



First workshop of the E15 Expert Group on **Services**

15-16 May 2014 – Geneva, Switzerland

Agenda

INVITATION ONLY

Thursday 15 May

- 9:15-9:30 **Welcome: Background on E15 process and Role of Services Expert Group**
- **Ricardo Meléndez-Ortiz**, Convener (ICTSD) and **Rick Samans** (World Economic Forum)
 - Chair of Meeting: **Patrick Low**, Theme Leader (Fung Global Institute)
- 9:30-11:30 **The Role of Services in a Changing World: Discussion of Background Paper: “The New Services Era – Is GATS up to the Task?” (Sections 1-4)**
- The role of services in the economy, both at the national and global level, has become more prominent in recent years. Technology, new business models, greater trade and investment openness, and government policy are among the drivers of this transformation. The traditional way services are captured in trade statistics tells us less and less of what we need to know. The objective of this session is to review these issues in order to provide context for later discussions on how to improve multilateral cooperation in the field of services.*
- Presentation by **Magnus Rentzhog**, Co-convener (Swedish National Board of Trade)
 - Discussion
- 11:30-11:45 **Coffee break**
- 11:45-13:00 **Current State of Play in the WTO - Review of Progress on the Doha Negotiations on Services**
- The modest progress of services negotiations in the Doha Round has been a source of concern to many governments. This session will review the state of play, including in terms of the Bali outcome and the emergence of a plurilateral approach to the negotiations. See the following link for the Bali outcome (http://wto.org/english/thewto_e/minist_e/mc9_e/balipackage_e.htm).*
- Presentation by **Abdel-Hamid Mamdouh**, Director of Services Division, WTO
 - Discussion
- 13:00-14:00 **Lunch break**
- 14:00-15.45 **Discussion of Background Paper: “The New Services Era – Is GATS up to the Task?” (Section 5)**
- This session will consider issues facing the multilateral system in dealing with services in terms of structural/interpretative challenges embedded in the agreement, limits on the extent of its use as an instrument for opening and regulating markets, and its capacity to meet the needs of a GVC-dominated system of production and consumption.*

- Presentation by **Magnus Rentzhog**, Co-convener (Swedish National Board of Trade)
- Discussion

15:45-16:00 **Coffee Break**

16:00-17:30 **Lessons Learned for Services from Advances in PTAs**

The discussion here is on approaches taken in PTAs that are different from the GATS and from which we might learn.

- Presentation by **Hildegunn Nordås** and **Pierre Sauvé**
- Discussion

18:00 **Reception and Dinner**

Friday 16 May

Chair of Meeting: **Patrick Low**, Theme Leader (Fung Global Institute)

9:30-11:00 **Making the GATS a More Effective Agreement: What are the Options?**

Following from the diagnosis of the previous two sessions, the discussion here on how the GATS Agreement might be changed and update in order to be more effective both in terms of what is desirable and what is possible. It will also discuss the way that services negotiations under the WTO might be conducted differently in order to achieve better and more forward-looking outcomes.

- Presentation **Aaditya Mattoo** and **Jane Drake-Brockman**
- Discussion

11:00-11:15 **Coffee break**

11:15-12:30 **Agreement on “Think Pieces” for the next meeting**

The Expert Group will decide upon which issues relevant to services identified in the Background Paper and in the context of the discussion should be given more attention through the preparation of “Think Pieces” for the next meeting. It will also tentatively consider when and where the next meeting might take place.

12:30 **Close of Meeting and Light Lunch**