

Follow up on the postponed WTO Ministerial - Trade policy to recover and to achieve employment goals and greater resilience.

How can an open trading system adapt to the new sustainability expectations?

2 March, 13:30- 15:00 CET

Background

Trade and market openness have been drivers for better economic performance, job creation, innovation and societal progress. Global Trade has contributed to the creation of jobs in developed and developing economies alike and has helped bring millions out of poverty. The current challenges confronting trade disruption amid the Covid19 pandemic and the high demand for jobs for recovery underline the need for international cooperation, effective multilateralism and robust trade and investment frameworks that enable enterprises to create more and better jobs. In this context, the WTO itself has a critical role to play to ensure open trade for the benefit of all, to foster a sustainable recovery and to facilitate access to medical products paving the way out of the pandemic globally.

Context

Different business organizations launched on 1st of December 2021 the Business Coalition for trade, employment and sustainable enterprise, with the firm belief that the multilateral, rules-based trading system has been a crucial driver not just for economic growth, but also for employment creation and sustainable development, thus playing a key role in reducing poverty and raising living standards in many economies.

The **Business Coalition** will:

Strengthen and coordinate the efforts of EBMOs of all sizes and characters, as well as companies, to support trade integration as a way to create and retain employment and promote sustainable development;

Engage constructively and pro-actively in the WTO reform process to strengthen this employment angle in trade developments.

Build the capability of EBMOs and companies on trade and employment related matters;

Exchange between members ideas and knowledge on trade-related matters and their impact on employment and sustainable development;

Facilitate ongoing and regular dialogue between WTO/other international trade organisations and business with this approach;

As a first follow up activity of this coalition and, in view of the postponement of the 12th Ministerial Meeting, we want to support determined efforts to address the most urgent challenges, including WTO's response to the pandemic and WTO reform. At national level, regulatory environments must become more conducive for innovation, economic growth and employment creation in order to fully harness the opportunities offered.

Objective

This digital gathering will take place the 2nd March and will provide participants an update on the WTO agenda after the postponement of the 12th Ministerial Meeting, will highlight key areas related to trade, employment and sustainability and discuss WTO's role in the pandemic. It will open the opportunity to raise questions and share national perspectives with WTO management and business leaders.

Agenda

13:30	Welcome (Roberto Suarez, IOE Secretary-General)
13:30 – 13:35	Introduction (Hanni Rosenbaum, Executive Director – <i>Business at OECD</i>)
13:35 – 13:50	Update on the WTO agenda after the postponement of the 12th Ministerial Meeting (Angela Ellard, Deputy Director-General - WTO)
13:50– 13:57	Business Priorities for WTO's response to the pandemic (Pat Ivory, Chair of the <i>Business at OECD</i> Trade Committee)
13:57 – 14:04	What is needed for the WTO reform? (Peter Robinson, President and CEO, USCIB)
14:04 – 14:11	Trade and Environmental Sustainability: multi-stakeholder discussions in the WTO post-COP (Crispin Conroy. Permanent Observer before the United Nations in Geneva, ICC)
14:11 – 14:18	Strengthening inclusivity & sustainability in global trade (Farooq Ahmed, Secretary-General, BEF)
14:18 – 14:25	Digitization as part of an open, fair, and efficient post-pandemic global trade & investment regime (Luisa Santos, Deputy Director General - BusinessEurope)
14:25 – 14:32	Multilateral collaboration of the WTO with other organisations – where are the untapped opportunities? (Kiyotaka Morita, Deputy Director, Keidanren)
14:32 – 14:55	Q&A
14:55 – 15:00	Conclusions (Roberto Suarez, IOE Secretary-General)

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