



EU Trade policy in a multilateral trading system under threat

Date and time: Friday, 8 June 2018, 13:15-14:30

Venue: CEPS, Place du Congrès 1, 1000 Brussels

Join former EU Trade Commissioner and Director-General of the WTO Pascal Lamy and Maria Åsenius, Head of Cabinet of Trade Commissioner Cecilia Malmström, in a debate on current challenges for the EU's trade policy.

These are crucial and challenging times for the EU's trade policy: the EU is seeking a response to the US' controversial tariffs on steel and aluminium and to the crisis of the rules-based multilateral trading system. Meanwhile, the EU is successfully strengthening the bilateral track of the common commercial policy: two new FTAs with Japan and Singapore are about to be signed, FTA negotiations with Mercosur and Mexico seem to come to a successful conclusion, and new ones are starting with Australia and New Zealand. Moreover, the ECJ's Opinion 2/15 on the conclusion of the EU-Singapore FTA triggered a debate on the new architecture of EU FTAs, separating provisions related to investment from other trade provisions falling under the exclusive competence of the EU. Other issues such as EU-China trade and investment relations, Brexit, the Multilateral Investment Court System and the future of transatlantic trade relations will remain high on the EU's trade agenda.

Pascal Lamy and Maria Åsenius will share their insights with regard to these developments and discuss the short and long-term challenges for the EU's trade policy.

A sandwich lunch will be served from 12.30 onwards. Participation in this event is exceptionally free of charge.

Agenda:

- 12:30-13:15: Registration and sandwich lunch
- 13:15-13:30: Introduction by *Guillaume Van der Loo* (CEPS and Ghent European Law Institute) and *Michael Hahn* (University of Bern, Institute of European & International Economic Law and World Trade Institute)
- 13:30-14:00: *Maria Åsenius* (Head of Cabinet Commissioner Cecilia Malmström)
Pascal Lamy (President emeritus of the Jacques Delors Institute; former EU Trade Commissioner and Director-General of the WTO)
- 14:00-14:30 Discussion

This Lunchtime meeting is embedded in a research and book project on 'The Law and Practice of the Common Commercial Policy 10 years after the Treaty of Lisbon', directed by Michael Hahn and Guillaume Van der Loo.

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