



EUROPEAN NETWORK FOR
WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP

FIPRA

EVENT REPORT

International Trade & Globalisation in the wake of the sanitary crisis + Networking



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INTERNATIONAL TRADE & GLOBALISATION IN THE WAKE OF THE SANITARY CRISIS

Conference + Networking Session



Valdis Dombrovskis

*EVP of the European Commission in charge of
an Economy that Works for People, and EU
Commissioner for Trade*



Dorothée Coucharrière

*Senior Advisor, Green Transition Practice,
FIPRA*



Thaima Samman

*Partner, SAMMAN Law & Corporate Affairs
and WIL Europe President*

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19 July 2021
14:30 - 16:15 CEST / ONLINE

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Event Snapshot



As part of our mission to connect, inspire and empower women to lead the way by offering the chance for our network of female leaders to increase their understanding of the critical issues of the day, WIL Europe held an online conference on the future of international trade, in partnership with Fipra, on 19th July 2021. The event, moderated by WIL President, Thaima Samman, welcomed distinguished speaker, Valdis Dombrovskis, Executive Vice-President of the European Commission for An Economy that Works for People and Commissioner for Trade, with an intervention by Dorothee Coucharrière, Senior Advisor, Green Transition Practice at Fipra. The one hour conference was followed by a 45-minute networking session.



Exchange with EVP
Dombrovskis



Q&A with public



1 Networking
Session

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Introduction



Thaima Samman
Partner at SAMMAN Law &
Corporate Affairs and WIL
Europe President

WIL President Thaima Samman opened the event, thanking our partners and introducing the distinguished speaker, EVP Dombrovskis, before moderating the exchange. She set the scene, noting that international trade had been key for peace and prosperity since WWII, but that the last ten years had seen the emergence of big players from Asia, Trump's election, Brexit and of course the Covid-19 crisis. Was trade still key for peace and prosperity or did it need to adjust? What could we expect from the US-EU relationship in the coming period?

Dorothee Coucharrière
Senior Advisor, Green
Transition Practice at Fipra



Drawing on her experience in decarbonisation, **Dorothee Coucharrière** from our Event Partner, Fipra, recalled that sustainability was at the centre of the Commission's open strategic autonomy policy, and questioned the EVP on how this would translate into companies' value chains so that the EU Green Deal's objectives were effectively achieved in a fair and competitive manner.

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A conversation with...



Valdis Dombrovskis
European Commission
Executive Vice-President
responsible for an Economy
that Works for People, and
Commissioner for Trade

Executive Vice-President Dombrovskis highlighted the key elements of the Commission's Trade Policy Strategy for the coming decade. It would be reaffirm the EU's commitment to free and fair rules-based trade as an important driver of global prosperity, including through reform of the World Trade Organisation ("Open"); be a vehicle to achieve the EU's sustainability goals, with adherence to the Paris agreement and commitment to climate neutrality an essential element in future free trade negotiations ("Sustainable"); and more assertive in defending EU interests and acting unilaterally where other countries refused to play by rules, including through the creation of a new position of Chief Trade Enforcement Officer ("Assertive").

“The world has definitely evolved in the last decade. There are new challenges and a new geopolitical landscape, and we in the EU need to be able to react to this.”

Q&A

There were several questions from our network during the engaging 25-minute Q&A session. Among them, WIL Member Despina Anastasiou queried the EVP on the role of digital solutions in ensuring transparency through the value chain for the Chemical Industry and ensuring the STEM industries remain viable and attractive for younger generations given the aging demographics of Europe.

Wrap up



Jiaojiao Wang
Pricing Director at Rexel
France and Participant in
6th edition of Women
Talent Pool Programme

As is custom, one Talent in WIL's Women Talent Pool (WTP) leadership programme had the opportunity to wrap up the discussion. Jiaojiao Wang from WTP Partner, Rexel, focused in her intervention on EVP Dombrovskis' message of open, sustainable and assertive trade for the EU for the coming decade, as well as the prospects for a closer EU-US trade relationship following the election of Joe Biden.

Networking

After the main conference, participants had the chance to connect and exchange takeaways during a lively virtual networking session in groups of four and five.

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Event Photos

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