



Invitation: Webinar on integrating an international framework on investment facilitation for development into the WTO, 28 May, 15:00-16:00 CET

Dear colleague,

On behalf of the International Trade Centre (ITC) and the German Development Institute / Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (DIE), we cordially invite you to a webinar on:

Integrating an international framework on investment facilitation for development into the WTO

Thursday, 28 May 2020, 15:00-16:00 Central European Time (CET)

This is the fourth of a webinar series on investment facilitation for development, organised jointly by ITC and DIE.

To register in the event and receive the password for the Zoom meeting please click [here](#).

Negotiations on an international framework on investment facilitation for development will start in the World Trade Organization (WTO) among 101 WTO members as soon as circumstances permit. How such an international framework could be integrated into the WTO system and how it relates to other agreements is open for discussion.

The webinar will be conducted in an interactive manner and allow for questions by participants. After an introduction briefing the webinar participants on the state of play of the investment facilitation negotiations, key issues will be discussed, including:

- How to integrate an international framework on investment facilitation for development into the WTO rulebook?
- What are potential overlaps with, and inconsistencies between, an international framework on investment facilitation for development and existing WTO agreements (e.g. GATS)?
- What are the interrelations between the negotiations on investment facilitation for development and domestic regulation disciplines?

The webinar will have the following agenda and speakers:

Introduction: Marion Jansen, Director and Chief Economist, ITC

Moderator: Axel Berger, Senior Researcher, DIE

The panel:

- Ambassador Mathias Francke of Chile, Coordinator of the Structured Discussions on Investment Facilitation for Development
- Rolf Adlung, independent trade policy analyst, former Counsellor, Trade in Services Division at the WTO
- Sherry Stephenson, Member PECC Services Network, Independent Consultant

This webinar is held in the framework of a joint ITC/DIE project on Investment Facilitation for Development. It will discuss a number of issues that need to be considered during the negotiations concerning how such a framework should be implemented to meet its objective.

To join the meeting, kindly click on the link below shortly before **15:00 am CET on 28 of May** and follow the instructions. **You will receive the password on Tuesday 27 May 2020.** If you are not able to connect online, you could connect using the dial-up options provided at the end of this email.

Join Zoom Meeting

If you would like to send written questions or comments during the meeting, please feel free to type them in the chat window by clicking on the “chat” button on the middle-bottom pane of the Zoom window.

We look forward to welcoming you to the webinar!

With kind regards,

Rajesh Aggarwal, Chief Trade Facilitation and Policy for Business, ITC
Axel Berger, Senior Researcher, DIE
Karl P. Sauvant, Resident Senior Fellow, Columbia University, CCSI

Bios:

Rudolf Adlung

Rudolf Adlung currently works as an independent trade policy analyst. After graduating from Basel University (MA and PhD in economics), he gained his first professional experience at the Kiel Institute for the World Economy (IfW) and, from 1980, the German Ministry of Economics. In 1990, he joined the then GATT Secretariat. After several years in the Trade Policies Review Division, he served, until retirement in 2014, as senior economist in the Trade in Services Division. His recent publications deal with RTAs in services, the applicability of GATS to services exports, the interaction between investment treaties and the GATS, the risks and opportunities of open plurilateral trade agreements, and BREXIT from trade-in-services perspective.

Axel Berger

Axel Berger is a Senior Researcher at the German Development Institute / Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (DIE). He works on the design, effects and diffusion patterns of international trade and investment agreements, with a focus on emerging markets and developing countries. Other areas of current research include the effects of an international investment facilitation framework, the impact of free trade agreements on upgrading within global value chains and the role of the G20 in global governance. He teaches international political economy at the University of Bonn and regularly advises developing countries, development agencies and international organisations on trade and investment matters.

Mathias Francke

Mathias Francke is the 2019 APEC SOM Chair. Previously, he was Director General for Multilateral Economic Affairs, Director for Bilateral Economic Affairs, Chief of Cabinet and senior advisor at the Chilean Vice Minister of Trade. As a Foreign Service officer since 1989, he has been posted to the Chilean Embassy to the UK as Deputy Head of Mission (2014 to 2018), the Permanent Mission of Chile to the WTO (2000 to 2005 and as Deputy Head of Mission from 2006 to 2010) and the Trade Office of the Chilean Embassy to the USA (1992 to 1996). Mr. Francke is a lawyer from the Catholic University of Chile and has a graduate degree from the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University.

Marion Jansen

Marion Jansen is Director of the Division for Market Development and Chief Economist at the International Trade Centre (ITC) in Geneva. She oversees ITC's work on export strategy and trade facilitation and ITC's contributions to G20 processes. Ms Jansen previously held senior positions in the WTO and the International Labour Office. She has published widely on international trade and global economic governance, notably co-editing the volumes "[Internationalization of Financial Services](#)" and "[The Use of Economics in International Trade and Investment Disputes](#)". Ms Jansen holds a PhD in economics from the Universitat Pompeu Fabra (Spain) and has lectured in multiple academic institutions, including the University of Geneva and the World Trade Institute (Bern). A German national, she grew up in the Netherlands. Next to German and Dutch, she speaks English, French, Italian, and Spanish.

Sherry M. Stephenson

Sherry M. Stephenson was a Senior Fellow with the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD) in Geneva from 2013 to 2018, where she developed and executed a work program on services, covering multilateral, plurilateral and regional services issues. Prior to the ICTSD, she worked with the Organization of American States (OAS) in Washington DC, where she guided the organization during the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) negotiations (1995-2004). Before the OAS, Ms. Stephenson was an Advisor to the Ministry of Trade in Indonesia where she assisted the Government in developing its final offer for the Uruguay Round. Previously, she has worked with the OECD, GATT and UNCTAD Secretariats. Ms. Stephenson has published three books and numerous articles. She was a member of the World Economic Forum's Global Trade Agenda Council and contributed to its annual reports of 2011, 2012, 2013, and 2014. She is currently a member of the PECC Services Task Force as well as the

T20 Trade Investment and Globalization Task Force, and has contributed to its Policy Briefs on Services.