹¹³¹

On 22 to 23 April 2021, Minister Çavuşoğlu visited Bucharest to participate in the Trilateral Meeting of the Foreign Ministers of Turkey, Poland and Romania.¹¹³² Minister Çavuşoğlu met with Foreign Minister of Romania Bogdan Aurescu and noted that the bilateral trade volume was USD10 billion.¹¹³³ Minister Çavuşoğlu met with Minister of Foreign Affairs of Poland Zbigniew Rau and highlighted that the bilateral trade volume had increased despite the pandemic and that trade goal was USD10 billion.¹¹³⁴

Turkey has partially complied with its commitment to strive to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade and investment environment. Turkey has taken action to strive to realize the goal of a non-discriminatory, free, and predictable trade environment by lowering barriers to trade and engaging in bilateral and multilateral trade agreements. However, Turkey has failed to take specific and substantial action to strive to realize the goal of an investment environment that is non-discriminatory, free, fair, predictable and inclusive.

Thus, Turkey receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Sabar Fatima

United Kingdom: +1

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to strive to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade and investment environment.

On 24 November 2020, the Exports Credit Guarantee Department signed a cooperation agreement with the United Arab Emirates.¹¹³⁵ The agreement provides a framework for the UK and Etihad Credit Insurance to aid exports of products through collaborative financial support.¹¹³⁶

On 3 December 2020, High Commissioner for Bangladesh Robert Chatterton Dickson proposed a UK-Bangladesh Trade and Investment Dialogue to promote free trade following the UK's departure

¹¹³⁰ Visit of Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu to Tajikistan to attend the 9th Ministerial Conference of the Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process (Ankara) 30 March 2021. Access Date: 26 April 2021. <https://www.mfa.gov.tr/sayin-bakanimizin-tacikistan-i-ziyareti-30-3-2021.en.mfa>

¹¹³¹ Visit of Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu to Tajikistan to attend the 9th Ministerial Conference of the Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process (Ankara) 30 March 2021. Access Date: 26 April 2021. <https://www.mfa.gov.tr/sayin-bakanimizin-tacikistan-i-ziyareti-30-3-2021.en.mfa>

¹¹³² Visit of Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu to Romania to participate in the Trilateral Meeting of the Foreign Ministers of Turkey, Poland and Romania (Ankara) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.mfa.gov.tr/sayin-bakanimizin-romanya-yi-ziyareti-23-4-2021.en.mfa>

¹¹³³ Visit of Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu to Romania to participate in the Trilateral Meeting of the Foreign Ministers of Turkey, Poland and Romania (Ankara) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.mfa.gov.tr/sayin-bakanimizin-romanya-yi-ziyareti-23-4-2021.en.mfa>

¹¹³⁴ Visit of Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu to Romania to participate in the Trilateral Meeting of the Foreign Ministers of Turkey, Poland and Romania (Ankara) 23 April 2021. Access Date: 27 April 2021. <https://www.mfa.gov.tr/sayin-bakanimizin-romanya-yi-ziyareti-23-4-2021.en.mfa>

¹¹³⁵ UKEF signs new export partnership with the UAE, UK Government (London) 24 November 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ukef-signs-new-export-partnership-with-the-uae>

¹¹³⁶ UKEF signs new export partnership with the UAE, UK Government (London) 24 November 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ukef-signs-new-export-partnership-with-the-uae>

from the European Union.¹¹³⁷ It led to a UK-Bangladesh trade and investment dialogue on 28 March 2021.¹¹³⁸

On 3 December 2020, the UK signed a partnership, trade and cooperation agreement with North Macedonia.¹¹³⁹ It will allow British businesses to continue to trade during the Brexit transition period.¹¹⁴⁰

On 4 December 2020, the UK continued negotiations with Australia for a free trade agreement.¹¹⁴¹ The UK seeks to continue the existing trade relationship with Australia following its departure from the EU.¹¹⁴²

On 8 December 2020, the UK and Canada agreed to a “temporary agreement that will head off an automatic increase in tariffs that was set to kick in when Britain leaves the European Union” the following week.¹¹⁴³ Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland ensured that Canadian goods including maple syrup, lobster, beef, and car parts are not affected by British Tariffs starting on 1 January 2021.¹¹⁴⁴ This ensures that the UK and Canada will continue to have “preferential access.”¹¹⁴⁵

On 8 December 2020, the UK signed a trade continuity agreement with Norway and Iceland.¹¹⁴⁶ It will ensure tariff-free status on 95 per cent of goods traded with Norway and 90 per cent of goods with Iceland.¹¹⁴⁷

On 8 December 2020, Minister for International Trade Ranil Jayawardena and Kenya’s Cabinet Secretary for Trade Betty Maina signed an economic partnership agreement, securing Kenyan tariff-

¹¹³⁷ UK proposes establishment of a UK-Bangladesh Trade and Investment Dialogue, UK Government (London) 3 December 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-proposes-establishment-of-a-uk-bangladesh-trade-and-investment-dialogue>

¹¹³⁸ Inaugural UK-Bangladesh Trade and Investment Dialogue held in Dhaka, UK Government (London) 16 February 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-bangladesh-trade-and-investment-dialogue>

¹¹³⁹ North Macedonia and UK sign Partnership, Trade and Cooperation Agreement, UK Government (London) 3 December 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/north-macedonia-and-uk-sign-partnership-trade-and-cooperation-agreement>

¹¹⁴⁰ North Macedonia and UK sign Partnership, Trade and Cooperation Agreement, UK Government (London) 3 December 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/north-macedonia-and-uk-sign-partnership-trade-and-cooperation-agreement>

¹¹⁴¹ Negotiations on the UK’s Future Trading Relationship with Australia: Update, UK Government (London) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/negotiations-on-the-uks-future-trading-relationship-with-australia-update--2>

¹¹⁴² Negotiations on the UK’s Future Trading Relationship with Australia: Update, UK Government (London) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/negotiations-on-the-uks-future-trading-relationship-with-australia-update--2>

¹¹⁴³ Canada and U.K. make stoppage deal to avert tariffs after Brexit, CBC (Toronto) 22 December 2020. Access Date: 17 April 2021. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/canada-uk-eu-trade-agreement-1.5852314>

¹¹⁴⁴ Canada and U.K. make stoppage deal to avert tariffs after Brexit, CBC (Toronto) 22 December 2020. Access Date: 17 April 2021. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/canada-uk-eu-trade-agreement-1.5852314>

