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OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Trade Policy Committee (Full Members)
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Subject:	Outcome of proceedings of the Trade Policy Committee (Full Members) meeting on 19 June 2019

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|----|-----------------------------|---|
| 1. | WTO reform and negotiations | 2 |
| 2. | EU-US trade relations | 2 |
| 3. | Any Other Business | 3 |

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1. WTO reform and negotiations

The Commission informed the Committee on the latest developments regarding the WTO reform process and ongoing negotiations, as well as the outcome of the G20 Trade Ministerial meeting in Tsukuba, Japan.

Following the discussion, the Presidency concluded that:

- The Committee had taken note of the information provided by the Commission and the comments made by delegations on the latest developments regarding the WTO reform process and ongoing negotiations, focusing in particular on the Appellate Body, the trilateral work on subsidies, e-commerce and fisheries subsidies, among others.
- The Committee had also taken note of the outcome of the G20 Trade Ministerial meeting in Japan.

2. EU-US trade relations

The Commission debriefed the Committee about recent developments in US trade policy in general, and the state of play in EU-US trade relations in particular. Trade would most likely feature large in the election campaign of President Trump that had just been launched. The Trump administration was currently focused primarily on the ratification of the United States - Mexico - Canada Agreement (USMCA) in Congress and the negotiations with China. The trade talks with Japan and the EU were likely to be the next on the priority list.

As regards the state of play in EU-US trade relations, the Commission underlined the importance of maintaining a positive agenda with the US, while defending the basic tenets of the multilateral trading system. In this context, the Commission addressed the ongoing work of the EU-US Executive Working Group (tasked to implement what was agreed by Presidents Juncker and Trump in the Joint Statement of 25 July 2018), possible US Section 232 measures on automotive imports, the Boeing/Airbus dispute, and the Helms-Burton Act, among others.

Following the discussion, the Presidency concluded that:

- The Committee had discussed recent developments in EU-US trade relations, and underlined the importance of continuing to engage in dialogue on the basis of a positive agenda with the US;
- In this context, the Committee had recalled the importance of continuing work on regulatory cooperation, as well as reaching a fair, negotiated solution to the Airbus and Boeing disputes, focusing on common interests and avoiding any unnecessary unilateral measures;
- The Committee had reiterated its concerns regarding the US finding that imports of EU cars and car parts represent a threat to US security. The Committee had underlined that any pressure on the EU to accept WTO-incompatible managed trade was unacceptable;

- Regarding the US decision on its full activation of Title III of the Helms-Burton Act, the Committee had expressed concern and had recalled that the EU would draw on all appropriate measures to address the effects of that Act, including in relation to its WTO rights and through the use of the EU Blocking Statute.

3. Any Other Business

None.
