

# Preliminary 2020 G20 Extraordinary Virtual Summit Interim Compliance Report

Prepared by

Alessandra Cicci and the G20 Research Group

University of Toronto

Toronto

and

Irina Popova and the Center for International Institutions Research

Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration,

Moscow

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**Feedback, as always, is welcome and is kept anonymous.**

Unlike the regular annual compliance reports produced by the G20 Research Group and RANEPA, this report has not been sent to stakeholders for review prior to publication. Scores can be recalibrated if new material becomes available that meets the requirements set by the methodology used for monitoring compliance.

**This is therefore a preliminary report  
and we encourage readers to send comments to**

[G20@utoronto.ca](mailto:G20@utoronto.ca)

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## 10. Trade: Avoiding Unnecessary Interference

“We commit to continue working together to facilitate international trade and coordinate responses in ways that avoid unnecessary interference with international traffic and trade”

*Extraordinary G20 Leaders’ Summit: Statement on COVID-19*

### Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Argentina		0	
Australia		0	
Brazil		0	
Canada			+1
China		0	
France		n/a	
Germany		n/a	
India	-1		
Indonesia		0	
Italy		n/a	
Japan			+1
Korea			+1
Mexico			+1
Russia		0	
Saudi Arabia	-1		
South Africa		0	
Turkey	-1		
United Kingdom	-1		
United States		0	
European Union		0	
Average		0 (50%)	

### Background

Addressing disruptions to international trade amidst the COVID-19 crisis remains critical in order to ensure the continued flow of medical supplies, food, agricultural products and other goods and services, vital in the fight against the pandemic. According to the World Trade Organization (WTO) world merchandise trade is expected to fall by between 13 per cent and 32 per cent in 2020. Trade will likely fall steeper in sectors with complex value chains, particularly electronics and automotive products. Services trade may be most directly affected by COVID-19 through transport and travel restrictions.<sup>1526</sup>

The G20 leaders attempted to address this issue at their Extraordinary Virtual Summit by committing to continue working together to facilitate international trade and coordinate responses in ways that avoid unnecessary interference with international traffic and trade.

On 24 March 2020, the WTO Director-General Roberto Azevedo called on the WTO members to share information on trade measures related to COVID-19 with the Secretariat.

<sup>1526</sup> Trade set to plunge as COVID-19 pandemic upends global economy, WTO (Geneva) 8 April 2020. Access Date: 27 May 2020. [https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/pres20\\_e/pr855\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/pres20_e/pr855_e.htm).

On 30 March 2020, the G20 Trade and Investment Ministerial Statement was published. The Ministers pledged to ensure the continued flow of vital medical supplies and equipment, critical agricultural products, and other essential goods and services across borders, for supporting the health of the citizens. The G20 officials stated, that the emergency measures, designed to tackle COVID-19, must be targeted, proportionate, transparent, and temporary, so as not to create unnecessary barriers to trade or disrupt global supply chains. In accordance with the call by the WTO Director-General Roberto Azevedo, the G20 countries pledged to notify the WTO Secretariat of all of any trade related measures taken, and reiterated their commitment to a free, fair, nondiscriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade and investment environment.<sup>1527</sup>

### Commitment Features

The commitment has two parts:

1. Facilitating international trade. This part of the commitment requires the G20 members to take active steps to ease the transboundary flow of goods and services, especially those vital in the fight against COVID-19, while abstaining from introducing new protectionist measures in international trade.
2. Coordinating responses. In light of the G20 leaders' and trade ministers' commitments, for the purposes of the analysis "coordinating responses" is implied to mean "notifying the WTO of the trade measures related to COVID-19," as a first step to potential collective response measures in the future.

Thus, to achieve full compliance the G20 members need to take trade liberalizing measures, avoid protectionist measures and provide provides notifications to the WTO on its trade policy responses to the COVID-19 crisis.

Actions must have been taken between 27 March 2020 and 26 May 2020 to be counted for compliance.

### Scoring Guidelines

-1	G20 member takes trade restrictive measures and/or does not provide notifications to the World Trade Organization (WTO).
0	G20 member takes trade restrictive measures and provides notifications to the WTO.
+1	G20 member takes trade liberalizing measures, does not take trade restrictive measures and provides notifications to the WTO.

*Centre for International Institutions Research*

### Argentina: 0

Argentina partially complied with the commitment to facilitate international trade and coordinate responses to the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 28 March 2020, the Argentinian government issued the Decree 317/2020 approving the establishment of export licensing requirements on 29 categories of medical goods, including disinfectants, ethyl alcohol, paracetamol, surgical rubber and other rubber gloves, protective garments, face masks and ventilators, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>1528</sup>

<sup>1527</sup> G20 Trade and Investment Ministerial Statement, Group of 20 web-site (Riyadh) 30 March 2020. Access Date: 27 May 2020. [https://g20.org/en/media/Documents/G20\\_Trade%20&%20Investment\\_Ministerial\\_Statement\\_EN.pdf](https://g20.org/en/media/Documents/G20_Trade%20&%20Investment_Ministerial_Statement_EN.pdf).

<sup>1528</sup> Nomenclatura Común del Mercosur Decreto 317/2020, Official Gazette of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 28 March 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/227235/20200328>.

