
PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE ON THE WTO

Organized jointly by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the European Parliament

Panel

Making trade work for the environment: The role of parliamentarians

In the context of the WTO Public Forum

Thursday, 14 September 2023, 17:00 to 18:15 (CEST) – Room A, WTO

Concept note

As the engine of the global economy, trade plays a key role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Recently, trade has proved decisive in the transport and distribution of vaccines against COVID-19. In short, trade is a key factor in building and consolidating resilience.

Given its scale and impact on socio-economic life, climate change is a historic challenge for the international community, which calls for large-scale, collective and coordinated action by all socio-political and, above all, economic players.

This will essentially involve putting in place trade and environmental policies that promote sustainable production and consumption while fostering growth and development. Efforts to combat climate change also require the dissemination of, and access to, environmentally friendly technologies, goods and services that promote transition to a low-carbon economy. Trade, development and environmental action programmes should complement each other.

In this respect, trade is an ally in the fight against climate change, as it has helped to ensure that investment in renewable energy is put on the agenda of trade policy discussions.

In addition, by promoting the green economy, facilitating the availability of environmental goods, services and technologies and reducing their cost, trade can contribute to efforts to protect the environment. International trade can also help countries adapt to the impacts of climate change and build future resilience.

Many major trading partners are currently putting in place ambitious green and clean tech industrial policies.

As parliaments around the world are taking action through legislation, budgets and in particular scrutiny of government measures to implement the Paris Agreement and fight climate change, how can they make sure that trade and climate change policies are mutually supportive? How can WTO rules better enable green policies? What can parliamentarians do to make sure that trade becomes a lever for achieving environmental objectives?

These are questions that members of parliament will discuss in this panel, jointly organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the European Parliament. It aims at exploring the interlinkages between climate change and global trade from a parliamentary perspective.

The panel will include the following:

- **Mr. Jörgen Warborn**, Member of the European Parliament
- **Mr. Marwan Al Mheiri**, MP, United Arab Emirates
- **Ms. Inmaculada Rodríguez Piñero**, Member of the European Parliament
- **Mr. Aik Hoe Lim**, Director, Trade and Environment Division, World Trade Organization (WTO)

The moderator will be **Ms. Elisa Tonda**, Chief of Branch, Resources and Markets Branch Industry and Economy Division, Europe Office, UN Environment Programme.

Registration link to the Public Forum – **deadline 17 August**.

https://www.wto.org/english/forums_e/public_forum23_e/pf23_registration_e.htm.