

## Foreign Affairs Council on Trade: Maintain positive agenda with US and increase focus on implementation!

On the occasion of the EU Foreign Affairs Council on Trade taking place in Brussels today, **EUROCHAMBRES** urges Member States and the European Commission to remain committed towards a positive agenda with the US bilaterally and in terms of WTO reform, as well as to step up focus on the implementation of EU Trade Agreements.

*“After the mid-term elections in the United States, the domestic pressure on President Donald Trump from a House of Representatives with a Democrat majority will likely increase, which will not necessarily translate into good news for the EU in terms of trade. Europe should continue to respond like it does now: constructively, pragmatically and determined on a positive and mutually beneficial agenda, as business wants to trade more not less”,* stated EUROCHAMBRES’ President, **Christoph Leitl**.

Moreover, on the occasion of the presentation of the EC implementation report to member States, **EUROCHAMBRES** [issued a concept paper](#) recommending that mayor EU Free Trade Agreements be accompanied by Trade Implementation Action Plans to ensure a more effective and coherent Europe-wide implementation agenda for SMEs.

*“Today, Europe has the world’s largest network of trade agreements. This is a testament to the fact that Europe’s negotiation arm is a well-oiled machine, yet we are still punching below our weight when it comes to implementing those agreements at home. I believe we can and we should do better in bringing the benefits of trade closer to all European SMEs”* stated **President Leitl**.

To better monitor how SMEs have used EU trade agreements in practice and to be allow for more tailored support measures, EUROCHAMBRES calls for future EC implementation reports to always contain a dedicated and comprehensive section on SME.

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### Additional material:

- EUROCHAMBRES’ Concept paper ‘Towards European Trade Implementation Action Plans’: <http://bit.ly/2RLV01p>
- EC implementation report of Trade agreements of 31 October 2018: <http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/press/index.cfm?id=1933>

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