On 2 April 2020, the Ministry of Productive Development of Argentina adopted Resolution 107/2020 temporarily suspending the application of the Sworn Declaration of Product Composition to the imports of certain types of personal protective equipment.<sup>1529</sup>

On 2 April 2020, the Argentinian government issued the Decree 333/2020 temporarily lifting import duties on 52 categories of medical products.<sup>1530</sup>

On 27 April 2020, Argentina notified the World Trade Organization (WTO) of the measures taken to facilitate the trade in certain medical supplies. The measures provided for easing the requirements to the provision of phytosanitary certificates. The requirement to submit an original paper-based certificates was temporarily waived, provided that a digital version of the certificates with a mechanism for verifying its validity was submitted.<sup>1531</sup>

Argentina introduced both trade restrictive and liberalizing measures during the monitoring period and provided notifications of the measures taken to address the COVID-19 crisis to the WTO. Thus, it is awarded a score of 0 for partial compliance.

*Analyst: Andrei Sakharov*

### **Australia: 0**

Australia partially complied with the commitment to facilitate international trade and coordinate responses to the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 27 March 2020, Australia attended the second teleconference with the US, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, India and Vietnam to discuss the COVID-19 response. The Vice Ministers of Foreign Affairs exchanged views on how to work together to preserve the global supply chain.<sup>1532</sup>

On 29 March 2020, the Minister of Treasury of Australia announced a temporary amendment to the Foreign Acquisitions and Takeovers Act 1975, which would make all foreign investments into Australia subject to government approval.<sup>1533</sup>

On 3 April 2020, the Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs attended the third teleconference with the US, Korea, Japan, New Zealand, India and Vietnam to discuss the COVID-19 response. The Vice

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<sup>1529</sup> Ministerio de Desarrollo Production. Secretaría de Comercio Interior Resolución 107/2020, Official Gazette of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 3 April 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/227415/20200403>.

<sup>1530</sup> Derechos de Importación Extrazona Decreto 333/2020, Official Gazette of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 2 April 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/227367/20200402>.

<sup>1531</sup> Measures concerning phytosanitary certificates aimed at the facilitation of trade in view of issues arising from the COVID-19 pandemic, WTO (Geneva) 27 April 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. <https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=Q:/G/SPS/GEN1772.pdf>.

<sup>1532</sup> Teleconference on COVID-19 Response between Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Cho and his Counterparts, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. [http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m\\_5674/view.do?seq=320074&srchFr=&srchTo=&srchWord=&srchTp=&multi\\_itm\\_seq=0&itm\\_seq\\_1=0&itm\\_seq\\_2=0&company\\_cd=&company\\_nm=&page=6&titleNm=](http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5674/view.do?seq=320074&srchFr=&srchTo=&srchWord=&srchTp=&multi_itm_seq=0&itm_seq_1=0&itm_seq_2=0&company_cd=&company_nm=&page=6&titleNm=)

<sup>1533</sup> Changes to foreign investment framework, Treasurer of the Commonwealth of Australia (Canberra) 29 March 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. <https://ministers.treasury.gov.au/ministers/josh-frydenberg-2018/media-releases/changes-foreign-investment-framework/>

Ministers of Foreign Affairs discussed ways to collaborate to ensure an uninterrupted flow of goods and services and maintaining the global supply chains.<sup>1534</sup>

On 9 April 2020 Australia notified the World Trade Organization (WTO) of its decision to introduce temporary quantitative restrictions on non-commercial exports of personal protective equipment and sanitizers essential to combatting the COVID-19 pandemic. According to the communication the “measure seeks to prevent individuals and criminal syndicates from hoarding, pricegouging and profiteering on noncommercial exports from Australia” and will not cover legitimate commercial and humanitarian exports.<sup>1535</sup>

On 7 April 2020, Australia notified the WTO of the temporary changes it made to the certification requirements for imported fresh produce, cut flowers, plants and other plant-based commodities. The measure provides for temporarily lifting the requirement to provide the original paper phytosanitary certificate, while submitting an electronic copy instead. This temporary arrangement was to be maintained until 1 July 2020.<sup>1536</sup>

On 1 May 2020, Australia notified the WTO of its unilateral trade measure introduced in response to the COVID-19 crisis. The country introduced a temporary tariff concession measure, with custom duty refunds available, to facilitate the importation of supplies critical in the fight against COVID-19 outbreak, including medical and hygiene products.<sup>1537</sup>

Australia introduced both trade restrictive and liberalizing measures during the monitoring period and provided notifications of the measures taken to address the COVID-19 crisis to the WTO. Thus, it is awarded a score of 0 for partial compliance.

*Analyst: Andrei Sakharov*

### **Brazil: 0**

Brazil partially complied with the commitment to facilitate international trade and coordinate responses to the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 1 April 2020, the Brazilian government issued the Decree 10.302 temporarily suspending the levy of the tax on industrialized products to the imports of certain pharmaceutical articles, gloves and medical thermometers.<sup>1538</sup>

On 3 April 2020, the Brazilian Foreign Trade Chamber issued Resolution No. 28 lifting the import tariffs on 22 types of medical goods.<sup>1539</sup>

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<sup>1534</sup> 3rd Teleconference on COVID-19 Response between Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Cho and his Counterparts, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 7 April 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. [http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m\\_5674/view.do?seq=320085&srchFr=&srchTo=&srchWord=&srchTp=&multi\\_itm\\_seq=0&itm\\_seq\\_1=0&itm\\_seq\\_2=0&company\\_cd=&company\\_nm=&page=5&titleNm=](http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5674/view.do?seq=320085&srchFr=&srchTo=&srchWord=&srchTp=&multi_itm_seq=0&itm_seq_1=0&itm_seq_2=0&company_cd=&company_nm=&page=5&titleNm=)

<sup>1535</sup> Notification pursuant to the Decision on notification procedures for quantitative restrictions (G/L/59/REV.1), World Trade Organization (Geneva) 16 April 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. [https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/covid19\\_e/notifications\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/notifications_e.htm).

