

# REPORT

## Tackling global protectionism European views and responses

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> of December 2019  
EPC Auditorium

- **On December 3<sup>rd</sup> 2019, European Policy Centre together with EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy and Think Visegrad - V4 Think-Tank Platform organised a roundtable titled “*Tackling global protectionism - European views and responses.*” The meeting, held under the Chatham House rule, was attended by representatives of European Commission, Member States, business representations or various think-tank and research institutions. The debate focused on different national perspectives on how to tackle global protectionism and priorities for the EU trade agenda.**

The meeting was hosted and moderated by Mr **Giovanni Grevi** (Head of Europe in the World programme, European Policy Centre). The key speakers were Mr **Jarolím Antal** (Director, Centre for European Studies, University of Economics, Prague), Mr **Konrad Popławski** (Senior Fellow, Centre for Eastern Studies), Ms **Elvire Fabry** (Senior Researcher, Jacques Delors Institute) and Ms **Maria Linder** (DG Trade, European Commission).

In the introductory remarks, various national perspectives to the protectionist tendencies around the world and to protectionism in general were reflected, as well as the position of the European Commission. During the discussion, also positions of the Czech Republic, France and Poland were presented in more detail. In this light, commonalities among the mentioned parties were found. Namely, the opposing stance to protectionism and the unresolved questions surrounding the approach towards

China and the United States. Lastly, everyone involved agreed on closer cooperation in Europe and especially on the EU level.

To sum up, the discussion covered a wide range of remarks surrounding the question how to tackle global protectionism. More or less all participants have mentioned the unresolved relationship towards China and the United States. Additionally, the concerns around the raise of subsidies around the world has been raised. Lastly, protectionism is not coming only from outside of the European Union, but we can observe it also on the inside.

