



Agreement with an even broader scope. What trade can do for the environment and climate change is now a top priority- BusinessEurope has just released a position paper “What Trade Can do for Climate”- <https://www.businessseurope.eu/publications/what-trade-can-do-climate-businessseurope-position-paper>. This is also important to increase public support for trade.

- f) The Healthcare sector was particularly exposed due to the COVID-19 crisis. Initially many Governments introduced export restrictions but immediately afterwards they understood the benefits of liberalization in this sector to facilitate access to medicines, PPE and medical devices. Also, an opportunity for the WTO to revise the zero for zero pharmaceutical agreement.
- x These are all future workstreams that WTO members should explore and that could bring additional benefits to acceding countries.
- x Coming back to the benefits of the accession from a private sector point of view. Many of the reasons relate to what I have said before.
 - a) First is about legal certainty. This is important for companies. Knowing that a Government has committed to a certain level of market opening and rules. Example bound tariffs- not increasing the duties above a certain level. It would also be good to reduce the difference between the bound tariffs and the applied tariffs. Above all countries should be revising their tariffs downwards not upwards.
 - b) Increased market liberalization in level and scope. It brings increased competition but also access to more goods and services and it is a good way to access new technologies. Good also for consumers and business as it brings new investments and investment opportunities. It also promotes more resilience and diversification of the economies if it is done well.
 - c) Increased transparency, non-discrimination, good governance and respect of the rule of law. For example, it is very important that Governments respect their notifications’ obligations, so business is aware of regulatory changes.
 - d) Trade facilitation- business specially MSMEs face huge problems with bureaucracy in customs procedures. The last major agreement of the WTO on Trade Facilitation is extremely important and we need to ensure that it is well implemented.
 - e) Capacity building. Supporting governments but also the private sector in the accession countries. It is also a good platform to support stronger dialogue between the private and public sectors that is weak in some countries.
 - f) It is about opening but also ensuring respect of rules including level playing field giving business the opportunity to protect its interests using the WTO rules.