<sup>1536</sup> NOTIFICATION, WTO (Geneva) 7 April 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. <https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=Q:/G/SPS/NAUS497.pdf>.

<sup>1537</sup> Unilateral measures relating to the COVID-19 pandemic: measures to facilitate the importation of vital medical supplies, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 4 May 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. [https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/covid19\\_e/notifications\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/notifications_e.htm).

<sup>1538</sup> Decreto Nº 10.302, Presidency of the Republic (Brasilia) 1 April 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. [http://www.planalto.gov.br/ccivil\\_03/\\_ato2019-2022/2020/decreto/D10302.htm](http://www.planalto.gov.br/ccivil_03/_ato2019-2022/2020/decreto/D10302.htm).

On 13 April 2020, the Subsecretary of Foreign Trade Operations of Brazil issued the Importation Notice n° 23/2020 lifting the import licensing requirements on certain goods, including polyurethane sheets, vulcanized rubber threads and two-component fibres of different merging points.<sup>1540</sup>

On 13 April 2020, the Ministry of Health of Brazil issued the Resolution N° 370, which provided for the inclusion of 12 types of drugs, namely, hloroquine, hydroxychloroquine, azithromycin, fentanyl, midazolam, ethosuximide, propofol, pancuronium, pancuronium, rocuronium, succinylcholine and ivermectin, to the list of medical products subject to export licensing requirements.<sup>1541</sup>

On 23 April 2020, the Brazilian Government adopted the Law N° 13993, introducing an export ban on rubber and nitrile gloves, waterproof medical aprons, protective goggles, surgical face masks, medical hats, face shields, lung ventilators and circuits, multiparameter monitors, hospital beds.<sup>1542</sup>

During the monitoring period Brazil provided 13 notifications to the World Trade Organization (WTO) on the measures taken in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>1543</sup>

Brazil introduced both trade restrictive and liberalizing measures during the monitoring period, and provided notifications of the measures taken to address the COVID-19 crisis to the WTO. Thus, it is awarded a score of 0 for partial compliance.

*Analyst: Andrei Sakebarov*

#### **Canada: +1**

Canada fully complied with the commitment to facilitate international trade and coordinate responses to the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 14 April 2020, Canada notified the World Trade Organization (WTO) of the interim measure to ease phytosanitary requirements to hand sanitizers, disinfectants, personal protective equipment and swabs in order to meet the demand in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>1544</sup>

On 11 May 2020 Canada notified the WTO of its additional unilateral trade measures, taken in response to the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. Canada waived custom duties on medical supplies identified in the list of goods critical for combating COVID-19 by World Health Organization and World Customs Organization.<sup>1545</sup>

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<sup>1539</sup> Resolução N° 28, Official Gazette (Brasilia) 3 April 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020.

<http://www.in.gov.br/en/web/dou/-/resolucao-n-28-de-1-de-abril-de-2020-251062799>.

<sup>1540</sup> Importação n° 023/2020, Siscomex (Brasilia) 13 April 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020.

<http://www.siscomex.gov.br/importacao/importacao-n-023-2020/>.

<sup>1541</sup> Resolução - RDC N° 370, Ministry of Health (Brasilia) 13 April 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020.

[http://www.planalto.gov.br/CCIVIL\\_03/Portaria/RES/Resolucao-370-MS-ANVISA.htm](http://www.planalto.gov.br/CCIVIL_03/Portaria/RES/Resolucao-370-MS-ANVISA.htm).

<sup>1542</sup> Lei N° 13.993, Official Gazette (Brasilia) 23 April 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. <http://www.in.gov.br/web/dou/-/lei-n-13.993-de-23-de-abril-de-2020-253759430>.

<sup>1543</sup> WTO members' notifications on COVID-19, WTO (Geneva) 20 May 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020.

[https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/covid19\\_e/notifications\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/notifications_e.htm).

<sup>1544</sup> Notification, WTO (Geneva) 14 April 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020.

<https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=Q:/G/TBTN20/CAN609.pdf>.

<sup>1545</sup> Unilateral Measures Relating to the COVID-19 Pandemic: Measures to Facilitate the Importation of Medical Supplies, Including Personal Protective Equipment, World Trade Organization (Geneva) : 25 May 2020.. Access Date: 14 May 2020. [https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/covid19\\_e/notifications\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/notifications_e.htm).

Canada introduced liberalizing measures during the monitoring period and provided notifications of the measures taken to address the COVID-19 crisis to the WTO. Thus, it is awarded a score of +1 for full compliance.

*Analyst: Andrei Sakbarov*

### **China: 0**

China partially complied with the commitment to facilitate international trade and coordinate responses to the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 31 March 2020, the Chinese government issued the Announcement 2020/5 introducing new certification and inspection requirements on the exports of test kits, ventilators, protective equipment, and infrared thermometers. The firms exporting these goods were required to receive accreditation from the Chinese National Medical Products Association.<sup>1546</sup>

On 25 April 2020, the Chinese Ministry of Commerce issued the Announcement 2020/12 reverted the changes introduced by the Announcement 2020/5 of 31 March 2020. The new regulation obligated the exporters of test kits, ventilators, protective equipment, and infrared thermometers to receive quality certification in either China or at the export destination.<sup>1547</sup>

On 30 April 2020, China provided a Notification under article 1.4 and 10.6.2 of the Agreement on Trade Facilitation to the World Trade Organization (WTO) containing the list of temporary arrangements the country had adopted in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>1548</sup>

China introduced both trade restrictive and liberalizing measures during the monitoring period, and provided notifications of the measures taken to address the COVID-19 crisis to the WTO. Thus, it is awarded a score of 0 for partial compliance.

