



2020 G20 Riyadh Summit Final Compliance Report

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

We encourage readers to send comments to

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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			+1
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			+1
European Union			+1
Average		+0.65 (83%)	

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.¹⁰¹⁸ 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.¹⁰¹⁹

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.¹⁰²⁰ Accordingly, the G20 leaders committed to

¹⁰¹⁸ 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>

¹⁰¹⁹ 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>

¹⁰²⁰ 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.¹⁰²¹

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.¹⁰²² 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.¹⁰²³ 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.¹⁰²⁴

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.¹⁰²⁵ 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 2016.¹⁰²⁶

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.”¹⁰²⁷ 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.”¹⁰²⁸

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.”¹⁰²⁹ 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.¹⁰³⁰

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

¹⁰²¹ 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>

¹⁰²² 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>

¹⁰²³ 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>

¹⁰²⁴ 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>

¹⁰²⁵ 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>

¹⁰²⁶ 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>

¹⁰²⁷ 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>

¹⁰²⁸ 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>

¹⁰²⁹ 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>

¹⁰³⁰ 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.¹⁰³¹ 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.”¹⁰³²

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.”¹⁰³³

The term “trade” is understood to mean the exchange of goods, services, and intellectual property.¹⁰³⁴ 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.¹⁰³⁵ 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.”¹⁰³⁶

The WTO outlines four principles that form “the foundation of the multilateral trading system.”¹⁰³⁷ 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.”¹⁰³⁸ Together, these five principles describe trading and investment

¹⁰³¹ 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

¹⁰³² 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

¹⁰³³ Strive, Cambridge Dictionary (Cambridge) n.d. Access Date: 1 March 2021.

<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/strive>

¹⁰³⁴ 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

¹⁰³⁵ Investment, Cambridge Dictionary (Cambridge) n.d. Access Date: 24 February 2021.

<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/investment>

¹⁰³⁶ 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

¹⁰³⁷ 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

¹⁰³⁸ 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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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.¹⁰³⁹ During the meeting both parties discussed concerns with current trade policies, new

¹⁰³⁹ 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.¹⁰⁴⁰ The discussions promoted transparency and stability in foreign investment by Argentina into the EU.¹⁰⁴¹

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.¹⁰⁴² Minister Solá stated that “we are fully committed to opening new markets for traditional or novel products and introducing novel products in traditional markets.”¹⁰⁴³

On 7 January 2021, Argentina met with Japan to “foster mutual trade and investments.”¹⁰⁴⁴ Both countries noted their shared values of multilateralism, democracy, and the rule of law, and agreed to “intensify trade relations.”¹⁰⁴⁵

On 4 February 2021, Argentina and Chile enacted their automotive agreement.¹⁰⁴⁶ The agreement allows Argentina to export 10,000 more vehicles to Chile.¹⁰⁴⁷

On 5 March 2021, Argentina published ministerial order 37/21 which created a promotional unit in energy and mining investment¹⁰⁴⁸ The order increases investment attraction in both mining and energy sectors, internationalizing Argentinian companies.¹⁰⁴⁹ The unit will also identify and support “trade and cooperation agreements to promote foreign investment.”¹⁰⁵⁰

¹⁰⁴⁰ 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

¹⁰⁴¹ 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

¹⁰⁴² 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>

¹⁰⁴³ 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>

¹⁰⁴⁴ 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>

¹⁰⁴⁵ 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>

¹⁰⁴⁶ 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>

¹⁰⁴⁷ 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>

¹⁰⁴⁸ 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>

¹⁰⁴⁹ 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>

¹⁰⁵⁰ 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.¹⁰⁵¹ 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.¹⁰⁵²

On 17 March 2021, Argentina met with India and opened India's market to Argentinian yerba mate, a South American tea.¹⁰⁵³ This action promotes market freedom, and reflects a coordinated effort between India, Argentina, and applicable international organizations.¹⁰⁵⁴

On 19 March 2021, Argentina concluded the Joint Declaration on Financing the Private Sector with the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).¹⁰⁵⁵ The Joint Declaration mandates that the OPEC Fund will invest in the Argentinian private sector, supporting an inclusive, and non-discriminatory investment environment.¹⁰⁵⁶

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.¹⁰⁵⁷ 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.¹⁰⁵⁸

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.¹⁰⁵⁹ Market access and cooperation on regulatory matters were discussed.¹⁰⁶⁰ Both countries agreed to virtually hold

¹⁰⁵¹ 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>

¹⁰⁵² 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>

¹⁰⁵³ 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>

¹⁰⁵⁴ 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>

¹⁰⁵⁵ 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>

¹⁰⁵⁶ 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>

¹⁰⁵⁷ 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>

¹⁰⁵⁸ 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>

¹⁰⁵⁹ 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>

¹⁰⁶⁰ 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.”¹⁰⁶¹

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.¹⁰⁶² Trade promotion and investments and the multilateral agenda were addressed.¹⁰⁶³

On 12 May 2021, Argentina shipped its first shipment of lemons to the Netherlands since the EU reopened their citrus market to Argentina.¹⁰⁶⁴ Argentina and the National Food Safety and Quality Service reviewed and adjusted their guidelines on citrus to ensure a transparent trade environment.¹⁰⁶⁵

On 3 June 2021, Minister Solá met with Foreign Minister of Paraguay Euclides Acevedo to discuss the position of Mercosur on common external tariffs and external relations.¹⁰⁶⁶ Both ministers agreed to respect the guidelines of the Treaty of Asunción, which works towards a free and communal market.¹⁰⁶⁷

On 8 July 2021, President Alberto Fernández led the Summit of Heads of State of Mercosur, where he discussed the future of trading with fellow Mercosur members.¹⁰⁶⁸ Fernández stated that “it is through more regional integration and not less regional integration, that we will be in better conditions to produce, trade, negotiate and compete.”¹⁰⁶⁹

¹⁰⁶¹ 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>

¹⁰⁶² 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>

¹⁰⁶³ 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>

¹⁰⁶⁴ Agriculture and Senasa Certified the First Shipment of Lemons to Export to the European Union, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 12 May 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/agricultura-y-el-senasa-certificaron-el-primer-cargamento-de-limones-para-exportar-la-union>

¹⁰⁶⁵ Agriculture and Senasa Certified the First Shipment of Lemons to Export to the European Union, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 12 May 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/agricultura-y-el-senasa-certificaron-el-primer-cargamento-de-limones-para-exportar-la-union>

¹⁰⁶⁶ Felipe Solá met with the Foreign Minister of Paraguay to analyze progress in Mercosur, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Argentina (Buenos Aires) 3 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/es/actualidad/noticias/felipe-sola-se-reunio-con-el-canciller-de-paraguay-para-analizar-avances-en-el>

¹⁰⁶⁷ Felipe Solá met with the Foreign Minister of Paraguay to analyze progress in Mercosur, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Argentina (Buenos Aires) 3 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/es/actualidad/noticias/felipe-sola-se-reunio-con-el-canciller-de-paraguay-para-analizar-avances-en-el>

¹⁰⁶⁸ "It is through more regional integration that we will be in a better position to produce, trade, negotiate and compete," said the President, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Argentina (Buenos Aires) 8 July 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/es/destacados/es-traves-de-mas-integracion-regional-que-estaremos-en-mejores-condiciones-de-producir>

¹⁰⁶⁹ "It is through more regional integration that we will be in a better position to produce, trade, negotiate and compete," said the President, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Argentina (Buenos Aires) 8 July 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/es/destacados/es-traves-de-mas-integracion-regional-que-estaremos-en-mejores-condiciones-de-producir>

On 24 July 2021, Minister Solá attended the Meeting of Foreign Ministers of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) in Mexico.¹⁰⁷⁰ He restated how CELAC helps make the needs of the countries involved visible to the international community and has also promoted dialogue with “extra-regional partners.”¹⁰⁷¹

On 28 June 2021, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries of the Nation introduced measures to remove 67 tariff positions as part of a process to reduce export duties which began in December 2019.¹⁰⁷² The project is being undertaken with the goal of “generating economic development with social equity.”¹⁰⁷³

On 29 July 2021, Secretary of International Economic Relations of the Foreign Ministry Jorge Neme met with El Salvador’s Minister of Economy María Luisa Hayem Brevé to analyze the bilateral flow in trades, goods and services.¹⁰⁷⁴ These included food and beverage, metalworking, pharmaceutical, chemical and automotive sectors as well as the knowledge economy.¹⁰⁷⁵

On 31 July 2021, Secretary Neme visited Honduras where he met with the Honduran Council of Private Enterprise where an agreement was made to deepen bilateral relations between the two countries in the automotive, agricultural, pharmaceutical and food sectors.¹⁰⁷⁶

On 9 August 2021, Minister Solá met with the Head of the Central Bank Miguel Pesce to discuss attracting foreign direct investment.¹⁰⁷⁷ They shared a common goal to “make our country's productive activities more complex and efficient.”¹⁰⁷⁸ An export and investment promotion policy

¹⁰⁷⁰ Solá in Mexico: “For Argentina, CELAC is the centre of our integration convictions, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Argentina (Buenos Aires) 24 July 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/es/actualidad/noticias/sola-en-mexico-para-la-argentina-la-celac-es-el-centro-de-nuestras-convicciones>

¹⁰⁷¹ Solá in Mexico: “For Argentina, CELAC is the centre of our integration convictions, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Argentina (Buenos Aires) 24 July 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/es/actualidad/noticias/sola-en-mexico-para-la-argentina-la-celac-es-el-centro-de-nuestras-convicciones>

¹⁰⁷² The National Government reduced the export duties of new products from the regional economies, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 28 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-gobierno-nacional-redujo-los-derechos-de-exportacion-de-nuevos-productos-de-las>

¹⁰⁷³ The National Government reduced the export duties of new products from the regional economies, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 28 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-gobierno-nacional-redujo-los-derechos-de-exportacion-de-nuevos-productos-de-las>

¹⁰⁷⁴ Argentina advances in the trade agenda with El Salvador, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 29 July 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/es/actualidad/noticias/argentina-avanza-en-la-agenda-comercial-con-el-salvador>

¹⁰⁷⁵ Argentina advances in the trade agenda with El Salvador, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 29 July 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/es/actualidad/noticias/argentina-avanza-en-la-agenda-comercial-con-el-salvador>

¹⁰⁷⁶ Neme visited Honduras with a focus on trade and agricultural cooperation, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 31 July 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/es/actualidad/noticias/neme-visito-honduras-con-eje-en-el-comercio-y-la-cooperacion-agropecuaria>

¹⁰⁷⁷ To promote foreign investment and boost exports: Agreement between the Foreign Ministry and the BCRA, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 9 August 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/es/actualidad/noticias/para-promover-las-inversiones-extranjeras-e-impulsar-las-exportaciones-convenio>

¹⁰⁷⁸ To promote foreign investment and boost exports: Agreement between the Foreign Ministry and the BCRA, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 9 August 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/es/actualidad/noticias/para-promover-las-inversiones-extranjeras-e-impulsar-las-exportaciones-convenio>

was developed which aimed to expand the volume and diversity of Argentine products in the world.¹⁰⁷⁹

On 20 August 2021, the VII Meeting of the Argentina-Vietnam Intergovernmental Commission for Economic-Commercial and Scientific-Technological Cooperation was held virtually.¹⁰⁸⁰ During the meeting, the economic trade agenda was revised where “new topics were identified to incorporate in the bilateral relationship, among them, the potential of knowledge-based services, a sector that Argentina offers a wide range.”¹⁰⁸¹

On 23 August 2021, Secretary Neme met with Costa Rica’s Minister of Agriculture and Livestock Renato Alvarado to discuss deepening bilateral trade through opening the markets to Argentine meats and opportunities for cooperation in genetics and livestock development in tropical and subtropical areas.¹⁰⁸² To conclude the meeting, Secretary Neme suggested a binational trade, investment and economic commission be created.¹⁰⁸³

On 25 August 2021, Foreign Secretary Pablo Tettamanti met with the United States Chargé d’Affaires MaryKay Carlson in a working meeting.¹⁰⁸⁴ During the meeting they discussed the necessity to strengthen multilateralism and bilateral relations to fight the pandemic.¹⁰⁸⁵

On 25 August 2021, Chief of Staff of the Foreign Ministry Guillermo Justo Chaves met with Ambassador of the Netherlands Roel Nieuwenkamp to discuss the bilateral political and commercial agenda.¹⁰⁸⁶ They reviewed the possibility of increasing trade and investment flow between both governments.¹⁰⁸⁷

¹⁰⁷⁹ To promote foreign investment and boost exports: Agreement between the Foreign Ministry and the BCRA, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 9 August 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/es/actualidad/noticias/para-promover-las-inversiones-extranjeras-e-impulsar-las-exportaciones-convenio>

¹⁰⁸⁰ VII Argentina-Vietnam Joint Meeting, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 20 August 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/es/actualidad/noticias/vii-reunion-comixta-argentina-vietnam>

¹⁰⁸¹ VII Argentina-Vietnam Joint Meeting, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 20 August 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/es/actualidad/noticias/vii-reunion-comixta-argentina-vietnam>

¹⁰⁸² After the administration of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Costa Rica enables the entry of Argentine fishing companies, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 23 August 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/es/actualidad/noticias/tras-gestion-de-cancilleria-costa-rica-habilita-el-ingreso-de-empresas-pesqueras>

¹⁰⁸³ After the administration of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Costa Rica enables the entry of Argentine fishing companies, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 23 August 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/es/actualidad/noticias/tras-gestion-de-cancilleria-costa-rica-habilita-el-ingreso-de-empresas-pesqueras>

¹⁰⁸⁴ Argentina – United States: Working meeting at the Foreign Ministry, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 25 August 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/es/actualidad/noticias/argentina-estados-unidos-reunion-de-trabajo-en-cancilleria>

¹⁰⁸⁵ Argentina – United States: Working meeting at the Foreign Ministry, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 25 August 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/es/actualidad/noticias/argentina-estados-unidos-reunion-de-trabajo-en-cancilleria>

¹⁰⁸⁶ Argentina and the Netherlands seek to optimize the bilateral link, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 25 August 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/es/actualidad/noticias/argentina-y-paises-bajos-buscan-optimizar-el-vinculo-bilateral>

¹⁰⁸⁷ Argentina and the Netherlands seek to optimize the bilateral link, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 25 August 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/es/actualidad/noticias/argentina-y-paises-bajos-buscan-optimizar-el-vinculo-bilateral>

On 2 September 2021, Secretary Neme visited Cuba to deepen bilateral cooperation in agriculture.¹⁰⁸⁸ It was concluded that Argentina is able to support the Cuban agricultural development sector and both parties agreed to advance in a bilateral cooperation agreement.¹⁰⁸⁹

On 2 September 2021, Minister Solá met the Italian Ambassador to Argentina Fabrizio Lucentini where they agreed to increase balanced and diverse bilateral trade.¹⁰⁹⁰

On 3 September 2021, Argentina and Panama met to deepen bilateral trade and investments, allowing an increase in “exports of vehicles, food, medicines and agricultural machinery.”¹⁰⁹¹ Secretary Neme and Executive Director of Panama Carmen Vergara agreed to sign an agreement with the Argentine Investment and International Trade Agency.¹⁰⁹²

On 8 September 2021, MERCOSUR and India met via videoconference to deepen their preferential trade agreement “with a view to strengthening economic relations and, especially, increasing trade exchanges.”¹⁰⁹³ Argentina, together with MERCOSUR, is seeking to gain new markets and increase exports.¹⁰⁹⁴ Another meeting is set to take place in October to expand the current trade agreement.¹⁰⁹⁵

On 8 September 2021, Minister Solá received the ambassador of the kingdom of Saudi Arabia Hussein M. Alassiri to discuss “bilateral relationship, trade, investment and triangular cooperation.”¹⁰⁹⁶ Minister Solá expressed Argentina’s wish to maintain bilateral relations between the two countries by “increasing and diversifying exports.”¹⁰⁹⁷

¹⁰⁸⁸ Argentina collaborates with Cuba for import substitution, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 2 September 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/es/actualidad/noticias/argentina-colabora-con-cuba-para-sustitucion-de-importaciones>

¹⁰⁸⁹ Argentina collaborates with Cuba for import substitution, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 2 September 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/es/actualidad/noticias/argentina-colabora-con-cuba-para-sustitucion-de-importaciones>

¹⁰⁹⁰ Foreign Minister Solá received the new Italian ambassador, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 2 September 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/es/actualidad/noticias/el-canciller-sola-recibio-al-nuevo-embajador-de-italia>

¹⁰⁹¹ Argentina and Panama strengthen trade and investment ties, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 3 September 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/es/actualidad/noticias/argentina-y-panama-refuerzan-vinculos-comerciales-y-de-inversion>

¹⁰⁹² Argentina and Panama strengthen trade and investment ties, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 3 September 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/es/actualidad/noticias/argentina-y-panama-refuerzan-vinculos-comerciales-y-de-inversion>

¹⁰⁹³ MERCOSUR advances in its commercial ties with India, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 8 September 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/es/actualidad/noticias/mercosur-avanza-en-sus-vinculos-comerciales-con-india>

¹⁰⁹⁴ MERCOSUR advances in its commercial ties with India, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 8 September 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/es/actualidad/noticias/mercosur-avanza-en-sus-vinculos-comerciales-con-india>

¹⁰⁹⁵ MERCOSUR advances in its commercial ties with India, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 8 September 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/es/actualidad/noticias/mercosur-avanza-en-sus-vinculos-comerciales-con-india>

¹⁰⁹⁶ The chancellor met with the ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 8 September 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/es/actualidad/noticias/el-canciller-se-reunio-con-el-embajador-del-reino-de-arabia-saudita>

¹⁰⁹⁷ The chancellor met with the ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 8 September 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/es/actualidad/noticias/el-canciller-se-reunio-con-el-embajador-del-reino-de-arabia-saudita>

On 9 September 2021, Argentina and Japan met for the sixth meeting of the dialogue for trade and investment.¹⁰⁹⁸ The meeting was held “with a view to facilitating and diversifying bilateral trade, adding value, incorporating new technologies and making new investments.”¹⁰⁹⁹ The meeting focused on increasing bilateral trade, opening the market and boosting bilateral investment.¹¹⁰⁰ They agreed to hold future meetings regularly.¹¹⁰¹

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 15 November 2020, ministers from 15 countries, including Australia, signed the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership.¹¹⁰² 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.¹¹⁰³

On 13 December 2020, the Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations Plus (PACER Plus) entered into force.¹¹⁰⁴ It sets minimum standards of transparency and obligation for Parties beyond

¹⁰⁹⁸ 6th. Meeting of the Dialogue for Trade and Investment Relations between Argentina and Japan, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 9 September 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021.

<https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/es/actualidad/noticias/6ta-reunion-del-dialogo-para-las-relaciones-comerciales-y-de-inversion-entre>

¹⁰⁹⁹ 6th. Meeting of the Dialogue for Trade and Investment Relations between Argentina and Japan, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 9 September 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021.

<https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/es/actualidad/noticias/6ta-reunion-del-dialogo-para-las-relaciones-comerciales-y-de-inversion-entre>

¹¹⁰⁰ 6th. Meeting of the Dialogue for Trade and Investment Relations between Argentina and Japan, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 9 September 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021.

<https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/es/actualidad/noticias/6ta-reunion-del-dialogo-para-las-relaciones-comerciales-y-de-inversion-entre>

¹¹⁰¹ 6th. Meeting of the Dialogue for Trade and Investment Relations between Argentina and Japan, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 9 September 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021.

<https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/es/actualidad/noticias/6ta-reunion-del-dialogo-para-las-relaciones-comerciales-y-de-inversion-entre>

¹¹⁰² 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>

¹¹⁰³ 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>

¹¹⁰⁴ 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>

the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade.¹¹⁰⁵ The agreement increases awareness of investment opportunities, reinforces legal protections of investors, and includes commitments to achieving a non-discriminatory, predictable, and stable investment environment.¹¹⁰⁶

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.¹¹⁰⁷ The statement affirms that openness, transparency, and inclusiveness are central to the JSI.¹¹⁰⁸

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.¹¹⁰⁹ The tariff cuts have improved commodity access across agricultural and seafood exporters.¹¹¹⁰

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.¹¹¹¹ The agreement set rules on testing products by a suitable conformity assessment body prior to exportation in order to reduce technical barriers to trade.¹¹¹²

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.¹¹¹³ 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.¹¹¹⁴

¹¹⁰⁵ 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>

¹¹⁰⁶ 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>

¹¹⁰⁷ 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

¹¹⁰⁸ 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

¹¹⁰⁹ 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>

¹¹¹⁰ 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>

¹¹¹¹ 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>

¹¹¹² 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>

¹¹¹³ 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>

¹¹¹⁴ 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>

On 6 April 2021, Minister Tehan launched Australia's Services Exports Action Plan in Melbourne.¹¹¹⁵ According to the plan, Australian businesses can use digital technology to improve their productivity and improve transparency.¹¹¹⁶ In addition, the plan supports the international competitiveness of Australia's service industry.¹¹¹⁷

On 7 April 2021, Treasurer Josh Frydenberg delegated additional powers to the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC) under the Corporations Act 2001.¹¹¹⁸ This serves to improve the regulation of financial markets.¹¹¹⁹ Treasurer Frydenberg aims to protect investors and ensure that markets are fair, efficient and transparent.¹¹²⁰

On 22 April 2021, Australia attended the WTO general council meeting.¹¹²¹ 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.¹¹²² Additionally, members agreed to engage with WTO trade monitoring exercises.¹¹²³

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.¹¹²⁴ They discussed the shared challenges regarding trade and investment.¹¹²⁵

¹¹¹⁵ 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>

¹¹¹⁶ 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>

¹¹¹⁷ 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>

¹¹¹⁸ 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>

¹¹¹⁹ 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>

¹¹²⁰ 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>

¹¹²¹ 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>

¹¹²² 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>

¹¹²³ 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>

¹¹²⁴ 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>

¹¹²⁵ 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>

On 14 May 2021, Minister Tehan announced additional AUD65.5 million will be provided for the Export Market Development Grants program to support small and medium sized businesses and help Australian businesses grow internationally.¹¹²⁶

On 28 May 2021, Australia and Malaysia held the first meeting of the Malaysia-Australia Free Trade Agreement Joint Commission virtually.¹¹²⁷ The parties exchanged information and perspectives on policies relating to dairy product quotas and import conditions.¹¹²⁸

On 17 June 2021, Australia and the UK finalised their Agreement in Principle.¹¹²⁹ The agreement will create more Australian jobs and business opportunities for exporters, provide businesses and workers greater access to the UK, and progressively eliminate tariffs on beef, sheepmeat, sugar and dairy products.¹¹³⁰

On 30 June 2021, the first virtual trade ministers' meeting since the Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations Plus entered into force was held.¹¹³¹ Minister for International Development and the Pacific Zed Seselja announced that Australia will co-fund the AUD25 million development and economic work program, which will boost trade and attract investment to support economic recovery across the Pacific after the pandemic.¹¹³²

On 1 July 2021, Minister Tehan announced the Morrison Government would provide AUD2.5 million to fund 28 small-scale projects to create trade opportunities and deepen business cooperation for the Australia-Vietnam Enhanced Economic Engagement Grant pilot program.¹¹³³

On 6 July 2021, Treasurer Frydenberg and Minister Tehan virtually hosted the inaugural Indonesia-Australia Economic, Trade and Investment Ministers' meeting.¹¹³⁴ The meeting highlighted ways in

¹¹²⁶ Funding boost to back Australian exporters, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Canberra) 14 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.trademinister.gov.au/minister/dan-tehan/media-release/funding-boost-back-australian-exporters>

¹¹²⁷ First meeting of the Malaysia-Australia Free Trade Agreement Joint Commission, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Canberra) 28 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.dfat.gov.au/news/first-meeting-malaysia-australia-free-trade-agreement-joint-commission>

¹¹²⁸ First meeting of the Malaysia-Australia Free Trade Agreement Joint Commission, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Canberra) 28 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.dfat.gov.au/news/first-meeting-malaysia-australia-free-trade-agreement-joint-commission>

¹¹²⁹ Australia-UK FTA Agreement in Principle, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Canberra) 17 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.trademinister.gov.au/minister/dan-tehan/media-release/australia-uk-fta-agreement-principle>

¹¹³⁰ Australia-UK FTA Agreement in Principle, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Canberra) 17 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.trademinister.gov.au/minister/dan-tehan/media-release/australia-uk-fta-agreement-principle>

¹¹³¹ Australia and Pacific delivering trade and development agreement, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Canberra) 30 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.trademinister.gov.au/minister/dan-tehan/media-release/australia-and-pacific-delivering-trade-and-development-agreement>

¹¹³² Australia and Pacific delivering trade and development agreement, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Canberra) 30 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.trademinister.gov.au/minister/dan-tehan/media-release/australia-and-pacific-delivering-trade-and-development-agreement>

¹¹³³ Boosting economic opportunities with Vietnam, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Canberra) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.trademinister.gov.au/minister/dan-tehan/media-release/boosting-economic-opportunities-vietnam>

¹¹³⁴ Strengthening economic ties with Indonesia, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Canberra) 6 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.trademinister.gov.au/minister/dan-tehan/media-release/strengthening-economic-ties-indonesia>

which Australia and Indonesia worked together closely and productively over 2020-21 in the context of rapidly responding to COVID-19.¹¹³⁵

On 11 July 2021, Minister Tehan announced plans to visit Singapore, Vietnam, Republic of Korea, Japan and the United States.¹¹³⁶ Minister Tehan seeks to strengthen Australia's trading relationships and encourage investment in Australia, while "champion[ing] support for a functioning global rules-based trading system."¹¹³⁷

On 15 July 2021, Minister Tehan and Japanese Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Kajiyama Hiroshi co-chaired the third Japan-Australia Ministerial Economic Dialogue in Tokyo.¹¹³⁸ The meeting demonstrated the growing strength of the Special Strategic Partnership between the two countries characterised by shared values and a commitment to a free, open, inclusive and resilient Indo-Pacific to meet evolving challenges, including recovery from the devastating impacts of COVID-19.¹¹³⁹

On 21 July 2021, Australia and Korea held the 7th Australia-ROK Joint Economic Committee meeting via video.¹¹⁴⁰ At the dialogue, officials explored ways to advance economic relationship between two countries, especially the acceleration of digital economies in the COVID era.¹¹⁴¹

On 21 July 2021, Minister Tehan met with German Minister for Economic Affairs and Energy Peter Altmaier during the second meeting of the German-Australian Joint Economic Committee to discuss closer economic cooperation between the two countries.¹¹⁴² They highlighted their desire to give a new impetus to the bilateral economic relations between Germany and Australia and advocated for a rapid conclusion of negotiations concerning the planned EU-Australia Trade Agreement, which they

¹¹³⁵ Strengthening economic ties with Indonesia, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Canberra) 6 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.trademinister.gov.au/minister/dan-tehan/media-release/strengthening-economic-ties-indonesia>

¹¹³⁶ International travel to promote Australia's trade interests, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Canberra) 11 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.trademinister.gov.au/minister/dan-tehan/media-release/international-travel-promote-australias-trade-interests>

¹¹³⁷ International travel to promote Australia's trade interests, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Canberra) 11 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.trademinister.gov.au/minister/dan-tehan/media-release/international-travel-promote-australias-trade-interests>

¹¹³⁸ Japan-Australia Ministerial Economic Dialogue, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Canberra) 15 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.trademinister.gov.au/minister/dan-tehan/media-release/japan-australia-ministerial-economic-dialogue>

¹¹³⁹ Japan-Australia Ministerial Economic Dialogue, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Canberra) 15 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.trademinister.gov.au/minister/dan-tehan/media-release/japan-australia-ministerial-economic-dialogue>

¹¹⁴⁰ Seventh Australia-ROK Joint Economic Committee, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Canberra) 21 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.dfat.gov.au/news/media-release/seventh-australia-rok-joint-economic-committee>

¹¹⁴¹ Seventh Australia-ROK Joint Economic Committee, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Canberra) 21 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.dfat.gov.au/news/media-release/seventh-australia-rok-joint-economic-committee>

¹¹⁴² Minister Altmaier discusses closer economic cooperation – and in particular great potential for hydrogen – with Dan Tehan, his Australian counterpart, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin) 21 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2021/06/20210622-minister-altmaier-economic-cooperation-potential-for-hydrogen-with-dan-tehan.html>

argue would make it easier for companies to become active on the market of the other country and further facilitate cooperation.¹¹⁴³

On 5 August 2021, the Prime Minister's Special Trade Envoy for India Tony Abott met with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to discuss ways to strengthen bilateral trade, investment and economic cooperation as part of the India-Australia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.¹¹⁴⁴ They emphasized that enhanced economic cooperation would help both countries in addressing economic challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic and that it would play a role in realising their shared vision of a stable, secure and prosperous Indo-Pacific region.¹¹⁴⁵

On 26 August 2021, Minister Tehan and Indian Minister for Commerce and Industry, Food and Consumer Affairs and Textiles Piyush Goyal held a video conference.¹¹⁴⁶ Both parties noted the importance of negotiations in the fields of business, industry and other stakeholders and discussed the way forward for an early conclusion of a bilateral Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement.¹¹⁴⁷

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.

