

NCCR Trade Regulation Brown Bag Series

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TRADE AND CLIMATE CHANGE INTERFACE POST PARIS AGREEMENT

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Anna Nussbaum Auditorium, World Trade Institute, University of Bern
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Abstract

The NDCs submitted under the Paris Agreement provide a comprehensive and up-to-date landscape of national mitigation policies and actions currently applied or planned in developed and developing countries across the globe. Not applied universally, mitigation measures such as carbon tax and ETS create disparities in the pricing of goods among countries. The concerns about the competitiveness effect of national carbon pricing policies and carbon leakage may continue because the measures set out in NDCs of different countries have varying levels of ambition. Additionally, the Paris Agreement foresees progression in country contributions. More and more efforts will have to be made to ratcheted up carbon prices and the policies have to be more stringent. While the possibility of imposing BTA on imports from trading partners, Parties to the Paris Agreement, may seem remote in the cooperative atmosphere of the aftermath of the Paris Agreement, it still figures in the trade and change debate as one of the solutions to address the competitiveness issues. With the conclusion of the Paris Agreement, one can look at this aspect of the debate through the prism of the global climate change action – rather than unilateral measures. For instance, the periodic review of NDCs and the future work on price and cost metrics would allow the comparability of national emission reduction efforts. The extension of the application of the

European Union's ETS on aviation emissions to flights to and from other countries in 2012 was the closest attempt to date to introduce a border tax adjustment. The resolution of the case at the ICAO in 2016 through the negotiations of an agreement on a global carbon market in this sector highlighted the importance of finding multilateral solutions to global problems.

Biography of the Speaker

Vesile Kulaçoğlu is an Adjunct Professor at the Bosphorus University, Istanbul, Department of Economics. She was Senior Director of the WTO Trade and Environment Division from 2003 to 2013. From 1980 to 2002, she was Senior Counsellor and Secretary to the Committees administering WTO Agreements including on Government Procurement and Technical Barriers to Trade. She was the WTO representative during the Rio+20 Summit process in 2012 and in the UN Climate Change Framework Convention Conference of Parties (UNFCCC) COPs from 2007 to 2013. She coordinated the preparation of the report with UNEP Trade and Climate Change, WTO Publications, 2009 and co-authored the section on the national and international climate change policies and WTO rules. She also oversaw the preparation of WTO's submission to Rio+20 Harnessing Trade for Green Economy, WTO Publications, 2011.

Participation is free of charge, no registration is needed.

We warmly welcome you to join our seminar at the World Trade Institute!

NCCR Trade Regulation Brown Bag Seminars are 30-minute presentations, given by external or in-house researchers. The presentations are followed by a 30-minute Q&A session. The Brown Bag concept comes from the US; it means that people bring their own lunch and eat it during the presentation.