¹¹⁴⁵ Canada and U.K. make stoppage deal to avert tariffs after Brexit, CBC (Toronto) 22 December 2020. Access Date: 17 April 2021. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/canada-uk-eu-trade-agreement-1.5852314>

¹¹⁴⁶ United Kingdom, Norway and Iceland sign trade continuity agreement, UK Government (London) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/united-kingdom-norway-and-iceland-sign-trade-continuity-agreement>

¹¹⁴⁷ United Kingdom, Norway and Iceland sign trade continuity agreement, UK Government (London) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/united-kingdom-norway-and-iceland-sign-trade-continuity-agreement>

free access to the UK's market.¹¹⁴⁸ It will allow 2,500 UK businesses to access the Kenyan market with duty-free status.¹¹⁴⁹

On 9 December 2020, Deputy High Commissioner for Canada David Reed and Canadian Deputy Minister of International Trade John Hannaford signed the UK-Canada Trade Continuity Agreement.¹¹⁵⁰ It will allow the UK to export goods and services worth GBP11.6 billion and lift a tariff burden of an estimated GBP42 million.¹¹⁵¹

On 10 December 2020, Secretary of State for International Trade Elizabeth Truss agreed on free trade agreements with Singapore and Vietnam.¹¹⁵² The deal with Vietnam will remove 99 per cent of tariffs after seven years.¹¹⁵³

On 14 December 2020, China and the UK held a meeting between a working group on investment promotion.¹¹⁵⁴ The two countries discussed “attracting foreign investment, two-way investment policies, mutual concerns and prospects for future cooperation between the two countries.”¹¹⁵⁵

On 14 December 2020, Secretary of State Truss signed a services mobility agreement with Vice-President of Switzerland Guy Parmelin, allowing UK workers to work in Switzerland freely for 90 days every year.¹¹⁵⁶ It will let existing UK businesses in Switzerland continue to operate.¹¹⁵⁷

On 14 December 2020, China and the UK held a meeting between a working group on investment promotion.¹¹⁵⁸ The two countries discussed “attracting foreign investment, two-way investment policies, mutual concerns and prospects for future cooperation between the two countries.”¹¹⁵⁹

¹¹⁴⁸ UK signs Economic Partnership Agreement with Kenya, benefiting UK-Kenya trade which was worth £1.4 billion in 2019, UK Government (London) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-kenya-sign-trade-agreement>

¹¹⁴⁹ UK signs Economic Partnership Agreement with Kenya, benefiting UK-Kenya trade which was worth £1.4 billion in 2019, UK Government (London) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-kenya-sign-trade-agreement>

¹¹⁵⁰ UK and Canada sign trade agreement, UK Government (London) 9 December 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-canada-sign-trade-agreement>

¹¹⁵¹ UK and Canada sign trade agreement, UK Government (London) 9 December 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-canada-sign-trade-agreement>

¹¹⁵² UK strikes Singapore and Vietnam trade deals, start of new era of trade with Asia, UK Government (London) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-strikes-singapore-and-vietnam-trade-deals-start-of-new-era-of-trade-with-asia>

¹¹⁵³ UK strikes Singapore and Vietnam trade deals, start of new era of trade with Asia, UK Government (London) 10 December 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-strikes-singapore-and-vietnam-trade-deals-start-of-new-era-of-trade-with-asia>

¹¹⁵⁴ China and UK held third meeting of the working group on investment promotion, Ministry of Commerce (Beijing) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 22 April 2021.

<http://english.mofcom.gov.cn/article/newsrelease/significantnews/202012/20201203024843.shtml>

¹¹⁵⁵ China and UK held third meeting of the working group on investment promotion, Ministry of Commerce (Beijing) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 22 April 2021.

<http://english.mofcom.gov.cn/article/newsrelease/significantnews/202012/20201203024843.shtml>

¹¹⁵⁶ UK and Switzerland sign services agreement, UK Government (London) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-switzerland-sign-services-agreement>

¹¹⁵⁷ UK and Switzerland sign services agreement, UK Government (London) 14 December 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-switzerland-sign-services-agreement>

¹¹⁵⁸ China and UK held third meeting of the working group on investment promotion, Ministry of Commerce (Beijing) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 22 April 2021.

<http://english.mofcom.gov.cn/article/newsrelease/significantnews/202012/20201203024843.shtml>

¹¹⁵⁹ China and UK held third meeting of the working group on investment promotion, Ministry of Commerce (Beijing) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 22 April 2021.

<http://english.mofcom.gov.cn/article/newsrelease/significantnews/202012/20201203024843.shtml>

On 15 December 2020, the UK signed the UK-Mexico Trade Continuity Agreement, supporting bilateral trade between UK and Mexico worth more than GBP5 billion.¹¹⁶⁰ The agreement provides a roadmap for the UK's entrance to the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP).¹¹⁶¹

On 24 December 2020, Prime Minister Boris Johnson and the President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen agreed to a deal on the UK's future trade and security relationship with the EU.¹¹⁶² The agreement guarantees the tariff-free status of goods worth GBP668 billion, replacing EU membership following Brexit.¹¹⁶³

On 25 December 2020, the EU and the UK reached a deal regarding post-Brexit relations.¹¹⁶⁴ Turkey and the UK are in the final stages of signing a Free Trade Agreement between the two countries.¹¹⁶⁵

On 29 December 2020, Secretary of State Truss signed the UK-Turkey Free Trade Agreement with the Turkish Minister of Trade Ruhsar Pekcan.¹¹⁶⁶ The agreement allows the UK to benefit from preferential terms of trade in importing and exporting sectors, supporting the bilateral trade relationship worth GBP18.6 billion.¹¹⁶⁷

On 29 December 2020, Ambassador to Mexico Corin Robertson exchanged notes with the Mexican Secretary of Economy Graciela Colín to confirm the agreement between the UK and Mexico to initiate preferential tariff treatment from 1 January 2021.¹¹⁶⁸

On 1 January 2021, UK and Korea implemented their bilateral free trade agreement.¹¹⁶⁹ It accounts for the UK's departure from the European Union.¹¹⁷⁰

On 1 February 2021, Secretary of State Truss submitted the formal notification of intent letter to initiate the accession process for the CPTPP.¹¹⁷¹ The UK accession will extend the CPTPP outside the current Indo-Pacific region.¹¹⁷²

¹¹⁶⁰ UK and Mexico sign trade deal, UK Government (London) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-mexico-sign-trade-deal>

¹¹⁶¹ UK and Mexico sign trade deal, UK Government (London) 15 December 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-mexico-sign-trade-deal>

¹¹⁶² UK and EU agree Brexit trade deal, The Guardian (London) 24 December 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021.

