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Calling on the EU-US Trade and Technology Council: How to Deliver for the Planet and the Economy

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Brussels, 29 February 2024 - The authors of this [Policy Brief](#) propose the establishment of an agreement on conformity assessment between the EU and the US that covers machinery and electrical equipment. The proposed agreement aims to facilitate trade by increasing the number of authorized conformity assessment bodies in both regions without altering existing product requirements.

By streamlining conformity assessment processes, the agreement could reduce trade costs significantly, with estimates suggesting a potential reduction of between 2 and 6 percent. This reduction can increase transatlantic exports between US\$ 24.8 billion and US\$ 54.7 billion.

The proposal also complements the ongoing efforts from the EU and the US to decrease dependency on Chinese imports, particularly in strategic sectors such as machinery and electrical equipment. By fostering a more competitive market environment between the EU and the US, Chinese exports of machinery and electrical equipment could fall by between US\$ 6.5 billion and US\$ 19.4 billion. This goal would be achieved without resorting to public subsidies or imposing financial burdens on taxpayers.

Additionally, the agreement holds promise for advancing environmental objectives by accelerating the adoption of green technologies and lowering the costs of the energy transition. ***"Machinery and electrical equipment play a pivotal role in the energy transition, and by reducing the cost and time associated with conformity assessment in these sectors, the agreement will facilitate the deployment of clean technologies,"*** emphasized Oscar Guinea, one of the authors.

The proposal underscores the urgent need for cooperation between the EU and the US in addressing shared challenges and harnessing economic opportunities. With its focus on enhancing trade, reducing reliance on Chinese imports, and promoting the green transition, the agreement on conformity assessment represents a significant step towards fostering stronger economic ties and achieving common goals.

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