

JOINT WORLD BANK-CEPR CONFERENCE

The Crowne Plaza, Brussels
26-27 May 2009

TRADE IMPLICATIONS OF POLICY RESPONSES TO THE CRISIS

Draft agenda

*“We will not repeat the historic mistakes of protectionism of previous eras”
(Paragraph 22 of the G20 Leaders’ Statement, London, 2 April 2009)*

The Leaders of the G20 who met in London on 2 April 2009 reaffirmed the commitment to refrain from raising new barriers to investment or to trade in goods and services, imposing new export restrictions, or implementing WTO inconsistent measures to stimulate exports. They also committed to minimize any negative impact on trade and investment of their domestic policy actions including fiscal policy and action in support of the financial sector.

This conference offers a reality check of the implementation of these commitments, less than two months after the London Summit, and about a month before the La Maddalena G7 meeting. It also offers a broader perspective on domestic policy actions, whether consistent or not with international trade rules, which could have a significant impact on trade and investment flows. Presenting the views of both policy makers and academic experts, it will attempt to assess better and worse practices, and guide policy responses to the crisis in the lead-up to La Maddalena.

Tuesday 26 May 2009

9.30 – 10.00. Registration of the participants and coffee

10.00 – 12.30. Setting the scene: The crisis, policy responses, and their effects on trade and investment

Moderator: to be announced

Session 1: Macroeconomic perspective

- Otaviano Canuto, World Bank
- Richard Portes, London Business School and CEPR
- Pierre Jacquet, Agence Française de Développement

Session 2 : Business perspective

- Pascal Kerneis, European Services Forum
- Eoin O'Malley, BusinessEurope

12.30 – 14.00. Buffet lunch

14.00 – 15.30. Mechanisms and sectors of state interventionism: Session 1

Lead discussant: Gaspar Frontini, European Commission

- Stimulus packages and government procurement, Simon Evenett, University of St Gallen and CEPR
- Antidumping and safeguards, Chad Bown, Brandeis University

Additional materials for this session: *Avoiding 1930s-style protectionism: Lessons for today*, by Douglas Irwin, Dartmouth University

15.30 – 17.00. Mechanisms and sectors of state interventionism: Session 2

Lead discussant: Patrick Messerlin, Groupe d'Economie Mondiale de SciencesPo

- Tariff changes, Alessandro Nicita, UNCTAD, and Marcelo Olarreaga, University of Geneva and CEPR
- Exchange rate policies, Charles Wyplosz, Graduate Institute in Geneva and CEPR and Sebastian Weber, Graduate Institute in Geneva
- Non-tariffs measures, Anders Agero, ITC

Wednesday 27 May 2009

9.30 – 11.00. Mechanisms and sectors of state interventionism: Session 3

Lead discussant: Patrick Low, WTO

- Competition policy, Frederic Jenny, ESSEC
- Agriculture, Stefan Tangermann, formerly OECD, and Tim Josling, Stanford University
- Green protectionism, Ron Steenblik, OECD

Additional materials for this session: *The impact of the crisis on global value chains in the textile and apparel sector*, by Gary Gereffi and Stacey Frederick, Duke University

11.00 – 11.30. Coffee break

11.30 – 13.00. Mechanisms and sectors of state interventionism: Session 4

Lead discussant: Richard Newfarmer, World Bank

- Financial nationalism, Stijn Claessens, IMF and CEPR
- Trade finance, Jean-Pierre Chauffour, World Bank
- Export credit agencies, Jean LeCocguic, OECD

13.00 – 14.30. Buffet lunch

14.30 – 16.00. Mechanisms and sectors of state interventionism: Session 5

Lead discussant: Alan Winters, DFID and CEPR

- Services and outsourcing, Bernard Hoekman, World Bank and CEPR
- Labor discrimination and Mode 4, Biswajit Dhar, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade
- Legal perspective, Anne van Aaken, University of St Gallen, and Jürgen Kurtz, Melbourne University

Additional materials for this session: *Is the Crisis Provoking Protection in Services? A Case Study of the United States*, by Aaditya Mattoo and Ingo Borchert, World Bank

16.00 – 17.00. The way forward: recommendations for policy makers

- Richard Baldwin, Graduate Institute in Geneva and CEPR
- Simon Evenett, St Gallen University and CEPR, and Bernard Hoekman, World Bank and CEPR