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.

¹¹⁴³ Minister Altmaier discusses closer economic cooperation – and in particular great potential for hydrogen – with Dan Tehan, his Australian counterpart, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin) 21 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2021/06/20210622-minister-altmaier-economic-cooperation-potential-for-hydrogen-with-dan-tehan.html>

¹¹⁴⁴ Meeting between Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and The Hon Tony Abbott, Australian PM's Special Trade Envoy for India, Ministry of External Affairs (New Delhi) 5 August 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021. https://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/34139/Meeting_between_Prime_Minister_Shri_Narendra_Modi_and_The_Hon_Tony_Abbott_Australian_PMs_Special_Trade_Envoy_for_India

¹¹⁴⁵ Meeting between Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and The Hon Tony Abbott, Australian PM's Special Trade Envoy for India, Ministry of External Affairs (New Delhi) 5 August 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021. https://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/34139/Meeting_between_Prime_Minister_Shri_Narendra_Modi_and_The_Hon_Tony_Abbott_Australian_PMs_Special_Trade_Envoy_for_India

¹¹⁴⁶ Joint Press Statement on the India-Australia Trade Talks by Trade Ministers of Australia and India, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Canberra) 26 August 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://www.trademinister.gov.au/minister/dan-tehan/media-release/joint-press-statement-india-australia-trade-talks-trade-ministers-australia-and-india>

¹¹⁴⁷ Joint Press Statement on the India-Australia Trade Talks by Trade Ministers of Australia and India, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Canberra) 26 August 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://www.trademinister.gov.au/minister/dan-tehan/media-release/joint-press-statement-india-australia-trade-talks-trade-ministers-australia-and-india>

On 21 December 2020, the Ministry of Economy launched a new tool for sharing information on trade agreements negotiated and under negotiation by Brazil.¹¹⁴⁸ 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.¹¹⁴⁹

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.¹¹⁵⁰ These measures reduce time and costs for private actors to complete their trade operations.¹¹⁵¹

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.¹¹⁵² 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.¹¹⁵³

On 9 March 2021, Brazil and Argentina solved 49 of 54 pending issues pertaining to the trade in agriculture and livestock.¹¹⁵⁴ 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.¹¹⁵⁵

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

¹¹⁴⁸ 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>

¹¹⁴⁹ 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>

¹¹⁵⁰ 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>

¹¹⁵¹ 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>

¹¹⁵² 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>

¹¹⁵³ 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>

¹¹⁵⁴ 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>

¹¹⁵⁵ 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>

of different waterway logistics bodies for foreign trade.¹¹⁵⁶ 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.¹¹⁵⁷

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.¹¹⁵⁸ A primary feature of this plan is the digital consolidation of foreign trade operations from port to administration in the Facilitation 2.0 system.¹¹⁵⁹ The plan also outlines initiatives to improve international trading capabilities of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises.¹¹⁶⁰

On 22 April 2021, Brazil attended the WTO general council meeting.¹¹⁶¹ 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.¹¹⁶² Additionally, members agreed to engage with WTO trade monitoring exercises.¹¹⁶³

On 26 May 2021, the Ministry of Economy released the Complaint Management Report to the National Department of Business Registration and Integration tool to facilitate easier access complaint management services provided by public bodies for companies doing business in Brazil.¹¹⁶⁴ This step will promote investment in the country.¹¹⁶⁵

¹¹⁵⁶ 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>

¹¹⁵⁷ 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>

¹¹⁵⁸ 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>

¹¹⁵⁹ 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>

¹¹⁶⁰ 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>

¹¹⁶¹ 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>

¹¹⁶² 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>

¹¹⁶³ 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>

¹¹⁶⁴ Ministry publishes manual in Spanish to simplify participation of foreigners in bids, Ministry of Economy (Brasilia) 11 June 2021. Access Date: 27 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/economia/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/junho/ministerio-divulga-manual-em-espanhol-para-simplificar-participacao-de-estrangeiros-em-licitacoes>

On 11 June 2021, the Ministry of Economy published the System Unified Suppliers Registration Manual to increase the number of international suppliers for public procurement in the Procurement System of the Federal Government and promote international investment in the country.¹¹⁶⁶

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 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: +1

Canada 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 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.¹¹⁶⁷ 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 2021.¹¹⁶⁸ This ensures Canada and the UK will continue to have “preferential access.”¹¹⁶⁹

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.¹¹⁷⁰ It will allow the UK to export goods and services worth GBP11.6 billion and lift a tariff burden of an estimated GBP42 million.¹¹⁷¹

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.¹¹⁷² Canada is planning to advance “parallel opportunities...by expanding trade and

¹¹⁶⁵ Ministry publishes manual in Spanish to simplify participation of foreigners in bids, Ministry of Economy (Brasilia) 11 June 2021. Access Date: 27 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/economia/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/junho/ministerio-divulga-manual-em-espanhol-para-simplificar-participacao-de-estrangeiros-em-licitacoes>

¹¹⁶⁶ Ministry of Economy publishes first report on compliance with Boards of Trade, Ministry of Economy (Brasilia) 26 May 2021. Access Date: 28 July 2021. <https://www.gov.br/economia/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/maio/ministerio-da-economia-publica-primeiro-relatorio-sobre-atendimento-das-juntas-comerciais>

¹¹⁶⁷ 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>

¹¹⁶⁸ 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>

¹¹⁶⁹ 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>

¹¹⁷⁰ 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>

¹¹⁷¹ 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>

¹¹⁷² 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>

investment ties with fast-growing markets, such as Indonesia.¹¹⁷³ 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.¹¹⁷⁴

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 priorities,” which includes international trade.¹¹⁷⁵ They plan to address these issues through “cooperation within the G7, G20, and other multilateral forums.”¹¹⁷⁶

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.”¹¹⁷⁷ 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.¹¹⁷⁸

On 29 January 2021, Minister Ng attended a virtual World Trade Organization (WTO) meeting of fellow ministers.¹¹⁷⁹ They discussed priorities to “strengthen the rules-based multilateral trading system in support of an inclusive, sustainable, and resilient global recovery.”¹¹⁸⁰ Minister Ng highlighted the government’s efforts to keep markets open, and called on WTO members to implement sustainable trade practices.¹¹⁸¹

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

¹¹⁷³ 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>

¹¹⁷⁴ 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>

¹¹⁷⁵ 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>

¹¹⁷⁶ 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>

¹¹⁷⁷ 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>

¹¹⁷⁸ 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>

¹¹⁷⁹ 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>

¹¹⁸⁰ 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>

¹¹⁸¹ 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>

United Kingdom’s formal interest in acceding to the comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership.”¹¹⁸²

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.”¹¹⁸³ They agreed to work together on challenges such as “strengthening global trade” and “reinforcing the rules-based international order.”¹¹⁸⁴

On 19 February 2021, Prime Minister Trudeau concluded a meeting with G7 leaders.¹¹⁸⁵ He stressed the importance of working with G7 partners to create jobs and economic growth, which includes “building fairer trading systems.”¹¹⁸⁶

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.”¹¹⁸⁷ Canadian officials are “optimistic” that President Biden will bring a more cooperative presence despite cancelling the Keystone XL pipeline project previously.¹¹⁸⁸ Tariffs may be decreased over this period, improving the free trade environment.¹¹⁸⁹

On 23 February 2021, Prime Minister Trudeau and President Biden “promised to work together to build supply chains for electric vehicle battery development.”¹¹⁹⁰ They aim to make Canada and the US “global leaders in all aspects of battery development and production.”¹¹⁹¹

On 18 March 2021, Prime Minister Trudeau conversed with Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Kristalina Georgieva regarding global economic recovery.¹¹⁹² They focused on

¹¹⁸² 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>

¹¹⁸³ 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>

¹¹⁸⁴ 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>

¹¹⁸⁵ 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>

¹¹⁸⁶ 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>

¹¹⁸⁷ 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/>

¹¹⁸⁸ 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/>

¹¹⁸⁹ 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/>

¹¹⁹⁰ 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>

¹¹⁹¹ 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>

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.¹¹⁹³

On 19 March 2021, Canada agreed to the Trade Continuity Agreement deal.¹¹⁹⁴ Canada and the UK are aiming to implement the agreement by 1 April 2021.¹¹⁹⁵ The agreement is meant to be a temporary agreement while both countries negotiate a more “expansive free trade agreement” after the UK exits the EU.¹¹⁹⁶

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.¹¹⁹⁷ They “discussed the pandemic’s devastating impacts on economies around the world, particularly the fragile economies of developing countries and small island states.”¹¹⁹⁸

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.”¹¹⁹⁹ The meeting directed urgency to the need for concrete action to provide liquidity and address debt vulnerability in developing countries.¹²⁰⁰

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.”¹²⁰¹ Minister Freeland engaged in discussions on how to “support vulnerable countries, including low-income countries and small

¹¹⁹² 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.

¹¹⁹³ 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.

¹¹⁹⁴ 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>

¹¹⁹⁵ 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>

¹¹⁹⁶ 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>

¹¹⁹⁷ 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.

¹¹⁹⁸ 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.

¹¹⁹⁹ 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>

¹²⁰⁰ 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>

¹²⁰¹ 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>

states, which continue to face significant challenges caused by the COVID-19 crisis.”¹²⁰² 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.¹²⁰³ The Canadian Department of Finance expressed that Canada will “advocate for strong support for vulnerable countries ...to ensure a strong and sustainable economic recovery.”¹²⁰⁴

On 22 April 2021, Canada attended the WTO general council meeting.¹²⁰⁵ 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.¹²⁰⁶ Additionally, members agreed to engage with WTO trade monitoring exercises.¹²⁰⁷

On 13 May 2021, Minister Ng announced Canada’s Foreign Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (FIPA) Model.¹²⁰⁸ The FIPA Model hopes to encourage a stable, rules-based investment environment, prioritizing inclusivity and the interests of women, Indigenous peoples, and owners of small and medium-sized enterprises.¹²⁰⁹

On 18 May 2021, Minister Ng met with representatives from Mexico and the U.S. regarding North American trade, the Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement (CUSMA), and next steps in rebuilding a resilient North American economy.¹²¹⁰

On 11 June 2021, Prime Minister Trudeau met with British Prime Minister Boris Johnson to discuss the importance of securing a trade agreement between the two countries.¹²¹¹ The two leaders affirmed

¹²⁰² 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>

¹²⁰³ 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>

¹²⁰⁴ 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>

¹²⁰⁵ 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>

¹²⁰⁶ 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>

¹²⁰⁷ 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>

¹²⁰⁸ Minister Ng announces launch of Canada’s Foreign Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement Model, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 13 May 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2021/05/minister-ng-announces-launch-of-canadas-foreign-investment-promotion-and-protection-agreement-model.html>

¹²⁰⁹ Minister Ng announces launch of Canada’s Foreign Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement Model, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 13 May 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2021/05/minister-ng-announces-launch-of-canadas-foreign-investment-promotion-and-protection-agreement-model.html>

¹²¹⁰ Canada, U.S., Mexico looking to strengthen, rebuild economies as trade partners: Ng, Global News (Ottawa) 18 May 2021. Access Date: 18 July 2021. <https://globalnews.ca/video/7874679/canada-u-s-mexico-looking-to-strengthen-rebuild-economies-as-trade-partners-ng/>

the potential benefit of a trade agreement and agreed to work towards a comprehensive free trade agreement.¹²¹²

On 15 June 2021, Prime Minister Trudeau met with President of the European Council Charles Michel and President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen.¹²¹³ The leaders discussed a global recovery strategy that creates jobs and opportunities for the growing middle class.¹²¹⁴

On 21 June 2021, Minister Ng and Indonesia's Trade Minister Muhammad Lutfi initiated negotiations over a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (ICA-CEPA).¹²¹⁵ The negotiations aim to eliminate various tariffs, ease customs procedures, trade facilities, trade remedies, mobilize services and ease investment.¹²¹⁶

On 23 July 2021, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Jonathan Wilkinson initiated a review of Canada's approach to elephant ivory trade in an attempt to protect biodiversity.¹²¹⁷ Minister Wilkinson aims to bolster Canada's domestic strategies for curbing the trade of ivory.¹²¹⁸

On 2 August 2021, Prime Minister Trudeau spoke with US President Joe Biden regarding trade and broader collaboration.¹²¹⁹ Prime Minister Trudeau recognized the significant alignment between both countries regarding labour and environmental standards.¹²²⁰

On 28 August 2021, Indian Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal said "India was making fast progress in discussions on free trade agreements with multiple countries," namely Canada, who demonstrated

¹²¹¹ UK, Canada agreed to redouble efforts for trade deal, Reuters (London), 11 June 2021. Access Date: 18 July 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/uk-canada-agreed-redouble-efforts-trade-deal-2021-06-11/>

¹²¹² UK, Canada agreed to redouble efforts for trade deal, Reuters (London), 11 June 2021. Access Date: 18 July 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/uk-canada-agreed-redouble-efforts-trade-deal-2021-06-11/>

¹²¹³ Prime Minister concludes productive Canada-European Union Summit, Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau (Ottawa) 15 June 2021. Access Date: 18 July 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2021/06/15/prime-minister-concludes-productive-canada-european-union-summit>

¹²¹⁴ Prime Minister concludes productive Canada-European Union Summit, Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau (Ottawa) 15 June 2021. Access Date: 18 July 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2021/06/15/prime-minister-concludes-productive-canada-european-union-summit>

¹²¹⁵ Indonesia, Canada open talks on comprehensive trade deal, The Jakarta Post (Jakarta) 21 June 2021. Access Date: 19 July 2021. <https://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2021/06/21/indonesia-canada-open-talks-on-comprehensive-trade-deal.html>

¹²¹⁶ Indonesia and Canada Agreed to Start the Negotiation of Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), Consulate General of the Republic of Indonesia in Toronto, Canada (Toronto) 23 June 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://kemlu.go.id/toronto/en/news/14053/indonesia-and-canada-agreed-to-start-the-negotiation-of-comprehensive-economic-partnership-agreement-cepa>

¹²¹⁷ Canada launches consultation on stricter measures for elephant ivory trade, Newswire Cision (New York) 24 July 2021. Access date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-launches-consultation-on-stricter-measures-for-elephant-ivory-trade-800318175.html>

¹²¹⁸ Canada launches consultation on stricter measures for elephant ivory trade, Newswire Cision (New York) 24 July 2021. Access date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-launches-consultation-on-stricter-measures-for-elephant-ivory-trade-800318175.html>

¹²¹⁹ In call with Biden, Trudeau talks trade, border 'collaboration' and Olympic soccer, CTV (Toronto) 2 August 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.ctvnews.ca/politics/in-call-with-biden-trudeau-talks-trade-border-collaboration-and-olympic-soccer-1.5532190>

¹²²⁰ In call with Biden, Trudeau talks trade, border 'collaboration' and Olympic soccer, CTV (Toronto) 2 August 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.ctvnews.ca/politics/in-call-with-biden-trudeau-talks-trade-border-collaboration-and-olympic-soccer-1.5532190>

fast progress.¹²²¹ The minister also expressed “India was only dealing with countries that it believed would provide a fair deal and reciprocal benefits.”¹²²²

On 30 August 2021, Canada engaged in discussions between the US and Mexico over the trade of automobiles.¹²²³ Canada’s participation was limited to an “interested third party,” expressing concern about America’s “increasingly protectionist position on vehicle trade.”¹²²⁴

Canada 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. 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. Additionally, Canada has taken strong action to strive to realize the goal of a non-discriminatory, fair, free, predictable, and inclusive investment environment through the launch of the FIPA model.

Thus, Canada receives a score of +1.

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.¹²²⁵ This program “aims to enable least-developed countries (LDCs) to better integrate into the global economy by strengthening their participation in WTO activities.”¹²²⁶ 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.”¹²²⁷

¹²²¹ India’s fast progressing in FTA discussion with UK, UAE, Canada, says Piyush Goyal, The Economic Times (Mumbai) 28 August 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/indias-fast-progressing-in-fta-discussions-with-uk-uae-canada-says-piyush-goyal/articleshow/85711977.cms>

¹²²² India’s fast progressing in FTA discussion with UK, UAE, Canada, says Piyush Goyal, The Economic Times (Mumbai) 28 August 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021. <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/indias-fast-progressing-in-fta-discussions-with-uk-uae-canada-says-piyush-goyal/articleshow/85711977.cms>

¹²²³ Canada to Participate In Automatic Trade Talks With The U.S. And Mexico, Baystreet.ca (Toronto) 30 August 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.baystreet.ca/economiccommentary/3321/Canada-To-Participate-In-Automotive-Trade-Talks-With-The-US-And-Mexico>

¹²²⁴ Canada to Participate In Automatic Trade Talks With The U.S. And Mexico, Baystreet.ca (Toronto) 30 August 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.baystreet.ca/economiccommentary/3321/Canada-To-Participate-In-Automotive-Trade-Talks-With-The-US-And-Mexico>

¹²²⁵ 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

¹²²⁶ 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

¹²²⁷ 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

On 14 December 2020, China and the UK held a meeting between a working group on investment promotion.¹²²⁸ The two countries discussed “attracting foreign investment, two-way investment policies, mutual concerns and prospects for future cooperation between the two countries.”¹²²⁹

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 Economic and Trade Committee.¹²³⁰ 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.¹²³¹

On 18 December 2020, China and Iceland held the fourth meeting of the joint free trade agreement (FTA) committee.¹²³² The delegates discussed the “implementation for the China-Iceland FTA” and recognized a “deepened cooperation in trade in goods, services, investment, [and] economic technology.”¹²³³

On 30 December 2020, China and the EU announced a new investment deal after seven years of negotiation.¹²³⁴ The main goal of the deal is “to make foreign investment fairer for European companies which compete against state-funded firms in China.”¹²³⁵ China has committed to being transparent on subsidies for state-owned firms and forced technology transfers.¹²³⁶ 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.”¹²³⁷

On 8 January 2021, People’s Bank of China Governor Yi Gang met with the Japanese Ambassador to China Tarumi Hideo.¹²³⁸ They discussed “views on recent developments in the Chinese and Japanese economy and discussed ways to strengthen bilateral financial cooperation.”¹²³⁹

¹²²⁸ 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>

¹²²⁹ 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>

¹²³⁰ 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>

¹²³¹ 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>

¹²³² 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>

¹²³³ 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>

¹²³⁴ 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>

¹²³⁵ 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>

¹²³⁶ China’s investment deal with the EU has raised 3 big concerns in Europe, CNBC (Englewood Cliffs) 6 January 2021.

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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 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>

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.¹²⁴⁰ This deal is expected to “reduce compliance costs for New Zealand exports by millions of dollars each year.”¹²⁴¹ 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.”¹²⁴²

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 2021.¹²⁴³ 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.”¹²⁴⁴

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.”¹²⁴⁵

On 28 January 2021, China and New Zealand signed the Protocol on Upgrading the Free Trade Agreement.¹²⁴⁶ The protocol will increase cooperation, “benefit the businesses and people from both sides, and enrich and substantiate the China-New Zealand comprehensive strategic partnership.”¹²⁴⁷ 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.¹²⁴⁸

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.”¹²⁴⁹ China plans to establish “working

¹²³⁹ 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>

¹²⁴⁰ 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>

¹²⁴¹ 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>

¹²⁴² 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>

¹²⁴³ 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>

¹²⁴⁴ 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>

¹²⁴⁵ 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>

¹²⁴⁶ 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>

¹²⁴⁷ 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>

¹²⁴⁸ 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>

¹²⁴⁹ 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>

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.”¹²⁵⁰

On 26 February 2021, Governor Yi attended a virtual meeting between G20 finance ministers and central bank governors.¹²⁵¹ Participants committed to increase international coordination by “adopting a stronger multilateral approach and focusing on a set of core priorities.”¹²⁵² 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.”¹²⁵³

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.”¹²⁵⁴ Minister Wentao outlined China’s 14th five-year plan, which aims to “present a broader market and development opportunities for all countries.”¹²⁵⁵

On 25 March 2021, China and Singapore engaged in negotiations on a FTA upgrade.¹²⁵⁶ 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.¹²⁵⁷

On 7 April 2021, Governor Yi met with G20 finance ministers and central bank governors.¹²⁵⁸ During the meeting, “ministers and governors reaffirmed their resolve to use all available policy tools to support the global economic recovery.”¹²⁵⁹ In addition, “they acknowledged the important role of

¹²⁵⁰ 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>

¹²⁵¹ 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>

¹²⁵² 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>

¹²⁵³ 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>

¹²⁵⁴ 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>

¹²⁵⁵ 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>

¹²⁵⁶ 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>

¹²⁵⁷ 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>

¹²⁵⁸ 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>

¹²⁵⁹ 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>

open and fair trade in restoring growth.”¹²⁶⁰ 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.”¹²⁶¹

On 7 April 2021, China and Belarus began negotiations over a service trade and investment agreement.¹²⁶² Both countries “agreed on the Terms of Reference, and had an in-depth exchange of views on trade, investment and IP [intellectual property] rules.”¹²⁶³ 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.”¹²⁶⁴

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.”¹²⁶⁵ The ministers participated in a signing of the agreement to “establish a Working Group on Promoting Smooth Trade.”¹²⁶⁶

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.¹²⁶⁷ 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.”¹²⁶⁸

On 22 April 2021, China 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

¹²⁶⁰ 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>

¹²⁶¹ 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>

¹²⁶² 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>

¹²⁶³ 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>

¹²⁶⁴ 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>

¹²⁶⁵ 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>

¹²⁶⁶ 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>

¹²⁶⁷ 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>

¹²⁶⁸ 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>

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>

give particular considerations to least developed countries.¹²⁷⁰ Additionally, members agreed to engage with WTO trade monitoring exercises.¹²⁷¹

On 26 July 2021, Foreign Minister Wang Yi met with US Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman.¹²⁷² The discussion involved addressing the “stiff competition” between the two countries and establishing that neither side is seeking conflict.¹²⁷³

On 1 September 2021, Minister Wang Wentao pledged to support Hong Kong in joining the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, the world’s largest free-trade deal.¹²⁷⁴ Senior mainland Chinese officials have expressed confidence in Hong Kong’s future as a global financial hub and stressed the central government will continue to back the city’s membership in the world’s largest free-trade deal.¹²⁷⁵

On 11 September 2021, Minister Wang Yi met Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen and other officials to discuss COVID-19 and other regional issues.¹²⁷⁶ Cambodia’s foreign ministry said the “meeting would include discussions of trade and security.”¹²⁷⁷

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.

