



WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION  
ORGANISATION MONDIALE DU COMMERCE  
ORGANIZACIÓN MUNDIAL DEL COMERCIO

**REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON TRADE IN SERVICES FOR CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE,  
CENTRAL ASIA AND CAUCASUS COUNTRIES**

**27-29 May 2015**

**Joint Vienna Institute, Vienna, Austria**

**DRAFT PROGRAMME**

**Resource persons:**

- Mr Markus Jelitto, Counsellor, Trade in Services Division, World Trade Organization
- Ms Ruosi Zhang, Counsellor, Trade in Services Division, World Trade Organization

**General objective of the workshop:**

Enable participants to have a better understanding of the disciplines of the General Agreement on Trade in Services and their relevance to policy considerations in various service sectors. Discuss the linkages between the multilateral and ongoing bilateral, regional and WTO accession negotiations on trade in services, including the resulting opportunities and challenges.

**Specific objectives:**

- Objective 1:** Update participants' knowledge of trade in services and the GATS;
- Objective 2:** Deepen participants' understanding of negotiating approaches and policy instruments relevant to trade in services, with a focus on relevant sectors;
- Objective 3:** Enhance participants' awareness of national and regional prospects/problems in the expansion of services trade.

## Day 1: Wednesday 27 May 2015

Session	Subject
09.00 - 9:15	<b><u>Opening Session</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Welcome</li> <li>➤ Presentation of the speakers and the objectives of the seminar</li> <li>➤ Participants' expectations</li> </ul>
09:15 - 09:30	Quiz - self-assessment
09:30 - 11:00	<b><u>Session 1: Trade in services and the multilateral trading system</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Services trade: evolution, trends and challenges</li> <li>• Introduction of multilateral rules: the GATS</li> <li>• Scope and coverage of the agreement</li> <li>• Four modes of supply</li> <li>• Main obligations (MFN, Market Access, National Treatment)</li> </ul>
11:00 - 11:15	<i>Coffee Break</i>
11:15 - 12:30	<b><u>Session 2: Multilateralism vs. regionalism in services trade</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Article V of the GATS</li> <li>• Trends in preferential services trade agreements (PTAs)</li> <li>• Overview of services PTAs in the region</li> </ul>
12:30 - 14:00	<i>Lunch Break</i>
14:00 - 15:30	<b><u>Session 3: Scheduling of Commitments</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Principles and rules for scheduling commitments</li> <li>• Common scheduling mistakes</li> <li>• Scheduling approaches in PTAs: positive, negative and hybrid</li> <li>• Implications of different scheduling approaches</li> </ul>
15:30 - 15:45	<i>Coffee Break</i>
15:45 - 17:15	<b><u>Session 4: Scheduling of Commitments (Cont')</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exercises</li> </ul>

## Day 2: Thursday 28 May 2015

Session	Subject
9:00 - 9:45	<b><u>Session 5: Trade in services and domestic regulation</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GATS perspective of regulation</li> <li>• Key issues in the negotiations</li> <li>• Legal effect of the negotiated outcome</li> </ul>
9:45 - 10:30	<b><u>Session 6: Financial services</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GATS perspective: relevant provisions</li> <li>• Exercise</li> </ul>
10:30 - 10:45	<i>Coffee break</i>
10:45 - 12:30	<b><u>Session 7: Financial services (Cont')</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National perspective (presentations by participants from Russia and Belarus)</li> </ul>
12:30 - 14:00	<i>Lunch Break</i>
14:00 - 15:30	<b><u>Session 8: ICT-related services</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GATS perspective: relevant provisions and related classification issues</li> <li>• Exercise</li> <li>• E-Commerce: presentation by participants from Turkey</li> </ul>
15:30 - 15:45	<i>Coffee break</i>
15:45 - 17:00	<b><u>Session 9: Energy services</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GATS perspective: relevant provisions and related classification issues</li> <li>• Exercise</li> </ul>

## Day 3: Friday 29 May 2015

Session	Subject
09:00 - 10:00	<b><u>Session 10: Road transport</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Road transport regulation and the GATS: relevant provisions and definitional issues</li> <li>• Regional perspective (tbc)</li> </ul>

10:00 - 10:15	Coffee break
10:15 - 12:30	<b><u>Session 11: Roundtable discussion: Trade in Services in Accession Negotiations</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issues to consider for accession countries</li> <li>• Lessons learnt from the negotiating process</li> </ul>
12:30 - 14:00	Lunch Break
14:00 - 15:00	<b><u>Session 12: Services negotiations in the WTO</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• State of play (negotiations on market access, GATS rules and domestic regulation)</li> <li>• LDC waiver</li> <li>• Post-Bali programme</li> </ul>
15:00 - 15:30	Quiz - self-assessment Evaluation

**Reading material:**

- GATS Agreement
- Trade in Services – Extended Set of Documents 2015 (esp. Scheduling Guidelines S/L/92)
- UN CPC prov. – Part Three (pp. 173-285)