

YOU CAN'T STOP PROGRESS?!

Innovation, the digital economy and risk with **trade in services**



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You are invited to join the workshop discussion

Wednesday 2 October 2013, 15:00-17:00

WS19 – Room D / WTO Headquarters, Geneva, Switzerland

Trade can be a powerful force in creating markets and driving innovation.

But markets are not perfect. What innovations will the expansion of trade in services deliver and with what effects? Is all innovation good? What role should government play in controlling risk and ensuring quality and access? And when services are intermediary goods how does their trade effect the operation of the broader economy?

This panel will provide examples of innovation in the services sector and explore the conditions under which trade in services can provide the best outcomes.

Topics covered will include innovation in financial services, public health policy, online education innovation, provision of essential public services, innovation and development and trade in environmental services.

SPEAKERS:

Scott Sinclair, Senior Research Fellow, Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives: **Risks to public services** and the issues with limiting sovereign policy space.

Penny Clarke, Head of EU Policy, European Federation of Public Service Unions: **Liberalising health care** – the European experience.

Antoni Verger, Professor of Sociology, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (on behalf of Education International): How trade agreements affect **education quality**.

Wamkele Keabetswe Mene, Counsellor: Economic, South African Permanent Mission to the WTO: The impact of a global services agreement on **developing countries**.

Geert De Cock, Policy Officer, Food & Water Europe: **Services agreements and environmental protections – the case of fracking**.

Celeste Drake, Trade and Globalisation Policy Specialist, AFL-CIO: **Mode 4 and Transport**.

Sanya Reid Smith, Legal Advisor and Senior Researcher, Third World Network: Trade impacts on **financial regulatory and capital controls**.

Moderated by Daniel Bertossa, Senior Policy and Advocacy Officer, Public Services International.

Interpretation in Spanish and French



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