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2020/dec/24/uk-eu-agree-brexit-trade-deal-agreement>

¹¹⁶³ UK and EU agree Brexit trade deal, The Guardian (London) 24 December 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021.

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2020/dec/24/uk-eu-agree-brexit-trade-deal-agreement>

¹¹⁶⁴ No: 333, 25 December 2020, Press Release Regarding the Deal Reached Between the United Kingdom and the European Union on the Negotiations on Post-Brexit Future Relations, Republic of Turkey Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Ankara) 25 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. http://www.mfa.gov.tr/no_-333_-birlesik-krallik-ile-ab-arasinda-brexit-sonrasi-iliskilerin-gelecegine-iliskin-muzakerelerde-uzlasiya-varilmasi-hk.en.mfa

¹¹⁶⁵ No: 333, 25 December 2020, Press Release Regarding the Deal Reached Between the United Kingdom and the European Union on the Negotiations on Post-Brexit Future Relations, Republic of Turkey Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Ankara) 25 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. http://www.mfa.gov.tr/no_-333_-birlesik-krallik-ile-ab-arasinda-brexit-sonrasi-iliskilerin-gelecegine-iliskin-muzakerelerde-uzlasiya-varilmasi-hk.en.mfa

¹¹⁶⁶ UK and Turkey sign trade deal, UK Government (London) 29 December 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-turkey-sign-trade-deal>

¹¹⁶⁷ UK and Turkey sign trade deal, UK Government (London) 29 December 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-turkey-sign-trade-deal>

¹¹⁶⁸ UK-Mexico trade continuity agreement: exchange of notes, UK Government (London) 12 February 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-mexico-trade-continuity-agreement-exchange-of-notes>

¹¹⁶⁹ S. Korea's FTA networks set to further expand in 2021, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 4 January 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210104001200320>

¹¹⁷⁰ S. Korea's FTA networks set to further expand in 2021, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 4 January 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210104001200320>

On 8 February 2021, Secretary of State Truss stated jointly with the Indian Minister for Commerce and Industry Shri Piyush Goyal that the UK and India would formally launch an enhanced trade partnership.¹¹⁷³ They committed to make concrete progress on trade and invest, regularly interact, and quickly identify bilateral deliverables.¹¹⁷⁴

On 9 February 2021, the UK concluded the 3rd round of negotiations with New Zealand regarding a free trade agreement.¹¹⁷⁵ The UK seeks to continue the existing trade relationship with New Zealand after it departs from the EU.¹¹⁷⁶

On 16 February 2021, High Commissioner Dickson had a conversation with the Commerce Secretary of Bangladesh Jafar Uddin at the inaugural UK-Bangladesh Trade and Investment Dialogue.¹¹⁷⁷ The UK and Bangladesh agreed to continue to work towards developing a bilateral trade partnership.¹¹⁷⁸

On 2 March 2021, the UK granted GBP2.1 million to the Golomoti Solar in Malawi, which will provide 20 megawatts of clean power to local plants with quality batteries.¹¹⁷⁹ The UK holds a 25 per cent share of the project through InfraCo Africa, one of the UK's Infrastructure Financing Agencies.¹¹⁸⁰

On 2 March 2021, the UK signed a trade partnership agreement with Ghana to secure tariff-free trade and promote further economic cooperation.¹¹⁸¹ It will support a bilateral trade relationship worth GBP1.2 billion.¹¹⁸²

¹¹⁷¹ Formal Request to Commence UK Accession Negotiations to CPTPP, UK Government (London) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/formal-request-to-commence-uk-accession-negotiations-to-cptpp>

¹¹⁷² Formal Request to Commence UK Accession Negotiations to CPTPP, UK Government (London) 1 February 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/formal-request-to-commence-uk-accession-negotiations-to-cptpp>

¹¹⁷³ Joint UK-India statement on Enhanced Trade Partnership progress, UK Government (London) 8 February 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/joint-uk-india-statement-on-enhanced-trade-partnership-progress>

¹¹⁷⁴ Joint UK-India statement on Enhanced Trade Partnership progress, UK Government (London) 8 February 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/joint-uk-india-statement-on-enhanced-trade-partnership-progress>

¹¹⁷⁵ Negotiations on the UK's Future Trading Relationship with New Zealand: Update, UK Government (London) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/negotiations-on-the-uks-future-trading-relationship-with-new-zealand-update--3>

¹¹⁷⁶ Negotiations on the UK's Future Trading Relationship with New Zealand: Update, UK Government (London) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/negotiations-on-the-uks-future-trading-relationship-with-new-zealand-update--3>

¹¹⁷⁷ Inaugural UK-Bangladesh Trade and Investment Dialogue held in Dhaka, UK Government (London) 16 February 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-bangladesh-trade-and-investment-dialogue>

¹¹⁷⁸ Inaugural UK-Bangladesh Trade and Investment Dialogue held in Dhaka, UK Government (London) 16 February 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-bangladesh-trade-and-investment-dialogue>

¹¹⁷⁹ UK supports Malawi's energy diversification drive, UK Government (London) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-supports-malawis-energy-diversification-drive>

¹¹⁸⁰ UK supports Malawi's energy diversification drive, UK Government (London) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-supports-malawis-energy-diversification-drive>

¹¹⁸¹ UK signs Trade Partnership Agreement with Ghana, UK Government (London) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-signs-trade-partnership-agreement-with-ghana>

¹¹⁸² UK signs Trade Partnership Agreement with Ghana, UK Government (London) 2 March 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-signs-trade-partnership-agreement-with-ghana>

On 4 March 2021, the UK and the US agreed to a four-month tariff suspension regarding the Airbus and Boeing dispute.¹¹⁸³ The UK ceased retaliatory tariffs to de-escalate the incident and promote negotiations.¹¹⁸⁴

