

Rethinking International Subsidies Disciplines

14-15 April 2016 – Cambridge, UK

Agenda

14 April - Afternoon Session

14:00 – 14:30 **The E15 Task Force on Rethinking International Subsidies Disciplines – Process and purpose**

- Gary HORLICK (Law Offices of Gary N. Horlick): Meeting objectives and process

14:30 – 16:00 **Session I: Economics and subsidies**

Chair: Christophe BELLMANN, Senior Research Associate, ICTSD

Resource person: (20-30 min. each)

- Meredith A. CROWLEY, Fellow of St. John's College and Lecturer, University of Cambridge
- Serge SHIKHER, International Economist, Research Division, USITC

This session will focus on current or likely future economic tools to determine the impact of subsidies on third countries. Starting with the proposition that governments should have flexibility to provide subsidies as long as it does not cause impact outside that territory, the first question to answer is how to determine whether such schemes have impacts on non-beneficiaries outside of their jurisdiction and by how much. The purpose here is not to evaluate existing rules but rather to discuss what one could do starting from a “clean sheet of paper”. Critics have argued that existing methods to distinguish permissible from impermissible subsidies rely on the wrong criteria. Previous attempts have also focused mainly or exclusively on trade effects, ignoring possible impacts on natural resources, public goods or global commons.

16:00 – 16:15 **Coffee and tea**

16:15– 18:00 **Open discussions**

Chair: Gary HORLICK, Law Offices of Gary N. Horlick

18:30 **Drinks and working dinner**

15 April - Morning Session

9:30 – 11:00 **Session II: Applying new analytical tools: What is to be done?**

Chair: Gary HORLICK, Law Offices of Gary N. Horlick

Resource persons:

- Felipe HEES, Brazilian mission to the WTO
- Mr. Kazumochi KOMETANI, former Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Meti), Japan

Following up on the previous day's discussion, this session will look at how sound analytical approaches to determine the impact of different subsidy schemes could be applied under current or future subsidies disciplines.

- 11:00 – 11:15 **Coffee and tea**
- 11:15 – 13:00 **Open discussion**
- 13:00 – 14:30 **Lunch**
- 14:30 – 16:45 **Session IV: Next steps**

Chair: Christophe BELLMANN, Senior Research Associate, ICTSD

- Resource person: Luca RUBINI, Reader in International Economic Law, University of Birmingham

This session will discuss possible avenues for subsidies discipline reform. While a complete review of the ASCM agreement is highly unlikely, stand-alone issue-specific reform or sectoral approaches (e.g. fisheries) within or outside of the WTO might be more promising in the post-Nairobi context. Other avenues such as unilateral reform, regional agreements (e.g. TTIP) or plurilateral initiatives might also offer interesting prospects at least for certain types of reform.

Open discussion

- 16:45 – 17:00 **Conclusions by the organisers**