

Trade in an instable environment: the impact of fragility and corruption

Wednesday, 21 September 2011, 09:00-11:00 in Room W, WTO

Trade occurs. It occurs between countries, between regions, between the small and the big ones. Trade is affected by tariffs, by non-tariff barriers, by subsidies, by export restrictions, and ... by conflicts.

Political conflicts smouldering in a region or country do have an impact on their respecting trade capacity. It is not only about destroyed infrastructure impeding economic recovery. Conflicts leave behind deep wounds amongst current/future trading partners, they create increasing black economies, illegal trade, and last but not least areas of conflicts are attracted by corruption.

This session seeks to explore the specific environment in which trade in conflict areas takes place by raising the following questions:

- What are the major challenges for an economic recovery in conflict areas and who should deal with them?
- Where are the breeding-grounds for corruption and how to deprive them?
- Is it possible to boost trade in conflicting areas despite all the challenges? And if so, how can it be done?

Moderator: **Dr Matthes Buhbe**, Director, FES Geneva

Speakers: **Dr Elisabeth SCHOENDORF**, Researcher, Research Division, International Security *Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik* (German Institute for International and Security Affairs)

Ms Chantal UWIMANA, Regional Director, Africa and the Middle East
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Mr Jean Amat AMOROS, Co-Founder
Gundara, Berliner label for fair trade leather bags from Afghanistan