Thus, China receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Jing sen Zhang

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>

¹²⁷² US and China trade barbs after another high-level meeting but say they want to keep talking, CNN (Atlanta) 27 July 2021. Access Date: 12 September 2021. <https://www.cnn.com/2021/07/26/politics/us-china-sherman-tense-meetings/index.html>

¹²⁷³ US and China trade barbs after another high-level meeting but say they want to keep talking, CNN (Atlanta) 27 July 2021. Access Date: 12 September 2021. <https://www.cnn.com/2021/07/26/politics/us-china-sherman-tense-meetings/index.html>

¹²⁷⁴ Beijing will back Hong Kong’s entry into world’s biggest free-trade deal, China’s commerce minister tells bet and road summit, South China Morning Post (Hong Kong) 1 September 2021. Access Date: 12 September 2021. <https://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/politics/article/3147134/beijing-will-back-hong-kongs-entry-worlds-biggest-free>

¹²⁷⁵ Beijing will back Hong Kong’s entry into world’s biggest free-trade deal, China’s commerce minister tells bet and road summit, South China Morning Post (Hong Kong) 1 September 2021. Access Date: 12 September 2021. <https://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/politics/article/3147134/beijing-will-back-hong-kongs-entry-worlds-biggest-free>

¹²⁷⁶ China’s FM Wang visiting Cambodia to discuss virus, trade, Independent (Northcliffe House), 12 September 2021. Access Date: 12 September 2021. <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/cambodia-china-wang-yi-hun-sen-beijing-b1918579.html>

¹²⁷⁷ China’s FM Wang visiting Cambodia to discuss virus, trade, Independent (Northcliffe House), 12 September 2021. Access Date: 12 September 2021. <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/cambodia-china-wang-yi-hun-sen-beijing-b1918579.html>

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.¹²⁷⁸ 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.”¹²⁷⁹ This agreement has yet to be ratified.¹²⁸⁰

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.¹²⁸¹ 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.¹²⁸²

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.¹²⁸³ Ministers discussed the new trade policy strategy that was presented by the European Commission on 18 February 2021.¹²⁸⁴ They also discussed the draft agreement between the EU and Mercosur.¹²⁸⁵ This agreement paves the way for reducing trade barriers and facilitating free trade between the EU and Mercosur.¹²⁸⁶

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

¹²⁷⁸ 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

¹²⁷⁹ 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

¹²⁸⁰ 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

¹²⁸¹ 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>

¹²⁸² 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>

¹²⁸³ 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>

¹²⁸⁴ 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>

¹²⁸⁵ 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>

¹²⁸⁶ 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>

suspension of punitive tariffs that emerged in the Airbus-Boeing dispute.¹²⁸⁷ 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 2020.¹²⁸⁸ 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.”¹²⁸⁹

On 5 March 2021, 20 interns from developing countries taking part in the French-Irish Mission Internship Programme were welcomed at a virtual ceremony.¹²⁹⁰ 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.”¹²⁹¹ 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.¹²⁹² 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.”¹²⁹³

On 30 March 2021, Minister Riester spoke with Director General of the International Labor Organization (ILO) Guy Ryder, via video conference.¹²⁹⁴ This meeting follows the renewal of France’s partnership with the ILO for the period of 2020 to 2024.¹²⁹⁵ Minister Riester reaffirmed France’s support of the ILO and its initiatives.¹²⁹⁶ Minister Riester and Director Ryder discussed the

¹²⁸⁷ 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>

¹²⁸⁸ 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>

¹²⁸⁹ 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>

¹²⁹⁰ 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

¹²⁹¹ 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

¹²⁹² 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

¹²⁹³ 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

¹²⁹⁴ 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>

¹²⁹⁵ 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>

¹²⁹⁶ 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>

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.¹²⁹⁷

On 1 April 2021, Minister Riester and Minister Le Maire visited Geneva, and met with Director General of the WTO Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala.¹²⁹⁸ They discussed WTO reform that will preserve and sustain the rules-based multilateral trade system, sustainable development, and fair trade.¹²⁹⁹ 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.¹³⁰⁰

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.¹³⁰¹ 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.”¹³⁰²

On 2 May 2021, Minister Le Drian attended the G7 Foreign and Development Ministers’ Meeting in London.¹³⁰³ In the communiqué, Ministers reaffirmed their support for “free and fair trade conducted within a system of transparent and predictable international rules and standards.”¹³⁰⁴ Ministers urged greater collaboration with African governments to increase trade and unlock private investment opportunities.¹³⁰⁵

¹²⁹⁷ 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>

¹²⁹⁸ 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>

¹²⁹⁹ 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>

¹³⁰⁰ 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>

¹³⁰¹ 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>

¹³⁰² 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>

¹³⁰³ G7 Foreign and Development Ministers’ Meeting Communiqué, 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>

¹³⁰⁴ G7 Foreign and Development Ministers’ Meeting Communiqué, 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>

¹³⁰⁵ G7 Foreign and Development Ministers’ Meeting Communiqué, 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>

On 5 May 2021, the foreign ministers of the Group of Seven (G7) and High Representative of the European Union Josep Borrell participated in a critical juncture.¹³⁰⁶ During the meeting, the G7 members including France, reiterated principles of maintaining “free and fair trade, and the free and secure flow of capital, data, knowledge, ideas and talent.”¹³⁰⁷ The participants highlighted the importance of free and fair markets to sustainable social and economic advancement.¹³⁰⁸ In particular, they underlined concerns regarding “practices that undermine such free and fair economic systems, including...trade, and development finance,” urging China to “assume and fulfil obligations and responsibilities commensurate with its global economic role.”¹³⁰⁹ In relation to the conflict in Yemen, the G7 calls for the free flow of imports through Red Sea ports.¹³¹⁰ Furthermore, the G7 welcomes the ratification of the Africa Continental Free Trade Area Agreement.¹³¹¹

On 21 May 2021, Minister Riestler participated in the Foreign Affairs Council (Trade) in Brussels.¹³¹² The discussions focused on “the new trade strategy” proposed by the European Commission on 18 February 2021.¹³¹³ Minister Riestler stressed the “importance of the link between the EU’s trade agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals,” reaffirmed France’s position against the EU-Mercosur agreement as it currently stands and stressed the importance of combating unfair trade practices.¹³¹⁴ The Council of Ministers further discussed preparations for the forthcoming trans-Atlantic summit and 12th WTO Ministerial Conference, where Minister Riestler “will reaffirm the need to promote an open, stable and rules-based trade environment...[to ensure] a more sustainable and equitable approach to international trade.”¹³¹⁵

¹³⁰⁶ G7 Foreign and Development Ministers’ Meeting Communiqué (London, 5 May 2021), Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 5 May 2021. Access Date: 16 July 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/news/2021/article/g7-foreign-and-development-ministers-meeting-communique-london-5-may-2021>

¹³⁰⁷ G7 Foreign and Development Ministers’ Meeting Communiqué (London, 5 May 2021), Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 5 May 2021. Access Date: 16 July 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/news/2021/article/g7-foreign-and-development-ministers-meeting-communique-london-5-may-2021>

¹³⁰⁸ G7 Foreign and Development Ministers’ Meeting Communiqué (London, 5 May 2021), Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 5 May 2021. Access Date: 16 July 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/news/2021/article/g7-foreign-and-development-ministers-meeting-communique-london-5-may-2021>

¹³⁰⁹ G7 Foreign and Development Ministers’ Meeting Communiqué (London, 5 May 2021), Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 5 May 2021. Access Date: 16 July 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/news/2021/article/g7-foreign-and-development-ministers-meeting-communique-london-5-may-2021>

¹³¹⁰ G7 Foreign and Development Ministers’ Meeting Communiqué (London, 5 May 2021), Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 5 May 2021. Access Date: 16 July 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/news/2021/article/g7-foreign-and-development-ministers-meeting-communique-london-5-may-2021>

¹³¹¹ G7 Foreign and Development Ministers’ Meeting Communiqué (London, 5 May 2021), Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 5 May 2021. Access Date: 16 July 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/news/2021/article/g7-foreign-and-development-ministers-meeting-communique-london-5-may-2021>

¹³¹² European Union – Franck Riestler’s participation in the Foreign Affairs Council (Trade), (Brussels, 20 May 2021), Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 20 May 2021. Access Date: 16 July 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/europe/news/article/european-union-franck-riestler-s-participation-in-the-foreign-affairs-council>

¹³¹³ European Union – Franck Riestler’s participation in the Foreign Affairs Council (Trade), (Brussels, 20 May 2021), Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 20 May 2021. Access Date: 16 July 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/europe/news/article/european-union-franck-riestler-s-participation-in-the-foreign-affairs-council>

¹³¹⁴ European Union – Franck Riestler’s participation in the Foreign Affairs Council (Trade), (Brussels, 20 May 2021), Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 20 May 2021. Access Date: 16 July 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/europe/news/article/european-union-franck-riestler-s-participation-in-the-foreign-affairs-council>

¹³¹⁵ European Union – Franck Riestler’s participation in the Foreign Affairs Council (Trade), (Brussels, 20 May 2021), Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 20 May 2021. Access Date: 16 July 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/europe/news/article/european-union-franck-riestler-s-participation-in-the-foreign-affairs-council>

On 10 June 2021, President Macron participated in a press conference prior to the G7 and North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) summits.¹³¹⁶ President Macron advocated for the removal of all export restrictions on supplies required to produce COVID-19 vaccines.¹³¹⁷ President Macron further advocated for fair taxation through a system built around taxing excess profits, particularly of major digital groups, and establishing a minimum 15 per cent tax.¹³¹⁸

On 11 to 13 June 2021, President Macron participated in the G7 Summit in Cornwall.¹³¹⁹ After the summit, President Macron participated in a press conference, detailing the outcomes of the event.¹³²⁰ President Macron announced a collective commitment by all G7 members to lift all export restrictions on countries important for producing vaccines for “middle-income or poorest areas” such as India.¹³²¹ President Macron confirmed the G7’s commitment to “reach an agreement at the OECD in July on a minimum tax on multinationals of at least 15 per cent and to adapt our taxation to the digital economy through a fairer distribution of the tax base.”¹³²²

On 15 June 2021, leaders of the EU and US met at the EU-US summit.¹³²³ The summit “facilitated the renewal of trans-Atlantic relations, notably including the resolution of the Airbus/Boeing dispute and the creation of a U.S.-EU Trade and Technology Council.”¹³²⁴

On 19 July 2021, Minister Riester met with European Commissioner for Trade Valdis Drombovskis, European Commissioner for Internal Market Thierry Breton, European Commissioner for Justice Didier Reynders and European Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries Virginijus Sinkevicius.¹³²⁵ Minister Riester discussed trans-Atlantic relations in a follow-up to the June EU-US

¹³¹⁶ G7/NATO – President Emmanuel Macron – Press Briefing (Elysée Palace, 10 June 2021), Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 10 June 2021. Access Date: 16 July 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/news/2021/article/g7-nato-president-emmanuel-macron-press-briefing-elysee-palace-10-jun-2021>

¹³¹⁷ G7/NATO – President Emmanuel Macron – Press Briefing (Elysée Palace, 10 June 2021), Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 10 June 2021. Access Date: 16 July 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/news/2021/article/g7-nato-president-emmanuel-macron-press-briefing-elysee-palace-10-jun-2021>

¹³¹⁸ G7/NATO – President Emmanuel Macron – Press Briefing (Elysée Palace, 10 June 2021), Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 10 June 2021. Access Date: 16 July 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/news/2021/article/g7-nato-president-emmanuel-macron-press-briefing-elysee-palace-10-jun-2021>

¹³¹⁹ G7 – Emmanuel Macron – Press Conference (Carbis Bay, 13 Jun. 2021), Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 13 June 2021. Access Date: 16 July 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/news/2021/article/g7-emmanuel-macron-press-conference-carbis-bay-13-jun-2021>

¹³²⁰ G7 – Emmanuel Macron – Press Conference (Carbis Bay, 13 Jun. 2021), Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 13 June 2021. Access Date: 16 July 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/news/2021/article/g7-emmanuel-macron-press-conference-carbis-bay-13-jun-2021>

¹³²¹ G7 – Emmanuel Macron – Press Conference (Carbis Bay, 13 Jun. 2021), Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 13 June 2021. Access Date: 16 July 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/news/2021/article/g7-emmanuel-macron-press-conference-carbis-bay-13-jun-2021>

¹³²² G7 – Emmanuel Macron – Press Conference (Carbis Bay, 13 Jun. 2021), Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 13 June 2021. Access Date: 16 July 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/news/2021/article/g7-emmanuel-macron-press-conference-carbis-bay-13-jun-2021>

¹³²³ EU-US summit statement: “Towards a renewed Transatlantic partnership”, European Council (Council of the European Union) (Brussels) 15 June 2021. Access Date: 16 July 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2021/06/15/eu-us-summit-statement-towards-a-renewed-transatlantic-partnership/>

¹³²⁴ European Union – Meetings between Franck Riester and several European commissioners (Brussels, 19 July 2021), Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 19 July 2021. Access Date: 21 July 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/europe/news/article/european-union-meetings-between-franck-riester-and-several-european>.

¹³²⁵ European Union – Meetings between Franck Riester and several European commissioners (Brussels, 19 July 2021), Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 19 July 2021. Access Date: 21 July 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/europe/news/article/european-union-meetings-between-franck-riester-and-several-european>.

summit.¹³²⁶ Minister Riester reiterated France’s “support for the new trade strategy presented by the European Commission in February,” which seeks to present a balanced response to challenges posed by the pandemic, trade tensions, and climate crisis.¹³²⁷ Minister Riester reviewed trade negotiations that are in development.¹³²⁸ Minister Riester demonstrated France’s full support in the signing of the EU-Mexico association agreement.¹³²⁹ Minister Riester underlined concerns regarding Russian trade barriers that impact champagne producers and highlighted the difficulties caused by international market tensions on the supply of lumber to French and European industries.¹³³⁰

On 22 and 23 July 2021, Minister of State for European Affairs Clément Beaune met with fellow European affairs ministers in Ljubljana at the informal meeting of the General Affairs Council of the European Council.¹³³¹ The ministers discussed matters of “resiliency and the revival of the European economy as the EU confronts the challenges of the green and digital transitions.”¹³³²

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.

¹³²⁶ European Union – Meetings between Franck Riester and several European commissioners (Brussels, 19 July 2021), Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 19 July 2021. Access Date: 21 July 2021.

<https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/europe/news/article/european-union-meetings-between-franck-riester-and-several-european>.

¹³²⁷ European Union – Meetings between Franck Riester and several European commissioners (Brussels, 19 July 2021), Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 19 July 2021. Access Date: 21 July 2021.

<https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/europe/news/article/european-union-meetings-between-franck-riester-and-several-european>.

¹³²⁸ European Union – Meetings between Franck Riester and several European commissioners (Brussels, 19 July 2021), Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 19 July 2021. Access Date: 21 July 2021.

<https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/europe/news/article/european-union-meetings-between-franck-riester-and-several-european>

¹³²⁹ European Union – Meetings between Franck Riester and several European commissioners (Brussels, 19 July 2021), Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 19 July 2021. Access Date: 21 July 2021.

<https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/europe/news/article/european-union-meetings-between-franck-riester-and-several-european>

¹³³⁰ European Union – Meetings between Franck Riester and several European commissioners (Brussels, 19 July 2021), Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 19 July 2021. Access Date: 21 July 2021.

<https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/europe/news/article/european-union-meetings-between-franck-riester-and-several-european>

¹³³¹ EU – Clément Beaune participating in the informal meeting of European affairs ministers (Ljubljana and Brdo pri Kranju, 22 and 23 July 2021), Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 23 July 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/europe/news/article/eu-clement-beaune-participating-in-the-informal-meeting-of-european-affairs>

¹³³² EU – Clément Beaune participating in the informal meeting of European affairs ministers (Ljubljana and Brdo pri Kranju, 22 and 23 July 2021), Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 23 July 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/europe/news/article/eu-clement-beaune-participating-in-the-informal-meeting-of-european-affairs>

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.¹³³³ Merkel's statement promotes the development of Germany-China and EU-China trade and investment relations.¹³³⁴

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.¹³³⁵ 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."¹³³⁶

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.¹³³⁷ 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.¹³³⁸

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."¹³³⁹

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.¹³⁴⁰ 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.¹³⁴¹

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

¹³³³ 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>

¹³³⁴ 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>

¹³³⁵ 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>

¹³³⁶ 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>

¹³³⁷ 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

¹³³⁸ 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

¹³³⁹ 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>

¹³⁴⁰ 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>

¹³⁴¹ 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>

includes international trade.¹³⁴² They plan to address these issues through “cooperation within the G7, G20, and other multilateral forums.”¹³⁴³

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.¹³⁴⁴ 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.¹³⁴⁵

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.¹³⁴⁶ The announcement confirms that Germany will maintain its efforts to strengthen the World Trade Organization (WTO), which Merkel believes to be the “core element of rules-based global trade.”¹³⁴⁷

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.¹³⁴⁸ 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.¹³⁴⁹

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-

¹³⁴² 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>

¹³⁴³ 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>

¹³⁴⁴ 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>

¹³⁴⁵ 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>

¹³⁴⁶ 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>

¹³⁴⁷ 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>

¹³⁴⁸ '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>

¹³⁴⁹ '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>

General.¹³⁵⁰ The talks prioritized strengthening the multilateral trading system by reforming the WTO.¹³⁵¹ Minister Altmaier claimed that the COVID-19 pandemic and changing global conditions underline the need for this reform.¹³⁵²

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.¹³⁵³ 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.¹³⁵⁴

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).¹³⁵⁵ The Zukunftsfonds offers innovative technology start-ups better access to capital through a EUR10 billion investment from the federal government and at least EUR30 billion in venture capital from private and public investors.¹³⁵⁶

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.¹³⁵⁷ 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.¹³⁵⁸ Member of the Bundestag Frank Schäffler stated that the addition of crypto assets in such investment funds is a crucial step for their acceptance.¹³⁵⁹

On 4 May 2021, Minister Altmaier met with Swedish Minister for Foreign Trade and Nordic Affairs Anna Hallberg via video conference to discuss current challenges in trade policy and ways in which

¹³⁵⁰ 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>

¹³⁵¹ 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>

¹³⁵² 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>

¹³⁵³ 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>

¹³⁵⁴ 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>

¹³⁵⁵ 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/Finacial_markets/Articles/2021-03-25-launch-of-the-zukunftsfonds.html

¹³⁵⁶ 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/Finacial_markets/Articles/2021-03-25-launch-of-the-zukunftsfonds.html

¹³⁵⁷ 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/>

¹³⁵⁸ 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/>

¹³⁵⁹ 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/>

the two countries can expand German-Swedish economic relations.¹³⁶⁰ Minister Altmaier said that the two countries enjoy a long history of intensive cooperation and that they continue to work together to promote open markets and free trade to ensure consistent strengthening of the multilateral trading system and the bilateral EU free trade agenda.¹³⁶¹ He also cited the German-Swedish innovation partnership as an integral part of deepening bilateral economic relations.¹³⁶²

On 5 May 2021, Chancellor Merkel promoted the idea of a trade agreement between the US and the EU as part of an effort to strengthen transatlantic ties and to welcome the US's "return to the multilateral fold" under US President Joe Biden.¹³⁶³

On 25 May 2021, Minister Altmaier met virtually with Mexican Secretary of Economy Tatiana Clouthier to exchange views on reinforcing economic and investment relations between Germany and Mexico.¹³⁶⁴ He said that the two countries continue to focus on tackling the ongoing pandemic, but also that both intend to deepen economic and investment relations with a modernized EU-Mexico Global Agreement, which would act as a major building block for their shared goal.¹³⁶⁵

On 14 June 2021, Minister of Economic Cooperation and Development Gerd Müller met with Togo's Foreign Minister Robert Dussey, Prime Minister Victoire Tomegah Dogbé and President Faure Gnassingbé to sign an agreement for a reform partnership between the two countries.¹³⁶⁶ The partnership would intensify cooperation with Togo to support growth, jobs and reforms; it will also provide support for the private sector and work to improve the trade and investment environment in Togo by establishing an export and investment promotion agency.¹³⁶⁷

On 29 June 2021, Germany and Chile signed a letter of intent that outlines a bilateral alliance on hydrogen production and trade in the form of a task force in an effort to facilitate a hydrogen supply

¹³⁶⁰ Federal Minister for Economic Affairs and Energy Peter Altmaier talks with his Swedish counterpart Anna Hallberg, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin) 4 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021.

<https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2021/05/210504-federal-minister-for-economic-affairs%20and-energy-peter-altmaier-talks-with-his-swedish-counterpart-anna-hallberg.html>

¹³⁶¹ Federal Minister for Economic Affairs and Energy Peter Altmaier talks with his Swedish counterpart Anna Hallberg, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin) 4 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021.

<https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2021/05/210504-federal-minister-for-economic-affairs%20and-energy-peter-altmaier-talks-with-his-swedish-counterpart-anna-hallberg.html>

¹³⁶² Federal Minister for Economic Affairs and Energy Peter Altmaier talks with his Swedish counterpart Anna Hallberg, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin) 4 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021.

<https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2021/05/210504-federal-minister-for-economic-affairs%20and-energy-peter-altmaier-talks-with-his-swedish-counterpart-anna-hallberg.html>

¹³⁶³ Merkel wants Europe, United States to aim for new trade deal, Reuters (Berlin) 5 May 2021. Access Date: 21 July 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/world/merkel-wants-europe-united-states-aim-new-trade-deal-2021-05-05/>

¹³⁶⁴ Minister Altmaier exchanges views with Mexico's Secretary of Economy, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin) 25 May 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021.

<https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2021/05/20210525-altmaier-exchanges-with-mexicos-secretary-of-economy.html>

¹³⁶⁵ Minister Altmaier exchanges views with Mexico's Secretary of Economy, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin) 25 May 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021.

<https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2021/05/20210525-altmaier-exchanges-with-mexicos-secretary-of-economy.html>

¹³⁶⁶ Minister Müller signs reform partnership agreement with Togo, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Berlin) 14 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.bmz.de/en/news/press-releases/minister-mueller-signs-reform-partnership-agreement-with-togo-83646>

¹³⁶⁷ Minister Müller signs reform partnership agreement with Togo, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Berlin) 14 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.bmz.de/en/news/press-releases/minister-mueller-signs-reform-partnership-agreement-with-togo-83646>

chain between the two countries.¹³⁶⁸ Minister Altmaier said that cooperation with Chile would open up new trade routes for clean energy hydrogen imports for Germany's "big energy players."¹³⁶⁹

On 21 July 2021, Minister Altmaier held a videoconference with Australian Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment Dan Tehan during the second meeting of the German-Australian Joint Economic Committee to discuss closer economic cooperation between the two countries.¹³⁷⁰ They highlighted their desire to give a new impetus to the bilateral economic relations between Germany and Australia and advocated for a rapid conclusion of negotiations concerning the planned EU-Australia Trade Agreement, which they argue would make it easier for companies to become active on the market of the other country and further facilitate cooperation.¹³⁷¹

On 27 August 2021, Chancellor Merkel discussed the supply of coronavirus vaccines to Africa.¹³⁷² During the fourth conference on the Compact with Africa, a G20 initiative that aims to establish reform partnerships with African countries, she said that "vaccine availability and production are directly linked to the economic well-being of the African continent."¹³⁷³ Chancellor Merkel also added that the task of the Compact with Africa now is to do more to lower barriers to trade and investment.¹³⁷⁴

On 27 August 2021, Minister Altmaier met with the new Secretary-General of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Mathias Cormann during his inaugural visit to Berlin.¹³⁷⁵ Minister Altmaier stressed the importance of the OECD in regard to multilateralism and the key role it plays in developing a joint response to major global challenges such as climate change mitigation, fair trade and the digital transition.¹³⁷⁶

¹³⁶⁸ Germany and Chile sign accord to boost hydrogen cooperation, Reuters (Frankfurt) 29 June 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/business/energy/germany-chile-sign-accord-boost-hydrogen-cooperation-2021-06-29/>

¹³⁶⁹ Germany and Chile sign accord to boost hydrogen cooperation, Reuters (Frankfurt) 29 June 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/business/energy/germany-chile-sign-accord-boost-hydrogen-cooperation-2021-06-29/>

¹³⁷⁰ Minister Altmaier discusses closer economic cooperation – and in particular great potential for hydrogen – with Dan Tehan, his Australian counterpart, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin) 21 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2021/06/20210622-minister-altmaier-economic-cooperation-potential-for-hydrogen-with-dan-tehan.html>

¹³⁷¹ Minister Altmaier discusses closer economic cooperation – and in particular great potential for hydrogen – with Dan Tehan, his Australian counterpart, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin) 21 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2021/06/20210622-minister-altmaier-economic-cooperation-potential-for-hydrogen-with-dan-tehan.html>

¹³⁷² "We now have to ensure the vaccine gets to the people of Africa quickly," The Federal Government (Berlin) 27 August 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/compact-with-africa-conference-1955092>

¹³⁷³ "We now have to ensure the vaccine gets to the people of Africa quickly," The Federal Government (Berlin) 27 August 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/compact-with-africa-conference-1955092>

¹³⁷⁴ "We now have to ensure the vaccine gets to the people of Africa quickly," The Federal Government (Berlin) 27 August 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/compact-with-africa-conference-1955092>

¹³⁷⁵ Economic Affairs Minister Altmaier meets with new OECD Secretary-General Cormann in Berlin, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin) 27 August 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2021/08/20210827-economic-affairs-minister-altmaier-meets-new-oecd-secretary-general-cormann.html>

¹³⁷⁶ Economic Affairs Minister Altmaier meets with new OECD Secretary-General Cormann in Berlin, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin) 27 August 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2021/08/20210827-economic-affairs-minister-altmaier-meets-new-oecd-secretary-general-cormann.html>

On 10 September 2021, Chancellor Merkel had a phone conversation with China's President Xi Jinping wherein they agreed to make joint efforts to promote the China-EU investment agreement.¹³⁷⁷ They pushed for the completion of the investment agreement negotiations and continued to advocate multilateralism and free trade to strengthen the bilateral ties between Germany and China.¹³⁷⁸

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.¹³⁷⁹ 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.¹³⁸⁰

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.¹³⁸¹ Goyal also cited the continuous growth of India’s Foreign Direct Investment, which facilitates a non-discriminatory investment environment in the country.¹³⁸²

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

¹³⁷⁷ China, Germany vow to jointly promote China-EU investment agreement, CGTN (Beijing) 10 September 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021. <https://news.cgtn.com/news/2021-09-10/Xi-Jinping-has-phone-conversation-with-Angela-Merkel-13rK2FGqQco/index.html>

¹³⁷⁸ China, Germany vow to jointly promote China-EU investment agreement, CGTN (Beijing) 10 September 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021. <https://news.cgtn.com/news/2021-09-10/Xi-Jinping-has-phone-conversation-with-Angela-Merkel-13rK2FGqQco/index.html>

¹³⁷⁹ 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/>

¹³⁸⁰ 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/>

¹³⁸¹ 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/>

¹³⁸² 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/>

Cambodia-India Joint Working Group on Trade and Investment, which are intended to expand trade and investment between the countries.¹³⁸³ 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.¹³⁸⁴ Secretary Wadhawan added that he hopes the domestic playing field will be levelled by addressing unfair trade practices.¹³⁸⁵

On 8 February 2021, Minister Goyal and British Foreign Secretary Liz Truss released a statement laying the groundwork for an "Enhanced Trade Partnership."¹³⁸⁶ 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.¹³⁸⁷