On 9 March 2021, Minister Jayawardena signed an economic partnership agreement with Cameroon.¹¹⁸⁵ The UK market imports a 12 per cent share of bananas exported from Cameroon.¹¹⁸⁶ It will maintain the tariff-free bilateral free trade between the UK and Cameroon.¹¹⁸⁷

On 24 March 2021, Prime Minister's Trade Envoy to Kenya Theo Clarke and Kenya's Cabinet Secretary for Industrialisation, Trade and Enterprise Development Betty Maina exchanged ratification documents to enter the UK-Kenya Economic Partnership Agreement into the force.¹¹⁸⁸ The UK and Kenya signed the deal on 8 December 2020.¹¹⁸⁹ This deal contains the same terms as the deal made between the EU and the East African Community and is a British effort to maintain the same trade status as before Brexit.¹¹⁹⁰

On 29 March 2021, Secretary of State Truss and Thailand's Minister of Commerce and Deputy Prime Minister Jurin Laksanawisit signed a memorandum of understanding to establish the Joint Economic and Trade Committee that seeks to address the bilateral trade barriers.¹¹⁹¹ It will benefit the UK by deepening its trade relations with Thailand, a key hub for the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.¹¹⁹²

On 31 March 2021, Secretary of State Truss set the agenda for the UK to work with the G7 Meeting and the World Trade Organization to promote free trade and set the principles for the digital market.¹¹⁹³ Secretary Truss will chair the upcoming inaugural G7 Trade Track Ministerial meeting.¹¹⁹⁴

¹¹⁸³ Joint UK- US statement on suspension of tariffs in long-running aerospace dispute, UK Government (London) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/joint-uk-us-statement-on-suspension-of-tariffs-in-long-running-aerospace-dispute>

¹¹⁸⁴ Joint UK- US statement on suspension of tariffs in long-running aerospace dispute, UK Government (London) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/joint-uk-us-statement-on-suspension-of-tariffs-in-long-running-aerospace-dispute>

¹¹⁸⁵ UK and Cameroon sign trade agreement, UK Government (London) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ukef-signs-new-export-partnership-with-the-uae>

¹¹⁸⁶ UK and Cameroon sign trade agreement, UK Government (London) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ukef-signs-new-export-partnership-with-the-uae>

¹¹⁸⁷ UK and Cameroon sign trade agreement, UK Government (London) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ukef-signs-new-export-partnership-with-the-uae>

¹¹⁸⁸ UK-Kenya Economic Partnership Agreement enters into force, UK Government (London) 24 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-kenya-economic-partnership-agreement-enters-into-force>

¹¹⁸⁹ UK signs Economic Partnership Agreement with Kenya, benefiting UK-Kenya trade which was worth £1.4 billion in 2019, UK Government (London) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2021.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-kenya-sign-trade-agreement>

¹¹⁹⁰ UK-Kenya Economic Partnership Agreement enters into force, UK Government (London) 24 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-kenya-economic-partnership-agreement-enters-into-force>

¹¹⁹¹ UK and Thailand commit to strengthening trade ties, UK Government (London) 29 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-thailand-commit-to-strengthening-trade-ties>

¹¹⁹² UK and Thailand commit to strengthening trade ties, UK Government (London) 29 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-thailand-commit-to-strengthening-trade-ties>

¹¹⁹³ Liz Truss unveils plans to work with G7 to tackle global trading challenges, UK Government (London) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/liz-truss-unveils-plans-to-work-with-g7-to-tackle-global-trading-challenges>

¹¹⁹⁴ Liz Truss unveils plans to work with G7 to tackle global trading challenges, UK Government (London) 31 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/liz-truss-unveils-plans-to-work-with-g7-to-tackle-global-trading-challenges>

On 22 April 2021, the UK attended the WTO general council meeting.¹¹⁹⁵ Attendees agreed to eliminate unnecessary restrictions on exports of medical goods essential to combatting COVID-19, remain transparent about export restrictions deemed “necessary to relieve critical shortages,” and give particular considerations to least developed countries.¹¹⁹⁶ Additionally, members agreed to engage with WTO trade monitoring exercises.¹¹⁹⁷

On 26 April 2021, Secretary of State Truss and Indonesian Minister of Trade Muhammad Lutfi signed a memorandum of understanding to establish the Joint Economic Trade Committee to lower the trade barriers and promote a rules-based trade system.¹¹⁹⁸ Indonesia is one of the largest economies in Southeast Asia and a key trade partner of the UK, with trade amounting to GBP3 billion in 2019.¹¹⁹⁹

On 29 April 2021, Queen Elizabeth II gave the Royal Assent to the Trade Act to formally make it a law.¹²⁰⁰ It will allow the UK government to sign free trade agreements independently.¹²⁰¹ It will also incorporate free trade agreements that the UK already signed into British law.¹²⁰²

On 1 May 2021, the Department for International Trade announced the Joint Statement initiating the UK-Vietnam Free Trade Agreement’s entry into force.¹²⁰³ It will cover GBP5.1 billion worth of bilateral trade and promote trade and investment.¹²⁰⁴ It will also seek to gradually remove tariffs from the current level of 65 per cent to 99 per cent within six years.¹²⁰⁵

On 1 May 2021, the Department for International Trade announced the Jordan-UK Association Agreement coming into effect.¹²⁰⁶ The UK and Jordan signed it on 5 November 2019, but it took

¹¹⁹⁵ COVID-19 and beyond: trade and health, WTO general council (Geneva) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=q:/Jobs/GC/251R1.pdf&Open=True>

¹¹⁹⁶ COVID-19 and beyond: trade and health, WTO general council (Geneva) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=q:/Jobs/GC/251R1.pdf&Open=True>

¹¹⁹⁷ COVID-19 and beyond: trade and health, WTO general council (Geneva) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=q:/Jobs/GC/251R1.pdf&Open=True>

¹¹⁹⁸ UK and Indonesia announce new Joint Economic and Trade Committee, UK Government (London) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-indonesia-announce-new-joint-economic-and-trade-committee>

¹¹⁹⁹ UK and Indonesia announce new Joint Economic and Trade Committee, UK Government (London) 26 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-indonesia-announce-new-joint-economic-and-trade-committee>

¹²⁰⁰ Historic Trade Act becomes law, UK Government (London) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/historic-trade-act-becomes-law>

¹²⁰¹ Historic Trade Act becomes law, UK Government (London) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/historic-trade-act-becomes-law>

