



## Press release

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### **Economic Affairs Minister Peter Altmaier presents trade policy priorities under German Council Presidency at European Parliament Committee on International Trade**

Via video conference, Economic Affairs Minister Peter Altmaier today presented the trade policy priorities of Germany's Council Presidency at the Committee on International Trade (INTA) of the European Parliament. Against the backdrop of the coronavirus pandemic, the focus was on the role of trade policy in supporting the lasting recovery of Europe's economy.

Economic Affairs Minister Altmaier said: "The coronavirus crisis has shown that we need resilient international supply chains. We must avoid one-sided dependencies. That is why European companies need open markets. Trade policy plays a major role in enabling companies to diversify their supply chains and to make them robust and crisis-proof. An ambitious bilateral free trade agenda remains essential in order to tap new sources of growth. For the EU, free trade agreements are a vital tool, as is strengthening the multilateral trading system and the WTO."

Within the European Parliament, the INTA Committee is responsible for general trade policy, free trade and investment agreements and legislation in the field of trade policy. Back in July, Economic Affairs Minister Altmaier had presented the priorities for Germany's Council Presidency at the IMCO (Internal Market and Consumer Protection), ITRE (Industry, Research and Energy) and REGI (Regional Development) committees of the European Parliament.