



Dear Expert Network members,

This is to remind you of the upcoming virtual meeting of the Expert Network on Monday, 4 of May at **15:00pm to 16:30pm CEST** (09:00am to 10:30am EDT and 20:00 to 21:30pm CST). We would appreciate if you are able to participate. **Please register [here](#).**

The second meeting will discuss the lessons learnt from the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) for a multilateral framework on investment facilitation for development. The following questions should guide our discussion:

- *What are the lessons learnt from the negotiation and implementation of the TFA for the negotiation of a multilateral framework on investment facilitation for development in the World Trade Organization (WTO)?*
- *What can we learn from the development dimension (including Special and Differential Treatment and the Authorized Operator provision) of the TFA for a multilateral framework on investment facilitation for development?*

After an introduction to the project and the Expert Network, we will have two inputs by Bernhard Hoekman, European University Institute (EUI), and Dolores Halloran, WTO Secretariat. 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.

Please note that we will send you an “Inventory of Concrete Measures to Facilitate the Flow of Sustainable FDI” that is being developed in the context of our project in a separate email along with further material on the current discussion on a multilateral framework on investment facilitation for development.

To join the meeting, kindly click on the link below shortly before 15:00pm CET on 4 May 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](#)

Meeting ID: 942 7405 7492

If you would like to send written questions or comments during the meeting, please feel free to type them in the chat window on the middle-bottom pane of the Zoom window. 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**

### **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.

### **Dolores Halloran**

Dolores Halloran is an Economic Affairs Officer at the WTO, where she has worked since 2003. Before that, she worked as an Economic Affairs Officer at the GATT from 1988 to 1995. In the intervening period she worked on a Government Taskforce to promote the economic and social development of the West of Ireland. During her GATT and WTO years, Dolores has worked in the areas of Regional Trade Agreements, Trade and Development, Market Access, and Technical Assistance. She spent a number of years working on the development and organization of the WTO Regional Trade Policy courses. She has also delivered numerous WTO workshops and courses. Since 2013, Dolores has worked on Trade Facilitation, including during the final stages of the TFA negotiations, as well as the establishment of the Preparatory Committee on Trade Facilitation. She has been deputy Secretary to the Committee on Trade Facilitation since 2014 and since 2019 is the Acting Secretary of the Committee. Since 2014, Dolores has been working as the Secretary of the WTO Committee on Customs Valuation. Dolores completed her economic studies at the National University of Ireland, Galway.

### **Bernard Hoekman**

Bernard Hoekman is Professor and Director, Global Economics at the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies, European University Institute in Florence, Italy where he also serves as the Dean for External Relations. Previous positions include Director of the International Trade Department (2008-13) and Research Manager in the Development Research Group (2001-08) at the World Bank. A CEPR Research Fellow, he holds a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Michigan (Ann Arbor, MI).

## Background literature:

- (a) **Submission of the EU to the WTO (INF-IFD-RD46 – EU).** This submission is a communication of a proposal for WTO disciplines and commitments relating to investment facilitation for development. The communication was submitted in February 2020.
- (b) **Summary of the Expert Network meeting, 20 March.** This document summarises the proceedings of the last meeting of the Expert Network on a Multilateral Framework of Investment Facilitation for Development. It lists the points in the discussion that could be integrated into concrete measures of investment facilitation for development.
- a) **A summary of the Streamlined Text of the WTO Structured Discussions on Investment Facilitation for Development.** This is a summary of the framework being considered in the WTO Structured Discussions on Investment Facilitation for Development