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.¹³⁸⁸ 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.¹³⁸⁹

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.¹³⁹⁰ Minister Goyal said he is looking at expanding bilateral ties with Singapore.¹³⁹¹

¹³⁸³ 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>

¹³⁸⁴ 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/>

¹³⁸⁵ 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/>

¹³⁸⁶ 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/>

¹³⁸⁷ 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/>

¹³⁸⁸ 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>

¹³⁸⁹ 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>

¹³⁹⁰ 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/>

¹³⁹¹ 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.¹³⁹²

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.¹³⁹³ 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.¹³⁹⁴ 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.”¹³⁹⁵

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 2030.¹³⁹⁶ During the Maritime India Summit, Prime Minister Modi also called for massive public and private commitments to improve infrastructure for maritime trade.¹³⁹⁷

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.¹³⁹⁸ Prime Minister Modi reaffirmed India’s commitment to work for multilateralism, a rules-based international order, sustainable development and climate change.¹³⁹⁹

On 17 March 2021, India met with Argentina and opened India’s market to Argentinian yerba mate, a South American tea.¹⁴⁰⁰ This action promotes market freedom, and reflects a coordinated effort between India, Argentina, and applicable international organizations.¹⁴⁰¹

¹³⁹² 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

¹³⁹³ 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>

¹³⁹⁴ 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>

¹³⁹⁵ 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>

¹³⁹⁶ 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>

¹³⁹⁷ 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>

¹³⁹⁸ 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>

¹³⁹⁹ 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>

¹⁴⁰⁰ 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>

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.¹⁴⁰² They also agreed to revitalise engagement through the US-India Trade Policy Forum.¹⁴⁰³

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.¹⁴⁰⁴ They committed to fast tracking the on-going joint study on the feasibility of a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement between the two countries.¹⁴⁰⁵

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.¹⁴⁰⁶ 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.¹⁴⁰⁷

On 3 May 2021, Prime Minister Modi and Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced a GBP1 billion private-sector investment and committed to pursue an “Enhanced Trade Partnership” agreement during a virtual meeting.¹⁴⁰⁸ The agreement would lift export barriers on British goods, allow UK firms access to India's legal services sector and improve India's access to Britain's fisheries and nursing sectors.¹⁴⁰⁹ Both have the ambition to double existing bilateral trade by 2030.¹⁴¹⁰

¹⁴⁰¹ 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>

¹⁴⁰² 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>

¹⁴⁰³ 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>

¹⁴⁰⁴ 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>

¹⁴⁰⁵ 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>

¹⁴⁰⁶ 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>

¹⁴⁰⁷ 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>

¹⁴⁰⁸ UK and India step closer to trade deal, agreeing investment and migration pacts, Reuters (London) 3 May 2021. Access Date: 20 July 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/uk-india-announce-14-billion-investment-boost-step-closer-trade-deal-2021-05-03/>

¹⁴⁰⁹ UK and India step closer to trade deal, agreeing investment and migration pacts, Reuters (London) 3 May 2021. Access Date: 20 July 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/uk-india-announce-14-billion-investment-boost-step-closer-trade-deal-2021-05-03/>

¹⁴¹⁰ UK and India step closer to trade deal, agreeing investment and migration pacts, Reuters (London) 3 May 2021. Access Date: 20 July 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/uk-india-announce-14-billion-investment-boost-step-closer-trade-deal-2021-05-03/>

On 5 May 2021, India reached out to the top US pharmaceutical companies to encourage investments into the country's pharmaceutical and medical devices sector.¹⁴¹¹ Ambassador to the US Taranjit Singh Sandhu met virtually with the CEOs of Pfizer, Thermo Fisher, Antylia Scientific and Pall Life Sciences to discuss the ways in which the companies could support healthcare efforts and strengthen India's pandemic response through new investment opportunities.¹⁴¹²

On 7 May 2021, Prime Minister Modi agreed to resume negotiations for a trade agreement with the EU during a virtual summit with all 27 EU member-state leaders.¹⁴¹³ The trade agreement would respond to challenges such as combating climate change and solving market access issues.¹⁴¹⁴

On 3 June 2021, Minister of Agriculture Narendra Singh Tomar and Australian Minister of Agriculture David Littleproud announced a joint plan in which Australia provides market access for Indian pomegranates, pomegranate arils, mangoes and okra, and in return exports barley to India.¹⁴¹⁵ Additionally, India seeks greater access to Australian coal, rare earth minerals and metals such as copper, cobalt and nickel with ambitions to deepen trade ties between the two countries.¹⁴¹⁶

On 4 June 2021, negotiators from the Ministry of Commerce and Canada's international trade department resumed discussions towards a possible trade pact, revisiting the stalled Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement.¹⁴¹⁷ India's High Commissioner to Ottawa Ajay Bisaria stated that the trade pact would "boost trade and investment in the bilateral economic corridor."¹⁴¹⁸

On 17 June 2021, the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs cut the tariff import value of crude palm oil by USD86 per tonne and crude palm olein by USD112 per tonne, in addition to the reduction of the base import price of crude soybean oil by USD37 per tonne.¹⁴¹⁹ India meets around two-thirds of its edible oil demand through imports and experts say that this move can lead to lower domestic prices.¹⁴²⁰

¹⁴¹¹ India reaches out to US companies over investment in pharmaceutical, medical devices sector, Times of India (Mumbai) 5 May 2021. Access Date: 22 July 2021. <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/india-reaches-out-to-us-companies-over-investment-in-pharmaceutical-medical-devices-sector/articleshow/82397923.cms>

¹⁴¹² India reaches out to US companies over investment in pharmaceutical, medical devices sector, Times of India (Mumbai) 5 May 2021. Access Date: 22 July 2021. <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/india-reaches-out-to-us-companies-over-investment-in-pharmaceutical-medical-devices-sector/articleshow/82397923.cms>

¹⁴¹³ EU and India agree to resume trade talks at virtual summit, Reuters (Brussels) 7 May 2021. Access Date: 20 July 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/eu-india-re-launch-trade-talks-virtual-summit-2021-05-08/>

¹⁴¹⁴ EU and India agree to resume trade talks at virtual summit, Reuters (Brussels) 7 May 2021. Access Date: 20 July 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/eu-india-re-launch-trade-talks-virtual-summit-2021-05-08/>

¹⁴¹⁵ Amid China's high tariffs, India, Australia ramp up farm trade, Hindustan Times (New Delhi) 3 June 2021. Access Date: 22 July 2021. <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/amid-china-s-high-tariffs-india-australia-ramp-up-farm-trade-101622694609374.html>

¹⁴¹⁶ Amid China's high tariffs, India, Australia ramp up farm trade, Hindustan Times (New Delhi) 3 June 2021. Access Date: 22 July 2021. <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/amid-china-s-high-tariffs-india-australia-ramp-up-farm-trade-101622694609374.html>

¹⁴¹⁷ India, Canada resume talks on stalled trade pact, Hindustan Times (New Delhi) 4 June 2021. Access Date: 20 July 2021. <https://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/india-canada-resume-talks-on-stalled-trade-pact-101622783535354.html>

¹⁴¹⁸ India, Canada resume talks on stalled trade pact, Hindustan Times (New Delhi) 4 June 2021. Access Date: 20 July 2021. <https://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/india-canada-resume-talks-on-stalled-trade-pact-101622783535354.html>

¹⁴¹⁹ Govt slashes tariff value for edible oil import, may lead to lower domestic prices, Mint (New Delhi) 17 June 2021. Access Date: 22 July 2021. <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/govt-slashes-tariff-value-for-edible-oil-import-may-lead-to-lower-domestic-prices-11623936224423.html>

¹⁴²⁰ Govt slashes tariff value for edible oil import, may lead to lower domestic prices, Mint (New Delhi) 17 June 2021. Access Date: 22 July 2021. <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/govt-slashes-tariff-value-for-edible-oil-import-may-lead-to-lower-domestic-prices-11623936224423.html>

On 22 June 2021, Minister of Power and Minister of New and Renewable Energy Raj Kumar Singh announced a ‘green tariff’ plan that will assist power distribution companies in supplying electricity generated from clean energy projects at much lower tariffs than from conventional fuel sources such as coal.¹⁴²¹ The new tariff plan will ensure open and affordable access to clean energy that will allow large users of energy to buy power from the market.¹⁴²²

On 28 June 2021, Minister of State for External Affairs and Parliamentary Affairs Vellamvelly Muraleedharan met virtually with Zimbabwe’s Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade Frederick Shava to discuss bilateral, regional and multilateral issues including matters related to trade and investment.¹⁴²³ They reiterated their commitment to continue to strengthen the bilateral relationship citing the historical ties between India and Zimbabwe.¹⁴²⁴

On 2 July 2021, Minister Goyal announced that India recorded all-time high quarterly exports, surging 85 per cent from the previous year, lifted by exports of USD32.5 billion in June.¹⁴²⁵ Goyal said that the country achieved record exports despite the ongoing pandemic and that the numbers give “a glimpse of things to come.”¹⁴²⁶

On 15 July 2021, at a WTO ministerial meeting, Minister Goyal stated that significant work on a draft fisheries agreement is necessary to address the concerns of developing countries.¹⁴²⁷ Goyal called one aspect of the draft deal “unequal, unfair, unjust” but stated that India is committed to concluding the negotiations once the concerns are addressed.¹⁴²⁸

On 20 July 2021, the BRICS countries agreed to hold a trade fair show from 16-18 August 2021 to strengthen economic ties.¹⁴²⁹ The trade fair show will occur before the BRICS Trade Ministers meeting on 3 September 2021, which Minister Goyal will chair.¹⁴³⁰

¹⁴²¹ Green tariff plan may help supply cheaper renewable power, Mint (New Delhi) 22 June 2021. Access Date: 22 July 2021. <https://www.livemint.com/industry/energy/green-tariff-plan-may-help-supply-cheaper-renewable-power-11624384072861.html>

¹⁴²² Green tariff plan may help supply cheaper renewable power, Mint (New Delhi) 22 June 2021. Access Date: 22 July 2021. <https://www.livemint.com/industry/energy/green-tariff-plan-may-help-supply-cheaper-renewable-power-11624384072861.html>

¹⁴²³ Virtual Interaction between the Minister of State for External Affairs and the Minister of Foreign Affairs & International Trade of Republic of Zimbabwe, Ministry of External Affairs (New Delhi) 28 June 2021. Access Date: 22 July 2021. https://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/33958/Virtual_Interaction_between_the_Minister_of_State_for_External_Affairs_and_the_Minister_of_Foreign_Affairs__International_Trade_of_Republic_of_Zimbabwe

¹⁴²⁴ Virtual Interaction between the Minister of State for External Affairs and the Minister of Foreign Affairs & International Trade of Republic of Zimbabwe, Ministry of External Affairs (New Delhi) 28 June 2021. Access Date: 22 July 2021. https://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/33958/Virtual_Interaction_between_the_Minister_of_State_for_External_Affairs_and_the_Minister_of_Foreign_Affairs__International_Trade_of_Republic_of_Zimbabwe

¹⁴²⁵ India records highest-ever exports in June quarter, Mint (New Delhi) 2 July 2021. Access Date: 22 July 2021. <https://www.livemint.com/economy/india-records-highest-ever-exports-in-june-quarter-11625226809084.html>

¹⁴²⁶ India records highest-ever exports in June quarter, Mint (New Delhi) 2 July 2021. Access Date: 22 July 2021. <https://www.livemint.com/economy/india-records-highest-ever-exports-in-june-quarter-11625226809084.html>

¹⁴²⁷ India says significant work needed on WTO fisheries deal, Reuters (Geneva) 15 July 2021. Access Date: 22 July 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/world/china/india-says-significant-work-needed-wto-fisheries-deal-2021-07-15/>

¹⁴²⁸ India says significant work needed on WTO fisheries deal, Reuters (Geneva) 15 July 2021. Access Date: 22 July 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/world/china/india-says-significant-work-needed-wto-fisheries-deal-2021-07-15/>

¹⁴²⁹ India to chair BRICS 2021 trade fair, MSME roundtable, Hindustan Times (New Delhi) 20 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/india-to-chair-brics-2021-trade-fair-msme-roundtable-101626783672347.html>

On 22 July 2021, the federal cabinet approved plans that would allow 100 per cent foreign direct investment in state-run oil companies – an increase from the current 49 per cent.¹⁴³¹ The move also involves the sale of the government's 53 per cent stake in Bharat Petroleum Corp, India's second-largest state-run refiner, to raise INR1.75 trillion from stakes in companies.¹⁴³²

On 5 August 2021, Prime Minister Modi met with Australian Prime Minister's Special Trade Envoy for India Tony Abott to discuss ways to strengthen bilateral trade, investment and economic cooperation as part of the India-Australia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.¹⁴³³ They emphasized that enhanced economic cooperation would help both countries in addressing economic challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic and that it would play a role in realising their shared vision of a stable, secure and prosperous Indo-Pacific region.¹⁴³⁴

On 18 August 2021, Minister Goyal chaired the fifth meeting of BRICS Industry Ministers.¹⁴³⁵ The ministers reiterated their commitment to make efforts to foster an open, fair and non-discriminatory trade environment that ensures greater participation in global value chains and enhanced digital inclusion.¹⁴³⁶

On 24 August 2021, Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Anupriya Patel inaugurated the India-Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Engineering Partnership Summit organized by Engineering Exports Promotion Council with support from Minister Jaishankar and the

¹⁴³⁰ India to chair BRICS 2021 trade fair, MSME roundtable, Hindustan Times (New Delhi) 20 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <https://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/india-to-chair-brics-2021-trade-fair-msme-roundtable-101626783672347.html>

¹⁴³¹ India cabinet eases foreign investment rules to aid BPCL sale – sources, Reuters (New Delhi) 22 July 2021. Access Date: 22 July 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/world/india/india-cabinet-eases-foreign-investment-rules-aid-bpcl-sale-sources-2021-07-22/>

¹⁴³² India cabinet eases foreign investment rules to aid BPCL sale – sources, Reuters (New Delhi) 22 July 2021. Access Date: 22 July 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/world/india/india-cabinet-eases-foreign-investment-rules-aid-bpcl-sale-sources-2021-07-22/>

¹⁴³³ Meeting between Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and The Hon Tony Abbott, Australian PM's Special Trade Envoy for India, Ministry of External Affairs (New Delhi) 5 August 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021. https://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/34139/Meeting_between_Prime_Minister_Shri_Narendra_Modi_and_The_Hon_Tony_Abbott_Australian_PM_Special_Trade_Envoy_for_India

¹⁴³⁴ Meeting between Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and The Hon Tony Abbott, Australian PM's Special Trade Envoy for India, Ministry of External Affairs (New Delhi) 5 August 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021. https://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/34139/Meeting_between_Prime_Minister_Shri_Narendra_Modi_and_The_Hon_Tony_Abbott_Australian_PM_Special_Trade_Envoy_for_India

¹⁴³⁵ India expresses desire to expand the horizon of New Development Bank (NDB) for strengthening social infrastructure at BRICS Industry Ministers meet, Ministry of Commerce and Industry (New Delhi) 18 August 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021. <https://commerce.gov.in/press-releases/india-expresses-desire-to-expand-the-horizon-of-new-development-bank-ndb-for-strengthening-social-infrastructure-at-brics-industry-ministers-meet/>

¹⁴³⁶ India expresses desire to expand the horizon of New Development Bank (NDB) for strengthening social infrastructure at BRICS Industry Ministers meet, Ministry of Commerce and Industry (New Delhi) 18 August 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021. <https://commerce.gov.in/press-releases/india-expresses-desire-to-expand-the-horizon-of-new-development-bank-ndb-for-strengthening-social-infrastructure-at-brics-industry-ministers-meet/>

Department of Commerce.¹⁴³⁷ The summit provides a platform for engagement between India and ASEAN in engineering trade and investments.¹⁴³⁸

On 28 August 2021, Minister Goyal said that India is “fast progressing” on discussions concerning free trade agreements with countries such as the UK, the UAE and Gulf Cooperation Council countries, Australia and the EU.¹⁴³⁹ He added that, under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi, the government continues to promote transparency and “ease of doing business.”¹⁴⁴⁰

On 31 August 2021, India continued negotiations concerning a free trade agreement with the UAE, their third largest trading partner.¹⁴⁴¹ The agreement would lead to increased exports of leather goods, gems and jewellery and chemicals to the UAE.¹⁴⁴²

On 11 September 2021, Minister of Defence Shri Rajnath Singh and Minister Jaishankar met with Australia’s Minister for Foreign Affairs Marise Payne and Minister for Defence Peter Dutton to reaffirm their commitment to deepening bilateral cooperation by elevating the India-Australia relationship to a comprehensive strategic partnership.¹⁴⁴³ The Ministers also highlighted the importance of a balanced trade agreement that encourages expanded trade and investment flows that benefits both countries economically.¹⁴⁴⁴

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.

¹⁴³⁷ India’s exports to ASEAN estimated at US\$ 46 billion in FY22: Ms Anupriya Patel, Ministry of Commerce and Industry (New Delhi) 24 August 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021. <https://commerce.gov.in/press-releases/indias-exports-to-asean-estimated-at-us-46-billion-in-fy22-ms-anupriya-patel/>

¹⁴³⁸ India’s exports to ASEAN estimated at US\$ 46 billion in FY22: Ms Anupriya Patel, Ministry of Commerce and Industry (New Delhi) 24 August 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021. <https://commerce.gov.in/press-releases/indias-exports-to-asean-estimated-at-us-46-billion-in-fy22-ms-anupriya-patel/>

¹⁴³⁹ We are fast progressing on our discussions on FTAs with several countries like UK, UAE, GCC countries, Australia and European Union – Shri Goyal, Ministry of Commerce and Industry (New Delhi) 28 August 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021. <https://commerce.gov.in/press-releases/we-are-fast-progressing-on-our-discussions-on-ftas-with-several-countries-like-uk-uae-gcc-countries-australia-and-european-union-shri-goyal/>

¹⁴⁴⁰ We are fast progressing on our discussions on FTAs with several countries like UK, UAE, GCC countries, Australia and European Union – Shri Goyal, Ministry of Commerce and Industry (New Delhi) 28 August 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021. <https://commerce.gov.in/press-releases/we-are-fast-progressing-on-our-discussions-on-ftas-with-several-countries-like-uk-uae-gcc-countries-australia-and-european-union-shri-goyal/>

¹⁴⁴¹ India negotiating free trade agreement with UAE, International Leather Maker (London) 31 August 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021. https://internationalleathermaker.com/news/fullstory.php/aid/10271/India_negotiating_free_trade_agreement_with_UAE.html

¹⁴⁴² India negotiating free trade agreement with UAE, International Leather Maker (London) 31 August 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021. https://internationalleathermaker.com/news/fullstory.php/aid/10271/India_negotiating_free_trade_agreement_with_UAE.html

¹⁴⁴³ Joint Statement on Inaugural India-Australia 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue, Ministry of External Affairs (New Delhi) 11 September 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021. https://www.mea.gov.in/bilateral-documents.htm?dtl/34250/Joint_Statement_on_Inaugural_IndiaAustralia_22_Ministerial_Dialogue_11_September_2021_New_Delhi

¹⁴⁴⁴ Joint Statement on Inaugural India-Australia 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue, Ministry of External Affairs (New Delhi) 11 September 2021. Access Date: 11 September 2021. https://www.mea.gov.in/bilateral-documents.htm?dtl/34250/Joint_Statement_on_Inaugural_IndiaAustralia_22_Ministerial_Dialogue_11_September_2021_New_Delhi

Thus, India receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Arees Chooljian

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.¹⁴⁴⁵ Trade policy reviews are a WTO mandated exercise in which a countries' trade policies are examined and evaluated at regular intervals.¹⁴⁴⁶ 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.¹⁴⁴⁷

On 9 December 2020, Indonesia presented an opening statement at the 7th Trade Policy Review, which summarized several ongoing trade initiatives.¹⁴⁴⁸ 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.¹⁴⁴⁹ 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."¹⁴⁵⁰

On 18 December 2020, Indonesia and Korea signed the Korea-Indonesia Comprehensive Economic Partners Agreement after eight years of negotiations.¹⁴⁵¹ 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.¹⁴⁵²

¹⁴⁴⁵ Trade policy review: Indonesia, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 9 December 2020. Access Date: 14 March 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/tpr_e/tp501_e.htm

¹⁴⁴⁶ Trade policy review: Indonesia, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 9 December 2020. Access Date: 14 March 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/tpr_e/tp501_e.htm

¹⁴⁴⁷ Concluding remarks by the Chairperson, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 9 December 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/tpr_e/tp501_crc_e.htm

¹⁴⁴⁸ 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/>

¹⁴⁴⁹ 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/>

¹⁴⁵⁰ 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/>

¹⁴⁵¹ 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

¹⁴⁵² 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>

On 22 February 2021, Indonesia and the EU met for the 10th round of negotiations on the EU-Indonesian Free Trade Agreement.¹⁴⁵³ Progress was made in several chapters including technical barriers to trade, services and investment, with both sides agreeing to further negotiations in July 2021.¹⁴⁵⁴

On 14 January 2021, Foreign Minister Reno Marsudi met with the Chinese Minister of Foreign Affairs Wang Yi and discussed economic recovery.¹⁴⁵⁵ Minister Marsudi encouraged joint efforts to remove trade barriers, especially for Indonesia's leading exports, and increase investment cooperation in infrastructure development.¹⁴⁵⁶

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.¹⁴⁵⁷ Ambassador Tavares stated that the bilateral relations with Russia need to be enhanced.¹⁴⁵⁸

On 3 February 2021, Indonesia and Iran improved trade relations by signing procurement contracts of 700 hemodialysis equipment until 2025.¹⁴⁵⁹ Ambassador to Iran Ronny Yuliantoro expressed that the countries would increase collaboration, especially in pharmaceuticals and medical devices.¹⁴⁶⁰

On 17 February 2021, Minister Marsudi and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary Peter Sijjarto signed a letter of intent for the formation of an Indonesian-Hungary Investment Fund.¹⁴⁶¹

¹⁴⁵³ 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

¹⁴⁵⁴ 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

¹⁴⁵⁵ 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>

¹⁴⁵⁶ 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>

¹⁴⁵⁷ 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>

¹⁴⁵⁸ 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>

¹⁴⁵⁹ 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>

¹⁴⁶⁰ 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>

¹⁴⁶¹ 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.”¹⁴⁶² The meeting also set up a distribution centre for Indonesian products in Hungary, which will increase bilateral trade.¹⁴⁶³

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.¹⁴⁶⁴ The countries identified tourism, health and education as potential points for cooperation.¹⁴⁶⁵

On 9 March 2021, Indonesia and Singapore ratified the Bilateral Investment Treaty.¹⁴⁶⁶ 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.¹⁴⁶⁷

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.¹⁴⁶⁸ Ambassador Dindin conveyed hopes to strengthen bilateral ties.¹⁴⁶⁹

On 7 April 2021, the 3rd Indonesia-UK Partnership Forum was held.¹⁴⁷⁰ 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 2021.¹⁴⁷¹ Minister Marsudi reaffirmed the implementation of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Outlook on the Indo-

¹⁴⁶² 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>

¹⁴⁶³ 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>

¹⁴⁶⁴ 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>

¹⁴⁶⁵ 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>

¹⁴⁶⁶ 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>

¹⁴⁶⁷ 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>

¹⁴⁶⁸ 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>

¹⁴⁶⁹ 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>

¹⁴⁷⁰ 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>

¹⁴⁷¹ 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.”¹⁴⁷²

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.¹⁴⁷³ Minister Marsudi suggested that cooperation with the UK can be further expanded in the future.¹⁴⁷⁴

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.¹⁴⁷⁵ It will be Indonesia’s first trade agreement with European countries once it is brought into force.¹⁴⁷⁶

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.¹⁴⁷⁷ The UK is a key trade partner of the UK, with trade amounting to GBP3 billion in 2019.¹⁴⁷⁸

On 21 June 2021, Trade Minister Muhammad Lutfi and Canadian Minister of Small Business, Export Promotion and International Trade Mary Ng initiated negotiations over a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (ICA-CEPA).¹⁴⁷⁹ The negotiations will aim to eliminate various tariffs, ease customs procedures, trade facilities, trade remedies, mobilize labour/services and ease investment.¹⁴⁸⁰ Minister Lutfi expressed that this reflects Indonesia’s effort to actively negotiate international trade deals to open new export markets amidst the pandemic.¹⁴⁸¹

¹⁴⁷² 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>

¹⁴⁷³ 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>

¹⁴⁷⁴ 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>

¹⁴⁷⁵ 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>

¹⁴⁷⁶ 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>

¹⁴⁷⁷ 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>

¹⁴⁷⁸ 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>

¹⁴⁷⁹ Indonesia, Canada open talks on comprehensive trade deal, The Jakarta Post (Jakarta) 21 June 2021. Access Date: 19 July 2021. <https://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2021/06/21/indonesia-canada-open-talks-on-comprehensive-trade-deal.html>

¹⁴⁸⁰ Indonesia and Canada Agreed to Start the Negotiation of Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), Consulate General of the Republic of Indonesia in Toronto, Canada (Toronto) 23 June 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://kemlu.go.id/toronto/en/news/14053/indonesia-and-canada-agreed-to-start-the-negotiation-of-comprehensive-economic-partnership-agreement-cepa>

¹⁴⁸¹ Indonesia, Canada open talks on comprehensive trade deal, The Jakarta Post (Jakarta) 21 June 2021. Access Date: 19 July 2021. <https://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2021/06/21/indonesia-canada-open-talks-on-comprehensive-trade-deal.html>

On 2 September 2021, Indonesia and the United Arab Emirates commenced the first round of negotiations for a new free trade and investment agreement.¹⁴⁸² They discussed biotechnology, the digital economy, energy transition and space development, precious metals, stainless steel, automobiles, halal food and palm oil in negotiating a new comprehensive economic partnership agreement.¹⁴⁸³

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 and Trade Commission meeting.¹⁴⁸⁴ 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.”¹⁴⁸⁵

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.¹⁴⁸⁶ Following the forum, the minister discusses bilateral relations.¹⁴⁸⁷

¹⁴⁸² Indonesia and UAE begin talks on trade and investment pact, Nikkei Asia (Tokyo) 2 September 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://asia.nikkei.com/Economy/Trade/Indonesia-and-UAE-begin-talks-on-trade-and-investment-pact>

