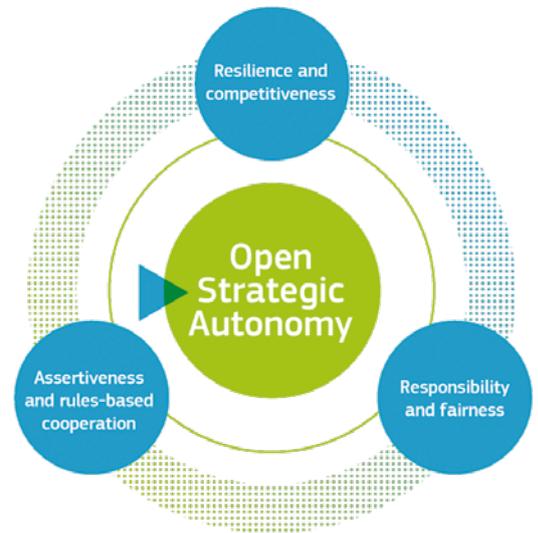


WHAT IS OPEN STRATEGIC AUTONOMY?

Open Strategic Autonomy enables the EU to be stronger – both economically and geopolitically – by being:

- **Open** to trade and investment for the EU economy to recover from the crisis and remain competitive and connected to the world
- **Sustainable and responsible** to lead internationally to shape a greener and fairer world, reinforcing existing alliances and engaging with a range of partners
- **Assertive against** unfair and coercive practices and ready to enforce its rights, while always favouring international cooperation to solve global problems.



WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR OUR FUTURE TRADE POLICY?



The term 'strategic autonomy' comes from defence/military planning and refers to the EU's ability to chart its own course in line with its interests and values. This does not mean going it alone, but rather accepting and managing our interdependence in the best possible way.

“ Global trade and its integrated value chains will remain a fundamental growth engine and will be essential for Europe's recovery. With this in mind, Europe will pursue a model of **open strategic autonomy**. This will mean shaping the new system of global economic governance and developing mutually beneficial bilateral relations, while protecting ourselves from unfair and abusive practices. *Europe's moment: Repair and Prepare for the Next Generation, May 2020* – Commission Communication, COM(2020) 456 final, 27 May 2020 ”

The addition of 'openness' shows that the EU will be open to trade and will promote stable rules in order to be strong economically and have geopolitical influence.

Open Strategic Autonomy means cooperating multilaterally wherever we can, acting autonomously wherever we must.

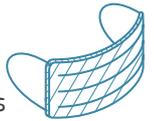
WHAT DOES OPEN STRATEGIC AUTONOMY MEAN FOR OUR FUTURE TRADE POLICY?

Open Strategic Autonomy is a compass for EU trade policy at a time of economic transformation and geopolitical instability.

Actions:

- ✓ Prioritise reforming the WTO and supporting multilateralism for sustainable development, the green and digital transformations and global solutions
- ✓ Rebuild the transatlantic partnership and engage with a range of partners to promote dialogue and cooperation and address common challenges together
- ✓ Make use of all policies and measures to bring real benefits to EU companies and workers, implement and enforce trade agreements, and level the playing field
- ✓ Propose and adopt an anti-coercion instrument to respond to coercive practices by non-EU countries

SHOULD WE BRING BACK PRODUCTION TO THE EU TO BE MORE AUTONOMOUS?



The crisis tested supply chains, giving rise to calls for more autonomy. But things are not so simple. Take face masks – the shortage was due to a huge rise in demand that global supply could not satisfy. The result would have been the same even if production were in Europe. In fact, supply chains within the EU faced the same challenges and did not fare any better during the crisis.



Even if supply chains to a large extent delivered during the crisis, there are still lessons to be drawn, and businesses are already revising their risk management strategies. Trade policy can help by making it easier to diversify sources of supply. Transparency at all levels proved to be key during the crisis and continues to be important for the global distribution of vaccines.

Work is also ongoing to improve crisis preparedness and identify strategic dependencies, particularly in the most sensitive industrial ecosystems, such as health.