

Unclassified

C/MIN(2017)18

Organisation de Coopération et de Développement Économiques
Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

08-Jun-2017

English - Or. English

COUNCIL

Meeting of the Council at Ministerial Level, 7-8 June 2017

CHAIR'S STATEMENT

JT03415590

Complete document available on OLIS in its original format

This document, as well as any data and map included herein, are without prejudice to the status of or sovereignty over any territory, to the delimitation of international frontiers and boundaries and to the name of any territory, city or area.

C/MIN(2017)18
Unclassified

English - Or. English

**STATEMENT OF THE CHAIR OF MCM 2017
INTERNATIONAL TRADE, INVESTMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE**

1. The OECD MCM 2017 met on 7-8 June, 2017 under the Chairmanship of Denmark to discuss how the benefits of globalisation can be more widely shared. During the meeting Ministers discussed international trade, investment and climate change.

2. It is the understanding of the Chair of MCM 2017 that there is consensus among OECD Members on the following points:

- The recognition that trade is an engine for economic growth, job creation and welfare, and we confirm the importance of international investment and free flow of capital.
- The need to stimulate trade by focusing on reducing trade barriers and costs, without lowering international standards, including through trade facilitation and international collaboration.
- The welcoming of the entry into force of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement in February this year and the call for its full implementation.
- The call for urgent, collective and effective action in order to address overcapacity across all affected sectors, including steel, aluminium and shipbuilding.
- The welcoming of the establishment of the Global Forum on Steel Excess Capacity facilitated by the OECD and of members sharing information and co-operating in order to promptly deliver on its mandate.
- The call for the Forum to deliver the progress report agreed by G20 leaders in Hangzhou, while looking forward to the upcoming G20 Hamburg Summit.
- The call for the OECD export credit bodies to continue their work on good governance guidelines and financial rules for official export credits and reiterate our support for the work of the International Working Group on Export Credits.
- The call for the OECD to continue its analysis of: Global Value Chains (GVCs), supported by the Trade in Value Added (TiVA) database; trade facilitation measures, supported by updated Trade Facilitation Indicators (TFIs); services trade, underpinned by the Services Trade Restrictiveness Index (STRI); trade in manufactured and agricultural products, supported by the Product Market Regulations (PMR) survey and Producer Support Estimates, respectively; prospects for digital trade; and options to improve international cooperation more generally. This could include work to disaggregate data on the benefits of opening markets further, with a view to identifying good policy practices and to demonstrating how trade can contribute to improved productivity, growth and inclusiveness.
- The call on the OECD to continue to analyse how the benefits of trade can be increased and spread more widely and we also encourage it to develop more effective ways of communicating the benefits of trade and open markets.

3. It is also the understanding of the Chair of MCM 2017 that there is near consensus among OECD Members on the following points:

- The importance of a strong commitment to rules-based free international trade and investment so that firms are able to compete in open markets on a level international playing field in order to foster global economic sustainable growth, productivity, employment and welfare.
- The importance of ensuring a rules-based, transparent, non-discriminatory, open and inclusive multilateral trading system, with the WTO at its centre, to ensure a level playing field for trade in goods and services.
- The need to strengthen the WTO negotiation, dispute settlement and monitoring functions, and to commit to working together to achieve a successful 11th WTO Ministerial Conference that delivers positive outcomes and a path for international rulemaking on trade and investment issues of importance to the global economy.
- The acknowledgement that WTO-consistent plurilateral trade agreements with broad participation can be a useful tool to foster trade liberalisation.
- The welcoming of the Information Technology Agreement and its recently concluded expansion, highlighting the importance of concluding the Environmental Goods Agreement and the Trade in Services Agreement in a timely manner.
- The recognition of the role of bilateral and regional agreements in complementing multilateral efforts.
- The recognition that more needs to be done to engage effectively with stakeholders and to improve the understanding of trade agreements.
- The importance of reaffirming standstill and rollback commitments to resist all forms of protectionism, and to stand firm against unfair trade practices and urge all countries to abide by international trade rules.
- The need to enhance market function and to push for the removal of support by governments and related entities that distort markets, and to acknowledge the right to use WTO-consistent and legitimate trade remedies to tackle such practices and enforce our rights.
- The recognition that trade has not worked to the benefit of all. To ensure that trade works for everyone, appropriate adjustment policies are needed and a domestic policy environment, that promotes opportunity, innovation and competition, and facilitate foreign direct investment.
- The call on the OECD to continue its work to provide governments with more integrated policy advice, identifying how trade and investment, international economic cooperation more broadly, and related domestic policies can drive more inclusive growth.
- The recognition that the Paris Agreement is a historical agreement that represents the collective will and determination of nearly 200 countries and is a cornerstone for effectively and urgently tackling climate change and for implementing the 2030 Agenda.

- The fundamental importance of the Paris Agreement in setting the direction for the necessary low carbon transition, improving climate resilience and shifting financial flows towards low emission and resilient investments, sending a clear and strong signal to industry and investors.
 - The urgent need to maintain the global momentum and international cooperation to ensure an swift implementation of the Paris Agreement for our citizens, economies and for future generations.
 - The strong commitment to the effective implementation of our nationally determined contributions (NDCs), and to increase our ambition on our mitigation and adaptation efforts over time in order to fulfil our collective commitment to achieve the long term goals of the Paris Agreement.
 - The recognition of the OECD's invaluable contributions towards promoting sustainable, low carbon and climate resilient growth and supporting country efforts to implement the Paris Agreement.
 - The welcoming of the OECD's work in demonstrating that climate-friendly policies can boost both well-being and economic, sustainable growth, while increasing longer-term resilience to climate change, and the welcoming of the OECD's planned work to advance policy analysis and guidance in this domain.
 - The importance of striving for better application and promotion of internationally recognised social, labour, safety, tax cooperation and environmental standards throughout the global economy and its supply chains.
4. The MCM Chair understands that other Members may wish to issue separate Statements.