¹⁴⁸³ Indonesia and UAE begin talks on trade and investment pact, Nikkei Asia (Tokyo) 2 September 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <https://asia.nikkei.com/Economy/Trade/Indonesia-and-UAE-begin-talks-on-trade-and-investment-pact>

¹⁴⁸⁴ 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

¹⁴⁸⁵ 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

¹⁴⁸⁶ 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

¹⁴⁸⁷ 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

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.¹⁴⁸⁸ 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.¹⁴⁸⁹

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.¹⁴⁹⁰

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.¹⁴⁹¹ The operation aims to improve access to capital markets for all Italian issuers and international investors.¹⁴⁹²

On 19 April 2021, Minister Di Maio and Minister of Economic Development Giancarlo Giorgetti attended the meeting session with the Control Room.¹⁴⁹³ The meeting is dedicated to attracting foreign direct investments to support the economic and employment growth of post COVID-19 Italy.¹⁴⁹⁴

On 25 April 2021, Minister Di Maio visited the Dubai Future Foundation.¹⁴⁹⁵ 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.¹⁴⁹⁶

¹⁴⁸⁸ 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

¹⁴⁸⁹ 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

¹⁴⁹⁰ 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

¹⁴⁹¹ 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/>

¹⁴⁹² 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/>

¹⁴⁹³ 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

¹⁴⁹⁴ 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

¹⁴⁹⁵ 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

¹⁴⁹⁶ 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

On 9 May 2021, Minister Di Maio received the Director General of the World Trade Organization (WTO) Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala for an interview.¹⁴⁹⁷ The interview focused on the importance of the multilateral trade system for the relaunch of the world economy following the pandemic.¹⁴⁹⁸ The head of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs reaffirmed Italy's support for the reform process of the WTO and Minister Di Maio promised Italy would work intensively to accompany this process and to foster a broad international convergence on the relaunch of trade and investments.¹⁴⁹⁹

On 27 May 2021, Undersecretary Manlio Di Stefano participated in the G7 Commerce Ministerial.¹⁵⁰⁰ Undersecretary Di Stefano stated that Italy hoped for the necessary reform of world trade within the framework of the EU.¹⁵⁰¹

On 19 June 2021, Minister Di Maio had a meeting with his Spanish counterpart Arancha González.¹⁵⁰² Minister Di Maio confirmed Italy's willingness to continue strengthening bilateral relations in every respect and to deepen Italian-Spanish coordination on the main issues of the European and international agenda.¹⁵⁰³

On 2 July 2021, Minister Sereni and Administrator of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) Achim Steiner had a meeting.¹⁵⁰⁴ Minister Sereni appreciated UNDP's leadership in implementing the reform of the UN Development System and stated Italy would also support the

¹⁴⁹⁷ Farnesina - press release on Minister Di Maio's meeting with the Director General of the World Trade Organization, Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 9 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2021/05/farnesina-comunicato-stampa-sull-incontro-del-ministro-di-maio-con-la-direttrice-generale-dell-organizzazione-mondiale-del-commercio-ngozi-okonjo-iweala.html

¹⁴⁹⁸ Farnesina - press release on Minister Di Maio's meeting with the Director General of the World Trade Organization, Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 9 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2021/05/farnesina-comunicato-stampa-sull-incontro-del-ministro-di-maio-con-la-direttrice-generale-dell-organizzazione-mondiale-del-commercio-ngozi-okonjo-iweala.html

¹⁴⁹⁹ Farnesina - press release on Minister Di Maio's meeting with the Director General of the World Trade Organization, Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 9 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2021/05/farnesina-comunicato-stampa-sull-incontro-del-ministro-di-maio-con-la-direttrice-generale-dell-organizzazione-mondiale-del-commercio-ngozi-okonjo-iweala.html

¹⁵⁰⁰ Undersecretary Di Stefano at the G7 Commerce Ministerial, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 27 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2021/05/sottosegretario-di-stefano-alla-ministeriale-g7-commercio.html

¹⁵⁰¹ Undersecretary Di Stefano at the G7 Commerce Ministerial, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 27 May 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2021/05/sottosegretario-di-stefano-alla-ministeriale-g7-commercio.html

¹⁵⁰² Meeting of Minister Luigi Di Maio with the Spanish Minister of Foreign Affairs, Arancha González Laya, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 19 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2021/06/incontro-del-ministro-luigi-di-maio-con-la-ministra-degli-affari-esteri-spagnola-arancha-gonzalez-laya.html

¹⁵⁰³ Meeting of Minister Luigi Di Maio with the Spanish Minister of Foreign Affairs, Arancha González Laya, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 19 June 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2021/06/incontro-del-ministro-luigi-di-maio-con-la-ministra-degli-affari-esteri-spagnola-arancha-gonzalez-laya.html

¹⁵⁰⁴ UN; Sereni meets UNDP Administrator Steiner, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 2 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2021/07/onu-sereni-incontra-amministratore-undp-steiner_0.html

modernization of the UNDP and make it a particularly relevant UN partner in the socio-economic response to COVID-19 in developing countries.¹⁵⁰⁵

On 9 July 2021, Minister Di Maio co-chaired the 21st meeting of the Italy-India Mixed Economic Commission together with the Indian Minister of Trade and Industry Piyush Goyal.¹⁵⁰⁶ They agreed to deepen cooperation and explore new opportunities to develop a strong partnership in the field of economic growth.¹⁵⁰⁷

On 14 July 2021, Minister Luigi Di Maio had a meeting with his Estonian counterpart Eva-Maria Limets.¹⁵⁰⁸ In reviewing the excellent state of bilateral relations, they agreed on the opportunity to further intensify economic exchanges.¹⁵⁰⁹

On 24 July 2021, Minister Di Maio launched a series of financial and promotional measures to benefit the companies which participate in international fairs.¹⁵¹⁰ The fund will also aim to support Italian companies through increased focus on digital innovation and sustainability.¹⁵¹¹

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

¹⁵⁰⁵ UN; Sereni meets UNDP Administrator Steiner, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 2 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021.

https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2021/07/onu-sereni-incontra-amministratore-undp-steiner_0.html

¹⁵⁰⁶ Note Farnesina - Italy - India Mixed Commission, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 9 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021.

https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2021/07/nota-farnesina-commissione-mista-italia-india.html

¹⁵⁰⁷ Note Farnesina - Italy - India Mixed Commission, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 9 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021.

https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2021/07/nota-farnesina-commissione-mista-italia-india.html

¹⁵⁰⁸ Minister Luigi Di Maio meets the Foreign Minister of Estonia, Eva-Maria Limets, at the Farnesina, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 14 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021.

https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2021/07/il-ministro-luigi-di-maio-incontra-alla-farnesina-la-ministra-degli-esteri-di-estonia-eva-maria-limets.html

¹⁵⁰⁹ Minister Luigi Di Maio meets the Foreign Minister of Estonia, Eva-Maria Limets, at the Farnesina, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 14 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021.

https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2021/07/il-ministro-luigi-di-maio-incontra-alla-farnesina-la-ministra-degli-esteri-di-estonia-eva-maria-limets.html

¹⁵¹⁰ Made in Italy is synonymous with quality (Milano Finanza), Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 24 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021.

https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala_stampa/interviste/2021/07/il-made-in-italy-e-sinonimo-di-qualita.html

¹⁵¹¹ Made in Italy is synonymous with quality (Milano Finanza), Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 24 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021.

https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala_stampa/interviste/2021/07/il-made-in-italy-e-sinonimo-di-qualita.html

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 2021.¹⁵¹² 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.”¹⁵¹³

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.¹⁵¹⁴ The statement affirms that openness, transparency, and inclusiveness are central to the JSI.¹⁵¹⁵

On 8 January 2021, People’s Bank of China Governor Yi Gang met with the Japanese Ambassador to China Hideo Tarumi.¹⁵¹⁶ They discussed “views on recent developments in the Chinese and Japanese economy and discussed ways to strengthen bilateral financial cooperation.”¹⁵¹⁷

On 29 January 2021, Minister of Economy, Trade, and Industry Hiroshi Kajiyama attended the WTO Informal Ministerial Meeting with over twenty-nine WTO members.¹⁵¹⁸ At the meeting, Japan indicated its intentions to continue discussions on curbing export restrictions on the supply chain of medical supplies.¹⁵¹⁹

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.”¹⁵²⁰

On 21 February 2021, Japan donated CHF160,000 to support the developing countries and least-developed countries (LDCs) trading capabilities.¹⁵²¹ Japan’s WTO Ambassador Kazuyuki Yamazaki

¹⁵¹² 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>

¹⁵¹³ 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>

¹⁵¹⁴ 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

¹⁵¹⁵ 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

¹⁵¹⁶ 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>

¹⁵¹⁷ 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>

¹⁵¹⁸ 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

¹⁵¹⁹ 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

¹⁵²⁰ 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>

¹⁵²¹ 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

said the country is pleased to “further contribute to strengthening the multilateral trading system, which is key to enhancing global prosperity.”¹⁵²²

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.¹⁵²³ It is the only multilateral partnership dedicated exclusively to help LDCs use trade as the mechanism for growth, sustainable development and poverty reduction.¹⁵²⁴

On 24 February 2021, Japan’s cabinet approved the bill to ratify the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership.¹⁵²⁵ The agreement is the world’s largest free trade deal comprising 15 Asia-Pacific countries that will eliminate 91 per cent tariffs on goods and create a rules-based environment for trade and investment.¹⁵²⁶

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.¹⁵²⁷ He spoke about the importance of the WTO helping all countries achieve sustainable growth.¹⁵²⁸

On 7 January 2021, Japan met with Argentina met to “foster mutual trade and investments.”¹⁵²⁹ Both countries noted their shared values of multilateralism, democracy, and the rule of law, and agreed to “intensify trade relations.”¹⁵³⁰

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

¹⁵²² 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

¹⁵²³ 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

¹⁵²⁴ 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

¹⁵²⁵ 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>

¹⁵²⁶ 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>

¹⁵²⁷ 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

¹⁵²⁸ 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

¹⁵²⁹ 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>

¹⁵³⁰ 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>

COVID-19 vaccines.¹⁵³¹ Minister Kajiyama asked Executive Vice President Dombrovskis to ensure smooth delivery of vaccines from Europe to Japan.¹⁵³²

On 1 April 2021, Minister Kajiyama attended the G7 Trade Ministers' Meeting.¹⁵³³ The G7 Trade Ministers reaffirmed the importance of a multilateral trading system and reforming the WTO.¹⁵³⁴

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.¹⁵³⁵ The countries agreed to deepen their economic relationship.¹⁵³⁶

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.¹⁵³⁷ The countries also launched a new Competitive and Resilience Partnership to support the global economic recovery.¹⁵³⁸

On 22 April 2021, Japan attended the WTO general council meeting.¹⁵³⁹ 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.¹⁵⁴⁰ Additionally, members agreed to engage with WTO trade monitoring exercises.¹⁵⁴¹

On 5-6 May 2021, Ambassador Yamazaki attended the WTO General Council meeting in preparation for the Ministerial Council meeting scheduled for December.¹⁵⁴² Several trade-related

¹⁵³¹ 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

¹⁵³² 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

¹⁵³³ 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

¹⁵³⁴ 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

¹⁵³⁵ 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

¹⁵³⁶ 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

¹⁵³⁷ 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/>

¹⁵³⁸ 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/>

¹⁵³⁹ 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>

¹⁵⁴⁰ 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>

¹⁵⁴¹ 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>

¹⁵⁴² Ambassador Yamazaki Attends the WTO General Council (5-6 May 2021), The Permanent Mission of Japan to the International Organizations in Geneva (Geneva) 20 May 2021. Access Date: 22 July 2021. https://www.geneve-mission.emb-japan.go.jp/itprtop_en/event_20210505.html

issues ranging from health to fisheries subsidies, e-commerce, and Joint Statement Initiatives to create new rules on investment facilitations were discussed.¹⁵⁴³

On 25 May 2021, Minister of Economy, Trade, and Industry Ejima Kiyoshi met with the Minister of State for Foreign Trade Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi.¹⁵⁴⁴ Both parties agreed to strive to deepen economic relations by implementing a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership Initiative between the two countries.¹⁵⁴⁵

On 15 June 2021, at a meeting on e-commerce negotiations, co-convenors Japan, Australia, and Singapore, emphasized that the outcomes of the e-commerce negotiations should encompass three objectives: fit within the WTO architecture; allow for a sufficient level of ambition in key topics like data-related disciplines; and be subjected to the WTO dispute settlement system.¹⁵⁴⁶ Ambassador Kazuyuki Yamazaki urged participants to deepen discussion and listen to the concerns of developing and least developing countries.¹⁵⁴⁷

On 25 June 2021, Japan's cabinet ratified the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), making Japan the third member to complete ratification procedures.¹⁵⁴⁸ RCEP comprises fifteen countries including China, Korea and ASEAN members.¹⁵⁴⁹

On 15 July 2021, Japan and Australia agreed to promote the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership and the Regional Comprehensive and Economic Partnership regional trade deals as a post-economic recovery method.¹⁵⁵⁰

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

¹⁵⁴³ Ambassador Yamazaki Attends the WTO General Council (5-6 May 2021), The Permanent Mission of Japan to the International Organizations in Geneva (Geneva) 20 May 2021. Access Date: 22 July 2021. https://www.geneve-mission.emb-japan.go.jp/itprtop_en/event_20210505.html

¹⁵⁴⁴ State Minister Ejima Holds Video Conference with H.E. Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, Minister of State for Foreign Trade, the United Arab Emirates, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 25 May 2021. Access Date: 22 July 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0525_002.html

¹⁵⁴⁵ State Minister Ejima Holds Video Conference with H.E. Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, Minister of State for Foreign Trade, the United Arab Emirates, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 25 May 2021. Access Date: 22 July 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0525_002.html

¹⁵⁴⁶ E-commerce negotiations: Members share updates, discuss legal architecture of future outcome, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 21 June 2021. Access Date: 7 July 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news21_e/ecom_21jun21_e.htm

¹⁵⁴⁷ E-commerce negotiations: Members share updates, discuss legal architecture of future outcome, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 21 June 2021. Access Date: 7 July 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news21_e/ecom_21jun21_e.htm

¹⁵⁴⁸ Japan ratifies massive free trade deal involving China, South Korea and ASEAN, The Japan Times (Tokyo) 25 June 2021. Access Date: 22 July 2021. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2021/06/25/business/japan-rcep-ratified/>

¹⁵⁴⁹ Japan ratifies massive free trade deal involving China, South Korea and ASEAN, The Japan Times (Tokyo) 25 June 2021. Access Date: 22 July 2021. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2021/06/25/business/japan-rcep-ratified/>

¹⁵⁵⁰ Japan and Australia agree to promote regional trade deals, The Japan Times (Tokyo) 15 July 2021. Access Date: 22 July 2021. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2021/07/15/business/japan-australia-trade-tp-p-rcep/>

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.¹⁵⁵¹ Korea and New Zealand made the initial agreement in November 2019.¹⁵⁵²

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.¹⁵⁵³ It will introduce Korea to an extensive Asia-Pacific multilateral free trade network.¹⁵⁵⁴ President Moon described the agreement as a "new window of opportunity, especially for small and medium-sized firms."¹⁵⁵⁵

On 18 December 2020, Minister of Trade, Industry and Energy Sung Yun-Mo signed the comprehensive economic partnership agreement with Indonesia.¹⁵⁵⁶ Korea will lift tariffs on 95.8 per cent of goods traded with Indonesia and allow local exporters access to the Southeast Asian market.¹⁵⁵⁷ The agreement is waiting for approval from the National Assembly.¹⁵⁵⁸

On 1 January 2021, Korea and the UK implemented their bilateral free trade agreement.¹⁵⁵⁹ It accounts for the UK's departure from the European Union.¹⁵⁶⁰

On 28 January 2021, President Moon introduced bilateral free trade negotiations with Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev.¹⁵⁶¹ Korea and Uzbekistan signed a memorandum of understanding on

¹⁵⁵¹ 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=Zm5jdDF8QEB8JTJGYmJzJTJGZW5nbGlzaCUyRjl1JTJGMzI2MDkwlTJGYXJOY2xWaWV3LmRvJTNGYmJzQ2xTZXEIMQIMjZyZ3NFbmkZVN0ciUzRCUyNmJic09wZW5XcmRTZXEIMQIMjZyZ3NCZ25kZVN0ciUzRCUyNnBhc3N3b3JkTNEJTI2c3JjaENvbHVtbiUzRCUyNnJvdjUzRDEwJTI2aXNWaWV3TWluZSUzRGZhbnHlJTI2cGFnZSUzRDEIMjZzcmNoV3JkTNEJTI2>

¹⁵⁵² 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=Zm5jdDF8QEB8JTJGYmJzJTJGZW5nbGlzaCUyRjl1JTJGMzI2MDkwlTJGYXJOY2xWaWV3LmRvJTNGYmJzQ2xTZXEIMQIMjZyZ3NFbmkZVN0ciUzRCUyNmJic09wZW5XcmRTZXEIMQIMjZyZ3NCZ25kZVN0ciUzRCUyNnBhc3N3b3JkTNEJTI2c3JjaENvbHVtbiUzRCUyNnJvdjUzRDEwJTI2aXNWaWV3TWluZSUzRGZhbnHlJTI2cGFnZSUzRDEIMjZzcmNoV3JkTNEJTI2>

¹⁵⁵³ (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>

¹⁵⁵⁴ (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>

¹⁵⁵⁵ (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>

¹⁵⁵⁶ 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>

¹⁵⁵⁷ 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>

¹⁵⁵⁸ 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>

¹⁵⁵⁹ 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>

¹⁵⁶⁰ 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>

¹⁵⁶¹ 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>

digital industrial cooperation.¹⁵⁶² Both will serve as a part of Korea's policy to promote bilateral free trade and cooperation.¹⁵⁶³

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.¹⁵⁶⁴ It will lift tariffs on more than 95 per cent of goods traded between the countries.¹⁵⁶⁵

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.¹⁵⁶⁶ Ministers Sung and Al Jaber signed a memorandum of understanding to promote trade and technological exchanges related to hydrogen energy.¹⁵⁶⁷

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.¹⁵⁶⁸ Korea expects it to help exporters to benefit further from the free trade agreement during the pandemic.¹⁵⁶⁹

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.¹⁵⁷⁰ Korea seeks to sign an independent bilateral free trade agreement with Malaysia, separate from one with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.¹⁵⁷¹

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.¹⁵⁷² 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.¹⁵⁷³

¹⁵⁶² 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>

¹⁵⁶³ 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>

¹⁵⁶⁴ 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>

¹⁵⁶⁵ 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>

¹⁵⁶⁶ (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>

¹⁵⁶⁷ (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>

¹⁵⁶⁸ 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>

¹⁵⁶⁹ 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>

¹⁵⁷⁰ 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>

¹⁵⁷¹ 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>

¹⁵⁷² 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>

¹⁵⁷³ 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>

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 2021.¹⁵⁷⁴ Korea has invested USD630 million in CABEI to achieve an eight per cent threshold for permanent board membership.¹⁵⁷⁵

On 12 May 2021, Minister Yoo and Israeli Minister of Economy Amir Peretz signed a free trade agreement.¹⁵⁷⁶ The free trade agreement will broaden economic ties between Korea and Israel, especially in the automotive industry.¹⁵⁷⁷ Korea will lift tariffs from 95.2 per cent of goods under the agreement, giving Israel most favoured nation status.¹⁵⁷⁸

On 26 May 2021, Minister of Trade, Industry and Energy Moon Sung-wook and Indonesian Coordinating Minister for Maritime and Investment Affairs Luhut Binsar Pandjaitan agreed to expand economic ties between Korea and Indonesia.¹⁵⁷⁹ They agreed to reinforce the implementation of the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) they signed in December 2020.¹⁵⁸⁰

On 13 June 2021, President Moon held bilateral talks with Australia and Germany before the G7 summit in the UK.¹⁵⁸¹ President Moon and Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison agreed to boost economic cooperation through the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership signed in November 2020.¹⁵⁸² In his talk with German Chancellor Angela Merkel, President Moon addressed the necessity of cooperation in vaccine development and production.¹⁵⁸³

On 17 June 2021, President Moon and Spanish Prime Minister Sanchez adopted joint statements during a Korean state visit to Spain.¹⁵⁸⁴ They agreed to enhance economic cooperation and to elevate the level of bilateral relations to a “strategic partnership.”¹⁵⁸⁵ Korea and Spain agreed to restore investment and bilateral tourism exchanges, which faced a temporary drop due to the pandemic.¹⁵⁸⁶

On 25 June 2021, President Moon held an online summit with the Central American Integration System (SICA)’s member states, Costa Rica, Belize, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala,

¹⁵⁷⁴ 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>

¹⁵⁷⁵ 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>

¹⁵⁷⁶ S. Korea, Israel ink FTA; cars, auto parts among major beneficiaries, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 12 May 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210512003400320>

¹⁵⁷⁷ S. Korea, Israel ink FTA; cars, auto parts among major beneficiaries, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 12 May 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210512003400320>

¹⁵⁷⁸ S. Korea, Israel ink FTA; cars, auto parts among major beneficiaries, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 12 May 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210512003400320>

¹⁵⁷⁹ S. Korea, Indonesia to expand economic ties, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 26 May 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210526001100320>

¹⁵⁸⁰ S. Korea, Indonesia to expand economic ties, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 26 May 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210526001100320>

¹⁵⁸¹ President Moon holds talks with Australia, Germany at G7 summit, Korea.net (Sejong) 13 June 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021. <https://www.korea.net/NewsFocus/policies/view?articleId=199452&pageIndex=4>

¹⁵⁸² President Moon holds talks with Australia, Germany at G7 summit, Korea.net (Sejong) 13 June 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021. <https://www.korea.net/NewsFocus/policies/view?articleId=199452&pageIndex=4>

¹⁵⁸³ President Moon holds talks with Australia, Germany at G7 summit, Korea.net (Sejong) 13 June 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021. <https://www.korea.net/NewsFocus/policies/view?articleId=199452&pageIndex=4>

¹⁵⁸⁴ President Moon, Spain agree to upgrade ties to 'strategic partnership', Korea.net (Sejong) 17 June 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021. <https://www.korea.net/NewsFocus/policies/view?articleId=199681&pageIndex=3>

¹⁵⁸⁵ President Moon, Spain agree to upgrade ties to 'strategic partnership', Korea.net (Sejong) 17 June 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021. <https://www.korea.net/NewsFocus/policies/view?articleId=199681&pageIndex=3>

¹⁵⁸⁶ President Moon, Spain agree to upgrade ties to 'strategic partnership', Korea.net (Sejong) 17 June 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021. <https://www.korea.net/NewsFocus/policies/view?articleId=199681&pageIndex=3>

Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama.¹⁵⁸⁷ Korea and SICA's member countries adopted a joint statement emphasizing the importance of the Korea-Central America free trade agreement that took effect in March 2021.¹⁵⁸⁸

On 9 July 2021, Minister of Economy and Finance Hong Nam-ki and Argentine Minister of Economy Martín Maximiliano Guzmán discussed the recently resumed free trade talks between Korea and Argentina.¹⁵⁸⁹ They agreed that lowering trade barrier through the normalization of accommodating monetary policies will amplify cross-national flow of capitals.¹⁵⁹⁰

On 16 July 2021, Vice Minister of Trade, Industry and Energy Park Jin-kyu and Kenyan Cabinet Secretary for Industrialization, Trade and Enterprise Development Betty Maina discussed several economic issues.¹⁵⁹¹ Vice Minister Park said Korea seeks to enhance its economic presence in Kenya, as it sees the economic growth and integration of the region through the African Continental Free Trade Area.¹⁵⁹²

On 20 July 2021, the cabinet approved a revised enforcement ordinance that will prepare for the implementation of trade deals with Indonesia and Israel.¹⁵⁹³ It will gradually lift or lower tariffs from the two countries on more than 95 per cent of imported goods.¹⁵⁹⁴ Korea signed CEPA with Indonesia in December 2020 and signed a free trade agreement with Israel in May 2021.¹⁵⁹⁵

On 21 July 2021, Minister of Foreign Affairs Chung Eui-yong asked Chilean Minister of Foreign Affairs Andrés Allamand Zavala during in-person bilateral talks for Chile's cooperation in Korea's bid to join the Pacific Alliance as an associate member for further economic relations in Latin America.¹⁵⁹⁶ The Pacific Alliance is a regional trade bloc in Latin America, consisting of Chile, Colombia, Mexico and Peru, accounting for 58 per cent of trade volumes in the region.¹⁵⁹⁷

On 27 July 2021, the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy initiated discussions with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) over revising the free trade agreement between

¹⁵⁸⁷ President Moon attends his 1st summit with Central America, Korea.net (Sejong) 28 June 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021. <https://www.korea.net/NewsFocus/policies/view?articleId=200155&pageIndex=2>

¹⁵⁸⁸ President Moon attends his 1st summit with Central America, Korea.net (Sejong) 28 June 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021. <https://www.korea.net/NewsFocus/policies/view?articleId=200155&pageIndex=2>

¹⁵⁸⁹ S. Korea, Argentina hold talks on capital flows, economic cooperation, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 9 July 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210709001600320>

¹⁵⁹⁰ S. Korea, Argentina hold talks on capital flows, economic cooperation, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 9 July 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210709001600320>

¹⁵⁹¹ S. Korea eyes deeper economic ties with Kenya, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 16 July 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210716002800320>

¹⁵⁹² S. Korea eyes deeper economic ties with Kenya, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 16 July 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210716002800320>

¹⁵⁹³ S. Korea to lift tariffs on imports from Indonesia, Israel under trade deals, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 20 July 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210720002900320>

¹⁵⁹⁴ S. Korea to lift tariffs on imports from Indonesia, Israel under trade deals, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 20 July 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210720002900320>

¹⁵⁹⁵ S. Korea to lift tariffs on imports from Indonesia, Israel under trade deals, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 20 July 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210720002900320>

¹⁵⁹⁶ FM Chung asks for Chile's cooperation in joining Latin America trade bloc, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 21 July 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210721008400325>

¹⁵⁹⁷ FM Chung asks for Chile's cooperation in joining Latin America trade bloc, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 21 July 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210721008400325>

Korea and ASEAN.¹⁵⁹⁸ Korea's negotiations reflect efforts to address growing protectionism and diversify its trade portfolio.¹⁵⁹⁹

