

FTA Roundtable: “TSD chapters in EU trade agreements: more complexity, better results?”

Assessing Trade and Sustainable Development Chapters in EU’s free trade agreements

Logistics

Date: Monday, 11 September 2017

Time: 12.30 to 14.00 (a light lunch will be served from 12.00)

Venue: FTA office, Avenue de Cortenbergh 172 (1000 Brussels)

Event Background

FTA’s 8th Roundtable on Trade Policy will evaluate the Trade and Sustainable Development (TSD) Chapters in the EU’s new generation of free trade agreements with a range of prominent and expert stakeholders.

Over the past years, there has been a growing momentum, notably in the European Parliament, appealing to the European Commission to reassess its TSD Chapters; calls for the EU to use its economic muscle to promote human rights and labour and environmental standards have multiplied.

Conversely, other voices are saying that the current EU approach is working well. Furthermore, considering that TSD Chapters are relatively new in EU’s free trade agreements, others are saying that more time is needed before we come to a definitive conclusion on their effectiveness. Finally, there are also those who are sceptical that the world’s problems can be tackled through heavily worded TSD chapters and sanctions.

The European Commission also issued a non-paper on 11 July 2017 to outline its interpretation on TSD chapters in EU trade deals.

Key issues to discuss

This event will look at the current realities surrounding EU TSD Chapters: what they are, how do they function and what do they aim to achieve. This will allow the participants to assess whether the chapters are up to the task to perform their function properly, and whether any of their aspects need improvement.

The merits of including binding language and sanctions in future EU trade agreements will be analysed, along with the current proposals coming from the EP to include more issues in the TSD chapters.

Participants

- Mr. Axel Kenes, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Belgium
- Ms. Madeliene Tuininga, Head of Unit, European Commission
- Dr. San Bilal, Head of Programme, European Centre for Development Policy Management (ecdpm)

Moderator

- Mr. Christian Ewert, Director General, Foreign Trade Association

Audience

- 30 selected participants

- Business Associations and companies
- EU institutions
- Think Tanks

Agenda/Format

| Time (minutes) | Topic | Person |
|----------------|--|--------------------|
| 5 | Opening and Welcome | Moderator |
| 7 | Current developments regarding EU's TSD Chapters | MT |
| 7 | Academic Analysis of TSD Chapters | SB |
| 7 | A view from the Members States | AK |
| 10 | Discussion between panellists | Panellists |
| 45 | Open Discussion and Q&A | All |
| 10 | Final and Closing remarks | Speakers/Moderator |

90 min

Event description

Please provide a description of the event in no more than 200 words.

Please also include speakers/potential speakers.

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Time: 12:30 - 14:00 (a light lunch will be served at 12:00)

Location: FTA secretariat - avenue de Cortenbergh 172, Brussels 1000

On Monday 11 September, the [Foreign Trade Association](#) (FTA) will host its 8th Trade Policy Roundtable '**Trade and Sustainable Development (TSD) Chapters in EU Trade Agreements: More Complexity, Better Results?**' in Brussels.

Featuring a range of prominent and expert stakeholders, this Roundtable will evaluate the TSD Chapters in the EU's new generation of free trade agreements including:

- **Introduction to the TSD Chapters:** what they are, how they function and what they aim to achieve;
- **Assessment of their effectiveness:** do they contribute to the promotion of sustainable development
- **Proposal for improvement:** can the chapters be upgraded and how.

The merits of including a binding language and sanctions in future EU trade agreements will also be analysed, along with the current proposals coming from the European Parliament to include more issues in the TSD chapters.

Speakers



Christian Ewert
Director General
Foreign Trade Association



Mr. Axel Kenes
Director EU Trade Policy
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Belgium



Ms. Madeliene Tuininga
Head of Unit – DG Trade
European Commission

(photo tbc)



Dr. San Bilal
Head of Programme
European Centre for Development Policy Management (ecdpm)

Register Your Interest to Attend!

We invite all interested participants to register their interest in the above form. Please note that participation is confirmed upon receipt of a confirmation email from FTA.

For more information, we invite you to contact info@fta-intl.org.

Background

In 2011, the EU introduced TSD chapters in its free trade agreements in order to promote human rights and international labour and environmental standards through trade with partner countries.

However, over the past years, there has been a growing momentum, notably in the European Parliament, appealing to the European Commission to reassess its TSD Chapters; calls for the EU to use its economic muscle to do more on promoting human rights and labour and environmental standards have multiplied. Conversely, other voices are saying that the current EU approach is working well.

Considering that TSD Chapters are relatively new in EU's free trade agreements, it is being said that more time is needed before we come to a definitive conclusion on their effectiveness. Finally, there are also those who are sceptical that the world's problems can be tackled through heavily worded TSD chapters and sanctions. The European Commission issued a non-paper on 11 July 2017 to outline its interpretation on TSD chapters in EU trade deals.