*Analyst: Andrei Sakbarov*

### **France: n/a**

Trade is an issue where the European Commission has long had exclusive formal legal competence. Thus, because France is a member of the European Union, its compliance with this commitment has not been assessed.

*Analyst: Andrei Sakbarov*

### **Germany: n/a**

Trade is an issue where the European Commission has long had exclusive formal legal competence. Thus, because Germany is a member of the European Union, its compliance with this commitment has not been assessed.

*Analyst: Andrei Sakbarov*

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<sup>1546</sup> Announcement 2020/5, Chinese Ministry of Commerce (Beijing) 31 March 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. <http://www.mofcom.gov.cn/article/b/e/202003/20200302950371.shtml>.

<sup>1547</sup> Announcement 2020/12, Chinese Ministry of Commerce (Beijing) 25 April 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. <http://www.mofcom.gov.cn/article/b/e/202004/20200402958960.shtml>.

<sup>1548</sup> Notification under article 1.4 and 10.6.2 of the Agreement on Trade Facilitation, WTO (Geneva) 30 April 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. <https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=Q:/G/TFA/NCHN2R3.pdf>.

**India: -1**

India failed to comply with the commitment to facilitate international trade and coordinate responses to the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 4 April 2020, Indian Directorate General of Foreign Trade issued the Notification 01/2015-2020 reinforcing the restrictions on exports of hydroxychloroquine and its formulations.<sup>1549</sup>

On 4 April 2020, the Indian Directorate General of Foreign Trade issued the Notification 59/2015-2020 introducing the licensing requirement for the exports of medical diagnostic kits.<sup>1550</sup>

On 4 April 2020, the Indian Directorate General of Foreign Trade issued the Notification 02/2015-2020 changing the export policy of certain active pharmaceutical ingredients and their formulations. The measure lifted the licensing requirement for the exports of such products. The new notification overruled the previous restriction, introduced on 3 March 2020.<sup>1551</sup>

On 9 April 2020, the Ministry of Finance issued the Notification 20/2020, exempting the imports of Ventilators, face and surgical masks, personal protection equipment, COVID-19 testing kits, and inputs for the manufacture of any of these products from customs duties.<sup>1552</sup>

On 17 April 2020, the Ministry of Commerce & Industry of India issued the Press Note No. 3(2020 series) introducing government approval requirement for any foreign direct investment from “a country, which shares land border with India or where the beneficial owner of an investment into India is situated in or is a citizen of any such country.” The measure was described as aiming to “curb opportunistic takeovers of Indian companies due to the current COVID-19 pandemic.”<sup>1553</sup>

On 6 May 2020, the Indian Directorate General of Foreign Trade amended the export prohibition on sanitizers imposed on 24 March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The new regulation lifts the ban on all but the alcohol-based hand sanitizers.<sup>1554</sup>

India did not provide any notifications to the World Trade Organization (WTO) on the trade measures taken in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>1555</sup>

India introduced both trade restrictive and liberalizing measures during the monitoring period, and did not provide notifications of the measures taken to address the COVID-19 crisis to the WTO. Thus, it is awarded a score of -1.

*Analyst: Andrei Sakharov*

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<sup>1549</sup> Notification No. 01/2015-2020, Indian Directorate General of Foreign Trade (Delhi) 4 April 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. [https://dgft.gov.in/sites/default/files/Noti%201%20Final%20Eng\\_0.pdf](https://dgft.gov.in/sites/default/files/Noti%201%20Final%20Eng_0.pdf).

<sup>1550</sup> Notification No. 59/2015-2020, Indian Directorate General of Foreign Trade (Delhi) 4 April 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. [https://dgft.gov.in/sites/default/files/Noti%2059%20Final%20Eng\\_0.pdf](https://dgft.gov.in/sites/default/files/Noti%2059%20Final%20Eng_0.pdf)

<sup>1551</sup> Notification No. 2/2015-2020, Indian Directorate General of Foreign Trade (Delhi) 4 April 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. [https://dgft.gov.in/sites/default/files/Noti%202%20Final\\_0.pdf](https://dgft.gov.in/sites/default/files/Noti%202%20Final_0.pdf).

<sup>1552</sup> Notification No. 20/2020– Customs, Indian Ministry of Finance (Delhi) 9 April 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. <https://www.cbic.gov.in/resources//htdocs-cbec/customs/cs-act/notifications/notfns-2020/cs-tarr2020/cs20-2020.pdf>.

<sup>1553</sup> Press Note No. 3(2020 Series), Indian Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Delhi) 17 April 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. [https://dipp.gov.in/sites/default/files/pn3\\_2020.pdf](https://dipp.gov.in/sites/default/files/pn3_2020.pdf).

<sup>1554</sup> Notification No. 4/2015-2020, Indian Directorate General of Foreign Trade (Delhi) 6 May 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. [https://dgft.gov.in/sites/default/files/Noti%202%20Final\\_0.pdf](https://dgft.gov.in/sites/default/files/Noti%202%20Final_0.pdf).

<sup>1555</sup> WTO members’ notifications on COVID-19, WTO (Geneva) 20 May 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. [https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/covid19\\_e/notifications\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/notifications_e.htm).

