

India, EU intend to find a way forward: Goyal on carbon tax

Both sides agree to coordinate on policies in semiconductor sector, conclude agreement by Sept

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India and the European Union (EU) will “intensify their engagement” to address the issues that are likely to emerge in implementing the trade bloc’s carbon border adjustment mechanism (CBAM) measures, as the thorny issue was taken up during the first ministerial meeting of the Trade and Technology Council (TTC) meeting in Brussels.

The CBAM regulation came into force from Tuesday, although it will enter the transition phase from October, followed by the levying of carbon tax January 2026 onwards.

India has been concerned about the impact of CBAM, which will result in the imposition of a levy on imported carbon-intensive products and is set to pose a challenge for the aluminium and steel industry. India believes that such a regulation will result in a problem of market access with the EU’s trading partners, since it is an instance of dragging environmental issues into trade matters.

During a bilateral meeting with the European Commissioner for Internal Trade Thierry Breton, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said further study needs to be undertaken as to how CBAM could impact enterprises on both sides, trade and as well



(From left to right) Union Ministers Piyush Goyal, S Jaishankar, and Rajeve Chandrasekhar co-chairing the first ministerial meeting of Trade and Technology Council in Brussels, on Wednesday

PHOTO: TWITTER

as consumers due to increased price of goods and services.

Thereafter, addressing the media in Brussels, Goyal also said both sides will work together to find the “right solutions” since there is a “long time” ahead of the implementation of CBAM.

“I’m sure the intention is not to create a barrier to pay, but to find a way forward... so that sustainability is as much a part of our collective efforts to leave behind a better planet for the next generation. And we remain engaged... we are discussing the issue,” Goyal said.

European Commission Executive Vice-President Valdis Dombrovskis put

forth the trade bloc’s stance, stating that the EU has been “careful” to ensure compatibility of the carbon border measure with World Trade Organization norms and is therefore “non-discriminatory”.

Dombrovskis, who was also addressing the media, said both sides decided to deepen their engagement on carbon border measures via TTC.

TTC meet

According to a joint statement after the first meeting of the council, the co-chairs under the TTC will meet again in early-2024 in India to take stock of the progress and decide on

Kant: India should be 1st to industrialise minus carbonising

There is a need for climate finance and resources to flow into emerging countries and India should be among the first countries to industrialise without decarbonising the world, G20 Sherpa Amitabh Kant said on Wednesday. While delivering Bharti Lecture on India’s G20 Presidency around digital cooperation at IIT Delhi, Kant said that the world may survive in 2050 but human beings will go extinct if the world fails to meet 1.5°C global warming target. **PTI**

further action. Both sides also agreed to coordinate their policies in the strategic semiconductor sector with an aim to conclude an agreement by September.

They also agreed to enhance cooperation on IT and telecoms standardisation, with a particular focus on promoting interoperable standards. They decided to undertake quantum and high-performance computing research and development projects that could address climate change, natural hazards, bioinformatics, bio-molecular research, and drug development.