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, CEPII, France

11:00 – 11:30 Coffee Break

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


**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, CEPHI*
*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