### **Indonesia: 0**

Indonesia partially complied with the commitment to facilitate international trade and coordinate responses to the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 26 March 2020, the Indonesian Ministry of Trade issued the Regulation 31/2020 banning the export of ethyl alcohol.<sup>1556</sup>

On 2 April 2020, the Indonesian Ministry of Trade issued the Regulation 37/ 2020 lifting the import licensing requirement for used ventilators. This measure was to remain in effect until 30 June 2020.<sup>1557</sup>

During the monitoring period Indonesia provided six notifications to the World Trade Organization (WTO) on the measures taken in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>1558</sup>

Indonesia introduced both trade restrictive and liberalizing measures during the monitoring period, and provided notifications of the measures taken to address the COVID-19 crisis to the WTO. Thus, it is awarded a score of 0 for partial compliance.

*Analyst: Andrei Sakbarov*

### **Italy: n/a**

Trade is an issue where the European Commission has long had exclusive formal legal competence. Thus, because Italy is a member of the European Union, its compliance with this commitment has not been assessed.

*Analyst: Andrei Sakbarov*

### **Japan: +1**

Japan fully complied with the commitment to facilitate international trade and coordinate responses to the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 23 April 2020, Japan issued a notification to the World Trade Organization (WTO) on the “procedure for temporary measures to accept scanned or hard copies of export certificates.” According to the notification the Japanese Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries “accepts scanned or hard copies of export certificates for animals, plants and their products to be exported to Japan in order to facilitate trade in face of COVID-19 outbreak.”<sup>1559</sup>

Japan introduced measures to facilitate trade during the monitoring period, and provided notifications of the measures taken to address the COVID-19 crisis to the WTO. Thus, it is awarded a score of +1 for full compliance.

*Analyst: Andrei Sakbarov*

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<sup>1556</sup> Ministry of Trade Regulation 31/2020, Indonesian Ministry of Trade (Jakarta) 26 March 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. <http://jdih.kemendag.go.id/peraturan/detail/1982/2>.

<sup>1557</sup> Ministry of Trade Regulation 37/2020, Indonesian Ministry of Trade (Jakarta) 2 April 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. <http://jdih.kemendag.go.id/peraturan/detail/1987/2>.

<sup>1558</sup> Notification under article 1.4 and 10.6.2 of the Agreement on Trade Facilitation, WTO (Geneva) 30 April 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. <https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=Q:/G/TFA/NCHN2R3.pdf>.

<sup>1559</sup> Notification, WTO (Geneva) 23 April 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. <https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=Q:/G/SPS/NJPN755.pdf>.

**Korea: +1**

Korea fully complied with the commitment to facilitate international trade and coordinate responses to the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 14 April 2020, Korea issued two notifications to the WTO on its trade policy measures to address the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>1560</sup> The first informed the WTO of the unilateral measures to waive tariffs on the import of surgical and sanitary and melt-blown filters, as well as expedite approval and customs clearance for these masks until 30 June 2020.<sup>1561</sup> The second notification provided the information on the prohibition of export of surgical and sanitary masks, introduced on March 2020 (before the start of the monitoring period).<sup>1562</sup>

Korea introduced measures to facilitate trade during the monitoring period, and provided notifications of the measures taken to address the COVID-19 crisis to the WTO. Thus, it is awarded a score of +1 for full compliance.

*Analyst: Andrei Sakharov*

**Mexico: +1**

Mexico fully complied with the commitment to facilitate international trade and coordinate responses to the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 30 April 2020, Mexico issued a notification to the World Trade Organization (WTO) on its measures concerning phytosanitary certificates aimed at the facilitation of trade in view of issues arising from the COVID-19 pandemic. According to the communication, starting from 27 March 2020, Mexico would not require the original phytosanitary certificate for any shipments of products and by-products of plant origin. The importers were, however, obligated to send the original certificate 15 days after the end of COVID-19 emergency in the country of origin.<sup>1563</sup>

Mexico introduced measures to facilitate trade during the monitoring period, and provided notifications of the measures taken to address the COVID-19 crisis to the WTO. Thus, it is awarded a score of +1 for full compliance.

*Analyst: Andrei Sakharov*

**Russia: 0**

Russia partially complied with the commitment to facilitate international trade and coordinate responses to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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<sup>1560</sup> WTO members' notifications on COVID-19, WTO (Geneva) 20 May 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020.

[https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/covid19\\_e/notifications\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/notifications_e.htm).

<sup>1561</sup> Unilateral measures relating to the COVID-19 pandemic: measures to facilitate the importation of surgical and sanitary masks supplies to importers, WTO (Geneva) 14 April 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020.

<https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=Q:/G/MA/W147.pdf>.

<sup>1562</sup> Temporary export prohibition necessary to protect human health and prevent critical shortage of essential products in response to COVID-19, WTO (Geneva) 14 April 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020.

<https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=Q:/G/MAQRN/KOR2A1.pdf>.

<sup>1563</sup> Measures concerning phytosanitary certificates aimed at the facilitation of trade in view of issues arising from the COVID-19 pandemic, WTO (Geneva) 23 April 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020.

<https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=Q:/G/SPS/GEN1773.pdf>.

On 31 March 2020, the Russian Government introduced export quotas on wheat and meslin, rye, barley, and maize, valid between 1 April and 1 July 2020.<sup>1564</sup>

On 31 March 2020, the Collegium of the Eurasian Economic Commission announced an export ban on onions and garlic, turnip, rye, rice, buckwheat, millet, groats, cereal granules and wholemeal flour, crushed buckwheat grains, soybeans, sunflower seeds, foods prepared from buckwheat in relation to the COVID-19 outbreak. The ban was to remain in force between 14 April 2020 and 1 July 2020.<sup>1565</sup>

On 3 April 2020, the Eurasian Economic Union announced a waiver of import duties on certain agricultural and medical goods, in relation to the COVID-19 outbreak. The waiver was to remain in force between 1 April 2020 and 30 June 2020.<sup>1566</sup>

During the monitoring period Russia provided four notifications to the World Trade Organization (WTO) on the measures taken in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>1567</sup>

Russia introduced both trade restrictive and liberalizing measures during the monitoring period, and provided notifications of the measures taken to address the COVID-19 crisis to the WTO. Thus, it is awarded a score of 0 for partial compliance.

