

Berlin, 26.03.2020

Corona – Trade Policy Challenges

In times of the corona crisis, **customs duties, taxes and non-tariff trade barriers** are globally hampering the urgently needed exchange of goods to combat the corona pandemic.

Cross-border trade in pharmaceuticals and health products must be ensured also without customs duties. The EU should call on all countries to join the *WTO Pharmaceutical Zero-for-Zero Initiative* and extend it to all pharmaceutical and medical goods.

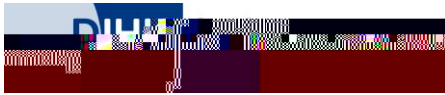
The G20 countries should agree on a crisis moratorium on new tariffs and non-tariff barriers

apply worldwide, including the EU and Germany, which also affect the **movement of goods and services trade**.

To maintain international supply chains, the EU should ensure that the movement of goods and services trade is not restricted. In particular, full transparency about the measures taken and a seamless exchange of information between the various authorities involved in the monitoring is necessary.

Export controls for protective equipment

21st. Further exports can be permitted by the Member States if they do not threaten the availability of protective equipment.



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WTO members should extend the e-commerce moratorium on digital data transfers by one year until June 2021.

All WTO members should agree on a global e-commerce agreement by the end of 2020 to regulate digital trade globally and in a non-discriminatory manner.

Simplifications for goods with a service component (Mode 5) should be agreed in all trade negotiations.

Globally, most **trade negotiations** have come to a halt.

The annulled 12th WTO Ministerial Conference should be rescheduled as quickly as possible, if necessary, digitally.

The coalition of the willing for an interim solution to maintain the WTO Appellate Body should put its solution into effect immediately, so that the corona crisis does not turn into a protectionism crisis.

Since a significant part of the pharmaceutical and medical technology supply chains include the USA, China, Switzerland and India, negotiations with these countries should be intensified.

The EU Council should ratify the EU-Vietnam Agreement in a virtual meeting.

Against the background of the decoupling discussion the fragility of global supply chains through protectionism becomes structural. The EU should therefore intensify its relations with its neighbourhood.

Procedures on trade defence are getting more difficult as EU officials can no longer carry out the necessary operational inspections.

The protection of the EU economy against unfair trade practices of third countries must be ensured. To this end, the deadlines for submitting complaints by affected companies should be made more flexible and more frequent use of written submissions should be made.