

## Global Chamber Platform calls for Global Trade to be strengthened through reform

In a statement by the Chairman of the Global Chamber Platform (GCP), Christoph Leitl on the occasion of the B20 Argentina Summit, the G20 Heads of Government are called on to send a clear signal of commitment to collectively strengthen the multilateral rules-based trading system, by putting forward a credible path for its reform.

**Christoph Leitl**, Chairman of the Global Chamber Platform (GCP) and President of EUROCHAMBRES, stated: *“The multilateral trading system is the anchor of stability for international business and never before in its history has the system been more under attack than today. This is a source of mayor concern for global business and for the robustness of global economic recovery. Therefore, the G20 should focus first and foremost on upholding the functioning of the dispute settlement system at the WTO. Secondly, we should address a series of long-standing systemic concerns with the current set of trade rules, a perceived lack of efficiency in the decision-making procedures and delivering on a negotiation agenda that matches the expectations of today’s entrepreneurs”.*

According to the statement, this means tackling the following elements:

- reducing the timeframes for proceedings and consultation procedures at the WTO to deliver quicker results;
- ensuring the impartiality of arbitrators and of Appellate Body members and the improving compliance with its rulings;
- improving transparency and compliance with existing notification requirements of WTO members; and
- enhancing effectiveness in the decision-making procedures where appropriate, to strengthen the functionality of multilateral trading system.

At the same time, the Global Chamber Platform has identified three main priority areas which should help guide the G20 in driving forward a future negotiation agenda at global level:

- A better inclusion of SME’s (Small and Medium sized Enterprises) in global trade rules;
- Rules for digital trade and e-commerce; and
- Increased services liberalization.

*“The world has changed dramatically over past number of years in economic, political and technological terms. However, not always the WTO has matched the pace of transformation in our economies. Therefore, it is critical that we start filling those gaps by agreeing on global rules for digital trade and e-commerce, increase liberalization of services, and commit to an ambitious SME agenda at the WTO, building on the the outcomes of MC11”*, said GCP Chairman Leitl.

In its statement, the Global Chamber Platform also stresses that further steps must be taken to make global trade fair and more inclusive, ensuring that SMEs can benefit more from open markets.

*“The G20 need to commit themselves to strengthen in transparency, abolish corruption and commit to an ambitious SME agenda at the WTO, to concrete actions, implementation and increase reporting”*, concluded Leiti.

### **About the Global Chamber Platform (GCP)**

Founded in 2002, the Global Chamber Platform brings together 16 major national and trans-national chamber organisations from the four corners of the globe. Its key objectives are to facilitate international trade and market access, and to develop coherent and innovative responses to the challenges of globalisation.

More at: [www.globalchamberplatform.org](http://www.globalchamberplatform.org).

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