*Analyst: Andrei Sakharov*

### **Saudi Arabia: -1**

Saudi Arabia failed to comply with the commitment to facilitate international trade and coordinate responses to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Saudi Arabia did not provide any notifications to the World Trade Organization (WTO) on the trade measures taken in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>1568</sup>

No information on Saudi Arabia's trade policy actions taken in response to the COVID-19 outbreak during the monitoring period was registered, while the country did not provide any notifications to the WTO. Thus, it is awarded a score of -1.

*Analyst: Andrei Sakharov*

### **South Africa: 0**

South Africa partially complied with the commitment to facilitate international trade and coordinate responses to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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<sup>1564</sup> On the Introduction of Temporary Quantitative Export Restriction on Grains, Government of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 31 March 2020. Access Date: 26 May 2020.

<http://static.government.ru/media/files/0kk3yjAkAmmPZxBeCo3G98KNnc2uDDNA.pdf>.

<sup>1565</sup> On Amending the Decision of the Eurasian Economic Commission N30 dated 21 April 2015, Eurasian Economic Commission (Moscow) 31 March 2020. Access Date: 26 May 2020. [https://docs.eaeunion.org/docs/en-us/01425280/err\\_02042020\\_43](https://docs.eaeunion.org/docs/en-us/01425280/err_02042020_43).

<sup>1566</sup> On the draft resolution of the Eurasian Intergovernmental Council "On measures taken within the framework of the Eurasian Economic Union aimed at ensuring economic stability in the context of the development of the COVID-19 coronavirus infection pandemic," Eurasian Economic Commission (Moscow) 3 April 2020. Access Date: 26 May 2020. [https://docs.eaeunion.org/docs/ru-ru/01425315/err\\_06042020\\_31](https://docs.eaeunion.org/docs/ru-ru/01425315/err_06042020_31).

<sup>1567</sup> WTO members' notifications on COVID-19, WTO (Geneva) 20 May 2020. Access Date: 26 May 2020. [https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/covid19\\_e/notifications\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/notifications_e.htm).

<sup>1568</sup> WTO members' notifications on COVID-19, WTO (Geneva) 20 May 2020. Access Date: 26 May 2020. [https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/covid19\\_e/notifications\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/notifications_e.htm).

On 27 March 2020, the South African Revenue Service (SARS) announced the elimination of value-added tax from imports of goods considered essential to confront the COVID-19 outbreak.<sup>1569</sup>

On 27 March 2020, the Department of Trade and Industry of South Africa adopted Notice R. 424 imposing export licensing requirements on alcohol-based hand sanitizers, certain types of facemasks, gas masks, other breathing appliances, hydroxychloroquine, antisera and other blood fractions, certain vaccines for human and some medicaments.<sup>1570</sup>

On 29 March 2020, SARS approved a full rebate on imports of goods considered essential to confront the COVID-19 outbreak.<sup>1571</sup>

On 16 April 2020, the government of South Africa banned the export of wine during the COVID-19 lockdown period.<sup>1572</sup>

During the monitoring period South Africa provided two notifications to the World Trade Organization (WTO) on its measures taken in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>1573</sup>

South Africa introduced both trade restrictive and liberalizing measures during the monitoring period, and provided notifications of the measures taken to address the COVID-19 crisis to the WTO. Thus, it is awarded a score of 0 for partial compliance.

*Analyst: Andrei Sakharov*

#### **Turkey: -1**

Turkey failed to comply with the commitment to facilitate international trade and coordinate responses to the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 26 March 2020, the government of Turkey imposed a permit requirement on the exports of certain medical equipment and devices that are used to cope with the Coronavirus pandemic.<sup>1574</sup>

On 2 April 2020, the Turkish Ministry of Trade introduced a permission requirement on the imports of medical test kits that are used in COVID-19 tests.<sup>1575</sup>

On 18 April 2020, the President of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdogan issued the Amendment Decree to the Import Regime Decree temporarily increasing the import duties on iron and steel products by 5%.<sup>1576</sup>

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<sup>1569</sup> Rebate Application (Rebate 412 - Remedy for Critical Medical Supplies re COVID-19), International Trade Administration Commission (Pretoria) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 26 May 2020. [http://www.itac.org.za/upload/Rebate%20Application%20\(COVID-19\).pdf](http://www.itac.org.za/upload/Rebate%20Application%20(COVID-19).pdf).

<sup>1570</sup> COVID-19 Export Control Regulation, Government Gazette of South Africa (Pretoria) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 26 May 2020. <http://www.itac.org.za/upload/Covid-19%20Export%20Control%20Reg%2027%20March%202020.pdf>.

<sup>1571</sup> Rebate Application (Rebate 412 - Remedy for Critical Medical Supplies re COVID-19), International Trade Administration Commission (Pretoria) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 26 May 2020. [http://www.itac.org.za/upload/Rebate%20Application%20\(COVID-19\).pdf](http://www.itac.org.za/upload/Rebate%20Application%20(COVID-19).pdf).

<sup>1572</sup> Minister Fikile Mbalula: Review of transport measures during COVID-19 Coronavirus lockdown, South African Government (Pretoria) 16 April 2020. Access Date: 26 May 2020. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-fikile-mbalula-review-transport-measures-during-covid-19-coronavirus-lockdown-16>.