On 12 August 2021, the Bank of Korea (BOK) and the Central Bank of the Republic of Turkey signed their first currency swap agreement.¹⁶⁰⁰ The three-year agreement allows the exchange of Korean and Turkish currencies of USD2 million.¹⁶⁰¹ The swap will grant Korea and Turkey liquidity to stabilize sudden rises in currency demands, stabilizing bilateral trade.¹⁶⁰²

On 17 August 2021, President Moon and Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev agreed to broaden bilateral industrial partnerships.¹⁶⁰³ Kazakhstan is Korea's largest trade partner in Central Asia, with a trading volume of USD4.2 billion.¹⁶⁰⁴

On 26 August 2021, Minister of Trade Yeo Han-koo told Mexican Secretary of Economy Tatiana Clouthier that Korea seeks to resume negotiations with Mexico for a free trade agreement.¹⁶⁰⁵ Talks have been delayed since 2008.¹⁶⁰⁶ Minister Yeo also asked Secretary Clouthier to support Korea's associate membership of the Pacific Alliance.¹⁶⁰⁷ It is a trade bloc that consists of Chile, Colombia, Peru and Mexico, in which Korea holds an observer position.¹⁶⁰⁸ A successful entry of Korea to the Pacific Alliance as an associate member will functionally serve as a free trade agreement with Mexico.¹⁶⁰⁹

On 29 August 2021, Foreign Minister Chung Eui-yong and Laotian Minister of Foreign Affairs Saleumxay Kommasith discussed economic cooperation between Korea and Laos.¹⁶¹⁰ The two countries talked over Korea's participation in Laotian infrastructure projects and expansion of

¹⁵⁹⁸ S. Korea, ASEAN to upgrade their FTA, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 27 July 2021. Access Date: 16 September 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210727001500320>

¹⁵⁹⁹ S. Korea, ASEAN to upgrade their FTA, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 27 July 2021. Access Date: 16 September 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210727001500320>

¹⁶⁰⁰ (LEAD) S. Korea, Turkey sign first currency swap, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 12 August 2021. Access Date: 16 September 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210812004751320>

¹⁶⁰¹ (LEAD) S. Korea, Turkey sign first currency swap, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 12 August 2021. Access Date: 16 September 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210812004751320>

¹⁶⁰² (LEAD) S. Korea, Turkey sign first currency swap, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 12 August 2021. Access Date: 16 September 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210812004751320>

¹⁶⁰³ S. Korean, Kazakh leaders agree in Seoul summit to expand ties on new industries, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 17 August 2021. Access Date: 16 September 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210817003200315>

¹⁶⁰⁴ S. Korean, Kazakh leaders agree in Seoul summit to expand ties on new industries, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 17 August 2021. Access Date: 16 September 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210817003200315>

¹⁶⁰⁵ S. Korea seeks to resume FTA negotiations with Mexico, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 26 August 2021. Access Date: 16 September 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210825006300320>

¹⁶⁰⁶ S. Korea seeks to resume FTA negotiations with Mexico, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 26 August 2021. Access Date: 16 September 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210825006300320>

¹⁶⁰⁷ S. Korea seeks to resume FTA negotiations with Mexico, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 26 August 2021. Access Date: 16 September 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210825006300320>

¹⁶⁰⁸ S. Korea seeks to resume FTA negotiations with Mexico, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 26 August 2021. Access Date: 16 September 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210825006300320>

¹⁶⁰⁹ S. Korea seeks to resume FTA negotiations with Mexico, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 26 August 2021. Access Date: 16 September 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210825006300320>

¹⁶¹⁰ S. Korean, Laotian FMs discuss ways to expand bilateral trade, investment, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 29 August 2021. Access Date: 16 September 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210829002800325>

investments.¹⁶¹¹ The talk took place as a part of Korea's effort to extend cooperation with ASEAN.¹⁶¹²

On 30 August 2021, Korea began a new round of negotiations with Mercosur for a free trade agreement.¹⁶¹³ Through these negotiations Korea plans to expand its FTA portfolio in South America.¹⁶¹⁴ Korea currently holds FTAs with Chile and Peru and is negotiating with Ecuador.¹⁶¹⁵

On 1 September 2021, Minister Yeo and ASEAN Secretary-General Lim Jock Hoi agreed to deepen trade ties between Korea and ASEAN, addressing damage from the COVID-19 pandemic.¹⁶¹⁶ Korea has been promoting its New Southern Policy, which seeks to diversify its trade portfolio away from China and the United States.¹⁶¹⁷

On 6 September 2021, Minister Yeo told the Egyptian Minister of Industry and Trade Nevine Gamea that Korea is seeking to initiate negotiations with Egypt on a free trade agreement.¹⁶¹⁸ Egypt is Korea's third-largest trade partner in Africa, with estimated exports of USD1.21 billion in 2020.¹⁶¹⁹ A FTA with Egypt would be Korea's first in Africa.¹⁶²⁰

On 6 September 2021, Minister Yeo announced that he intends to meet the United Arab Emirate's Minister of State for Foreign Trade Thani Al Zeyoudi and to propose the resumption of talks on a free trade agreement between Korea and the Gulf Cooperation Council.¹⁶²¹ The council consists of the UAE, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar and Kuwait.¹⁶²² Negotiations began in 2007, but it saw no progress since 2009.¹⁶²³

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.

¹⁶¹¹ S. Korean, Laotian FMs discuss ways to expand bilateral trade, investment, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 29 August 2021. Access Date: 16 September 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210829002800325>

¹⁶¹² S. Korean, Laotian FMs discuss ways to expand bilateral trade, investment, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 29 August 2021. Access Date: 16 September 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210829002800325>

¹⁶¹³ (LEAD) S. Korea kicks off 7th round of free trade talks with Mercosur, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 30 August 2021. Access Date: 16 September 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210830001751320>

¹⁶¹⁴ S. Korea to speed up FTA talks with Mercosur, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 12 August 2021. Access Date: 16 September 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210812000700320>

¹⁶¹⁵ S. Korea to speed up FTA talks with Mercosur, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 12 August 2021. Access Date: 16 September 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210812000700320>

¹⁶¹⁶ S. Korea, ASEAN aim to forge deeper economic ties amid pandemic fallout, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 1 September 2021. Access Date: 16 September 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210901001900320>

¹⁶¹⁷ S. Korea, ASEAN aim to forge deeper economic ties amid pandemic fallout, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 1 September 2021. Access Date: 16 September 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210901001900320>

¹⁶¹⁸ S. Korea seeks to launch FTA talks with Egypt, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 6 September 2021. Access Date: 16 September 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210906002300320?section=news>

¹⁶¹⁹ S. Korea seeks to launch FTA talks with Egypt, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 6 September 2021. Access Date: 16 September 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210906002300320?section=news>

¹⁶²⁰ S. Korea seeks to launch FTA talks with Egypt, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 6 September 2021. Access Date: 16 September 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210906002300320?section=news>

¹⁶²¹ S. Korea eyes resumption of new FTA with group of Arab nations, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 6 September 2021. Access Date: 16 September 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210906001300320>

¹⁶²² S. Korea eyes resumption of new FTA with group of Arab nations, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 6 September 2021. Access Date: 16 September 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210906001300320>

¹⁶²³ S. Korea eyes resumption of new FTA with group of Arab nations, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 6 September 2021. Access Date: 16 September 2021. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20210906001300320>

Thus, Korea receives a score of 0.

Analyst: June Young Lee

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.¹⁶²⁴

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.¹⁶²⁵ Both countries agreed to advance the opening of the Mexican market to Argentine beef products.¹⁶²⁶

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.¹⁶²⁷ 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.¹⁶²⁸

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.¹⁶²⁹ The committee represents a substantive advance in the fulfillment of Mexico's international commitments in promoting fair trade.¹⁶³⁰

On 22 April 2021, Mexico attended the World Trade Organization (WTO) general council meeting.¹⁶³¹ Attendees agreed to eliminate unnecessary restrictions on exports of medical goods

¹⁶²⁴Mexico 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>

¹⁶²⁵Mexico 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>

¹⁶²⁶Mexico 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>

¹⁶²⁷ 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>

¹⁶²⁸ 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>

¹⁶²⁹ 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>

¹⁶³⁰ 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>

¹⁶³¹ 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>

essential to combatting COVID-19, remain transparent about export restrictions deemed “necessary to relieve critical shortages,” and give particular considerations to least developed countries.¹⁶³² Additionally, members agreed to engage with WTO trade monitoring exercises.¹⁶³³

On 9 June 2021, Undersecretary for Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights Martha Delgado and Director General for Multilateral and Global Affairs of Peru Ambassador Luis Enrique Chavez Basagoitia chaired a meeting between Mexico and Peru.¹⁶³⁴ Both parties shared views on promoting trade and investment based on a platform of international economic diplomacy.¹⁶³⁵

On 5 August 2021, Undersecretary Delgado and resident representative of the United Nations Development Program in Mexico Lorenzo Jimenez de Luis launched the Global Economic Boost Project with the goal of promoting investment activities in the country.¹⁶³⁶

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 2020.¹⁶³⁷ This allows Russian exporters access to online services from companies entering the foreign market, and helps Russian exporters engage in foreign trade.¹⁶³⁸

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

¹⁶³² 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>

¹⁶³³ 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>

¹⁶³⁴ Mexico and Peru strengthen their dialogue on multilateral issues, Ministry of Foreign Relations (Mexico City) 9 June 2021. Access Date: 28 July 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/mexico-and-peru-strengthen-their-dialogue-on-multilateral-issues?idiom=en>

¹⁶³⁵ Mexico and Peru strengthen their dialogue on multilateral issues, Ministry of Foreign Relations (Mexico City) 9 June 2021. Access Date: 28 July 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/mexico-and-peru-strengthen-their-dialogue-on-multilateral-issues?idiom=en>

¹⁶³⁶ Ministry of Foreign Relations and the United Nations Development Program launch the "Global Economic Boost Project", Secretary of Foreign Relations (Mexico City), 5 August 2021. Access Date: 16 September 2021. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/secretaria-de-relaciones-exteriores-y-el-programa-de-las-naciones-unidas-para-el-desarrollo-lanzan-el-proyecto-de-impulso-economico-global?idiom=es>

¹⁶³⁷ 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/>

¹⁶³⁸ 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/>

Program of Multilateral Trade and Economic Cooperation for the next 15 years until 2035.¹⁶³⁹ Prime Minister Mishustin emphasized the importance of following WTO regulations for ensuring a predictable trade environment.¹⁶⁴⁰

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 2025.¹⁶⁴¹ 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.¹⁶⁴²

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, transparency, and predictability.¹⁶⁴³ The goal is to seek stability, and fair opportunities for all countries.¹⁶⁴⁴

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.¹⁶⁴⁵ The RDIF has 12 active projects in different areas.¹⁶⁴⁶

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.¹⁶⁴⁷ This is expected to increase the industry's transparency through digitalization and introducing industry-specific information systems, and to attract investments.¹⁶⁴⁸

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

¹⁶³⁹ 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/>

¹⁶⁴⁰ 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/>

¹⁶⁴¹ Eurasian Intergovernmental Council meeting, the Russian Government (Moscow) 4 December 2020. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/41030/>

¹⁶⁴² Eurasian Intergovernmental Council meeting, the Russian Government (Moscow) 4 December 2020. Access Date: 17 March 2021. <http://governments.ru/en/news/41030/>

¹⁶⁴³ ADDRESS by the Ambassador of the Russian Federation to Ireland Yuriy Filatov to the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2021. https://www.mid.ru/en/web/guest/maps/ie/-/asset_publisher/osOx7Ma1e0ne/content/id/4501698

¹⁶⁴⁴ ADDRESS by the Ambassador of the Russian Federation to Ireland Yuriy Filatov to the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 17 December 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2021. https://www.mid.ru/en/web/guest/maps/ie/-/asset_publisher/osOx7Ma1e0ne/content/id/4501698

¹⁶⁴⁵ 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

¹⁶⁴⁶ 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

¹⁶⁴⁷ 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/>

¹⁶⁴⁸ 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/>

Region.¹⁶⁴⁹ 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.¹⁶⁵⁰

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.¹⁶⁵¹ The spokeswoman announced efforts to enhance cooperation between the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation and other regional institutions to create a Greater Eurasian Partnership.¹⁶⁵²

On 25 February 2021, Prime Minister Mishustin discussed the economic and cultural relationship between Russia and Kyrgyzstan.¹⁶⁵³ 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.¹⁶⁵⁴

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.¹⁶⁵⁵ This will promote a closer bilateral coordination in the global hydrocarbon market.¹⁶⁵⁶

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

¹⁶⁴⁹ 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

¹⁶⁵⁰ 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

¹⁶⁵¹ 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

¹⁶⁵² 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

¹⁶⁵³ 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/>

¹⁶⁵⁴ 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/>

¹⁶⁵⁵ 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

¹⁶⁵⁶ 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

Umurakov.¹⁶⁵⁷ The ministers arrived at a goal to enhance the bilateral and multilateral economic dialogue between Russia and Uzbekistan.¹⁶⁵⁸

On 15 April 2021, Prime Minister Mishustin met with Prime Minister of Lebanon Saad al-Hariri to discuss creating a favourable investment environment.¹⁶⁵⁹ The ministers reached a consensus in restoring and expanding mutual trade between the two countries.¹⁶⁶⁰

On 15 April 2021, Prime Minister Mishustin discussed current investment issues with Prime Minister of Libya Abdul Hamid Dbeibeh.¹⁶⁶¹ Prime Minister Mishustin noted the importance of fostering a rules-based investment environment in Libya.¹⁶⁶²

On 21 April 2021, Deputy Prime Minister Overchuk met with First Deputy Prime Minister of Kyrgyzstan Artyom Novikov.¹⁶⁶³ The ministers agreed to draft proposals and projects to increase investment cooperation and economic integration between the two countries.¹⁶⁶⁴

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 2021.¹⁶⁶⁵ The tariff privilege aims to promote sustainable development of the Union's sugar market.¹⁶⁶⁶

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.¹⁶⁶⁷ The ministers reaffirmed promising aspects of expanding economic cooperation and continued investments between Germany and Russia.¹⁶⁶⁸

¹⁶⁵⁷ 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/>

¹⁶⁵⁸ 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/>

¹⁶⁵⁹ 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/>

¹⁶⁶⁰ 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/>

¹⁶⁶¹ 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/>

¹⁶⁶² 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/>

¹⁶⁶³ 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/>

¹⁶⁶⁴ 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/>

¹⁶⁶⁵ 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/>

¹⁶⁶⁶ 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/>

¹⁶⁶⁷ 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/>

¹⁶⁶⁸ 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/>

On 28 April 2021, Prime Minister Mishustin signed a comprehensive program of economic cooperation for 2021-2025 with Prime Minister of Kazakhstan Askar Mamin.¹⁶⁶⁹ The program seeks to encourage their cooperation within the Eurasian Economic Union.¹⁶⁷⁰

On 29 April 2021, Prime Minister Mishustin declared that Russia is preparing new initiatives to increase trade and mutual investment with Armenia.¹⁶⁷¹ 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.¹⁶⁷²

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.¹⁶⁷³ The ministers agreed on improving economic relations between Russia and Tajikistan and imbuing them with new promising joint projects.¹⁶⁷⁴

On 20 May 2021, Prime Minister Mishustin met with the Prime Minister of Azerbaijan Ali Asadov and exchanged opinions on trade.¹⁶⁷⁵ They agreed to further economic cooperation and bilateral trade.¹⁶⁷⁶

On 27 May 2021, Prime Minister Mishustin noted during a government meeting that the government is continuing to improve the investment climate by drafting amendments which will adjust the mechanism of investment protection and promotion agreements.¹⁶⁷⁷ Doing so is expected to expand the range of potential investors by including medium-sized businesses in Russia.¹⁶⁷⁸

On 18 June 2021, Deputy Prime Minister Overchuk met with Minister of the Economy and Finance of Kyrgyzstan Akyzbek Zhaparov.¹⁶⁷⁹ They discussed a broad range of issues on bilateral trade and economic cooperation, and they reached a consensus on developing concrete investment projects in energy, industry, and agriculture sectors between the two countries.¹⁶⁸⁰

¹⁶⁶⁹ 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/>

¹⁶⁷⁰ 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/>

¹⁶⁷¹ 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/>

¹⁶⁷² 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/>

¹⁶⁷³ 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/>

¹⁶⁷⁴ 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/>

¹⁶⁷⁵ Russian-Azerbaijani talks, The Russian Government (Moscow) 20 May 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/42267/>

¹⁶⁷⁶ Russian-Azerbaijani talks, The Russian Government (Moscow) 20 May 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/42267/>

¹⁶⁷⁷ Government meeting, The Russian Government (Moscow) 27 May 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/42326/>

¹⁶⁷⁸ Government meeting, The Russian Government (Moscow) 27 May 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/42326/>

¹⁶⁷⁹ Alexei Overchuk's meeting with Kyrgyz Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Economy and Finance Akyzbek Zhaparov, the Russian Government (Moscow) 18 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/42541/>

¹⁶⁸⁰ Alexei Overchuk's meeting with Kyrgyz Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Economy and Finance Akyzbek Zhaparov, the Russian Government (Moscow) 18 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/42541/>

On 5 July 2021, Prime Minister Mishustin attended the Innoprom 2021 International Industrial Trade Fair in Yekaterinburg.¹⁶⁸¹ He noted that Russia has launched SPIC 2.0 which makes investment strictly dependent on introducing state-of-the-art technologies and creating competitive products.¹⁶⁸² This initiative aims to develop mutually beneficial cooperation arrangements on digital technologies for the future.¹⁶⁸³

On 8 July 2021, Deputy Prime Minister Yury Borisov met with Indian Foreign Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar.¹⁶⁸⁴ They exchanged opinions on preparations for the upcoming Russian-Indian Intergovernmental Commission meeting, the recovery of the upward trend in bilateral trade, as well as projects in energy, industry, and transport.¹⁶⁸⁵

On 21 August 2021, Deputy Prime Minister Overchuk met with Uzbekistan's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Investment and Foreign Trade Sardor Umurzakov.¹⁶⁸⁶ The ministers discussed bilateral trade as well as economic cooperation and investment between the two countries, agreeing to implement the Economic Cooperation Programme.¹⁶⁸⁷

On 23 August 2021, Russia approved a comprehensive program for the expedited socioeconomic development of the Trans-Baikal Territory.¹⁶⁸⁸ The 15-year program is designed to lift infrastructure-related restrictions and create comfortable conditions for businesses to attract investment.¹⁶⁸⁹

On 10 September 2021, Prime Minister Mishustin spoke at the Meeting of the Council of Ministers of the Union State on the decision to deepen economic integration within the Union State.¹⁶⁹⁰ He noted that the Russian government will implement macroeconomic policies that bring Russian investments and subsidies to large, medium and small businesses.¹⁶⁹¹

On 11 September 2021, Minister Lavrov spoke at a joint press conference with the Foreign Minister of the State of Qatar Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani calling for effective cooperation between the Qatar Investment Authority and the Russian Direct Investment Fund.¹⁶⁹² Minister vi

¹⁶⁸¹ Mikhail Mishustin attends Innoprom 2021 International Industrial Trade Fair, the Russian Government (Moscow) 5 July 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/42682/>

¹⁶⁸² Mikhail Mishustin attends Innoprom 2021 International Industrial Trade Fair, the Russian Government (Moscow) 5 July 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/42682/>

¹⁶⁸³ Mikhail Mishustin attends Innoprom 2021 International Industrial Trade Fair, the Russian Government (Moscow) 5 July 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/42682/>

¹⁶⁸⁴ Yury Borisov met with Indian Foreign Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, the Russian Government (Moscow) 8 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/42721/>

¹⁶⁸⁵ Yury Borisov met with Indian Foreign Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, the Russian Government (Moscow) 8 July 2021. Access Date: 25 July 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/42721/>

¹⁶⁸⁶ Alexei Overchuk's working visit to the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Russian Government (Moscow) 23 August 2021. Access Date: 12 September 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/43064/>

¹⁶⁸⁷ Alexei Overchuk's working visit to the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Russian Government (Moscow) 23 August 2021. Access Date: 12 September 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/43064/>

¹⁶⁸⁸ Meeting with deputy prime ministers, the Russian Government (Moscow) 23 August 2021. Access Date: 12 September 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/43057/>

¹⁶⁸⁹ Meeting with deputy prime ministers, the Russian Government (Moscow) 23 August 2021. Access Date: 12 September 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/43057/>

¹⁶⁹⁰ Meeting of the Council of Ministers of the Union State, the Russian Government (Moscow) 10 September 2021. Access Date: 12 September 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/43232/>

¹⁶⁹¹ Meeting of the Council of Ministers of the Union State, the Russian Government (Moscow) 10 September 2021. Access Date: 12 September 2021. <http://government.ru/en/news/43232/>

¹⁶⁹² Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov's remarks at a joint press conference with Foreign Minister of the State of Qatar Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani, Moscow, September 11, 2021, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 11 September 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021.

https://www.mid.ru/en/web/guest/maps/qa/-/asset_publisher/629HlrvPTwo/content/id/4856809

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.¹⁶⁹³ 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 2030.¹⁶⁹⁴

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.¹⁶⁹⁵ The goal is to clarify and discuss some policies, information and data related to the country’s policies which are subject under review.¹⁶⁹⁶

On 31 December 2020, the Ministry of Commerce issued the Commercial Registrations for practicing the activity of collecting debts without requiring a license.¹⁶⁹⁷ 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 2030.¹⁶⁹⁸

On 25 February 2020, Saudi Arabia transformed the Saudi Arabian General Investment Authority into the Ministry of Investment of Saudi Arabia. This is part of Saudi Arabia’s ongoing transformation under its Vision 2030 plan to accelerate new opportunities and put Saudi Arabia among the top performing markets for investments. “Through a network of dynamic business centers across the Kingdom, MISA partners with local and international businesses of all scales and sizes—from startups to blue chip multinationals—to help make investing in the Kingdom as streamlined and simple as possible. MISA takes a lead role in improving Saudi Arabia’s overall

¹⁶⁹³ 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>

¹⁶⁹⁴ 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>

¹⁶⁹⁵ 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>

¹⁶⁹⁶ 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>

¹⁶⁹⁷ 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>

¹⁶⁹⁸ 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>

business environment, commissioning multiple market intelligence studies every year and developing local opportunities for joint ventures.”¹⁶⁹⁹

On 5 March 2021, the WTO conducted the 3rd Trade Policy Review of Saudi Arabia.¹⁷⁰⁰ The review recognized the country’s opening of economic sectors, wide-ranging institutional changes, and facilitation of an open trade and investment environment.¹⁷⁰¹ The review called upon Saudi Arabia to 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.¹⁷⁰²

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.¹⁷⁰³ 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 2030.¹⁷⁰⁴

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.¹⁷⁰⁵ The themes discussed included digital solutions for financial inclusion, economic diversification, and responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.¹⁷⁰⁶

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 SAR5 trillion of private sector investment by 2030.¹⁷⁰⁷ The “Shareek” Program is an essential part of the national investment strategy.¹⁷⁰⁸

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

¹⁶⁹⁹ MISA at a Glance, Ministry of Investmetn (Riyadh) n.d. Access Date: 25 October 2021.

<https://misa.gov.sa/en/about/>

¹⁷⁰⁰ Concluding remarks by the Chairperson, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/tp507_crc_e.htm

¹⁷⁰¹ Concluding remarks by the Chairperson, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/tp507_crc_e.htm

¹⁷⁰² Concluding remarks by the Chairperson, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 5 March 2021. Access Date: 28 March 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/tp507_crc_e.htm

¹⁷⁰³ NIDL, 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>

¹⁷⁰⁴ NIDL, 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>

¹⁷⁰⁵ 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

¹⁷⁰⁶ 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

¹⁷⁰⁷ “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>

¹⁷⁰⁸ “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>

investment opportunities between Saudi Arabia and Vietnam.¹⁷⁰⁹ The two sides agreed to enhance bilateral cooperation in investment and trade.¹⁷¹⁰

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.¹⁷¹¹ The ministers agreed to enhance economic relations between the two countries.¹⁷¹²

On 21 June 2021, Minister of Communications and Information Technology Eng. Abudullah bin Amer Al-Swaha exchanged opinions with delegates from major Estonian companies on ways to enhance the digital cooperation and to support the digital economy between Saudi Arabia and Estonia.¹⁷¹³ Both countries aimed to benefit from investment opportunities in the communications and information technology sector and emerging technologies, to consolidate frameworks of cooperation, to exchange expertise and experiences, and to motivate entrepreneurship between the two countries.¹⁷¹⁴

On 21 July 2021, the Minister of Commerce Dr. Majid bin Abdullah Al-Qasabi met with the Prime Minister of Iraq Mustafa Al-Kazemi in Baghdad.¹⁷¹⁵ The two sides reached a consensus to further develop bilateral relations, enhance cooperation in the fields of economy and investment, and develop intra-trade movement between the two countries.¹⁷¹⁶

On 1 September 2021, Minister of Investment Khalid bin Abdulaziz Al-Falih met with the Omani Minister of Heritage and Tourism Salim bin Mohammad Al-Mahrouqi during his visit to Muscat.¹⁷¹⁷ They discussed available investment opportunities in the fields of tourism and reached a consensus in strengthening cooperation between the two countries.¹⁷¹⁸

On 2 September 2021, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Tourism for Investment Attraction Mahmoud Abdulhadi participated in the 2021 International Hospitality Investment Forum which was

¹⁷⁰⁹ 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>

¹⁷¹⁰ 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>

¹⁷¹¹ 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>

¹⁷¹² 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>

¹⁷¹³ Saudi Arabia and Estonia Strengthen their Partnership in Digital Government and Economy Field, Government of Saudi Arabia (Riyadh) 21 June 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021.

<https://www.my.gov.sa/wps/portal/snp/content/news/newsDetails/CONT-news-210620211>

¹⁷¹⁴ Saudi Arabia and Estonia Strengthen their Partnership in Digital Government and Economy Field, Government of Saudi Arabia (Riyadh) 21 June 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021.

