

OECD Global Forum on Trade 2016

International trade and investment: How to keep pace with new business models and the emerging digital economy?

2 November 2016

Website: <http://oe.cd/gft16>

The contribution of trade, and of GVCs in particular, to productivity and growth has been driven by market opening for goods and services, and by a conducive environment for foreign direct investment. Regulatory coherence across countries has also become an increasingly important factor. But there are signs that the contribution of trade to productivity improvement and growth is diminishing. Both cyclical and structural factors seem to be at work, among the latter some increase in protectionism. Other factors may be at work, including divergences in how trade and investment are regulated. The question also arises as to whether current international trade and investment regimes are keeping pace with the rapidly evolving innovations in products, services and technologies. How well prepared are governments to anticipate and respond to rapidly changing technologies and new business models.

China, during its G20 Presidency has prioritised these issues, including through the launch of the Trade and Investment Working Group. OECD members have also identified them as areas where analytical work is needed to better support governments as they reflect on how to reconnect trade and investment with growth. What contribution can the OECD make to clarifying these questions as the Trade Committee, working closely with other committees (Investment, Digital Economy Policy), begins implementation of a new work programme for the 2017-18 biennium?

Wednesday, 2 November 2016	
09:30	Registration
10:00	Welcome and Introduction: Mari Kiviniemi, Deputy Secretary General, OECD
	SESSION I Trade and investment linkages in GVCs
Chair: John Drummond, Head, Trade in Services Division, Trade and Agriculture Directorate, OECD	
10:10	Are inconsistencies between international trade and investment regimes an obstacle to trade-led growth, particularly in the context of GVC's? Do they impose unnecessary costs on businesses, especially smaller ones? To what extent are local content measures and subsidies to domestic firms slowing down integration and growth? This session will seek to identify which issues on the nexus between international trade and investment policy are most important, and what type of data gathering and analytics could throw light on the issues with a view to providing insights and context as the OECD defines its analytical agenda in this area for the upcoming 2017-18 biennium.

	<p><i>Speakers:</i> Ana Novik, Head, Investment Division, Directorate for Financial and Enterprise Affairs, OECD Sebastien Miroudot, Senior Trade Policy Analyst, Trade and Agriculture Directorate, OECD</p> <p><i>Discussants</i> Denis Redonnet, Director for WTO, Legal Affairs and Trade in Goods, European Commission</p> <p>Open discussion</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">SESSION II Trade policy making in the digital economy</p>	
Chair: Rachel Bae, Senior Counsellor, Trade and Agriculture Directorate, OECD	
11:30	<p>The digital economy already enables a significant share of world trade in goods and services. Digitalisation would deliver a large part of the trade cost savings available from implementing the trade facilitation agreement. Its importance will rise as new technologies such as 3D printing, the Internet of Things, big data and cloud computing grow and develop. Evidence is emerging that digitalisation is enabling smaller firms, some of whom have traditionally been marginalized, to participate in international trade, and may also open up new opportunities for developing countries.</p> <p>What do participants see as the key issues for trade policy in the digital economy? Where would further analysis by the OECD on digital trade be most useful?</p> <p><i>Speakers:</i> Anne Carblanc, Head, Division for Digital Economy Policy, Directorate for Science, Technology and Innovation, OECD Julia Nielson, Head Development Division, Trade and Agriculture Directorate, OECD</p> <p><i>Discussants</i> Alexander Mora, Minister of Trade, Costa Rica Mark Linscott, Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for WTO and Multilateral Affairs, Office of the United States Trade Representative Pat Ivory, Vice Chair of the BIAC Trade Committee - Head of EU and International Development, Ibec</p> <p>Open discussion</p>
13:00	Lunch

SESSION III Managing the Disruption	
15:00	<p>Trade and globalisation are currently carrying a large, probably disproportionate, share of the blame for low growth, unemployment, stagnant wages and rising inequality while the positive contribution of openness to growth and prosperity is not well understood. Trade policy makers acknowledge that other policy settings need to be supportive, both to enable economies to reap the benefits and to accompany displaced firms and workers. Such assurances are clearly not sufficient to sway public opinion in favour of trade agreements. Indeed as the scope of trade agreements has widened to encompass policy areas beyond the traditional scope, anxieties seem to have grown.</p> <p>What can trade policy makers do to better inform public opinion? To what extent could or should trade agreements seek to explicitly address public anxieties in relation to issues such as fairness, regulatory sovereignty, transparency, environmental impacts and support to displaced workers. What lessons have been learned to date in this respect?</p> <p><i>Speakers:</i> Introductory remarks from: Catherine L. Mann, OECD Chief Economist Ken Ash, Director for Trade and Agriculture, OECD</p> <p>Discussants Robert Koopman, Chief Economist, WTO Ronald Janssen, Senior Adviser, TUAC David Usher, Director General Trade Negotiations, Global Affairs Canada</p> <p>Open discussion</p>
16:00	<i>Coffee</i>
16:30	Session III continued
17:30	Closing remarks Implications and next steps for the OECD's work programme.
18:00	<i>Cocktail</i>