


Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

Expert Group Meeting on
 Deepening Regional Economic Integration through the Liberalization of Trade in Services
 2-3 June 2016
 Tunis, Tunisia

PROGRAMME OF WORK

Thursday, 2 June 2016

- 8:30 – 9:00 **Registration**
- 9:00 – 09:15 **Opening Session and review of the meeting objectives and agenda**
- *Mr. Mohamed Chemingui, Chief of regional integration section, Economic Development and Integration Division*
 - *Pr Taoufik Rajhi, Minister advisor to the prime minister in charge of major economic reforms*
 - *Ms Riwa Nasreddine, First Economic Affairs Officer, Regional Integration Section, Economic Development and Integration Division*
- 9:15 – 11:00 **Session Two: Empirical Investigations applied to trade in services**
Chairperson: *Mr. Mohamed Lahouel, Chief Economist, Dubai Government*
- *The regulatory framework of trade in services and the new system of indexes for Assessing Arab Economic Integration, Ms. Nathalie Grand, ESCWA*
 - *Presentation on the Evaluation of the Impact of the Liberalization of Trade in Services, Mr. Mehmet Eris, ESCWA*
 - *Trade in Value Added and trade in services analysis: lessons and new developments, Ms. Fabienne Fortanier, OECD*
- Discussants:**
Ms. Cristina Mitaritonna, Senior Economist, CEPPII, France
- 11:00 – 11:30 Coffee Break

11:30 – 13:00 **Session two: Review of the Concept Note of the Second Edition of ESCWA Recurrent Publication “Assessing Arab Economic Integration Report 2: the missing role of trade in services” or “Assessing Arab Economic Integration Report 2: How Can Integrating Trade in Services Catalyze Economic Development?”**

Chairperson: *Pr Bernard Hoeckman, Chiar, Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies, European University Institute, Florence.*

- Presentation on the Concept Note of the Second Edition of the Assessing Arab Economic Integration Report, *Ms. Nathalie Grand, ESCWA*

Discussant:

Pr Mohamed Hedi Lahouel, Chief economist, Dubai government

General discussion

13:00 – 14:00 Lunch

14:00 – 16:00 **Session Three: Assessing Trade in Services in the Arab Region: taking stock of other research activities**

Chairperson: *Pr Ghazi Boulila, University of Tunis*

Discussants:

Ms. Mariem Malouche, Senior Economist, the World Bank

Mr. Christophe Durand, Quantitative Market Analyst, ITC

Ms. Cristina Mitaritonna, Senior Economist, CEPII

Ms. Lily Sommer, Trade Policy Fellow, UNECA

Mr Nizar Jouini, University of Nabeul

General Discussion

16:00 End of Day One

Friday, 3 June 2016

9:30 – 11:30 **Session Four: Bridging the Gap between Research and Policy Making: the Case of Trade in Services between Tunisia and the EU in the context of negotiations of the ALECA (session co-organized with the Tunisian Association of Economists)**

Chairperson: *Pr. Mohamed Haddar, President of the Tunisian Association of Economists*

Speakers: :

Ms. Michaela Dodini, EU delegation in Tunisia

Ms. Fatma Ousleti, Office of the prime minister in charge of ALECA

Mr. Habib Zitouna, ITSEQ, Tunisia

Discussions

11:30 – 12:00 Coffee Break

12:00 – 13:00 **Session Five: ESCWA activities on trade in services: recommendations for a policy-oriented research**

Chairperson: *Mr. Mohamed Chemingui, ESCWA*

Discussants:

Pr. Mohamed Hedi Lahouel, Chief Economist, Dubai Government

Pr. Bernard Hoekman, European University Institute

Pr. Mohamed Haddar, President of the Tunisian Association of Economics

13:00 End of EGM