Online event

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

22 - 23 September 2020
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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.

Programme

22 September  Plenary 1: Trade and Non-Trade Policy Objectives: Soft vs. Hard Power

10.00 -11.30  Chair: Manfred Elsig  | WTI

Speakers:

Paola Conconi  | ULB
Pamela Coke-Hamilton  | ITC
Junior Lodge  | ACP-EU TBT Programme
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  | Permanent Representative and Ambassador to the WTO
Tu Xinquan  | UIBE
Weinián Hu  | CEPS
Mary Lovely  | PIIE
Panel B: Value Chains and Sustainability Footprints

Chair: TBD

Speakers:

Joseph Francois | WTI University of Bern
Ilaria Espa | Università della Svizzera italiana Lugano
Octavio Fernandez Amador | WTI University of Bern
Patrick Tomberger | WTI University of Bern

Plenary 2: Trade policy & trade wars: back to the past?

15.00 - 16.30 Chair: Ernesto Zedillo | Yale
Speakers:
Anne Krueger | John Hopkins
Craig Vangrasstek | Harvard
Sebastien Jean | CEPII
Andre 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

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 UKTIPO

Ken Ash | OECD
Caroline Freund | World Bank
Simon Evenett | GTA
Sabine Weyand | European Commission