

EUROCHAMBRES deeply regrets the WTO Appellate Body paralysis and calls on EU to lead WTO reform process

In times of rising protectionism and slowing global trade, the failure to secure the continued functionality of the World Trade Organization (WTO) Appellate Body is extremely regrettable and increases even more the uncertainty for businesses in international trade.

The President of EUROCHAMBRES, Christoph Leitl said, "Today is a sad day for business around the globe. For many years, the dispute settlement function of the WTO has proven of vital importance in ensuring all trading partners play by the same rules. While the system is not perfect, the decision by the United States (US) to paralyse the Appellate Body is very dangerous and risks granting a license for governments to misbehave".

For European business the international rules-based trading system has proven of vital importance and is a guarantor of prosperity and predictability. While its rules require an overhaul to adapt to the realities of the 21st century, the system and especially its Dispute Settlement Mechanism function are of immense strategic importance not only to European business, but to the global business community as a whole.

"For the new EU leadership, the paralysis of the Appellate Body must mean that more than ever, Europe must use all its leverage and lead the way in advancing with a comprehensive WTO reform with those partners who are willing and constructive to do so". stated Leitl.

While the functionality of Dispute Settlement Mechanism under the WTO must be restored promptly, it remains crucial for EUROCHAMBRES that the Commission also secures meaningful temporary means of enforcing EU rights where businesses most need it.

More information: [EUROCHAMBRES recommendations for EU 2019-2024 term](#)

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