

A forceful and instant initiative for a united free, democratic world in a new trade agreement

Adopted at the YEPP e-Council Meeting, 11.12.2021

Recognizing that:

- Free trade is a guarantor of economic advancement worldwide, while trade policy has long since become part of strategic foreign policy.
- China has established a new Pacific free trade area under its leadership that once underlines its ambition to move forward as a global leader especially through economic and technological aspects.
- The new Pacific free trade agreement creates realities that will be hard to counteract in only a couple of years. With the COVID-19 pandemic and its consequences for procurement being an example of only a glimpse of how trade dynamics are shaping realities of the global future.
- The production of goods marketed in Europe is mainly located outside the European territory which makes the European Union dependent and more vulnerable to distortions in global supply chain.
- The European Commission has reviewed and readjusted its strategy for a European trade policy in early 2021.¹

Acknowledging that:

- There is nothing less at stake than the question of who sets the standards in global trade and thus in the global economic order.
- The European Union should develop its industrial potential through the green and digital transition in order to achieve the strategic autonomy in various areas and to reach climate and development goals, while boosting the production capacity, generating new jobs in Europe and enhancing the export of goods and services.
- The European as the world's largest single market should act according to its responsibility and leverage its economic might in shaping the global trade.
- Human rights, occupational health and safety or consumer protection standards, but also the EU's climate targets, can only develop their full effectiveness if we succeed in convincing other regions to do the same without losing their economic competitive ability.
- Therefore, the responsibility to act fast and decisive is paramount.

YEPP calls:

- On the European Commission to make the implementation of the new trade policy a top priority, especially in its aspects of initiating new agreements with transatlantic and global allies.
- On the European Commission and the heads of the European states for a fresh European initiative to forcefully counter the new Pacific free trade area under Chinese leadership and designed to unite democratic forces in a free and sustainable economic area.

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_644



HEAD OFFICE
10 Rue du Commerce
1000 Brussels, Belgium
+32 2 285 41 63
yepp@epp.eu

- On the European Commission and the Member States, to foster reindustrialization through the green and energy transition to make Europe less reliant on global production and supply chains and to increase the level of export of European products to external markets through the new trade policy.
- For developing and implementing a concrete initiative that first and foremost is based on common environmental and social standards and thus underlines the aspiration of the European Union to remain a political and economic leader which sets standards.