

Dear Expert Network members,

Thank you very much again for your willingness to participate in the Expert Network on Investment Facilitation for Development, established in the framework of a project carried out by the International Trade Centre (ITC) and the German Development Institute / Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (DIE).

The 4th meeting of the Expert Network will take place on **6 October 2020** from 9:00am to 10:30am Eastern Daylight Saving Time (EDT), 15:00 to 16:30 Central European Time (CET), and 21:00 to 22:30 China Standard Time (CST). To attend the meeting, we kindly ask you to **register here**.

The meeting will focus on the issue of **integrating an international framework on investment facilitation for development into the WTO**. More specifically, we would like to discuss the following questions with you:

- What are the legal possibilities to integrate a Multilateral Framework on Investment Facilitation into the WTO?
- What can be learned from existing WTO agreements (e.g. the GATS) to avoid contradictions?
- What is the potential purpose and function of a committee on investment facilitation?
- How does a potential Multilateral Framework on Investment Facilitation for Development relate to the dispute settlement system of the WTO?
- How can the WTO system support the implementation of a Multilateral Framework on Investment Facilitation for Development?

The discussion will be held under Chatham House Rule to enable frank and open exchange. The main results of the discussion will be summarized in a short report which will be fed into the WTO process on investment facilitation.

Moderator: Axel Berger, Senior Researcher at the German Development Institute / Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (DIE).

Opening speakers:

Rudolf Adlung, independent trade policy analyst, former Counsellor, Trade in Services Division at the WTO

Basedow, Assistant Professor International Political Economy, European Institute, London School of Economics

Concluding remarks:

Karl P. Sauvant, Resident Senior Fellow, Columbia University/CCSI.

To enhance the dialogue in the session and ensure that we address as many questions as practicable, we would like to hear from you – prior to the meeting – by submitting your questions through this [link](#). To join the meeting, kindly, click on the link below shortly before 15:00pm CET on 6

October 2020 and follow the instructions. If you are not able to connect online, you could connect using the dial-up options provided at the end of this email.

Join Zoom Meeting

If you would like to request the floor to speak or send written questions or comments during the meeting, please feel free to type your question or request in the chat window by pressing on the chat icon in the middle-bottom pane of the Zoom window.

For your reference, we attach the reports of the last meetings of the Expert Network.

Thank you in advance for participating in the Expert Network and sharing your expert insights.

With best regards,

Rajesh Aggarwal, Chief Trade Facilitation and Policy for Business, ITC

Axel Berger, Senior Researcher, DIE

Karl P. Sauvart, Resident Senior Fellow, Columbia University, CCSI

Bios

Rudolf Adlung

Rudolf Adlung currently works as an independent trade policy analyst. After graduating from Basel University (MA and PhD in economics), he gained his first professional experience at the Kiel Institute for the World Economy (IfW) and, from 1980, the German Ministry of Economics. In 1990, he joined the then GATT Secretariat. After several years in the Trade Policies Review Division, he served, until retirement in 2014, as senior economist in the Trade in Services Division. His recent publications deal with RTAs in services, the applicability of GATS to services exports, the interaction between investment treaties and the GATS, the risks and opportunities of open plurilateral trade agreements, and BREXIT from trade-in-services perspective.

Robert Basedow

Robert Basedow is an Assistant Professor in International Political Economy. Prior to joining the LSE, he was an official at the Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD) in Paris, worked as consultant for the European Institutions, the German government and was a Max Weber Postdoctoral Fellow at the European University Institute (EUI) in Florence. He studied political science and political economy at the LSE, Sciences Po Paris, the University of St. Gallen and the Moscow State Institute for International Relations (MGIMO). His research focuses on EU trade and investment policy, international dispute settlement mechanisms and international regulatory cooperation and conflict.

Axel Berger

Axel Berger is a Senior Researcher at the German Development Institute / Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (DIE). He works on the design, effects and diffusion patterns of international trade and investment agreements, with a focus on emerging markets and developing countries. Other areas of current research include the effects of an international investment facilitation framework, the impact of free trade agreements on upgrading within global value chains and the role of the G20 in global governance. He teaches international political economy at the University of Bonn and regularly advises developing countries, development agencies and international organisations on trade and investment matters.

Karl P. Sauvart

Karl P. Sauvant introduced the idea of an International Support Program for Sustainable Investment Facilitation in the E15 Task Force on Investment Policy in 2015. From there, the proposal was taken forward in the WTO. He has written extensively on this subject (see <https://ssrn.com/author=2461782>), participated in various events relating to it and currently assists the ITC and DIE on a project on Investment Facilitation for Development. He retired in 2005 as Director of UNCTAD's Investment Division and established, in 2006, what is now the Columbia Center on Sustainable Investment (CCSI), stepping down as its Executive Director in 2012, to focus his work, as a CCSI Resident Senior Fellow, on teaching, research and writing.

Dr. Axel Berger

Head [G20 Policy Research Group](#)

[German Development Institute / Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik \(DIE\)](#)

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