<sup>1573</sup> WTO members' notifications on COVID-19, WTO (Geneva) 20 May 2020. Access Date: 26 May 2020. [https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/covid19\\_e/notifications\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/notifications_e.htm).

<sup>1574</sup> Communiqué amending the Communiqué on Prohibited and Pre-Permitted Goods, Official Gazette of Turkey (Ankara) 26 March 2020. Access Date: 26 May 2020. <https://www.resmigazete.gov.tr/eskiler/2020/03/20200326-13.htm>.

<sup>1575</sup> Communiqué on the import of medical test kits, Official Gazette of Turkey (Ankara) 2 April 2020. Access Date: 26 May 2020. <https://www.resmigazete.gov.tr/eskiler/2020/04/20200402-18.htm>.

On 2 May 2020, the Government of Turkey issued Communiqué no. 2020/9 eliminating the export licensing requirement on ethyl alcohol, cologne, hydrogen peroxide, melt-blown nonwoven fabric, and certain disinfectants.<sup>1577</sup>

On 2 May 2020, the government of Turkey announced eliminating the export permission requirement on ventilators, extracorporeal membrane oxygenation machines, oxygen concentrators, ventilation equipment namely flow sensors, expiration valves, oxygen sensors, and ventilator circuits, anesthesia/ventilator circuits, intravenous cannulas, intubation tubes, intensive care monitors.<sup>1578</sup>

Turkey did not provide any notifications to the World Trade Organization (WTO) on the trade measures taken in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>1579</sup>

Turkey introduced both trade restrictive and liberalizing measures during the monitoring period, and did not provide notifications of the measures taken to address the COVID-19 crisis to the WTO. Thus, it is awarded a score of -1.

*Analyst: Andrei Sakharov*

### **United Kingdom: -1**

The United Kingdom failed to comply with the commitment to facilitate international trade and coordinate responses to the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 31 March 2020, the United Kingdom announced the temporary elimination of the import duty on certain medical supplies, equipment and protective garments from non-EU countries in response to the COVID-19 outbreak. Additionally, value-added tax was also eliminated as so far as it relates to the subject goods imported.<sup>1580</sup>

On 1 April 2020, the Department of Health and Social Care of the United Kingdom added 52 item categories to the list of medicines that cannot be parallel exported from the UK.<sup>1581</sup>

On 21 April 2020, the UK was among nearly 50 governments who announced they would “sign a pledge aimed at ensuring supply chains remain orderly and that officials exercise restraint with any trade restrictions.” This is aimed at agricultural exports and the global supply of food. Eight policy actions were recommended “including keeping supply chains open and connected; avoiding export

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<sup>1576</sup> Amendment Decree to the Import Regime Decree, Official Gazette of Turkey (Ankara) 18 April 2020. Access Date: 26 May 2020. <https://www.resmigazete.gov.tr/eskiler/2020/04/20200418-7.pdf>.

<sup>1577</sup> Communiqué amending the Communiqué on goods subject to export licensing requirement, Official Gazette of Turkey (Ankara) 2 May 2020. Access Date: 26 May 2020. <https://www.resmigazete.gov.tr/eskiler/2020/05/20200502-5.htm>.

<sup>1578</sup> Communiqué amending the Communiqué on Prohibited and Pre-Permitted Goods, Official Gazette of Turkey (Ankara) 2 May 2020. Access Date: 26 May 2020. <https://www.resmigazete.gov.tr/eskiler/2020/05/20200502-4.htm>.

<sup>1579</sup> WTO members’ notifications on COVID-19, WTO (Geneva) 20 May 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. [https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/covid19\\_e/notifications\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/notifications_e.htm).

<sup>1580</sup> Pay no import duty and VAT on medical supplies, equipment and protective garments (COVID-19), The Government of the United Kingdom (London) 31 March 2020. Access Date: 26 May 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/pay-no-import-duty-and-vat-on-medical-supplies-equipment-and-protective-garments-covid-19>.

<sup>1581</sup> List of medicines that cannot be parallel exported from the UK, The Government of the United Kingdom (London) 3 April 2020. Access Date: 26 May 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/medicines-that-cannot-be-parallel-exported-from-the-uk>.

restrictions and unjustified trade restrictions on foods; and ensuring any emergency restrictions are targeted, proportionate and temporary.”<sup>1582</sup>

On 23 April 2020, the Department of Health and Social Care of the United Kingdom further amended the to the list of medicines that cannot be parallel exported from the UK adding 33 new items.<sup>1583</sup>

On 15 May 2020, the UK announced an innovative COVID-19 response services for developing countries to assist in ensuring the flow of vital medical supplies, critical agricultural products, and other goods and services. Through funding to the World Bank Trade Facilitation Support Programme, the UK is ensuring the flow of goods and services to developing countries “through better trade facilitation, helping to expedite the movement, release, and clearance of goods, including goods in transit. This is particularly important with regards to the movement of critical goods such as medical supplies and personal protective equipment.”<sup>1584</sup>

On 15 May 2020, UK Ambassador to the WTO and United Nations in Geneva Julian Braithwaite spoke to the WTO General Council. Ambassador Braithwaite reiterated the UK’s commitment to keeping global agricultural supply chains open. Furthermore, the UK intends to hold a meeting on the topic in June.<sup>1585</sup>

The United Kingdom did not provide any notifications to the World Trade Organization (WTO) on the trade measures taken in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>1586</sup>

The United Kingdom introduced both trade restrictive and liberalizing measures during the monitoring period, and did not provide notifications of the measures taken to address the COVID-19 crisis to the WTO. Thus, it is awarded a score of -1.