¹²⁰² Historic Trade Act becomes law, UK Government (London) 29 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/historic-trade-act-becomes-law>

¹²⁰³ UK-Viet Nam Joint Statement, UK Government (London) 1 May 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-viet-nam-joint-statement>

¹²⁰⁴ UK-Viet Nam Joint Statement, UK Government (London) 1 May 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-viet-nam-joint-statement>

¹²⁰⁵ UK-Viet Nam Joint Statement, UK Government (London) 1 May 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-viet-nam-joint-statement>

¹²⁰⁶ UK and Jordan Trade Agreement comes into effect, UK Government (London) 1 May 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-jordan-trade-agreement-comes-into-effect>

until 25 March 2021 for both the UK and Jordan to complete its procedures to enforce it.¹²⁰⁷ It will expand the bilateral trade further from GBP561 million in 2020.¹²⁰⁸

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to strive to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade and investment environment. The United Kingdom has taken action to strive to realize the goal of a non-discriminatory, fair, free, and predictable trade environment by renegotiating several free trade agreements and lowering barriers to trade. Additionally, the United Kingdom has taken action to strive to realize the goal of a non-discriminatory, fair, free, and predictable investment environment by facilitating open, rules-based investing.

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

Analyst: June Young Lee

United States: 0

The United States has partially complied with its commitment to strive to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade and investment environment

On 8 December 2020, the US and Ecuador signed a protocol on trade rules and transparency, a move welcomed by business groups in both countries.¹²⁰⁹ “The pact updates an earlier agreement with new provisions on customs, regulation, anti-corruption and small and medium-sized companies,” reducing the barriers of trade between the US and Ecuador.¹²¹⁰

On 22 January 2021, President Joseph Biden met with Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and shared their vision for “strengthening Canada-U.S. supply chain security and resilience.”¹²¹¹ The leaders agreed to “avoid measures that may constrain bilateral trade, supply chains, and economic growth” to protect the economic relationships between the two countries.¹²¹²

On 23 February 2021, President Biden met with Prime Minister Trudeau to begin a “reset in relations with Canada’s largest trading partner and one of its closest allies after four tumultuous years with President Donald Trump.”¹²¹³ Canadian officials are “optimistic” that President Biden will bring a

¹²⁰⁷ UK and Jordan Trade Agreement comes into effect, UK Government (London) 1 May 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-jordan-trade-agreement-comes-into-effect>

¹²⁰⁸ UK and Jordan Trade Agreement comes into effect, UK Government (London) 1 May 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-jordan-trade-agreement-comes-into-effect>

¹²⁰⁹ U.S., Ecuador ink mini-deal on trade; U.S. Chamber says more work ahead, Reuters (Washington) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-trade-ecuador-idUSKBN28I2OQ>

¹²¹⁰ U.S., Ecuador ink mini-deal on trade; U.S. Chamber says more work ahead, Reuters (Washington) 8 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-trade-ecuador-idUSKBN28I2OQ>

¹²¹¹ Prime Minister Justin Trudeau speaks with the President of the United States Joe Biden, Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau (Ottawa) 22 January 2021. Access Date: 17 April 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/readouts/2021/01/22/prime-minister-justin-trudeau-speaks-president-united-states-america-joe>

¹²¹² Prime Minister Justin Trudeau speaks with the President of the United States Joe Biden, Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau (Ottawa) 22 January 2021. Access Date: 17 April 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/readouts/2021/01/22/prime-minister-justin-trudeau-speaks-president-united-states-america-joe>

¹²¹³ Biden-Trudeau meeting: Canadians glad to get beyond Trump, but new administration brings new friction, Washington Post (Ottawa) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 17 April 2021.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2021/02/23/canada-trudeau-biden-trump-faq/>

more cooperative presence despite cancelling the Keystone XL pipeline project previously.¹²¹⁴ Tariffs may be decreased over this period, improving the free trade environment.¹²¹⁵

On 23 February 2021, President Biden and Prime Minister Trudeau “promised to work together to build supply chains for electric vehicle battery development.”¹²¹⁶ They aim to make Canada and the US “global leaders in all aspects of battery development and production.”¹²¹⁷

On 1 March 2021, the Office of the US Trade Representative delivered President Biden’s 2021 Trade Agenda and 2020 Annual Report to Congress, which detailed “a comprehensive trade policy in support of the Administration’s effort to help the US recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and build back better.”¹²¹⁸ President Biden noted his desire for a fair international trading system.¹²¹⁹

On 4 March 2021, the US and the UK released a joint statement announcing a four-month suspension of tariffs related to the ongoing large civilian aircraft dispute.¹²²⁰ The US suspended retaliatory tariffs in the Airbus dispute from 4 March 2021, for four months.¹²²¹ This will benefit a wide range of industries on both sides of the Atlantic and allow for focused settlement negotiations and focus on COVID recovery and other shared goals.¹²²²

On 5 March 2021, the US and the EU agreed on the mutual suspension for four months of the tariffs related to the World Trade Organization (WTO) Aircraft disputes.¹²²³ The suspension will cover all tariffs both on aircraft as well as on non-aircraft products and will become effective as soon as the internal procedures on both sides are completed.¹²²⁴ This will allow the EU and the US to ease

¹²¹⁴ Biden-Trudeau meeting: Canadians glad to get beyond Trump, but new administration brings new friction, Washington Post (Ottawa) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 17 April 2021.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2021/02/23/canada-trudeau-biden-trump-faq/>

¹²¹⁵ Biden-Trudeau meeting: Canadians glad to get beyond Trump, but new administration brings new friction, Washington Post (Ottawa) 23 February 2021. Access Date: 17 April 2021.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2021/02/23/canada-trudeau-biden-trump-faq/>

¹²¹⁶ What experts say Canada needs to do to become a leader in the electric vehicle industry, CBC (Toronto) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 18 April 2021. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/technology/trudeau-biden-electric-vehicles-1.5926899>

¹²¹⁷ What experts say Canada needs to do to become a leader in the electric vehicle industry, CBC (Toronto) 25 February 2021. Access Date: 18 April 2021. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/technology/trudeau-biden-electric-vehicles-1.5926899>

¹²¹⁸ Biden Administration Releases 2021 President’s Trade Agenda and 2020 Annual Report, The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (Washington) 1 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2021/march/biden-administration-releases-2021-presidents-trade-agenda-and-2020-annual-report>

