

## EU-India Trade and Technology Council WG3 BusinessEurope's priorities

The launch of the EU-India Trade and Technology Council (TTC) on 6 February has been well received by European businesses and highlights the strategic importance that both regions attach to each other. The TTC can provide the necessary structure to coordinate approaches and advance work on critical areas of mutual interest and help consolidate the bilateral relationship.

BusinessEurope welcomes that priorities have been identified and the TTC's work will focus on key areas under three main working groups. The green and digital working groups can foster cooperation in crucial existing and future technologies, while we welcomed the international and global dimensions of the working group on trade, investment and resilient value chains.

The TTC has been launched in parallel to the bilateral negotiations for a trade agreement and a stand-alone investment protection agreement. Both processes should remain as separate tracks and subjects being discussed through the bilateral trade and investment negotiations should not be included under the TTC.

This paper focuses on priorities for **Working Group 3 on Trade, Investment & Resilient Value Chains**. The reflected priorities constitute a preliminary list, which will have to be reassessed and adjusted in light of the outcomes of the bilateral trade and investment negotiations. We hope that most issues, especially related to WG3 topics, will be covered through the negotiations. Otherwise, some of those issues could then be treated in the TTC.

1. **Regulatory cooperation.** Regulatory convergence within industrial sectors is a key tool to optimise resources both for regulators and industry and an enabler for private investments.

Cooperation can be pursued through the exchange of best practices on the development of laws and regulations with a focus on the use of international standards including adherence to WTO/TBT principles. It should also promote technology neutral regulations. Upcoming regulations with an impact on each other's markets such as on "due diligence", "force labour ban" or "Carbon Border Adjustment Measures" could also be included. Conversely, similar Indian legislation with an impact on the EU market should also be included.

2. **Cooperation on subsidies** through the promotion of improved transparency, better measurement, and enhanced regulation of subsidies.



3. **WTO reform.** Work on a common agenda, work plan and timeline for the reform of the WTO including its dispute settlement mechanism.
4. **Cooperation on investment.** Promoting a green channel for investment. Exchanges of best practices on screening of foreign direct investment.
5. **Cooperation on economic security including supply chain resilience.** Exchanges of best practices in identifying dependencies to better anticipate and prevent disruptions in supply chains and build resilience. It includes e.g. mapping the supply chains of critical raw materials (and components/inputs) and coordinating possible diversification efforts. It could also include exchanges on what is considered as critical vulnerabilities and critical infrastructure.