

Public Consultation on the future direction of EU Trade Policy

Dr. Joseph Bugeja
Director International Economic Relations
Economic Policy Department
Ministry of Finance, the Economy and
Investment
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Malta and the Common Commercial Policy

- Common Commercial Policy is one of the main pillars of the EU's relations with the rest of the world
- Article 207 of the EU Treaty
- The Economic Policy Department in liaison with the Permanent Representation in Brussels monitors and analyses developments within Trade Policy Committees in order to ensure that Malta's views and interests are taken in to account in the formulation of the EU's CCP



Economic Policy Department

- Multilateral Trade
- Bilateral and Regional Trade Relations: Free Trade Agreements and other forms of Trade and Cooperation
- Trade Policy Committees:
 - i. Titulaire and Deputies
 - ii. Services and Investment
 - iii. Steel, Textiles and other Industrial Sectors
 - iv. Market Access Strategy
 - v. Generalised System of Preferences
 - vi. Anti-Dumping/Anti-Subsidy/Safeguards



Why a New Trade Policy?

- Under the current challenging economic scenario, trade policy has a bigger role to play
- The new approach should ensure that trade helps to achieve the objectives of the Europe 2020 Strategy for growth and jobs through innovation and increased competitiveness
- Also contribute to the objective of “smart”, “sustainable” and “inclusive” dimension of growth, by facilitating trade in this sector



Consultation Policy Areas

- Multilateral trade negotiations
- Bilateral trade negotiations
- Services
- Investment
- Sustainable Trade
- Inclusive Trade
- Trade and development
- Smart Trade
- Enforcement and dealing with unfair practices
- An open approach to shaping trade policy



Multilateral Trade Negotiations

- Multilateral trade liberalisation remains the EU's priority because it avoids the costs of trade diversion and minimises transaction costs for a global round of liberalisation
- The EU believes in the need to conclude a balanced and ambitious Round because the potential economic benefits are substantial
- Multilateral rules and trade liberalisation, complemented by a strong dispute settlement system, offer significant long-term gains and are of systemic interest to the EU as a leading trader
- Also an important source of addressing trade barriers



Bilateral Trade Negotiations

- Trade negotiations are practically ongoing with every part of the world, including FTAs with fast-growing economies, including Korea, India, Singapore and Vietnam. Negotiations with Mercosur were recently re-started
- Over the last decade, the EU has also consistently engaged with its major strategic trading partners (such as the US, Japan, China and Russia) in regulatory dialogue and other forms of economic and trade cooperation



Cont...

- While the EU is an attractive partner for many countries, trade negotiations have not always translated into real progress in terms of a level playing field for EU companies, or new opportunities to do business and invest in these important markets



Access to Raw Materials

- Securing a reliable and sustainable supply of raw materials is crucial for EU industry
- Taking into account development policy and environmental sustainability concerns, securing this supply from third countries requires a coordinated approach regarding EU external relations and trade policy



Services

- Services are an increasingly important part of the global economy and also account for a significant part of Malta's economic activity
- Thus tackling barriers to trade in services sectors such as financial services and communication services; business services and Information and Communication Technology (ICT) too could give an important boost to EU economic recovery
- Services negotiations so far focused mainly on consolidating market access conditions already in place, and only rarely on creating new openings for services trade



Services

- *Should the EU aim for more trade in services, and if so, how?*
- *Multilateral and bilateral negotiations have only partially succeeded in opening trade in services so far, so would a renewed focus on trade in services among key trading partners (plurilateral approach) offer a useful alternative avenue?*



Investment

- Foreign Direct Investment is an increasingly important means for businesses to participate in the dynamic economic development of markets around the globe
- To remain competitive, the EU requires not only to attract FDI but also to provide EU investors with new opportunities for their establishment and operation in third countries. Thus, the removal of third countries' barriers to FDI, coupled with a predictable, transparent, and non-discriminatory business climate, plays a key role in this respect.



Investment

Given that the Lisbon Treaty gives the EU greater competences in international investment policy, how should we contribute to facilitating cross-border direct investment (both outward and inward)? What are the key issues to be addressed in agreements governing investment?



Enforcement and dealing with unfair practices

- EU is one of the most open economies in the world
- But many partner countries still give limited access to their markets
- Thus the EU needs to ensure that what we negotiate at a multilateral or bilateral level is actually implemented
- Market Access strategy needs to be strengthened as an efficient instrument to tackle trade barriers in third countries
- Ideas and innovation need to be protected through effective protection of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)



Tools available to assist SME's

- Market Access database: Exporter guide with tariffs, import formalities, statistics, trade barriers and links. Valuable for basic market studies
See <http://madb.europa.eu/>
- European Small Business Portal: to get all relevant EU Information for SMEs and links.
See http://ec.europa.eu/small-business/index_en.htm
- Your Europe – Business: Comprehensive information of business services at EU and Member States level and links. See <http://ec.europa.eu/youreurope/business>



An open approach to shaping Trade Policy

- With the Lisbon Treaty, the increased role for the EP in Trade Policy improves accountability and transparency in Trade policy
- What can be done to increase transparency and to ensure that a wide variety of views and opinions is taken into consideration in the policy making process?



Consultation

- Where do you see possible gaps in the EU's trade policy?
- What can be improved?
- How can future trade policy be more adaptive to the changing economic scenario?
- What do you expect from the new policy?



Public Consultation on the future of EU Trade Policy

- The consultation, which will be open until 28 July 2010 can be found under the following link:
<http://ec.europa.eu/yourvoice/ipm/forms/dispatch?form=FutureTradePolicy>
- Open to all stakeholders within the EU and third countries
- We encourage you to send your views on how you would like EU trade policy to evolve in the future
- It would be most appreciated if you could provide us with a copy of your reply



Thank you for your attention

Questions?