¹²¹⁹ Biden Administration Releases 2021 President’s Trade Agenda and 2020 Annual Report, The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (Washington) 1 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2021/march/biden-administration-releases-2021-presidents-trade-agenda-and-2020-annual-report>

¹²²⁰ Joint US-UK Statement on Suspension of Large Civilian Aircraft Tariffs, The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (Washington) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2021/march/joint-us-uk-statement-suspension-large-civilian-aircraft-tariffs>

¹²²¹ Joint US-UK Statement on Suspension of Large Civilian Aircraft Tariffs, The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (Washington) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2021/march/joint-us-uk-statement-suspension-large-civilian-aircraft-tariffs>

¹²²² Joint US-UK Statement on Suspension of Large Civilian Aircraft Tariffs, The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (Washington) 4 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2021/march/joint-us-uk-statement-suspension-large-civilian-aircraft-tariffs>

¹²²³ Joint Statement of the European Union and the United States on the Large Civil Aircraft WTO Disputes, The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (Washington) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2021/march/joint-statement-european-union-and-united-states-large-civil-aircraft-wto-disputes>

¹²²⁴ Joint Statement of the European Union and the United States on the Large Civil Aircraft WTO Disputes, The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (Washington) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2021/march/joint-statement-european-union-and-united-states-large-civil-aircraft-wto-disputes>

the burden on their industries and workers and focus efforts towards resolving these long running disputes at the WTO.¹²²⁵

On 19 March 2021, the US notified the Dispute Settlement of its decision to appeal the panel report in the case brought by Korea in “United States — Anti-Dumping and Countervailing Duties on Certain Products and the Use of Facts Available.”¹²²⁶

On 20 March 2021, US and Chinese officials had the first high-level talks between the Biden administration and China since last June.¹²²⁷ This communication improves the trade transparency between the two countries.¹²²⁸

The United States has partially complied with its commitment to strive to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade and investment environment. The United States has taken action to strive to realize the goal of a fair, free, predictable and inclusive trade environment by lowering barriers to trade in bilateral agreements and including provisions on small and medium sized enterprises. However, the United States has failed to take specific and substantial action to strive to realize the goal of an investment environment that is non-discriminatory, free, fair, predictable and inclusive.

Thus, the United States receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Andy Lin

European Union: +1

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to strive to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade and investment environment.

On 30 November 2021, the EU met virtually with Argentina to discuss trade and economics.¹²²⁹ During the meeting both parties discussed concerns with current trade policies, new taxation laws and interest in varying policy areas.¹²³⁰ The discussions promoted transparency and stability in foreign investment by Argentina into the EU.¹²³¹

¹²²⁵ Joint Statement of the European Union and the United States on the Large Civil Aircraft WTO Disputes, The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (Washington) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2021/march/joint-statement-european-union-and-united-states-large-civil-aircraft-wto-disputes>

¹²²⁶ United States appeals panel report regarding US duties on Korean products, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 19 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news21_e/ds539apl_19mar21_e.htm

¹²²⁷ US and China trade angry words at high-level Alaska talks, BBC News (London) 20 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-56452471>

¹²²⁸ US and China trade angry words at high-level Alaska talks, BBC News (London) 20 March 2021. Access Date: 22 March 2021. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-56452471>

¹²²⁹ 11th EU-Argentina Joint Committee – Trade and Economic Joint Minutes, EU-Argentina Joint Committee (Brussels) 30 November 2020. Access Date: 16 March 2021. https://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2021/january/tradoc_159395.pdf

¹²³⁰ 11th EU-Argentina Joint Committee – Trade and Economic Joint Minutes, EU-Argentina Joint Committee (Brussels) 30 November 2020. Access Date: 16 March 2021. https://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2021/january/tradoc_159395.pdf

¹²³¹ 11th EU-Argentina Joint Committee – Trade and Economic Joint Minutes, EU-Argentina Joint Committee (Brussels) 30 November 2020. Access Date: 16 March 2021. https://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2021/january/tradoc_159395.pdf

On 7 December 2021, the EU announced that it will allow member states to suspend value-added tax (VAT) rates on COVID-19 vaccines and testing kits and related services until 31 December 2022.¹²³² Member states may also choose to reduce VAT rates for these items.¹²³³

On 12 December 2021, the European Commission released a communication agenda with the US which created a framework for transatlantic cooperation.¹²³⁴ The European Commission asked the US to join the Trade and Health Initiative which works to “facilitate trade in essential medical goods and healthcare products.”¹²³⁵ The European Commission also asks the United States to review bilateral and multilateral trading to strengthen the systems.¹²³⁶

On 30 December 2020, the EU and China announced a new investment deal after seven years of negotiation.¹²³⁷ The deal seeks “to make foreign investment fairer for European companies which compete against state-funded firms in China.”¹²³⁸ China has committed to being transparent on subsidies for state-owned firms and forced technology transfers.¹²³⁹ EU Trade Chief Valdis Dombrovskis believes “the main purpose of this agreement is to address the economic imbalance in our relations...[as] the EU’s market is substantially more open to Chinese companies and investment than China’s market is for EU companies.”¹²⁴⁰

On 19 January 2021, European Parliament added rules to protect EU trading against partners acting “illegally.”¹²⁴¹ Countermeasures are now allowed to be introduced when the EU “obtains a favourable ruling from a dispute settlement panel of the World Trade Organization or in bilateral and regional agreements, when the other party fails to cooperate on the adjudication of the dispute.”¹²⁴²

¹²³²Council Greenlights Temporary VAT Relief on COVID-19 Vaccines and Test Kits, European Council (Brussels) 7 December 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/12/07/council-greenlights-temporary-vat-relief-on-covid-19-vaccines-and-test-kits/>

¹²³³ Council Greenlights Temporary VAT Relief on COVID-19 Vaccines and Test Kits, European Council (Brussels) 7 December 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/12/07/council-greenlights-temporary-vat-relief-on-covid-19-vaccines-and-test-kits/>

¹²³⁴ Joint Communication to the European Parliament, the European Council and the Council, European Commission (Brussels) 12 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/joint-communication-eu-us-agenda_en.pdf

¹²³⁵ Joint Communication to the European Parliament, the European Council and the Council, European Commission (Brussels) 12 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/joint-communication-eu-us-agenda_en.pdf

