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About ITIF

▪ The world’s leading science and technology policy think tank.
▪ Supports policies driving global, innovation-based economic growth.
▪ Focuses on a host of issues at the intersection of technology innovation and public policy across several sectors:
  – Innovation and competitiveness
  – IT and data
  – Telecommunications
  – Trade and globalization
  – Clean energy, manufacturing, life sciences, and ag biotech
General Thoughts on Pandemic Economic Response

▪ The pandemic has neutralized productive enterprise; it’s a supply shock.

▪ The primary objective of governments’ policy response must be to help businesses survive COVID-19, thus breaking the link between disruption of supply and collapse in demand. Help SMEs especially.

▪ Focus interventions initially on greatest leverage points to restore confidence and productive capacity: especially assisting employers/ees with “Kurzarbeit,” COVID testing, contact tracing, safety equipment, etc.

▪ Then focus on using crisis as transformational socioeconomic opportunity.

Sources: Wall Street Journal, “The Coronavirus Is Spreading, but German Factories Keep Running”
Forbes, “Economic Recovery From COVID-19 And Geopolitical Ramifications”
Council on Foreign Relations, “Coronavirus: How Are Countries Responding to the Economic Crisis?”
Policymakers must sweep away regulations that limit remote, automated digital functions in a wide array of industries.

Support foundational technology platforms: 5G, universal broadband, electronic IDs, EHRs, AI, mobile payments, etc.

Drive digital transformation for remote activity in key sectors: education, government, healthcare, manufacturing, and transportation.

Remove Barriers to Digital Transformation

- New York legislators proposed banning self-driving cars for 50 years.
- Push back against resistance to self-service options like grocery self-checkouts, cashless stores, etc.
- Governments should ensure they have the technology systems and organizational procedures in place to enable widespread telework.

Digitalization has contributed twice as much to U.S. economic growth last 20 years.

Recognize that ICTs’ greatest economic impact is use, not production.

Focus on unique areas of European strength: integrating engineering and IT systems; leveraging PPP strengths & deploy digital platforms.

Concentrate on raising productivity and digital use by SMEs.

Significantly increase investments in digital skills/digital literacy.

Source: ITIF, “Promoting European Growth, Productivity, and Competitiveness By Taking Advantage of the Next Digital Technology Wave”
Join The Global Trade and Innovation Policy Alliance (GTIPA)
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36 GTIPA members from 26 countries.

1. Innovate, innovate, innovate
2. Expand trade and investment
3. Leverage core strengths
4. Eliminate protectionist barriers
5. Spur across-the-board productivity
6. Promote competition
7. Strengthen fundamentals, including IP
8. Set national strategies
9. Focus on creating the conditions for job growth, not on job growth per se
10. Align global economic policy
GTIPA Coronavirus Resources for Policymakers
https://gtipa.org/publications/2020/04/15/coronavirus-resources-policymakers

Coronavirus Resources for Policymakers

May 13, 2020

Summary
GTIPA Members have issued numerous reports and articles to help policymakers address the coronavirus update.

Austrian Economics Center
- COVID-19 and The Future of Central Banking
- Eurobonds: Eurobonds Redux in Times of COVID-19
- Europe After the Coronavirus: A Road Map for Economic Recovery
- The Pandemic Will Make the EU’s Problems Worse

Bay Area Council Economic Institute
- COVID-19 and the Economic Vulnerabilities in the Bay Area
- Technology, trade, and the coronavirus: How global supply chains are set to change

The Bertelsmann Foundation (North America)
- Privacy and Pandemics
- COVID-19’s Future of Work Wreaking Havoc

The Center for Social and Economic Research
- COVID-19 and the Economy — Micro and Macro Perspectives

Competere
- Free Market Road Show: COVID-19 Webinar Series
- Non Esiste Italia Senza Mediterraneo

DigitalES
- Reyes Marto, sobre la transformación digital de la industria: “antes era necesario, ahora es urgente”

Free Market Foundation
- COVID-19 Hub
- COVID-19 highlights the critical need for more spectrum to lower cost of data
- Covid-19 is no excuse for spendthrift policies
Strongest Aspects of Countries’ Innovation Policies

1. Creating national innovation foundations and strategies.
2. Turning their universities into engines of innovation.
3. Using innovative financing instruments: E.g., innovation vouchers.
4. Enacting innovative tax policies: Collaborative R&D credits/patent boxes.
5. Launching “Industry 4.0” manufacturing digitalization strategies.
6. Removing inhibiting regulations, using regulatory sandboxes.

Collaboration, Open Trade, and Innovation to Fight COVID

1. Abolish tariffs on medical supplies and medicines.
2. Reject exports bans on medical supplies.
3. Reduce customs red tape.
4. Enable the free flow of relevant health data across borders.
5. Maintain transparency to collect/share epidemiological data.
6. Increase cooperation with countries to speed drug approval.
7. Maintain robust intellectual property rights.

http://www2.itif.org/2020-collaboration-open-trade-innovation.pdf
Collaboration, Open Trade, and Innovation to Fight COVID

- The EU sources one-third of COVID-related imports from outside its borders.
  - Countries should exempt COVID-19 related medicines, vaccines, and medical supplies from import duties/taxes.
  - Consider joining the WTO Pharmaceuticals Agreement/ITA.
  - Don’t be one of the 80 countries with COVID export curbs.
  - Respect IP rights and avoid issuing compulsory licenses.

http://www2.itif.org/2020-collaboration-open-trade-innovation.pdf
Thank You

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