



Experts' Roundtable:

The Doha riddle: EU as Partner or Rival of Developing Countries?

Logistic Information

Tuesday, March 15th 2011

9h30 to 15h15

If Brussels is the capital of the European Union, then Geneva is the world's capital of trade policy. Being less than 600 kilometers apart from each other, the agenda of Geneva's World Trade Organization (WTO) has relevant impact on decision making in Brussels

The *Doha Development Round* has been on the WTO agenda for ten years, however without any tangible results. Developing countries, which form the vast majority of WTO-members, are adamant in their joint hope of seeing a strong commitment to development in a conclusion of the round. Meanwhile though, a number of high growth countries rose out of this majority into a new group of emerging powers following negotiations on their own account. After several attempts to reach a multilateral agreement to complete the Doha round, the year 2011 appears to hold new momentum. It remains to be seen however, whether the political will expressed at the G20 summit in November last year will provide enough impetus to bring negotiations to a successful and balanced result.

The Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung is organising a roundtable to bring together experts from Brussels and Geneva for an exchange of views on the current state of the Doha round. How does a wider expert public in Brussels, in particular, the European Parliament see the current situation in Geneva? How closely are the discussions within the WTO with a strong participation from the global South monitored in Brussels? How does the expert community in Geneva evaluate the present state of affairs in general and more specifically the position of the European Union?

The meeting will be held under Chatham House Rule. Each of the three sessions of short inputs will be followed by an open debate among a selected group of participants.

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- 09:30 – 09:45 Welcome and Opening
Andrä Gärber, Director, FES Brussels
Matthes Buhbe, Director, FES Geneva
- 09:45 – 11:00 The Doha Deal between the old developed and the new emerging powers – anything left for the LDCs?
Debapriya Bhattacharya, Distinguished Fellow, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Bangladesh, and former Special Adviser on LDCs, Office of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD in Geneva
Harlem Désir, MEP, Committee on International Trade, European Parliament, Brussels (tbc)
- Chair:
Rashid Kaukab, CUTS Geneva Resource Centre
- 11:00 – 11:15 Coffee Break
- 11:15 – 12:45 EU and emerging countries: ready to take more responsibility?
Faizel Ismail, Ambassador, Republic of South Africa, and former Chairman of the regular WTO Committee on Trade and Development (CTD) in Geneva
Shuaihua Cheng, Strategic Analysis and China Programme Officer, International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD), Geneva
Bernd Lange, MEP, Committee on International Trade, European Parliament, Brussels
- Chair:
Matthes Buhbe, FES Geneva
- 12:45 – 13:45 Lunch Break
- 13:45 – 15:15 The EU in Doha negotiations: self-interest versus development partnership
S.B.C. Servansing, Ambassador, Republic of Mauritius and Coordinator of the ACP-Group in Geneva
Denis Redonnet, Head of Unit, DG Trade, European Commission, Brussels
- Chair:
Kathleen van Hove, ECDPM