¹²³⁶ Joint Communication to the European Parliament, the European Council and the Council, European Commission (Brussels) 12 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/joint-communication-eu-us-agenda_en.pdf

¹²³⁷ China’s investment deal with the EU has raised 3 big concerns in Europe, CNBC (Englewood Cliffs) 6 January 2021. Access Date: 21 April 2021. <https://www.cnbc.com/2021/01/06/china-eu-trade-deal-what-it-is-and-why-it-might-fail.html>

¹²³⁸ China’s investment deal with the EU has raised 3 big concerns in Europe, CNBC (Englewood Cliffs) 6 January 2021. Access Date: 21 April 2021. <https://www.cnbc.com/2021/01/06/china-eu-trade-deal-what-it-is-and-why-it-might-fail.html>

¹²³⁹ China’s investment deal with the EU has raised 3 big concerns in Europe, CNBC (Englewood Cliffs) 6 January 2021. Access Date: 21 April 2021. <https://www.cnbc.com/2021/01/06/china-eu-trade-deal-what-it-is-and-why-it-might-fail.html>

¹²⁴⁰ China’s investment deal with the EU has raised 3 big concerns in Europe, CNBC (Englewood Cliffs) 6 January 2021. Access Date: 21 April 2021. <https://www.cnbc.com/2021/01/06/china-eu-trade-deal-what-it-is-and-why-it-might-fail.html>

¹²⁴¹ EU Will Have Stronger Powers in Trade Disputes, European Parliament (Brussels) 19 January 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210114IPR95626/eu-will-have-stronger-powers-in-trade-disputes>

¹²⁴² EU Will Have Stronger Powers in Trade Disputes, European Parliament (Brussels) 19 January 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210114IPR95626/eu-will-have-stronger-powers-in-trade-disputes>

The resolution will not act as a protectionist measure, but would be WTO-compatible.¹²⁴³ This action furthers the goal of fair, rule-based trading amongst the EU and its trading partners.¹²⁴⁴

On 18 February 2021, the European Commission released its revised trade policy. It focuses on the openness of the EU's market both internally and externally, developing cooperative frameworks, increased multilateralism in trade and deepening trade relations with countries in the European Neighbourhood Policy, the Western Balkans and Eastern Partnership countries.¹²⁴⁵

On 19 February 2021, the EU and India “expressed hope to forge a host of bilateral cooperation arrangements with a view to boost bilateral trade” by continuing negotiations on the Bilateral Trade and Investment Agreement, in which the EU seeks greater market access for its commodities in India.¹²⁴⁶

On 26 February 2021, the EU stated it is committed to “improving access” to vaccines to countries in the European Neighbourhood Policy and beyond through COVID-19 Vaccines Global Access.¹²⁴⁷ The EU also committed to ensuring the unhindered flow of goods and services.¹²⁴⁸

On 5 March 2021, the EU and the US agreed to temporarily remove tariffs on various items including Boeing and Airbus aircrafts as well as non-aircraft products.¹²⁴⁹ The goal is to reduce tariffs on US-EU products, which is a step towards market liberalization.¹²⁵⁰

On 9 March 2021, the European Parliament revised InvestEU, a provisional agreement, which focuses on “investments in manufacturing of pharmaceuticals, medical devices and supplies.”¹²⁵¹ The agreement will also focus investments into the EU's small and medium sized enterprises which were “negatively affected by the pandemic.”¹²⁵² The agreement allows foreign investment from countries “that are members of the European Free Trade Association, acceding countries, candidates and potential candidates, countries covered by the European Neighbourhood Policy.”¹²⁵³ The goal is to

¹²⁴³ MEPs: Put a Carbon Price on Certain EU Imports to Raise Global Climate Ambition, European Parliament (Brussels) 10 March 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210304IPR99208/meps-put-a-carbon-price-on-certain-eu-imports-to-raise-global-climate-ambition>

¹²⁴⁴ MEPs: Put a Carbon Price on Certain EU Imports to Raise Global Climate Ambition, European Parliament (Brussels) 10 March 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210304IPR99208/meps-put-a-carbon-price-on-certain-eu-imports-to-raise-global-climate-ambition>

¹²⁴⁵ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the Europeans Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Region, European Commission (Brussels) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/regdoc/rep/1/2021/EN/COM-2021-66-F1-EN-MAIN-PART-1.PDF>

¹²⁴⁶ India, EU Express Hope to Forge Host of Bilateral Cooperation Arrangements, Business Standard (New Delhi) 19 February 2021. Access Date: 12 March 2021. https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/india-eu-express-hope-to-forge-host-of-bilateral-cooperation-arrangements-121021901306_1.html

¹²⁴⁷ Statement of the Members of the European Council, European Council (Brussels) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/48625/2526-02-21-euco-statement-en.pdf>

¹²⁴⁸ Statement of the Members of the European Council, European Council (Brussels) 26 February 2021. Access Date: 19 April 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/48625/2526-02-21-euco-statement-en.pdf>

¹²⁴⁹ EU and US Agree to Suspend Tariffs over Airbus-Boeing Dispute, Euronews (Brussels) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.euronews.com/2021/03/05/eu-and-us-agree-to-suspend-tariffs-over-airbus-boeing-dispute>

¹²⁵⁰ EU and US Agree to Suspend Tariffs over Airbus-Boeing Dispute, Euronews (Brussels) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.euronews.com/2021/03/05/eu-and-us-agree-to-suspend-tariffs-over-airbus-boeing-dispute>

¹²⁵¹ Parliament Adopts InvestEU Programme for Strategic and Innovative Investments, European Parliament (Brussels) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210304IPR99206/parliament-adopts-investeu-programme-for-strategic-and-innovative-investments> European Parliament

¹²⁵² Parliament Adopts InvestEU Programme for Strategic and Innovative Investments, European Parliament (Brussels) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210304IPR99206/parliament-adopts-investeu-programme-for-strategic-and-innovative-investments> European Parliament

¹²⁵³ Questions and answers: InvestEU Programme, European Commission (Brussels) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/qanda_21_1045

increase investments into small and medium sized enterprises to help with the rebuilding of the EU's economy post COVID-19.¹²⁵⁴

On 9 March 2021, the European Parliament created a resolution to carbon leaking which includes creating a carbon price on certain EU imports from countries who are “less climate-ambitious.”¹²⁵⁵ The goal would “create a global level playing field as well as an incentive for both EU and non-EU industries to decarbonize” and invest in environmentally conscious laws.¹²⁵⁶ This will not act to further EU protectionism but will promote countries to become environmentally aware and meet climate objectives.¹²⁵⁷

