



Activity Title and Number: EU-China Seminar on Services Trade Restrictions; A260C1

Beneficiary: Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM)

Location and Date: Beijing; 11-12 December, 2013

Stakeholders: World Bank, OECD, WTO, Academia

Brief Activity Report

Relevance and Impact

Inefficient regulation can undermine economic growth at a time when China's economy is becoming increasingly diversified and integrated into global markets. China's trade in services is increasing rapidly and it is timely that China reviews its legislative and regulatory measures which might restrict trade in services. Both the OECD and the World Bank have developed tools enabling users to analyse regulatory measures in the services sector and then assign index scores of their policy restrictiveness (Services Trade Restrictiveness Index and Services Trade Restrictions Database). These are important tools for policy makers in designing and reviewing regulatory measures. Accordingly, EUCTPII held a Seminar on Services Trade Restrictions in Beijing to provide Chinese officials with the knowledge to use these tools and discuss the economic impacts of restrictive measures on trade in services.

Activity Description

Approximately 50 participants from the Ministry of Commerce, the National Development and Reform Commission, other Chinese ministries, and members of academia took part in this one day and a half seminar. In addition, Mr. WANG Shouwen, Assistant Minister of Commerce, had in-depth discussions with the speakers during Q&A sessions. DDG HONG Xiaodong spoke of the huge growth potential of China's services sector which will be further opened up as decided during the Third Plenum. Rudolf ADLUNG, Counsellor at the Trade in Services Division of the WTO Secretariat spoke on the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) and its implications for trade in services. Ingo BORCHERT, University of Sussex, introduced the global "Services Trade Restrictions Database", which he helped construct as a tool for policy makers and presented the methodology behind the database. Participants discussed the role of services trade for 'global value chains' or 'supply chain trade' as well as China's policy options and implications for its future role in international services trade.



*European experts meet
with Assistant Minister
WANG Shouwen
11-12 December, 2013*

Results and Dissemination

- ✓ Chinese policy makers learned about new techniques for measuring the restrictiveness of regulatory measures on trade in services which can guide future policy development and review
- ✓ Participants gained a deeper understanding of the distribution of policy restrictions across countries, sectors and modes of supply as well as of GATS-related policy implications and constraints;
- ✓ Participants gained knowledge to assist China's engagement in ongoing negotiations under the WTO's Doha Development Agenda, and assist it to engage in emerging Regional Trade Agreements and Bilateral Investment Treaties