



World Trade Forum 2021

Digital, Green and Open? Global Trade Policy at a Crossroads

14 - 15 October 2021



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

Introduction

The 2021 World Trade Forum brings together leading trade practitioners and scholars, government officials, and representatives of international and nongovernmental organizations. Sessions will address lessons and implications of trade policy responses to the COVID-19 pandemic, research on digital and trade dimensions of programs to green the economy, EU external policies and prospects for plurilateral cooperation under the umbrella of the WTO. The Forum in 2021 will comprise plenary sessions only – due to COVID-19 related space constraints, it will not have the usual structure with several parallel sessions at the same time. All sessions will be hybrid, with speakers that are on site or on-line. All sessions will be live-streamed.

Every year, a book related to the World Trade Forum is published with Cambridge University Press. For 2021, the book project is managed by Henry Gao (Singapore Management University), Damian Raess (WTI) and Ka Zeng (University of Arkansas). The book project this year will organize parallel sessions in November on the topic “China and the WTO”.

Draft Programme**14 October**

13:30 - 13:35 *Welcome*

Renaud Dehousse | European University Institute

13:35 - 13:45 *Opening remarks*

Joseph Francois | World Trade Institute

Bernard Hoekman | European University Institute



13:45 - 15:15 *Plenary Session I: COVID-19 – Trade Policy Lessons*

Chair:

Alan Beattie (tbc) | Financial Times

Panellists:

Cecilia Malmström | Göteborg School of Economics

Simon Evenett | University of St. Gallen

Mohamed Ali | AfCFTA

15:15 - 15:30 *Coffee break*

15:30 - 17:00 *Research Session I – Digital Trade*

Chair:

Andreas Esche | Bertelsmann Stiftung

Speakers:

Martina Ferracane | European University Institute

Erik van der Marel | ECIPE

Mira Burri | University of Lucerne

Deborah Elms | Asian Trade Centre, Singapore

Patrick Leblond | University of Ottawa

17:00 - 17:15 *Coffee break*

17:15 – 18:45 *Research Session II – Celebrating 20 years of the World Trade Review*

This panel discusses the journey of the WTR from its origins. How has the research field evolved, how have topics and methods changed what explains this? What have been the perils and opportunities of a journal that is advocating interdisciplinary research, lessons learned, how can you be pushing research frontiers and remain relevant for practitioners? Where to go from here, outlook, how to situate the journal.

Moderator:

Manfred Elsig | WTI

Panelists:

Mona Pinchis-Paulsen | London School of Economics

Helen Milner | Princeton University

Alan Winters | University of Sussex

Robert Koopman | WTO

15 October

09:30 – 11:00 *Plenary Session II: The EU's Foreign Trade Policy (RESPECT Roundtable)*

Chair:

Erik Jones | European University Institute

Kick-off speaker:

Bernard Hoekman | European University Institute

Panelists:

Sabine Weyand (tbc) | DG Trade, European Commission

Joakim Reiter | Vodafone

Bipul Chatterjee | CUTS

Marion Jansen | OECD

11:00 – 11:30 *Coffee break*

11:30 – 13:00 *Research Session III – NRP: Green Economy*

Chair:

Peter van den Bossche | WTI

Panelists:

Barbara Oliveira Ramos | International Trade Centre (ITC)

Miriam Manchin | Politecnico di Milano School of Management

Joseph Francois | World Trade Institute, University of Bern

Ilaria Espa | Università della Svizzera italiana

13:00 – 14:15 *Lunch break*

14:15 – 15:45 *Plenary Session III: What future for open plurilateral agreements?*

Chair:

Deborah Elms | Asian Trade Centre

Panelists:

Anabel González | WTO

Vangelis Vitalis | New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Markus Schlagenhof | SECO

Charles Sabel | Columbia Law School