World Trade Forum 2020
The Future of Trade Policy and External Cooperation: is Soft Power Passé?

22 - 23 September 2020
World Trade Forum 2020

The Future of Trade Policy and External Cooperation: is Soft Power Passé?

22-23 September 2020

Bernard Hoekman, European University Institute

Introduction

Trade policy is back in the center of policy attention. Trade conflicts among major economies have been growing. Large trading powers are reconsidering long-held trade and investment policy stances. Political pressures are increasing to induce reshoring of global value chains to enhance ‘strategic autonomy’ and to use trade as a tool to pursue non-trade objectives. Instruments to address foreign subsidization, tax the digital economy and to use trade policy to help green the economy raise the prospects of further trade tensions. This year’s World Trade Forum brings together researchers and practitioners to reflect on recent developments and opportunities to bolster trade cooperation looking forward.

The conference is supported by and draws on output of the RESPECT project (EU Horizon 2020 programme, grant agreement No 770680). See the project website at: http://respect.eui.eu/.

Programme

22 September  Plenary I: Trade and Non-Trade Policy Objectives: Soft vs. Hard Power

09.50 - 10.00  Opening remarks

Bernard Hoekman | EUI and Joseph Francois | WTI

10.00 - 11.30  Chair: Manfred Elsig | WTI

Speakers:

Paola Conconi | ULB
Pamela Coke-Hamilton | UNCTAD/ITC
Junior Lodge | Independent Trade Consultant
Eduardo Pedrosa | PECC, Singapore
Parallel Sessions

13.00 - 14.30  
*Panel A: China-EU-US Trade Relations: from Cooperation to Conflict... and back?*

Chair: **Jacques Pelkmans | CEPS**

Speakers:

- **Zhang Xiangchen |** Ambassador of China to the WTO
- **Tu Xinquan |** UIBE
- **Weinian Hu |** CEPS
- **Mary Lovely |** PIIE

*Panel B: Value Chains and Sustainability Footprints*

Chair: **Octavio Fernandez Amador |** WTI University of Bern

Speakers:

- **Doris Oberdabernig |** WTI University of Bern
- **Joseph Francois |** WTI University of Bern
- **Patrick Tomberger |** WTI University of Bern
- **Clara Brandi |** German Development Institute

**Plenary 2: Trade Policy & Trade Wars: Back to the Past?**

15.00 - 16.30  
Chairs: **Ernesto Zedillo |** Yale and **Patrick Messerlin |** ECIPE

Speakers:

- **Anne Krueger |** John Hopkins
- **Craig Vangrasstek |** Harvard
- **Sebastien Jean |** CEPII
- **André Sapir |** Bruegel

23 September  
*Plenary 3: The Multilateral Trading System: Game over?*

10.00 - 11.30  
Chair: **Mia Horn Af Rantzien |** SNS, Stockholm

Speakers:

- **Peter van den Bossche |** WTI
- **Deborah Elms |** Asian Trade Centre, Singapore
- **Bernard Hoekman |** EUI
- **Peter Draper |** University of Adelaide

*Sponsored by the Bertelsmann Stiftung*
Partner Session: What Would Happen to a World without the WTO?

12.00 - 13.00  Chair: Pradeep Mehta | CUTS International

Speakers:

Bernd Lange | European Parliament/Chair, Committee on International Trade
Emily Jones | University of Oxford
Kimberley Botwright | Global Trade and Investment, World Economic Forum
Bipul Chatterjee | CUTS International

Sponsored by The Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES), Geneva

Parallel Sessions

14.00 - 15.30  Panel C: Trade Integration and Policy Coherence

Chair: Jan-Yves Remy | University of West Indies

Speakers:

Miklos Koren | CEU
Kamala Dawar | Sussex
Laszlo Bruszt | CEU
San Bilal | ECDPM

Panel D: Introducing a New Database on Investment Treaties

Chair: Rodrigo Polanco | WTI

Speakers:

Wolfgang Alschner | University of Ottawa
Priyanka Kher | World Bank
Morr Link | Hebrew University
Anne-Marie Thow | University of Sydney


16.00 - 17.30  Chair: Alan Winters | University of Sussex and UKTPO

Speakers:

Ken Ash | Independent Consultant (ex-OECD)
Caroline Freund | World Bank
Simon Evenett | GTA, University of St. Gallen
Sabine Weyand | European Commission