On 10 March 2021, the European Parliament discussed the importance of creating trade laws which implement a ban on importing from countries who are involved with human rights or environmental breaches.¹²⁵⁸ The Parliament adopted the legislative initiative report which called for the adoption of binding due diligence EU law to hold companies accountable for harm done to human rights or the environment at any point of the value chain.¹²⁵⁹

On 11 March 2021, the European Commission reinforced their commitment to export COVID-19 vaccines, of which it is currently the largest exporter.¹²⁶⁰ Over 34 million doses have been exported to 31 different countries.¹²⁶¹ The new regulation has been set to continue until the end of June 2021.¹²⁶²

On 25 March 2021, the European Parliament defined the strategy for a new EU-Africa partnership.¹²⁶³ The expectation for the strategy is to encourage African ambitions towards a continental free trade area.¹²⁶⁴

¹²⁵⁴ Questions and answers: InvestEU Programme, European Commission (Brussels) 9 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/qanda_21_1045

¹²⁵⁵ MEPs: Put a Carbon Price on Certain EU Imports to Raise Global Climate Ambition, European Parliament (Brussels) 10 March 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210304IPR99208/meps-put-a-carbon-price-on-certain-eu-imports-to-raise-global-climate-ambition>

¹²⁵⁶ MEPs: Put a Carbon Price on Certain EU Imports to Raise Global Climate Ambition, European Parliament (Brussels) 10 March 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210304IPR99208/meps-put-a-carbon-price-on-certain-eu-imports-to-raise-global-climate-ambition>

¹²⁵⁷ MEPs: Put a Carbon Price on Certain EU Imports to Raise Global Climate Ambition, European Parliament (Brussels) 10 March 2021. Access Date: 18 March 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210304IPR99208/meps-put-a-carbon-price-on-certain-eu-imports-to-raise-global-climate-ambition>

¹²⁵⁸ MEPs: Companies Must no Longer Cause Harm to People and Planet with Impunity, European Parliament (Brussels) 10 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210304IPR99216/meps-companies-must-no-longer-cause-harm-to-people-and-planet-with-impunity>

¹²⁵⁹ MEPs: Companies Must no Longer Cause Harm to People and Planet with Impunity, European Parliament (Brussels) 10 March 2021. Access Date: 1 May 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210304IPR99216/meps-companies-must-no-longer-cause-harm-to-people-and-planet-with-impunity>

¹²⁶⁰ Commission Extends Transparency and Authorization Mechanism for Exports of COVID-19 Vaccines, European Commission (Brussels) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_1121

¹²⁶¹ Commission Extends Transparency and Authorization Mechanism for Exports of COVID-19 Vaccines, European Commission (Brussels) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_1121

¹²⁶² Commission Extends Transparency and Authorization Mechanism for Exports of COVID-19 Vaccines, European Commission (Brussels) 11 March 2021. Access Date: 21 March 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_1121

¹²⁶³ Empowering Africa: Parliament defines strategy for a new EU-Africa partnership, European Parliament (Brussels) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210322IPR00522/empowering-africa-parliament-defines-strategy-for-a-new-eu-africa-partnership>

¹²⁶⁴ Empowering Africa: Parliament defines strategy for a new EU-Africa partnership, European Parliament (Brussels) 25 March 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210322IPR00522/empowering-africa-parliament-defines-strategy-for-a-new-eu-africa-partnership>

On 28 March 2021, the European Parliament announced the conclusion of the EU-UK Trade Cooperation Agreement.¹²⁶⁵ The agreement encourages a zero quota and zero tariff arrangement “on all goods that comply with the appropriate rules of origin” and covers investment.¹²⁶⁶

On 13 April 2021, the European Parliament’s foreign affairs committee adopted a draft report with recommendations for the EU to improve relations with India.¹²⁶⁷ Recommendations have been made to advance trade, investment, effective multilateralism and “appropriate provisions regarding investors’ rights and duties.”¹²⁶⁸

On 22 April 2021, delegates from the EU attended the WTO general council meeting.¹²⁶⁹ Attendees agreed to eliminate unnecessary restrictions on exports of medical goods essential to combatting COVID-19, remain transparent about export restrictions deemed “necessary to relieve critical shortages,” and give particular considerations to least developed countries.¹²⁷⁰ Additionally, members agreed to engage with WTO trade monitoring exercises.¹²⁷¹

The EU has fully complied with its commitment to strive to realize the goal of a free, fair, inclusive, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade and investment environment. The EU has taken action to strive to realize the goal of a fair, free and predictable trade environment by actively lowering barriers to trade and legislating rules-based trading. Additionally, the EU has taken action to strive to realize the goal of a non-discriminatory, fair, free, predictable and inclusive investment environment by creating investment incentives with consideration for SMEs impacted by COVID-19.

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

Analyst: AnnaMaria Pavlopoulos

¹²⁶⁵ Parliament formally approves EU-UK trade and cooperation agreement, European Parliament (Brussels) 28 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210423IPRO2772/parliament-formally-approves-eu-uk-trade-and-cooperation-agreement>

¹²⁶⁶ EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement: protecting European interests, ensuring fair competition, and continued cooperation in areas of mutual interest, European Commission (Brussels) 24 December 2020. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_2531

¹²⁶⁷ EU-India: boosting cooperation from trade to climate, European Parliament (Brussels) 16 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/headlines/world/20210408STO01627/eu-india-boosting-cooperation-from-trade-to-climate>

¹²⁶⁸ Draft Report, European Parliament (Brussels) 13 April 2021. Access Date: 30 April 2021. https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/AFET-PR-689503_EN.pdf

¹²⁶⁹ COVID-19 and beyond: trade and health, WTO general council (Geneva) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=q:/Jobs/GC/251R1.pdf&Open=True>

¹²⁷⁰ COVID-19 and beyond: trade and health, WTO general council (Geneva) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=q:/Jobs/GC/251R1.pdf&Open=True>

¹²⁷¹ COVID-19 and beyond: trade and health, WTO general council (Geneva) 22 April 2021. Access Date: 25 April 2021. <https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=q:/Jobs/GC/251R1.pdf&Open=True>