<https://www.my.gov.sa/wps/portal/snp/content/news/newsDetails/CONT-news-210620211>

¹⁷¹⁵ The Iraqi Prime Minister receives the Minister of Trade, Ministry of Commerce (Riyadh) 21 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://mci.gov.sa/ar/mediacenter/News/Pages/20-07-21-02.aspx>

¹⁷¹⁶ The Iraqi Prime Minister receives the Minister of Trade, Ministry of Commerce (Riyadh) 21 July 2021. Access Date: 23 July 2021. <https://mci.gov.sa/ar/mediacenter/News/Pages/20-07-21-02.aspx>

¹⁷¹⁷ Saudi Minister of Investment Meets Omani Minister of Heritage and Tourism, Government of Saudi Arabia (Riyadh) 1 September 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021.

<https://www.my.gov.sa/wps/portal/snp/content/news/newsDetails/CONT-news-010920213>

¹⁷¹⁸ Saudi Minister of Investment Meets Omani Minister of Heritage and Tourism, Government of Saudi Arabia (Riyadh) 1 September 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021.

<https://www.my.gov.sa/wps/portal/snp/content/news/newsDetails/CONT-news-010920213>

held in the InterContinental Berlin, Germany.¹⁷¹⁹ Undersecretary Abdulhadi noted that the “Invest Saudi” pavilion will provide a firsthand look of the most prominent investment opportunities for representatives of the participating institutions in the forum.¹⁷²⁰

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 2021.¹⁷²¹ 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.¹⁷²² 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 2035.¹⁷²³

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.¹⁷²⁴ The program is expected to improve the environmental, economic, and social performance and competitive advantage of industrial parks.¹⁷²⁵

¹⁷¹⁹ Saudi Tourism Ministry Reviews Investment Opportunities in 2021 International Hospitality Investment Forum. Government of Saudi Arabia (Riyadh) 2 September 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021.

<https://www.my.gov.sa/wps/portal/snp/content/news/newsDetails/CONT-news-020920212>

¹⁷²⁰ Saudi Tourism Ministry Reviews Investment Opportunities in 2021 International Hospitality Investment Forum. Government of Saudi Arabia (Riyadh) 2 September 2021. Access Date: 14 September 2021.

<https://www.my.gov.sa/wps/portal/snp/content/news/newsDetails/CONT-news-020920212>

¹⁷²¹ 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>

¹⁷²² 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>

¹⁷²³ 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>

¹⁷²⁴ 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>

¹⁷²⁵ 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>

On 1 January 2021, South Africa enacted the legal and the administrative processes for preferential trade under the AfCFTA.¹⁷²⁶ The Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition Ebrahim Patel publicly promoted the new opportunities in export markets to South African farmers.¹⁷²⁷

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.¹⁷²⁸ During his visit, the president announced a USD1 billion investment from Ford Motors.¹⁷²⁹

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.¹⁷³⁰ The representatives discussed the importance of supporting the World Health Organisation, and rebuilding a global economy that is stable, equal, and resilient.¹⁷³¹

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 Canners Association and the Fresh Produce Exporters' Forum of South Africa to host a virtual trade and investment webinar with their counterparts.¹⁷³² The goal of the webinar is to deepen the relationship that South Africa has with the United Arab Emirates.¹⁷³³

On 16 March 2021, the Deputy Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition Fikile Majola publicly communicated the role of Special Economic Zones Program.¹⁷³⁴ 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.¹⁷³⁵

¹⁷²⁶ 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>

¹⁷²⁷ 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>

¹⁷²⁸ 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>

¹⁷²⁹ 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>

¹⁷³⁰ 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>

¹⁷³¹ 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>

¹⁷³² 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/>

¹⁷³³ 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/>

¹⁷³⁴ 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>

¹⁷³⁵ 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>

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 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.¹⁷³⁶ The goal is to “further enhance connectivity between the East and the West and to consolidate its central position in the region.”¹⁷³⁷

On 17 December 2020, Turkey “extended the suspension of 20 per cent tariffs on wheat, barley, and corn imports” until 30 April 2021.¹⁷³⁸ 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 2020.¹⁷³⁹

On 25 December 2020, the EU and the UK reached a deal regarding post-Brexit relations.¹⁷⁴⁰ Turkey and the UK are in the final stages of signing a Free Trade Agreement between the two countries.¹⁷⁴¹

On 22 January 2021, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development opened a regional Centre focused on global relations in Istanbul, Turkey.¹⁷⁴² The purpose of the centre is to create “a dedicated base for deepening cooperation with partner countries and helping them with

¹⁷³⁶ 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

¹⁷³⁷ 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

¹⁷³⁸ Turkey extends zero-tariffs on wheat imports to April, Hurriyet Daily News (Istanbul) 18 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.hurriyetcailynews.com/turkey-extends-zero-tariffs-on-wheat-imports-to-april-160933>

¹⁷³⁹ Turkey extends zero-tariffs on wheat imports to April, Hurriyet Daily News (Istanbul) 18 December 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2021. <https://www.hurriyetcailynews.com/turkey-extends-zero-tariffs-on-wheat-imports-to-april-160933>

¹⁷⁴⁰ 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

¹⁷⁴¹ 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

¹⁷⁴² 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>

policy guidance and technical support to build more inclusive and prosperous societies.”¹⁷⁴³ The centre will also “strengthen multilateral cooperation, encourage regional collaboration and offer guidance in areas like governance, [and] transparency.”¹⁷⁴⁴

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.¹⁷⁴⁵ Minister Çavuşoğlu noted that Turkey sought to advance economic co-operation with Kuwait and maintain the Turkey-Kuwait bilateral trade volume.¹⁷⁴⁶

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.¹⁷⁴⁷ 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.”¹⁷⁴⁸

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.¹⁷⁴⁹ 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.¹⁷⁵⁰ Minister Çavuşoğlu sought to conclude the Preferential Trade Agreement and begin negotiations of a Free Trade Agreement with Uzbekistan.¹⁷⁵¹

¹⁷⁴³ 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>

¹⁷⁴⁴ 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>

¹⁷⁴⁵ 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>

¹⁷⁴⁶ 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>

¹⁷⁴⁷ 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>

¹⁷⁴⁸ 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>

¹⁷⁴⁹ 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>

¹⁷⁵⁰ 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>

¹⁷⁵¹ 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>

On 30 March 2021, Minister Çavuşoğlu attended the 9th Ministerial Conference of the Heart of Asia Istanbul Process.¹⁷⁵² Minister Çavuşoğlu evaluated bilateral relations and economic cooperation with Turkey-Tajikistan Joint European Commission (JEC) Co-Chair and Minister of Industry and New Technologies of Tajikistan SHERALI KABIR.¹⁷⁵³ 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.¹⁷⁵⁴

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.¹⁷⁵⁵ Minister Çavuşoğlu met with Foreign Minister of Romania Bogdan Aurescu and noted that the bilateral trade volume was USD10 billion.¹⁷⁵⁶ 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.¹⁷⁵⁷

On 4 May 2021, Minister Çavuşoğlu visited Slovenia and met with President of the Islamic Community in Slovenia Mufti Nedžad Grabus, Slovenian Minister Anze Logar and Slovenian Prime Minister Borut Pahor to discuss bilateral relations.¹⁷⁵⁸ Minister Çavuşoğlu stated that Turkish-Slovenian trade had surpassed USD2 billion and sought to “increase it in a balanced way.”¹⁷⁵⁹

On 1 June 2021, Minister Çavuşoğlu participated in the Council of Ministers Meeting of the OECD via videoconference.¹⁷⁶⁰ At the meeting ministers affirmed their commitment to “open and transparent market-economy principles.”¹⁷⁶¹

¹⁷⁵² 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-bakanimizintacikistan-i-ziyareti-30-3-2021.en.mfa>

¹⁷⁵³ 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-bakanimizintacikistan-i-ziyareti-30-3-2021.en.mfa>

¹⁷⁵⁴ 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-bakanimizintacikistan-i-ziyareti-30-3-2021.en.mfa>

¹⁷⁵⁵ 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-bakanimizinromanya-yi-ziyareti-23-4-2021.en.mfa>

¹⁷⁵⁶ 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-bakanimizinromanya-yi-ziyareti-23-4-2021.en.mfa>

¹⁷⁵⁷ 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-bakanimizinromanya-yi-ziyareti-23-4-2021.en.mfa>

¹⁷⁵⁸ Visit of Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu to Slovenia, 4 May 2021, Republic of Turkey Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Ankara) 4 May 2021. Access Date: 17 July 2021. <https://www.mfa.gov.tr/sayin-bakanimizin-slovenya-yi-ziyareti-4-5-21.en.mfa>

¹⁷⁵⁹ Visit of Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu to Slovenia, 4 May 2021, Republic of Turkey Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Ankara) 4 May 2021. Access Date: 17 July 2021. <https://www.mfa.gov.tr/sayin-bakanimizin-slovenya-yi-ziyareti-4-5-21.en.mfa>

¹⁷⁶⁰ Participation of Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu in the NATO Foreign Ministers Meeting, 1 June 2021, Republic of Turkey Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Ankara) 1 June 2021. Access Date: 17 July 2021. <https://www.mfa.gov.tr/sayin-bakanimizin-nato-disisleri-bakanlari-toplantisina-katilimi-1-6-2021.en.mfa>

¹⁷⁶¹ Meeting of the OECD Council at Ministerial Level, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (Paris) 1 June 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://www.oecd.org/mcm/>

On 8 June 2021, Minister Çavuşoğlu met with Foreign Minister Nasser Bourita of Morocco via videoconference.¹⁷⁶² Minister Çavuşoğlu stated that they would hold a joint economic commission meeting and business forum this year to further discuss relations between the two states.¹⁷⁶³

On 20 June 2021, Minister Çavuşoğlu met with Minister of Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan Mohammad Haneef Atmar and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran Mohammad Javad Zarif.¹⁷⁶⁴ The foreign ministers “underlined their commitment to further expand cooperation particularly in the areas that would contribute to economic progress and sustainable development.”¹⁷⁶⁵ The ministers “called upon countries to refrain from applying unilateral economic sanctions as tools of political or economic pressure.”¹⁷⁶⁶

On 3 September 2021, Minister Çavuşoğlu met with Black Sea Economic Corporation (BSEC) Secretary General Ambassador Lazar Comanescu in Ankara.¹⁷⁶⁷ They discussed issues pertaining to BSEC, including “budgetary issues as well as efforts on making certain changes that will render BSEC more effective and efficient were also discussed.”¹⁷⁶⁸

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

¹⁷⁶² Meeting of Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu with Foreign Minister Nasser Bourita of Morocco, held via videoconference, 8 June 2021, Republic of Turkey Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Ankara) 8 June 2021. Access Date: 17 July 2021. <https://www.mfa.gov.tr/sayin-bakanimizin-fas-disisleri-bakaniyla-video-konferans-gorusmesi.en.mfa>

¹⁷⁶³ Meeting of Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu with Foreign Minister Nasser Bourita of Morocco, held via videoconference, 8 June 2021, Republic of Turkey Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Ankara) 8 June 2021. Access Date: 17 July 2021. <https://www.mfa.gov.tr/sayin-bakanimizin-fas-disisleri-bakaniyla-video-konferans-gorusmesi.en.mfa>

¹⁷⁶⁴ Adopted at the Trilateral Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Turkey, 20 June 2021, Antalya, Republic of Turkey Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Ankara) 20 June 2021. Access Date: 17 July 2021. <https://www.mfa.gov.tr/turkiye-afganistan-iran-uclu-disisleri-bakanlari-ortak-bildiri-20-06-2021.en.mfa>

¹⁷⁶⁵ Adopted at the Trilateral Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Turkey, 20 June 2021, Antalya, Republic of Turkey Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Ankara) 20 June 2021. Access Date: 17 July 2021. <https://www.mfa.gov.tr/turkiye-afganistan-iran-uclu-disisleri-bakanlari-ortak-bildiri-20-06-2021.en.mfa>

¹⁷⁶⁶ Adopted at the Trilateral Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Turkey, 20 June 2021, Antalya, Republic of Turkey Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Ankara) 20 June 2021. Access Date: 17 July 2021. <https://www.mfa.gov.tr/turkiye-afganistan-iran-uclu-disisleri-bakanlari-ortak-bildiri-20-06-2021.en.mfa>

¹⁷⁶⁷ Courtesy visit of the Secretary General to Ankara, Black Sea Economic Network (Istanbul) 6 September 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <http://www.bsec-organization.org/news/72043courtesy-visit-of-the-bsec-permis-secretary-general-to-ankara>

¹⁷⁶⁸ Courtesy visit of the Secretary General to Ankara, Black Sea Economic Network (Istanbul) 6 September 2021. Access Date: 10 September 2021. <http://www.bsec-organization.org/news/72043courtesy-visit-of-the-bsec-permis-secretary-general-to-ankara>

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.¹⁷⁶⁹ The agreement provides a framework for the UK and Etihad Credit Insurance to aid exports of products through collaborative financial support.¹⁷⁷⁰

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 from the European Union.¹⁷⁷¹ It led to a UK-Bangladesh trade and investment dialogue on 28 March 2021.¹⁷⁷²

On 3 December 2020, the UK signed a partnership, trade and cooperation agreement with North Macedonia.¹⁷⁷³ It will allow British businesses to continue to trade during the Brexit transition period.¹⁷⁷⁴

On 4 December 2020, the UK continued negotiations with Australia for a free trade agreement.¹⁷⁷⁵ The UK seeks to continue the existing trade relationship with Australia following its departure from the EU.¹⁷⁷⁶

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.¹⁷⁷⁷ 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 2021.¹⁷⁷⁸ This ensures that the UK and Canada will continue to have “preferential access.”¹⁷⁷⁹

¹⁷⁶⁹ 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>

¹⁷⁷⁰ 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>

¹⁷⁷¹ 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>

¹⁷⁷² 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>

¹⁷⁷³ 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>

¹⁷⁷⁴ 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>

¹⁷⁷⁵ 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>

¹⁷⁷⁶ 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>

¹⁷⁷⁷ 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>

¹⁷⁷⁸ 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>

¹⁷⁷⁹ 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>

On 8 December 2020, the UK signed a trade continuity agreement with Norway and Iceland.¹⁷⁸⁰ It will ensure tariff-free status on 95 per cent of goods traded with Norway and 90 per cent of goods with Iceland.¹⁷⁸¹

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-free access to the UK's market.¹⁷⁸² It will allow 2,500 UK businesses to access the Kenyan market with duty-free status.¹⁷⁸³

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.¹⁷⁸⁴ It will allow the UK to export goods and services worth GBP11.6 billion and lift a tariff burden of an estimated GBP42 million.¹⁷⁸⁵

On 10 December 2020, Secretary of State for International Trade Elizabeth Truss agreed on free trade agreements with Singapore and Vietnam.¹⁷⁸⁶ The deal with Vietnam will remove 99 per cent of tariffs after seven years.¹⁷⁸⁷

On 14 December 2020, China and the UK held a meeting between a working group on investment promotion.¹⁷⁸⁸ The two countries discussed "attracting foreign investment, two-way investment policies, mutual concerns and prospects for future cooperation between the two countries."¹⁷⁸⁹

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.¹⁷⁹⁰ It will let existing UK businesses in Switzerland continue to operate.¹⁷⁹¹

¹⁷⁸⁰ 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>

¹⁷⁸¹ 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>

¹⁷⁸² 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>

¹⁷⁸³ 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>

¹⁷⁸⁴ 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>

¹⁷⁸⁵ 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>

¹⁷⁸⁶ 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>

¹⁷⁸⁷ 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>

¹⁷⁸⁸ 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>

¹⁷⁸⁹ 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 14 December 2020, China and the UK held a meeting between a working group on investment promotion.¹⁷⁹² The two countries discussed “attracting foreign investment, two-way investment policies, mutual concerns and prospects for future cooperation between the two countries.”¹⁷⁹³

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.¹⁷⁹⁴ The agreement provides a roadmap for the UK’s entrance to the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP).¹⁷⁹⁵

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.¹⁷⁹⁶ The agreement guarantees the tariff-free status of goods worth GBP668 billion, replacing EU membership following Brexit.¹⁷⁹⁷

On 25 December 2020, the EU and the UK reached a deal regarding post-Brexit relations.¹⁷⁹⁸ Turkey and the UK are in the final stages of signing a Free Trade Agreement between the two countries.¹⁷⁹⁹

On 29 December 2020, Secretary of State Truss signed the UK-Turkey Free Trade Agreement with the Turkish Minister of Trade Ruhsar Pekcan.¹⁸⁰⁰ 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.¹⁸⁰¹

¹⁷⁹⁰ 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>

¹⁷⁹¹ 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>

¹⁷⁹² 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>

¹⁷⁹³ 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>

¹⁷⁹⁴ 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>

¹⁷⁹⁵ 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>

¹⁷⁹⁶ 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>

¹⁷⁹⁷ 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>

¹⁷⁹⁸ 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

¹⁷⁹⁹ 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

¹⁸⁰⁰ 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>

¹⁸⁰¹ 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>

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 2021.¹⁸⁰²

On 1 January 2021, UK and Korea implemented their bilateral free trade agreement.¹⁸⁰³ It accounts for the UK's departure from the European Union.¹⁸⁰⁴

On 1 February 2021, Secretary of State Truss submitted the formal notification of intent letter to initiate the accession process for the CPTPP.¹⁸⁰⁵ The UK accession will extend the CPTPP outside the current Indo-Pacific region.¹⁸⁰⁶

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.¹⁸⁰⁷ They committed to make concrete progress on trade and invest, regularly interact, and quickly identify bilateral deliverables.¹⁸⁰⁸

On 9 February 2021, the UK concluded the 3rd round of negotiations with New Zealand regarding a free trade agreement.¹⁸⁰⁹ The UK seeks to continue the existing trade relationship with New Zealand after it departs from the EU.¹⁸¹⁰

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.¹⁸¹¹ The UK and Bangladesh agreed to continue to work towards developing a bilateral trade partnership.¹⁸¹²

¹⁸⁰² 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>

¹⁸⁰³ 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>

¹⁸⁰⁴ 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>

¹⁸⁰⁵ 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>

¹⁸⁰⁶ 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>

¹⁸⁰⁷ 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>

¹⁸⁰⁸ 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>

¹⁸⁰⁹ 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>

¹⁸¹⁰ 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>

¹⁸¹¹ 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>

¹⁸¹² 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>

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.¹⁸¹³ The UK holds a 25 per cent share of the project through InfraCo Africa, one of the UK's Infrastructure Financing Agencies.¹⁸¹⁴

On 2 March 2021, the UK signed a trade partnership agreement with Ghana to secure tariff-free trade and promote further economic cooperation.¹⁸¹⁵ It will support a bilateral trade relationship worth GBP1.2 billion.¹⁸¹⁶

On 4 March 2021, the UK and the US agreed to a four-month tariff suspension regarding the Airbus and Boeing dispute.¹⁸¹⁷ The UK ceased retaliatory tariffs to de-escalate the incident and promote negotiations.¹⁸¹⁸

On 9 March 2021, Minister Jayawardena signed an economic partnership agreement with Cameroon.¹⁸¹⁹ The UK market imports a 12 per cent share of bananas exported from Cameroon.¹⁸²⁰ It will maintain the tariff-free bilateral free trade between the UK and Cameroon.¹⁸²¹

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.¹⁸²² The UK and Kenya signed the deal on 8 December 2020.¹⁸²³ 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.¹⁸²⁴

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

¹⁸¹³ 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>

¹⁸¹⁴ 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>

¹⁸¹⁵ 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>

¹⁸¹⁶ 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>

¹⁸¹⁷ 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>

¹⁸¹⁸ 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>

¹⁸¹⁹ 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>

¹⁸²⁰ 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>

¹⁸²¹ 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>

¹⁸²² 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>

¹⁸²³ 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>

¹⁸²⁴ 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>

Economic and Trade Committee that seeks to address the bilateral trade barriers.¹⁸²⁵ It will benefit the UK by deepening its trade relations with Thailand, a key hub for the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.¹⁸²⁶

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.¹⁸²⁷ Secretary Truss will chair the upcoming inaugural G7 Trade Track Ministerial meeting.¹⁸²⁸

On 22 April 2021, the UK attended the WTO general council meeting.¹⁸²⁹ 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.¹⁸³⁰ Additionally, members agreed to engage with WTO trade monitoring exercises.¹⁸³¹

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.¹⁸³² 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 2019.¹⁸³³

On 29 April 2021, Queen Elizabeth II gave the Royal Assent to the Trade Act to formally make it a law.¹⁸³⁴ It will allow the UK government to sign free trade agreements independently.¹⁸³⁵ It will also incorporate free trade agreements that the UK already signed into British law.¹⁸³⁶

On 1 May 2021, the Department for International Trade announced the Joint Statement initiating the UK-Vietnam Free Trade Agreement’s entry into force.¹⁸³⁷ It will cover GBP5.1 billion worth of

¹⁸²⁵ 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>

¹⁸²⁶ 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>

¹⁸²⁷ 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>

¹⁸²⁸ 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>

¹⁸²⁹ 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>

¹⁸³⁰ 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>

¹⁸³¹ 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>

¹⁸³² 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>

¹⁸³³ 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>

¹⁸³⁴ 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>

¹⁸³⁵ 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>

¹⁸³⁶ 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>

bilateral trade and promote trade and investment.¹⁸³⁸ It will also seek to gradually remove tariffs from the current level of 65 per cent to 99 per cent within six years.¹⁸³⁹

On 1 May 2021, the Department for International Trade announced the Jordan-UK Association Agreement coming into effect.¹⁸⁴⁰ The UK and Jordan signed it on 5 November 2019, but it took until 25 March 2021 for both the UK and Jordan to complete its procedures to enforce it.¹⁸⁴¹ It will expand the bilateral trade further from GBP561 million in 2020.¹⁸⁴²

On 3 May 2021, Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs Dominic Raab met with Japanese Minister of Foreign Affairs Toshimitsu Motegi to discuss the UK's application to enter the CPTPP.¹⁸⁴³ The discussion centred on Japan's support for the UK's entry to CPTPP, which is expected to further the British involvement in the Indo-Pacific region.¹⁸⁴⁴

On 4 May 2021, Prime Minister Johnson announced a trade deal of GBP1 billion with India.¹⁸⁴⁵ The deal includes GBP446 million worth of export deals, and is expected to create more than 400 jobs in the UK.¹⁸⁴⁶ In total, the UK would benefit from more than GBP533 million of Indian investments that will create more than 6,000 new jobs.¹⁸⁴⁷ Prime Minister Johnson also had a virtual meeting with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi discussing the Enhanced Trade Partnership aiming at a free trade agreement and lowering tariffs.¹⁸⁴⁸

On 18 May 2021, the government began its negotiations with Canada and Mexico for an enhanced trade deal.¹⁸⁴⁹ It will focus on sectors in digital, data and services industries.¹⁸⁵⁰ The UK seeks to further its ambition to join CPTPP with the support from the two countries.¹⁸⁵¹

¹⁸³⁷ 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>

¹⁸³⁸ 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>

¹⁸³⁹ 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>

¹⁸⁴⁰ 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>

¹⁸⁴¹ 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>

¹⁸⁴² 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>

¹⁸⁴³ UK and Japan agree strengthened trade and security partnership ahead of G7 meeting, UK Government (London) 3 May 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-japan-agree-strengthened-trade-and-security-partnership-ahead-of-g7-meeting>

¹⁸⁴⁴ UK and Japan agree strengthened trade and security partnership ahead of G7 meeting, UK Government (London) 3 May 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-japan-agree-strengthened-trade-and-security-partnership-ahead-of-g7-meeting>

¹⁸⁴⁵ Prime Minister announces £1 billion of new UK-India trade, UK Government (London) 4 May 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/prime-minister-announces-1-billion-of-new-uk-india-trade>

¹⁸⁴⁶ Prime Minister announces £1 billion of new UK-India trade, UK Government (London) 4 May 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/prime-minister-announces-1-billion-of-new-uk-india-trade>

¹⁸⁴⁷ Prime Minister announces £1 billion of new UK-India trade, UK Government (London) 4 May 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/prime-minister-announces-1-billion-of-new-uk-india-trade>

¹⁸⁴⁸ Prime Minister announces £1 billion of new UK-India trade, UK Government (London) 4 May 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/prime-minister-announces-1-billion-of-new-uk-india-trade>

¹⁸⁴⁹ UK prepares to launch new trade deal negotiations with Canada and Mexico, UK Government (London) 18 May 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-prepares-to-launch-new-trade-deal-negotiations-with-canada-and-mexico>

On 14 June 2021, Prime Minister Johnson and Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison agreed to a UK-Australia free trade deal in London.¹⁸⁵² The agreement will eliminate tariffs on the UK's exports and allow increased mobility to citizens under the age of 35.¹⁸⁵³ The UK expects that trade volume with Australia which was worth GBP13.9 billion in 2020 will further expand.¹⁸⁵⁴

On 15 June 2021, Minister for Africa James Duddridge and Ghanaian Vice President Mahamudu Bawumia held the fifth UK-Ghana Business Council.¹⁸⁵⁵ The council has supported more than GBP223 million worth of investment in infrastructure in Ghana.¹⁸⁵⁶ The UK seeks to further extend its involvement in West Africa through the Business Council.¹⁸⁵⁷

On 16 June 2021, Her Majesty's Trade Commissioner for Latin America and the Caribbean region Jonathan Knott held virtual meetings with Guatemala's Minister of Economy Antonio Malouf, Viceminister of Economy Edith Flores, and Presidential Commissioner for Competitiveness and Investment Rolando Paiz.¹⁸⁵⁸ All parties agreed that enhanced trade and investment in Guatemala would be mutually beneficial.¹⁸⁵⁹

On 17 June 2021, the UK and New Zealand issued a joint statement concluding their free trade agreement.¹⁸⁶⁰ In their fifth round of talks, the UK and New Zealand reached a consensus and agreed to speed up the finalisation of their negotiations.¹⁸⁶¹ The agreement included provisions regarding transparency and trade equality.¹⁸⁶²

¹⁸⁵⁰ UK prepares to launch new trade deal negotiations with Canada and Mexico, UK Government (London) 18 May 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-prepares-to-launch-new-trade-deal-negotiations-with-canada-and-mexico>

¹⁸⁵¹ UK prepares to launch new trade deal negotiations with Canada and Mexico, UK Government (London) 18 May 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-prepares-to-launch-new-trade-deal-negotiations-with-canada-and-mexico>

¹⁸⁵² UK agrees historic trade deal with Australia, UK Government (London) 15 June 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-agrees-historic-trade-deal-with-australia>

