

# “WTO REFORM: NEW LEADERSHIP, NEW HOPE?”

Wednesday 21 April 2021  
14.00-15.30 Online

*Ralf Dahrendorf Roundtable hosted by European Liberal Forum and the  
German Economic Institute (IW)*

## ABOUT THE EVENT

The need for reform within the WTO goes without saying. From criticism concerning its undemocratic decision making and de facto suspension of the dispute settlement procedure to its inability to deal with imbalances stemming from state subsidies or market access – there are many things to fix.

The new US administration with its pro-multilateralism offers some renewed hope as does the new leadership by Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, the first woman and African at the top of the organisation.

So, what can we expect from the new US administration? And how does the EU's concept of “open strategic autonomy” fit into the reform agenda? Can the WTO be resuscitated, or do we need a WTO 2.0?



## PANEL DISCUSSION

### 14h00 Welcome

Daniel Kaddik, Executive Director, European Liberal Forum

### 14h05 Panel debate

Ignacio Garcia Bercero, Director DG Trade – Multilateral Affairs, Strategy, Analysis, Evaluation – European Commission

Barry Andrews, MEP, Renew Europe Group

Prof. Galina Kolev, Head of Research Group Macroeconomic Analysis and Forecast at German Economic Institute

Cristina Falcone, Vice President of Public Affairs, UPS Europe & Board Member of American Chamber of Commerce to the EU

*Moderated by* Sandra Parthie, Head of Brussels Office, German Economic Institute

### 14h45 Q&A

### 15h10 Closing remarks

Sandra Parthie, Head of Brussels Office, German Economic Institute

### 15h15-15h30 Fading out

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A roundtable organised by the European Liberal Forum (ELF) and the German Economic Institute (IW). Co-funded by the European Parliament. These views expressed during this event do not necessarily reflect those of the European Parliament and/or the European Liberal Forum or German Economic Institute.

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## ABOUT THE RALF DAHRENDORF ROUNDTABLES

By connecting the roundtable series with the name of Lord Dahrendorf, the European Liberal Forum wishes to underline his achievements. In his many functions he championed liberal democracy and European integration. He consistently promoted the role of the EU as a guarantor of human rights and liberty. His wide experience combining science and politics provided an excellent background to his activity in the German Parliament for the liberal Free Democratic Party, as European Commissioner, as member of the British House of Lords and as Chairman of the Board of the Friedrich Naumann Foundation (1982–1987).

During his four years in Brussels (1970–1974), Lord Dahrendorf was responsible for the European Community's Foreign Relations and Trade, and later for Research, Science and Education. He actively supported a stronger Europe. As Commissioner he was a sharp critic of European Union bureaucracy while he was passionately in favour of a European Parliament exercising greater power.

