

ICC Submission to the EUROPEAN COMMISSION'S CONSULTATION ON TRADE POLICY AT A GLANCE



RETAINING OPEN TRADE SETTINGS AND RESISTING PROTECTIONISM

- EU trade settings must promote **openness, predictability** and the **rule of law**.
- Revitalising trade will require restoring **international travel**.
- Europe should prioritise the development of a comprehensive **policy response to restore travel**.
- ICC welcomes the focus on creating greater **economic resilience**.
- But while COVID-19 exposed serious vulnerabilities, this should not lead to the conclusion that **global supply chains** are systemically fragile or that vulnerabilities require correction by governments.
- Policymakers must **consider the potential negative side effects** of any interventions.
- The EU's goal of "open strategic autonomy" and improving resilience should not be **interpreted in a protectionist manner**.
- Europe must improve its preparedness and policy responses to **future crises**.
- European resilience would best be served by creating an **economic environment conducive to trade and investment**.
- European trade policy should be leveraged to **accelerate an end to the acute phase of the pandemic**.
- Europe should specifically **support small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)** during the COVID-19 recovery.

BUILDING A STRONGER MULTILATERAL TRADING SYSTEM

- Even if other economies mistakenly pursue resilience through retreat, Europe should **not fight protectionism with protectionism**.
- The world needs **Europe to stand up for open trade and multilateralism**.
- Europe must more actively **drive WTO reform with like-minded countries** to move from discussion to reality.
- Europe should lead on updating the multilateral rulebook on **updating the multilateral rulebook**.
- The EU should facilitate an ambitious **WTO agreement on E-Commerce**.
- Europe should elevate WTO reform discussions—by taking them **out of Geneva** and to capitals.
- The EU should address the **stresses in the trade finance system through coordinated action**.

USING TRADE TO HELP SOLVE COMMON CHALLENGES

- Trade policy can be used to **address significant global challenges**.
- Europe should continue to focus on achieving a better alignment between **climate and trade**.
- Europe is particularly well-positioned to **balance trade and environmental policy** objectives.
- Europe should more fully embrace trade and the **circular economy**.
- The EU should demonstrate flexibility to create momentum for **finalising the WTO fisheries agreement**.
- Europe should ensure any unilateral environmental initiatives are WTO-compliant, designed carefully and in conjunction with foreign governments and businesses.