



# EU-US RELATIONS



## EU-US COOPERATION ON REFORMING THE WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

### THE EU AT THE FOREFRONT OF WTO REFORM

The World Trade Organization (WTO) is the foundation of the multilateral trading system. It has contributed to stable economic growth over the last 25 years, which in turn has helped lift millions of people out of poverty.

The face of trade has changed considerably since the foundation of the WTO, while the rules that govern the organisation have not. To stimulate the economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, a stable trading environment with the WTO at its centre is more essential than ever.

The EU set out its plan for a reformed WTO in February, with proposals to equip the organisation to deal with the current and future challenges facing global trading nations, including on improving transparency in the trade in goods, reducing trade barriers and resolving the crisis in dispute settlement.

With regard to the level playing field, working with the US and Japan, the EU has put forward ideas on strengthened rules on industrial subsidies and other competition-distorting measures, with several trilateral ministerial-level statements over the past years.

### EU-US SHARED COMMITMENT ON WTO REFORM

The EU and the US made a clear commitment at their June 2021 summit to reform the WTO to make it fit for the reality of the 2020s and beyond.

#### The two sides will work together cooperatively to:

1. Achieve meaningful WTO reform and help promote outcomes that benefit our workers and companies
2. Advance the proper functioning of the WTO's negotiating function and dispute settlement system
3. Seek to update the WTO rulebook with more effective disciplines on
  - industrial subsidies,
  - unfair behavior of state-owned enterprises, and
  - other trade and market distorting practices.
4. Agree to a trade policy response to the COVID-19 pandemic that facilitates expansion of production and equitable access to vaccines
5. Conclude a meaningful agreement on fisheries subsidies

