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World Trade Forum 2020

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

22 - 23 September 2020



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| BertelsmannStiftung



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

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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.

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 1: 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 | CEPPI

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

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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

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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

Plenary 4: COVID-19: Lessons for Trade Policy & Cooperation

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