

Question for written answer E-003751/2021
to the Commission
Rule 138
David McAllister (PPE)

Subject: Prosperity through free world trade

Since 2019, the US administration has been effectively paralysing the World Trade Organisation (WTO), preventing it from acting as an arbitrator, which is one of its main functions, leaving disputes between 164 countries unresolved and threatening to create a climate of legal uncertainty for European businesses engaged in foreign trade. Cooperation between the WTO and its partners needs to be fully restored and the WTO itself must be consolidated in preparation for future tasks.

Public transparency requirements and a ban on the distortion of competition through subsidies would be a major step towards compliance with global standards and far preferable to an international subsidies race. In addition, WTO rules should take greater account of small and medium-sized enterprises.

1. What action is the Commission taking to promote the modernisation of the WTO and hence the introduction of fair and updated world trading rules?
2. How does the Commission plan to reach out to the countries concerned, including if necessary those wishing to adhere to WTO rules, in a bid to safeguard dispute settlement procedures?
3. Is the Commission actively seeking to close WTO regulatory loopholes with regard to subsidies, e-commerce or small and medium-sized enterprises for example?