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PROGRAM

Rethinking Global Trade – Where is it heading?

Virtual Debate of the KAS-BDI Working Group Trade

Date & Time: Tuesday 10 May 2022, 13.30-14.45 (CET)

Location: Online-Event via Zoom

Speakers: **Anna-Michelle Asimakopoulou**

MEP, Vice-Chair of the Committee on International Trade (INTA)
European Parliament

Dr Christian Forwick

Deputy Director-General, Department for Foreign Trade Policy
German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy

Thibaut L'Ortye

Director of Public Affairs
American Chamber of Commerce to the EU

Moderated by

Matthias Krämer

Head of Department External Economic Policy
Federation of German Industries (BDI)

In the beginning of the year, many economists were cautiously optimistic towards global trade growth. But the Russian invasion of Ukraine and the ensuing sanctions have put global supply chains under increased strain, just as they were beginning to recover from the effects of the global pandemic. The resulting current rise in inflation, initially considered to be temporary by many Central Banks, is now expected to be a more long-term phenomenon due to the new geopolitical reality.

This year, Germany has the opportunity to set crucial issues on the international agenda of the G7, as it took over the chairmanship from the United Kingdom on 1 January 2022. Both the G7 summit and the 12th Ministerial Conference of the WTO (MC12) will be held in June. The conference was expected to focus on the role and the relevance of the WTO but now with the war the conference's outcome seems more than uncertain. Not only since the newest developments the WTO has been in urgent need of reform. Has now finally come the time to rethink the international trade order?

How can an effective EU international trade strategy look like in such a challenging environment? What steps do the European Union, and its members states need to take to ensure their current role in the global economy? What will Germany be able to achieve within the framework of its chairmanship of the G7 and what areas will it focus on? Will the many trade enforcement tools that are currently in the legislative process, such as the Anti-Coercion instrument or the Foreign Subsidies Regulation, be helpful tools for the EU in this regard? In this year's first KAS-BDI Working Group Trade, we will try to find answers to these and more questions.



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10 May 2022

13:30

Introduction

Dr Hardy Ostry

Director – European Office of the Konrad-Adenauer
Stiftung

13:35

Opening Remarks

Anna-Michelle Asimakopoulou

MEP – European Parliament, Vice-Chair of the INTA
Committee on International Trade

Dr Christian Forwick

Deputy Director-General – German Ministry for
Economic Affairs and Energy

Thibaut L’Ortye

Director of Public Affairs
American Chamber of Commerce to the EU

13:50

Discussion and questions to the panellists

Moderated by:

Matthias Krämer

Head of Department – Federation of German
Industries (BDI)

14:40

Concluding Remarks