

WTI Brown Bag Seminar



Title

WTO Dispute Settlement: How Does it Really Work?

Speaker

Dr. Christian Häberli

When

Thursday
15 February, 2018
12.30 - 13.30

Where

Anna Nussbaum Auditorium
World Trade Institute
Hallerstrasse 6, 3012 Bern

Abstract

This is an assessment of WTO dispute settlement in a practitioner's perspective. After 23 years and 537 cases, numerous questions arise. How can adjudicators find a positive solution without rule-setting, despite ambiguous agreements and sloppy scheduling? How does it work behind the scenes? Who is in the driving seat? What are the main challenges today? Key players and their interests. Can small countries win a case? The importance of homework. Can dispute settlement solve international governance failures, e.g. climate change mitigation with trade measures?

Biography of the speaker

Christian Häberli has been a Fellow of the World Trade Institute (Bern University) since 2007 and is a consultant for scientific research and outreach activities in Europe, Asia, Africa, and in the Americas. He has produced over 60 publications on trade and investment issues related to agriculture, food security and food safety, obesity and malnutrition, water, climate change, employment, multilateral and regional trade, and development. In 1977 he earned a PhD with a thesis on African Investment Law (Basel University). He also has university degrees in Development Sciences from Geneva (1975) and in Theology from Bern (2009).

His professional career started in 1978 with the International Labour Organization (ILO) and with the Swiss Government, based in Madagascar, Thailand, Nepal, and Switzerland. Christian Häberli was a trade negotiator for Switzerland in the GATT and the WTO during the Uruguay and the Doha Rounds (1986 to 2007). He was Chair of the WTO Committee on Agriculture (Regular Session, 2005 – 07) and WTO Panellist 1996 – 2015, in 20 stages of 5 dispute settlement cases. He also served as Chair (every other year) of the Joint Committee of the Agriculture Agreement Switzerland–EU (2002 to 2007).

