



Invitation: 6th virtual meeting of the Expert Network on an Investment Facilitation Framework for Development, 20 May 2021, 15:00-16:15 CET

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 6th meeting of the Expert Network will take place on **20 May 2021**, from 9:00am to 10:15am Eastern Daylight-Saving Time (EDT), 15:00 to 16:15 Central European Time (CET), and 21:00 to 22:15 China Standard Time (CST).

The meeting will focus on **options to integrate an Investment Facilitation Framework for Development into the WTO rulebook**. Negotiations on an international agreement on investment facilitation for development are progressing well and negotiating members are aiming to achieve a substantive outcome ahead of the next WTO ministerial conference at the end of 2021. Given this progress, it is high time to reflect on ways to integrate a (most likely plurilateral) agreement on investment facilitation for development into the WTO rulebook.

The meeting will reflect on legal possibilities to integrate an agreement on investment facilitation for development into the WTO as well as political challenges that need to be taken into account by the negotiating parties.

The discussion will be held under Chatham House Rule to enable a 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:

Petros Mavroidis, Edwin B. Parker Professor of Foreign and Comparative Law, Columbia Law School – *“What are the legal options to adopt a (plurilateral) agreement on investment facilitation for development into the WTO?”*

Hamid Mamdouh, Senior Council at King and Spalding LLP (Geneva office) and Visiting Professor, Queen Mary University of London, Centre for Commercial Law Studies (CCLS) –

“What are the key political challenges regarding the integration of a (plurilateral) agreement on investment facilitation for development in the WTO and how could they be overcome?”

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

To register for the meeting and receive the meeting-link details, please [register here](#). Please note that, to avoid any difficulties, **only registered participants will receive the password** to join the on-line 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, the reports of the last Expert Network meetings can be found [here](#).

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. Sauvant, Resident Senior Fellow, Columbia University, CCSI

Bios

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.

Hamid Mamdouh

Hamid Mamdouh is Senior Council at King and Spalding LLP (Geneva office) and Visiting Professor, Queen Mary University of London, Centre for Commercial Law Studies (CCLS). Prior to retirement from the WTO at the end of September 2017, he was Director of the Trade in Services and Investment Division, since May 2001. Previously, he was Senior Counsellor in the Trade in Services Division and had been the Secretary of the WTO Council for Trade in Services since the establishment of the WTO in 1995. During that time, he was also responsible for legal affairs

relating to Trade in Services and the implementation of the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS).

Petross C Mavroidis

Petross C Mavroidis, Professor of Law at Columbia Law School, New York, since 2003. He served as a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO) legal affairs division from 1992 to 1995 and has been a legal adviser to the WTO since 1996. He was the chief co-rapporteur for the American Law Institute study “Principles of International Trade: The WTO” (2013). Among his most recent publication is *China and the WTO: Why Multilateralism Still Matters*, Princeton University Press, 2021, co-authored with André Sapir.

Karl P. Sauvant

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>). He currently assists, as Senior International Advisor, 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). He stepped down as the Center’s Executive Director in 2012, to focus his work, as a CCSI Resident Senior Fellow, on teaching, research and writing.