**WORLD TRADE FORUM 2018**

**Trade, Development and Sustainability**

Jointly organised by the European University Institute and the World Trade Institute

Badia Fiesolana, Via dei Roccettini, 9 - San Domenico di Fiesole

28 - 29 September 2018

**INTRODUCTION**

The multilateral trading system is under stress. Unilateral trade restricting actions by the US and retaliatory responses are one major sources of tension. Another is the refusal by the US to agree to new appointments to the WTO Appellate Body, threatening the ability of WTO members to settle trade disputes. In May 2018 President Macron called for major trading powers to reflect on desirable WTO reforms. Underlying many trade tensions are national policies motivated by economic development objectives. How to reconcile the need for governments to be able to pursue development goals with possible adverse effects on trading partners has long been a key challenge for the global trade regime. Another key challenge is to ensure trade is sustainable.

The 2018 World Trade Forum brings together leading trade practitioners and scholars, government officials, and representatives of international and nongovernmental organizations. Sessions will address the state of play in the WTO and global trade policy trends, external trade strategies of the EU, China and the United States, links between international integration and sustainable trade, measurement of sustainability and recent trade policy research. Every year, a book related to the World Trade Forum is published with Cambridge University Press. For 2018, the book project is managed by Cosimo Beverelli (WTO), Jürgen Kurtz (EUI) and Damian Raess (WTI).
**DRAFT PROGRAMME**

**28 SEPTEMBER**

12.00 - 13.30  Registration

13.30 - 13.45  **Welcome**
- **Brigid Laffan** | European University Institute

**Opening remarks**
- **Joseph Francois** | World Trade Institute
- **Bernard Hoekman** | European University Institute

13.45 - 15.15  **Plenary Session I – The Backlash against Globalization: Implications for (Trade) Governance**

Chair
- **Alan Beattie** | Financial Times

Panellists
- **Brigid Laffan** | European University Institute
- **Paola Conconi** | Free University of Brussels
- **Caroline Freund** | World Bank
- **Lúcio Vinhas de Souza** | European Commission

15.15 - 15.45  Coffee break

15.45 - 17.15  **Parallel Session A: Voluntary Sustainability Standards and NTMs**

- **Alessandro Nicita** | United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
- **Santiago Fernandez De Cordoba Briz** | United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
- **Florence Tartanac** | Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
- **Marcelo Olarreaga** | University of Geneva

**Parallel Session B: Book topic track**

*Is there a trade-off between achieving the SDGs and economic development?*

Chair
- **Cosimo Beverelli** | European University Institute

Book chapter presentations
- **Kim Hye-Sung** | Winthrop University
- **Axel Berger** | German Development Institute
- **Christine Mc Daniel** | George Mason University

Discussants
- **Cosimo Beverelli** and **Damian Raess**

17.15 - 17.30  Coffee break
17.30 - 19.00  
*Plenary Session II – Trade and Sustainability: Where are we? Can we get there?*

Chair  
**Matthias Helble** | Asian Development Bank Institute

Panellists  
**Gregoire Garsous** | Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development  
**Aik Hoe Lim** | World Trade Organization  
**Arancha Gonzalez** | International Trade Centre  
**Joseph Francois** | World Trade Institute and University of Bern

19.00 - 20.00  
Reception with buffet dinner

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**29 September**

09.00 - 10.30  
*Parallel Session D: Trade and the SDGs*

**Matthias Helble** | Asian Development Bank Institute  
**Justine Lan** | World Trade Organisation  
**Ben Shepherd** | Developing Trade Consultants

*Parallel Session E: Book topic track*

*MNCs, international investment (policy), and sustainable investment/development*

Chair  
**Jürgen Kurtz** | European University Institute

Book chapter presentations  
**Lee Ann Jackson** | World Trade Organisation  
**Matteo Fiorini** | European University Institute  
**Jorge Sahd** | Pontifical Catholic University of Chile  
**Geoffrey Gertz** | Brookings Institution

Discussants  
**Cosimo Beverelli** and **Damien Raess**

*Parallel Session F: Trade dimensions of China’s Belt and Road Initiative*

**Michele Ruta** | World Bank  
**Longyue Zhao** | Guangdong University of Foreign Studies  
**Bernard Hoekman** | European University Institute

10.30 - 11.00  
Coffee break

11.00 - 12.30  
*Plenary Session III – The WTO under threat: Is reform needed? Is it feasible? Options and scenarios*

Chair  
**Andreas Esche** | Bertelsmann Stiftung

Panellists  
**Xiankun Lu** | UIBE and Wuhan University
Pascal Lamy | Delors Institute
Stormy-Annika Mildner | The Federation of German Industries
Manfred Elsig | University of Bern and WTI

12.30 - 13.30 Lunch

13.30 - 15.00 Parallel Session G: Trade promotion and market access strategies
Mauro Boffa | Universal Postal Union
Miklos Koren | Central European University
Anders Aeroe | International Trade Centre

Parallel Session H: Book topic track
Sustainable development in EU trade and investment policy and at the WTO
Chair
Damian Raess | World Trade Institute
Book chapter presentations
Giovanna Adinolfi | University of Milan
Robert Basedow | European Institute, London School of Economics
Ilaria Espa | University of Lugano
Discussant
Jürgen Kurtz | European University Institute

Parallel Session I: Measurement of trade-non-trade linkages and outcomes
Marie Luise Rau | Wageningen University & Research
László Bruszt | European University Institute
Miriam Manchin | University College London

15.00 - 15.30 Coffee break

15.30 - 16.30 Plenary Session IV – Digital Trade Technologies, Services and Sustainable Development
Chair
Arancha Gonzáles | International Trade Centre
Panellists
Marion Jansen | International Trade Centre
Erik van der Marel | European Centre for International Political Economy
Matteo Fiorini | European University Institute