



European Furniture Industries Confederation

## Market Access Advisory Committee meeting 13 July 2021

### EFIC report

#### United States: Launch of the Trade and Technology Council (TTC) and Transatlantic Green Trade Agenda

- **Background info:** In line with this Commission's priority to drive the European Green Deal, the European Commission Communication on A new EU-US agenda for global change of 2 December 2020 proposed, among others, the launch of a "Transatlantic Green Trade Agenda". In the months and years to come, a multitude of new standards and regulations will be needed in the development of products/services/technologies to support the green transition. It is in the interest of business on both sides of the Atlantic to limit divergences between EU and US standards and regulations and strive for international standards as much as possible. The proposed Transatlantic Green Trade Agenda could therefore include transatlantic regulatory cooperation relating to key green goods/services/technologies, where this is in the EU's interest. In this context and on the occasion of the EU-US Summit of 15 June 2021, a high-level EU-US Trade and Technology Council (TTC) was launched. The European Commission seeks to limit divergences of EU and US standards as much as possible and strive for international standards.
- **European Commission's request:** The European Commission wants to identify what results should be achieved as concretely as possible. The European Commission therefore asks the Industry to suggest priorities in the field of regulatory cooperation. Based on the replies that Industry will send, the EC will evaluate topics to prioritise in the discussions with the US. In parallel, the EC is seeking to establish priorities in the areas where the EU should be defensive. The deadline for inputs is 31 August.
- **Industry actions:** Member States and Industry stakeholders asked for an extension of the deadline to mid-September. The European Commission will evaluate such request but reiterated that inputs should already be sent by the end of August.

#### Turkey – state of play and market access,

- **Export restriction on wood products:** The European Commission informed about Turkey's decision to impose an export restriction on wood products. This measure raises concerns over raw materials availability.  
**European Commission's action:** The European Commission is in the process of evaluating this issue.
- **Additional customs duties:** The European Commission informed about additional customs duties imposed by Turkey. This measure is not in line with Turkey's obligation under the Custom Union.  
**European Commission's action:** The European Commission is in the process of evaluating this issue.
- **Certificates of origin:** The European Commission reported about Turkey certificates of origin. Turkey recently stated that the goods coming from the EU with an A.TR certificate are not subject to certificate of origin requirements and that additional supporting evidence to verify the true origin of the product in question may only be requested where absolutely necessary.



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#### Single Entry Point – follow-up discussion

- **Background info:** In November 2020 the European Commission launched the Single Entry Point, to replace the preliminary contacts with geographical desks and delegation. This was meant to optimize European Commission's actions to resolve trade barriers and access to market issues.  
**Update:** The European Commission recalled that Industry could request assistance in the preparation of a complaint by writing to [TRADE-SINGLE-ENTRY-POINT@ec.europa.eu](mailto:TRADE-SINGLE-ENTRY-POINT@ec.europa.eu)

#### AOB:

- **Egypt: certificates of origin and the new customs system for cargo by the sea**  
**Background info:** Italy raised the issue of new customs system for cargo by sea (Advance Cargo Information Declaration). On 1 February, the Egyptian Government published the new Customs Decree n.38/2021, which sets a pre-registration procedure for companies exporting to Egypt. This provision is in force since 1 April 2021 in a transitional regime and was meant to be mandatory as of 1 July 2021. This is expected to create difficulties for EU companies which may not be able to provide certain data, and which are expected to incur in complex and non-transparent procedures and to bear additional costs.  
**Update:** An extended transition time has been granted. The provision will be mandatory as of 30 September 2021.
- **India: EU-India Trade Agreement**  
**Update:** At the EU-India summit in May 2021, EU and India agreed to resume negotiations for an EU-India Agreement. The European Commission also agreed to the launch of negotiations on a stand-alone investment protection agreement and to start negotiations on a separate agreement on geographical indications which could be concluded separately or integrated into the trade agreement, depending on the pace of negotiations. To this end, the European Commission agreed to create a joint working group to intensify regulatory cooperation on goods and services, including but not limited to the green and digital technologies. Finally, the European Commission agreed to set up a joint working group on resilient supply chains, building inter alia on the experience gained from the COVID-19 pandemic. A High-Level Dialogue on Trade and Investment has been tasked to ensure progress on market access issues and supervise negotiations, as well as keep progress on cooperation on regulatory aspects and resilient value chains under review.  
**Next steps:** The European Commission will launch an EU industry consultation and will develop a sustainability impact assessment.
- **EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA)**  
**Update:** The European Commission reiterated the request to the industry to send information about the difficulties that EU companies have encountered in the implementation of the provisions of the TCA. Deadline for inputs is the 30 July.

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