*Analyst: Andrei Sakebarov*

### **United States: 0**

The United States partially complied with the commitment to facilitate international trade and coordinate responses to the COVID-19 pandemic.

During the monitoring period the United States provided four notifications to the World Trade Organization (WTO) on its measures taken in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>1587</sup>

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<sup>1582</sup> Major Exporters Pledge to Avoid Disrupting Global Food Supplies, Financial Post (Toronto) 21 April 2020. Access Date: 31 May 2020. <https://business.financialpost.com/pmn/business-pmn/major-exporters-pledge-to-avoid-disrupting-global-food-supplies>.

<sup>1583</sup> List of medicines that cannot be parallel exported from the UK, The Government of the United Kingdom (London) 23 April 2020. Access Date: 26 May 2020. [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/880831/Medicines\\_that\\_cannot\\_be\\_parallel\\_exported\\_from\\_the\\_UK\\_23.csv/preview](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/880831/Medicines_that_cannot_be_parallel_exported_from_the_UK_23.csv/preview).

<sup>1584</sup> The United Kingdom announces two COVID-19 response services for eligible developing countries to help combat the impact of the virus on international trade, Government of the UK (London) 15 May 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/the-united-kingdom-announces-two-covid-19-response-services-for-eligible-developing-countries-to-help-combat-the-impact-of-the-virus-on-international>.

<sup>1585</sup> UK Statemen to the WTO General Council, Government of the UK (London) 15 May 2020. Access Date: 25 May 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/uk-statement-to-the-wto-trade-negotiations-committee>.

<sup>1586</sup> WTO members’ notifications on COVID-19, WTO (Geneva) 20 May 2020. Access Date: 26 May 2020. [https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/covid19\\_e/notifications\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/notifications_e.htm).

<sup>1587</sup> WTO members’ notifications on COVID-19, WTO (Geneva) 20 May 2020. Access Date: 26 May 2020. [https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/covid19\\_e/notifications\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/notifications_e.htm).

On 3 April 2020, the President of the United States, Donald Trump, signed the Memorandum on Allocating Certain Scarce or Threatened Health and Medical Resources to Domestic Use, stating that “it is the policy of the United States to prevent domestic brokers, distributors, and other intermediaries from diverting [personal protective equipment] material overseas.”<sup>1588</sup>

On April 10, 2020 the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) published a temporary rule banning exports of five types of personal protective equipment, including filtering facepiece respirators, surgical masks and protective gloves, from the United States without explicit approval by FEMA.<sup>1589</sup>

The United States introduced trade restrictive measures during the monitoring period, but provided notifications of the measures taken to address the COVID-19 crisis to the WTO. Thus, it is awarded a score of 0 for partial compliance.

*Analyst: Andrei Sakharov*

### **European Union: 0**

The European Union has partially complied with the commitment to facilitate international trade and coordinate responses to the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 1 April 2020, the European Commission notified the World Trade Organization (WTO) of its Regulation (EU) 2020/466 of 31 March on temporary measures to contain risks to human, animal and plant health and animal welfare during certain serious disruptions of Member States’ control systems due to Coronavirus disease (COVID-19). The Regulation provides temporary flexibility option for member-states’ control authorities to use inter alia remote communication and electronically submitted documents for checks, in view of the situation linked to COVID-19.<sup>1590</sup>

On 3 April 2020, the European Commission approved the decision to waive customs duties and value-added tax on the import of medical devices, and protective equipment, from third countries in order to help in the fight he COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>1591</sup>

On 23 April 2020, the European Commission approved the Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/568, making the exportation of protective spectacles and visors, mouth-nose protection equipment, and protective garments subject to the production of an export authorization.<sup>1592</sup>

During the monitoring period the European Union provided four notifications to the WTO on its measures taken in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>1593</sup>

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<sup>1588</sup> Memorandum on Allocating Certain Scarce or Threatened Health and Medical Resources to Domestic Use, President of the United States (Washington) 3 April 2020. Access Date: 26 May 2020. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/memorandum-allocating-certain-scarce-threatened-health-medical-resources-domestic-use/>.

<sup>1589</sup> Prioritization and Allocation of Certain Scarce or Threatened Health and Medical Resources for Domestic Use, Department of Homeland Security 10 April 2020. Access Date: 27 May 2020. <https://s3.amazonaws.com/public-inspection.federalregister.gov/2020-07659.pdf>.

<sup>1590</sup> Temporary flexibility option for control authorities to use inter alia remote communication and electronically submitted documents for checks, in view of the situation linked to COVID-19, WTO (Geneva) 1 April 2020. Access Date: 26 May 2020. <https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=Q:/G/SPS/NEU380.pdf>.

<sup>1591</sup> Coronavirus: Commission waives customs duties and VAT on the import of medical equipment from non-EU countries, European Commission (Brussels) 3 April 2020. Access Date: 27 May 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_575](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_575).

<sup>1592</sup> Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/568, European Commission (Brussels) 23 April 2020. Access Date: 27 May 2020. <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32020R0568&from=EN>.

The European Union introduced both trade restrictive and liberalizing measures during the monitoring period, and provided notifications of the measures taken to address the COVID-19 crisis to the WTO. Thus, it is awarded a score of 0 for partial compliance.

*Analyst: Andrei Sakharov*

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<sup>1593</sup> WTO members' notifications on COVID-19, WTO (Geneva) 20 May 2020. Access Date: 26 May 2020. [https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/covid19\\_e/notifications\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/notifications_e.htm).