¹⁸⁵³ UK agrees historic trade deal with Australia, UK Government (London) 15 June 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-agrees-historic-trade-deal-with-australia>

¹⁸⁵⁴ UK agrees historic trade deal with Australia, UK Government (London) 15 June 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-agrees-historic-trade-deal-with-australia>

¹⁸⁵⁵ Government leaders hold fifth UK-Ghana Business Council virtually, UK Government (London) 24 June 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-leaders-hold-fifth-uk-ghana-business-council-virtually>

¹⁸⁵⁶ Government leaders hold fifth UK-Ghana Business Council virtually, UK Government (London) 24 June 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-leaders-hold-fifth-uk-ghana-business-council-virtually>

¹⁸⁵⁷ Government leaders hold fifth UK-Ghana Business Council virtually, UK Government (London) 24 June 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-leaders-hold-fifth-uk-ghana-business-council-virtually>

¹⁸⁵⁸ UK Trade Commissioner for Latin America meets with Minister of Economy of Guatemala, UK Government (London) 16 June 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-trade-commissioner-for-latin-america-meets-with-minister-of-economy-of-guatemala--2>

¹⁸⁵⁹ UK Trade Commissioner for Latin America meets with Minister of Economy of Guatemala, UK Government (London) 16 June 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-trade-commissioner-for-latin-america-meets-with-minister-of-economy-of-guatemala--2>

¹⁸⁶⁰ Joint statement on UK-New Zealand trade talks, UK Government (London) 18 June 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/joint-statement-on-uk-new-zealand-trade-talks>

¹⁸⁶¹ Press statement on trade talks between UK and New Zealand, UK Government (London) 18 June 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/press-statement-on-trade-talks-between-uk-and-new-zealand>

¹⁸⁶² Negotiations on the UK's Future Trading Relationship with New Zealand: Update, UK Government (London) 30 June 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/negotiations-on-the-uks-future-trading-relationship-with-new-zealand-update--5>

On 21 June 2021, Secretary Raab visited Southeast Asia for high-level meetings in Vietnam, Cambodia and Singapore on trade, defence and security.¹⁸⁶³ Secretary Raab expected to strengthen the UK's cooperation with the Indo-Pacific and find a breakthrough towards further partnership with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and membership to CPTPP.¹⁸⁶⁴

On 22 June 2021, the government initiated formal negotiations with CPTPP nations.¹⁸⁶⁵ The government announced on 21 June 2021 that it will begin its negotiations to join CPTPP, which includes 11 countries with a gross trade volume worth of GBP9 trillion.¹⁸⁶⁶ Entry into the CPTPP would grant 99.9 per cent of UK exports tariff-free status and could increase trade by 65 per cent in 2030, to GBP37 billion.¹⁸⁶⁷

On 29 June 2021, Secretary Truss and Singapore's Minister-in-charge of Trade Relations S Iswaran issued a joint statement on initiating the negotiation for a digital economy agreement and re-examining the free trade agreement.¹⁸⁶⁸ The agreement is expected to further extend the economic openness in several sectors including data and e-commerce.¹⁸⁶⁹

On 30 June 2021, Minister Jayawardena and the Secretary General of the Gulf Cooperation Council Nayef Falah Al-Hajiraf agreed to lower trade barriers.¹⁸⁷⁰ As a significant trade partner to the UK, Secretary Al-Hajiraf agreed to seek further cooperation and mutual market accessibility.¹⁸⁷¹

On 8 July 2021, Minister Jayawardena signed free trade agreements with Norway's Minister of Trade and Industry Iselin Nybø, Iceland's Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Development Cooperation Gudlaugur Thór Thórdarson and Liechtenstein's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Education and Sport Dominique Hasler.¹⁸⁷² The free trade agreements are expected to reinforce trade relations

¹⁸⁶³ Foreign Secretary visits South East Asia to boost trade and defence links, UK Government (London) 21 June 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/foreign-secretary-visits-south-east-asia-to-boost-trade-and-defence-links>

¹⁸⁶⁴ Foreign Secretary visits South East Asia to boost trade and defence links, UK Government (London) 21 June 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/foreign-secretary-visits-south-east-asia-to-boost-trade-and-defence-links>

¹⁸⁶⁵ UK and CPTPP nations launch formal negotiations, UK Government (London) 22 June 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-cptpp-nations-launch-formal-negotiations>

¹⁸⁶⁶ Britain launches negotiations with £9 trillion Pacific free trade area, UK Government (London) 21 June 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/britain-launches-negotiations-with-9-trillion-pacific-free-trade-area>

¹⁸⁶⁷ Britain launches negotiations with £9 trillion Pacific free trade area, UK Government (London) 21 June 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/britain-launches-negotiations-with-9-trillion-pacific-free-trade-area>

¹⁸⁶⁸ UK Singapore joint statement on the launch of negotiations on a Digital Economy Agreement, UK Government (London) 29 June 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-singapore-joint-statement-on-the-launch-of-negotiations-on-a-digital-economy-agreement>

¹⁸⁶⁹ UK Singapore joint statement on the launch of negotiations on a Digital Economy Agreement, UK Government (London) 29 June 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-singapore-joint-statement-on-the-launch-of-negotiations-on-a-digital-economy-agreement>

¹⁸⁷⁰ UK & GCC commit to strengthening trading relationship, UK Government (London) 30 June 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-gcc-commit-to-strengthening-trading-relationship>

¹⁸⁷¹ UK & GCC commit to strengthening trading relationship, UK Government (London) 30 June 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-gcc-commit-to-strengthening-trading-relationship>

¹⁸⁷² United Kingdom signs free trade deal with Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein, UK Government (London) 8 July 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/united-kingdom-signs-free-trade-deal-with-norway-iceland-and-liechtenstein>

worth GBP21.6 billion in 2020.¹⁸⁷³ The agreements include provisions to lower tariffs on British exports.¹⁸⁷⁴

On 27 July 2021, Secretary Raab announced GBP132 million of investment in Kenya during his meeting with Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta.¹⁸⁷⁵ He also announced a fund including GBP35 million to support green and affordable housing in Kenya.¹⁸⁷⁶ The investment is expected to strengthen economic ties with Kenya and create more jobs and business opportunities.¹⁸⁷⁷

On 12 August 2021, Chief Executive of UK Export Finance Louis Taylor signed a memorandum of understanding with Executive President of the Central American Bank for Economic Integration Dante Mossi for jointly financed projects on clean energy, infrastructure and construction with the UK's technological supports.¹⁸⁷⁸ The memorandum will enhance economic cooperation between the UK and Central America.¹⁸⁷⁹

On 24 August 2021, Secretary Truss announced the outcome of the 6th round of negotiations with New Zealand over their free trade agreement.¹⁸⁸⁰ In Round 6, the UK and New Zealand made significant progress in areas including express delivery services (Annex), anti-corruption, and assisting developing countries.¹⁸⁸¹ Secretary Truss said that she expects to see the removal of tariffs on exports, including food and drink, clothing, and manufactured goods.¹⁸⁸² She also said to expect the FTA between the UK and New Zealand to open up more opportunities for both countries in the CPTPP negotiations.¹⁸⁸³

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

¹⁸⁷³ United Kingdom signs free trade deal with Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein, UK Government (London) 8 July 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/united-kingdom-signs-free-trade-deal-with-norway-iceland-and-liechtenstein>

¹⁸⁷⁴ United Kingdom signs free trade deal with Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein, UK Government (London) 8 July 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/united-kingdom-signs-free-trade-deal-with-norway-iceland-and-liechtenstein>

¹⁸⁷⁵ UK announces £132m of new investments in Kenya, UK Government (London) 27 July 2021. Access Date: 16 September 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-announces-132m-of-new-investments-in-kenya-and-backs-nairobi-as-an-international-financial-centre>

¹⁸⁷⁶ UK announces £132m of new investments in Kenya, UK Government (London) 27 July 2021. Access Date: 16 September 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-announces-132m-of-new-investments-in-kenya-and-backs-nairobi-as-an-international-financial-centre>

¹⁸⁷⁷ UK mobilises KES 20 billion investment into Kenya's Big Four projects, UK Government (London) 27 July 2021. Access Date: 16 September 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-mobilises-kes-20-billion-investment-into-kenyas-big-four-projects>

¹⁸⁷⁸ UK signs partnership in Central America to boost trade, UK Government (London) 12 August 2021. Access Date: 16 September 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-signs-partnership-in-central-america-to-boost-trade>

¹⁸⁷⁹ UK signs partnership in Central America to boost trade, UK Government (London) 12 August 2021. Access Date: 16 September 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-signs-partnership-in-central-america-to-boost-trade>

¹⁸⁸⁰ Negotiations on the UK's Future Trading Relationship with New Zealand: Update, UK Government (London) 24 August 2021. Access Date: 16 September 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/negotiations-on-the-uks-future-trading-relationship-with-new-zealand-update--6>

¹⁸⁸¹ Negotiations on the UK's Future Trading Relationship with New Zealand: Update, UK Government (London) 24 August 2021. Access Date: 16 September 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/negotiations-on-the-uks-future-trading-relationship-with-new-zealand-update--6>

¹⁸⁸² Negotiations on the UK's Future Trading Relationship with New Zealand: Update, UK Government (London) 24 August 2021. Access Date: 16 September 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/negotiations-on-the-uks-future-trading-relationship-with-new-zealand-update--6>

¹⁸⁸³ Negotiations on the UK's Future Trading Relationship with New Zealand: Update, UK Government (London) 24 August 2021. Access Date: 16 September 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/negotiations-on-the-uks-future-trading-relationship-with-new-zealand-update--6>

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: +1

The United States 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 8 December 2020, the US and Ecuador signed a protocol on trade rules and transparency, a move welcomed by business groups in both countries.¹⁸⁸⁴ “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.¹⁸⁸⁵

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.”¹⁸⁸⁶ 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.¹⁸⁸⁷

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.”¹⁸⁸⁸ Canadian officials are “optimistic” that President Biden will bring a more cooperative presence despite cancelling the Keystone XL pipeline project previously.¹⁸⁸⁹ Tariffs may be decreased over this period, improving the free trade environment.¹⁸⁹⁰

On 23 February 2021, President Biden and Prime Minister Trudeau “promised to work together to build supply chains for electric vehicle battery development.”¹⁸⁹¹ They aim to make Canada and the US “global leaders in all aspects of battery development and production.”¹⁸⁹²

¹⁸⁸⁴ 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>

¹⁸⁸⁵ 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>

¹⁸⁸⁶ 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>

¹⁸⁸⁷ 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>

¹⁸⁸⁸ 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/>

¹⁸⁸⁹ 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/>

¹⁸⁹⁰ 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/>

¹⁸⁹¹ 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>

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.”¹⁸⁹³ President Biden noted his desire for a fair international trading system.¹⁸⁹⁴

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.¹⁸⁹⁵ The US suspended retaliatory tariffs in the Airbus dispute from 4 March 2021, for four months.¹⁸⁹⁶ 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.¹⁸⁹⁷

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.¹⁸⁹⁸ 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.¹⁸⁹⁹ This will allow the EU and the US to ease the burden on their industries and workers and focus efforts towards resolving these long running disputes at the WTO.¹⁹⁰⁰

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.”¹⁹⁰¹

¹⁸⁹² 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>

¹⁸⁹³ 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>

¹⁸⁹⁴ 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>

¹⁸⁹⁵ 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>

¹⁸⁹⁶ 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>

¹⁸⁹⁷ 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>

¹⁸⁹⁸ 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>

¹⁸⁹⁹ 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>

¹⁹⁰⁰ 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>

¹⁹⁰¹ 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

On 20 March 2021, US and Chinese officials had the first high-level talks between the Biden administration and China since last June.¹⁹⁰² This communication improves the trade transparency between the two countries.¹⁹⁰³

On 14 May 2021, the Office of the United States Trade Representative announced that Ambassador Katherine Tai will host the inaugural Free Trade Commission (FTC) of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) on 17-18 May 2021.¹⁹⁰⁴ The FTC seeks to build an inclusive trade environment in North America that encourages equitable growth.¹⁹⁰⁵

On 12 June 2021, President Biden announced the global infrastructure initiative Build Back Better World in conjunction with G7 partners.¹⁹⁰⁶ The initiative aims to compete with Chinese investment in low- and middle-income countries by offering high-standard, values-driven and transparent investment in infrastructure.¹⁹⁰⁷

On 29 June 2021, the US and Taiwan held the 11th Trade and Investment Framework Agreement Council meeting under the auspices of the American Institute in Taiwan and the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States.¹⁹⁰⁸

On 6 August 2021, the US and Uruguay completed the 9th TIFA Council meeting in Montevideo.¹⁹⁰⁹ Both countries agreed to review the existing TIFA and develop new instruments to reinforce fair trade between both parties.¹⁹¹⁰

On 12 August 2021, the Protocol to the Trade and Investment Council Agreement with Ecuador entered into force.¹⁹¹¹ Both countries agreed to convene the next Trade and Investment Council meeting before the end of the year.¹⁹¹²

¹⁹⁰² 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>

¹⁹⁰³ 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>

¹⁹⁰⁴ United States to Host First USMCA Free Trade Commission, The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (Washington) 14 May 2021. Access Date: 31 July 2021. <https://ustr.gov/index.php/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2021/may/united-states-host-first-usmca-free-trade-commission>

¹⁹⁰⁵ United States to Host First USMCA Free Trade Commission, The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (Washington) 14 May 2021. Access Date: 31 July 2021. <https://ustr.gov/index.php/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2021/may/united-states-host-first-usmca-free-trade-commission>

¹⁹⁰⁶ President Biden and G7 Leaders Launch Build Back Better World (B3W) Partnership, The Office of the Whitehouse (Washington) June 12 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/06/12/fact-sheet-president-biden-and-g7-leaders-launch-build-back-better-world-b3w-partnership/>

¹⁹⁰⁷ President Biden and G7 Leaders Launch Build Back Better World (B3W) Partnership, The Office of the Whitehouse (Washington) June 12 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/06/12/fact-sheet-president-biden-and-g7-leaders-launch-build-back-better-world-b3w-partnership/>

¹⁹⁰⁸ United States and Taiwan Hold Dialogue on Trade and Investment Priorities, The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (Washington) 2 June 2021. Access Date: 31 July 2021. <https://ustr.gov/index.php/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2021/june/united-states-and-taiwan-hold-dialogue-trade-and-investment-priorities>

¹⁹⁰⁹ Joint Statement of the United States and Uruguay — Trade and Investment Council, The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (Washington) 6 August 2021. Access Date: 16 September 2021. <https://ustr.gov/index.php/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2021/august/joint-statement-united-states-and-uruguay-trade-and-investment-council>

¹⁹¹⁰ Joint Statement of the United States and Uruguay — Trade and Investment Council, The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (Washington) 6 August 2021. Access Date: 16 September 2021. <https://ustr.gov/index.php/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2021/august/joint-statement-united-states-and-uruguay-trade-and-investment-council>

On 18 August 2021, the US provided USD600 thousand to support and enhance developing countries and least-developed countries' significance in global trade negotiations.¹⁹¹³ The contribution aims to finance trainings and related activities for governments officials to better understand WTO's work.¹⁹¹⁴

On 24 September 2021, President Biden met with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to advance their partnership.¹⁹¹⁵ The leaders affirmed a commitment to developing a trade and investment partnership that benefits working families in both countries.¹⁹¹⁶ The leaders also welcomed the reconvening of the India-US Trade Policy Forum prior to the end of 2021, hoping to address trade concerns between the two countries.¹⁹¹⁷

The United States 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 States has taken action to strive to realize the goal of a non-discriminatory, fair, free, predictable and inclusive trade environment by lowering barriers to trade in bilateral agreements and including provisions on small and medium sized enterprises. Additionally, the United States has action to strive to realize the goal of an investment environment that is non-discriminatory, free, fair, predictable and inclusive by initiating Build Back Better World.

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

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.¹⁹¹⁸ During the meeting both parties discussed concerns with current trade policies, new taxation laws

¹⁹¹¹ Joint Statement by the United States and Ecuador, The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (Washington) 16 August 2021. Access Date: 16 September 2021. <https://ustr.gov/index.php/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2021/august/joint-statement-united-states-and-ecuador>

¹⁹¹² Joint Statement by the United States and Ecuador, The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (Washington) 16 August 2021. Access Date: 16 September 2021. <https://ustr.gov/index.php/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2021/august/joint-statement-united-states-and-ecuador>

¹⁹¹³ United States gives USD 600,000 to boost negotiating capacities in developing countries, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 18 August 2021. Access Date: 16 September 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/pres21_e/pr885_e.htm

¹⁹¹⁴ United States gives USD 600,000 to boost negotiating capacities in developing countries, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 18 August 2021. Access Date: 16 September 2021. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/pres21_e/pr885_e.htm

¹⁹¹⁵ U.S.-India Joint Leaders' Statement: A Partnership for Global Good, The Office of the Whitehouse (Washington) September 24 2021. Access Date: September 25 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/09/24/u-s-india-joint-leaders-statement-a-partnership-for-global-good/>

¹⁹¹⁶ U.S.-India Joint Leaders' Statement: A Partnership for Global Good, The Office of the Whitehouse (Washington) September 24 2021. Access Date: September 25 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/09/24/u-s-india-joint-leaders-statement-a-partnership-for-global-good/>

¹⁹¹⁷ U.S.-India Joint Leaders' Statement: A Partnership for Global Good, The Office of the Whitehouse (Washington) September 24 2021. Access Date: September 25 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/09/24/u-s-india-joint-leaders-statement-a-partnership-for-global-good/>

¹⁹¹⁸ 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

and interest in varying policy areas.¹⁹¹⁹ The discussions promoted transparency and stability in foreign investment by Argentina into the EU.¹⁹²⁰

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 2022.¹⁹²¹ Member states may also choose to reduce VAT rates for these items.¹⁹²²

On 12 December 2021, the European Commission released a communication agenda with the US which created a framework for transatlantic cooperation.¹⁹²³ 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.”¹⁹²⁴ The European Commission also asks the United States to review bilateral and multilateral trading to strengthen the systems.¹⁹²⁵

On 30 December 2020, the EU and China announced a new investment deal after seven years of negotiation.¹⁹²⁶ The deal seeks “to make foreign investment fairer for European companies which compete against state-funded firms in China.”¹⁹²⁷ China has committed to being transparent on subsidies for state-owned firms and forced technology transfers.¹⁹²⁸ 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.”¹⁹²⁹

On 19 January 2021, European Parliament added rules to protect EU trading against partners acting “illegally.”¹⁹³⁰ 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

¹⁹¹⁹ 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

¹⁹²⁰ 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

¹⁹²¹ 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/>

¹⁹²² 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/>

¹⁹²³ 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

¹⁹²⁴ 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

¹⁹²⁵ 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

¹⁹²⁶ 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>

¹⁹²⁷ 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>

¹⁹²⁸ 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>

¹⁹²⁹ 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>

¹⁹³⁰ 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>

regional agreements, when the other party fails to cooperate on the adjudication of the dispute.”¹⁹³¹ The resolution will not act as a protectionist measure, but would be WTO-compatible.¹⁹³² This action furthers the goal of fair, rule-based trading amongst the EU and its trading partners.¹⁹³³

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.¹⁹³⁴

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.¹⁹³⁵

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.¹⁹³⁶ The EU also committed to ensuring the unhindered flow of goods and services.¹⁹³⁷

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.¹⁹³⁸ The goal is to reduce tariffs on US-EU products, which is a step towards market liberalization.¹⁹³⁹

On 9 March 2021, the European Parliament revised InvestEU, a provisional agreement, which focuses on “investments in manufacturing of pharmaceuticals, medical devices and supplies.”¹⁹⁴⁰ The agreement will also focus investments into the EU’s small and medium sized enterprises which were “negatively affected by the pandemic.”¹⁹⁴¹ The agreement allows foreign investment from countries

¹⁹³¹ 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>

¹⁹³² 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>

¹⁹³³ 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>

¹⁹³⁴ 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>

¹⁹³⁵ 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

¹⁹³⁶ 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>

¹⁹³⁷ 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>

¹⁹³⁸ 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>

¹⁹³⁹ 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>

¹⁹⁴⁰ 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

¹⁹⁴¹ 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

“that are members of the European Free Trade Association, acceding countries, candidates and potential candidates, countries covered by the European Neighbourhood Policy.”¹⁹⁴² The goal is to increase investments into small and medium sized enterprises to help with the rebuilding of the EU’s economy post COVID-19.¹⁹⁴³

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.”¹⁹⁴⁴ 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.¹⁹⁴⁵ This will not act to further EU protectionism but will promote countries to become environmentally aware and meet climate objectives.¹⁹⁴⁶

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.¹⁹⁴⁷ 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.¹⁹⁴⁸

On 11 March 2021, the European Commission reinforced their commitment to export COVID-19 vaccines, of which it is currently the largest exporter.¹⁹⁴⁹ Over 34 million doses have been exported to 31 different countries.¹⁹⁵⁰ The new regulation has been set to continue until the end of June 2021.¹⁹⁵¹

On 25 March 2021, the European Parliament defined the strategy for a new EU-Africa partnership.¹⁹⁵² The expectation for the strategy is to encourage African ambitions towards a continental free trade area.¹⁹⁵³

¹⁹⁴² 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

¹⁹⁴³ 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

¹⁹⁴⁴ 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>

¹⁹⁴⁵ 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>

¹⁹⁴⁶ 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>

¹⁹⁴⁷ 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>

¹⁹⁴⁸ 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>

¹⁹⁴⁹ 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

¹⁹⁵⁰ 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

¹⁹⁵¹ 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

¹⁹⁵² 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.¹⁹⁵⁴ The agreement encourages a zero quota and zero tariff arrangement “on all goods that comply with the appropriate rules of origin” and covers investment.¹⁹⁵⁵

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.¹⁹⁵⁶ Recommendations have been made to advance trade, investment, effective multilateralism and “appropriate provisions regarding investors’ rights and duties.”¹⁹⁵⁷

On 22 April 2021, delegates from the EU attended the WTO general council meeting.¹⁹⁵⁸ 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.¹⁹⁵⁹ Additionally, members agreed to engage with WTO trade monitoring exercises.¹⁹⁶⁰

On 17 June 2021, EU legislators agreed to invest EUR5 billion into the Brexit Adjustment Program, which targets counties, regions and sectors most affected by Brexit.¹⁹⁶¹ The EU will be investing in “job creation and reintegration in the labour market.”¹⁹⁶²

On 24 June 2021, Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) approved a deal between Parliament and Council to invest into regions that are being most affected by the transition to climate neutral EU.¹⁹⁶³

On 28 June 2021, MEPs pushed for the farming market to be more transparent as to be better prepare for future crises.¹⁹⁶⁴ The council agreed to include European Union observatories to collect data on imports and exports in addition to other data.¹⁹⁶⁵

¹⁹⁵³ 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>

¹⁹⁵⁴ 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/20210423IPR02772/parliament-formally-approves-eu-uk-trade-and-cooperation-agreement>

¹⁹⁵⁵ 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

¹⁹⁵⁶ 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/20210408ST001627/eu-india-boosting-cooperation-from-trade-to-climate>

¹⁹⁵⁷ 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

¹⁹⁵⁸ 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>

¹⁹⁵⁹ 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>

¹⁹⁶⁰ 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>

¹⁹⁶¹ Deal reached on EU fund to help regions and businesses adapt to Brexit, European Parliament (Brussels) 17 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210615IPR06211/deal-reached-on-eu-fund-to-help-regions-and-businesses-adapt-to-brexit>

¹⁹⁶² Deal reached on EU fund to help regions and businesses adapt to Brexit, European Parliament (Brussels) 17 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210615IPR06211/deal-reached-on-eu-fund-to-help-regions-and-businesses-adapt-to-brexit>

¹⁹⁶³ MEPs Approve EU Aid to Help Regions Most Hit by Transition to Climate Neutral EU, European Parliament (Brussels) 24 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210621IPR06641/meps-approve-eu-aid-to-help-regions-most-hit-by-transition-to-climate-neutral-eu>

On 15 July 2021, the EU set out its goals for a new strategy with China.¹⁹⁶⁶ Emphasis was placed on discussing “human rights, climate change, nuclear disarmament, fighting global health crises and the reform of multilateral organizations.”¹⁹⁶⁷

On 9 September 2021, the EU parliament adopted the InvestEU program which aims to “support strategic investments in manufacturing of pharmaceuticals, medical devices and supplies.”¹⁹⁶⁸ All programs financed by InvestEU must prove a positive environmental climate and social impact.¹⁹⁶⁹ Further investments around the European Union expected to generate approximately EUR400 billion will be allotted to: sustainable infrastructure, research, innovation and digitalization, SMEs, social investment and skills.¹⁹⁷⁰

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.

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¹⁹⁶⁴ How to Help Farmers Deal with Risks and Crises, European Parliament (Brussels) 25 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20201019BKG89682/eu-farm-policy-reform-as-agreed-by-the-parliament-and-council/5/how-to-help-farmers-deal-with-risks-and-crises>

¹⁹⁶⁵ How to Help Farmers Deal with Risks and Crises, European Parliament (Brussels) 25 June 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20201019BKG89682/eu-farm-policy-reform-as-agreed-by-the-parliament-and-council/5/how-to-help-farmers-deal-with-risks-and-crises>

¹⁹⁶⁶ MEPs set out their vision for a new EU strategy for China, European Parliament (Brussels) 15 July 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210708IPR08013/meps-set-out-their-vision-for-a-new-eu-strategy-for-china>

¹⁹⁶⁷ MEPs set out their vision for a new EU strategy for China, European Parliament (Brussels) 15 July 2021. Access Date: 24 July 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210708IPR08013/meps-set-out-their-vision-for-a-new-eu-strategy-for-china>

¹⁹⁶⁸ Parliament adopts InvestEU programme for strategic and innovative investments, European Parliament (Brussels) 3 September 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210304IPR99206/parliament-adopts-investeu-programme-for-strategic-and-innovative-investments>

¹⁹⁶⁹ Parliament adopts InvestEU programme for strategic and innovative investments, European Parliament (Brussels) 3 September 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210304IPR99206/parliament-adopts-investeu-programme-for-strategic-and-innovative-investments>

¹⁹⁷⁰ Parliament adopts InvestEU programme for strategic and innovative investments, European Parliament (Brussels) 3 September 2021. Access Date: 13 September 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210304IPR99206/parliament-adopts-investeu-programme-for-strategic-and-innovative-investments>
