

Members of Committee on International Trade (INTA)  
European Parliament  
60 rue Wiertz  
Brussels 1047

Brussels, 10 October 2024

Dear Member of the INTA Committee,

The upcoming hearings of the Commissioners-designate provide an opportunity for Members of the European Parliament to put boosting the EU economy and its attractiveness for investment at the top of the political agenda. As the voice for more than 160 American companies committed to Europe on trade, investment and competitiveness issues, the American Chamber of Commerce to the EU (AmCham EU) has a vital interest in ensuring that the EU's competitiveness ambitions are translated into actionable policies.

AmCham EU's internal committees and taskforces, composed of American company representatives invested in Europe and staunchly supportive of the Single Market, have identified several key questions for the European Parliament's upcoming confirmation hearings of the Commissioners-designate. The following questions are designed to guide the evaluation of Maroš Šefčovič (Slovakia), for which the INTA Committee is jointly responsible and elicit concrete strategies to embed competitiveness in his portfolio.

### Maroš Šefčovič (Slovakia)

- **US-EU relations:** How would you enhance biliterate trade and investment ties with the US and cooperate on issues of global concern? For example, how would you deepen regulatory cooperation across the Atlantic to minimise barriers to trade and investment and resolve outstanding trade issues? How would you continue the EU-US Trade and Technology Council and ensure that dialogue leads to action?
- **Open trade in a geopolitical world:** Are you committed to open, free and rules-based trade in a changing geopolitical landscape? Would you avoid protectionist measures that ultimately harm the EU and its industry by ensuring that economic security does not come at the expense of openness and market access?
- **Europe as an attractive investment destination:** The recent Draghi report on the future of European competitiveness provides recommendations to boost productivity and position the EU as investment-friendly destination. How would you translate these recommendations into actionable policies? How would you attract investment in the EU in the face of increased regulatory scrutiny of transactions stemming from measures adopted in the previous term, like the Foreign Subsidies Regulation and the proposed revised Foreign Investment Screening Regulation?
- **Coherence between trade and other policy areas:** Companies must now implement a multitude of new, overlapping EU regulations that significantly impact trade and customs. Should a trade angle be included in impact assessments of new legislation and potential future competitiveness checks?
- **UK-EU relations:** How would you align the EU's trade agenda with the UK? What immediate steps would you take at the start of your mandate?

- **EU customs and e-commerce:** The Union Customs Code entered into force in 2016 and set a 2020 deadline for the progressive completion of the information technology transition and implementation. In 2019, the deadline imposed was extended to 2025, as not all IT systems could be deployed in time. The extended deadline of 2025 will likely not be met, which has a negative impact on both the safety and security of the EU as well as the competitiveness of EU trade. The delay is also likely to stall the development of the European Customs Data Hub, one of the pillars of the ongoing EU customs reform. How would you ensure that the European Commission meets the deadlines for EU customs reform? In addition, what are your plans for e-commerce and customs, and how would you address the challenges posed by e-commerce in the customs environment?

We hope these questions will contribute to a robust and constructive dialogue during the hearings. AmCham EU remains at your disposal for any further information.



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