



Activity Title and Number: Roundtable on the liberalisation of environmental goods and services; A335-C1	Beneficiary: Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM)
Location and Date: Beijing; 30 October 2014	Stakeholders: DG TRADE, DG CLIMA, DG ENV, DG ENTR, DG ENER, Ministry of Environmental Protection, Ministry of Finance, National Development and Reform Commission, Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, Environmental goods industry representatives, EUCCC

Brief Activity Report

Relevance and Impact

In July 2014, the European Union along with 13 other WTO members launched negotiations to liberalise global trade in environmental goods with the aim to lift trade and investment barriers in green goods. The negotiations are based on the APEC list of 54 environmental goods. Liberalising trade of environmental goods and services provides developing countries a preferential access to technologies that can improve the quality of their living environment while protecting their resources and accelerating economic development.

China is taking part in these negotiation talks and has expressed the wish to better understand the impacts of further liberalising environmental goods and services. In this context, EUCTP II organised a roundtable on the liberalisation of environmental goods and services for Chinese officials to better understand the impacts and consequences of eliminating tariffs on a wide range of environmental goods. The roundtable also aims to foster a dialogue on this topic between China and the European Union.

Activity Description

Around 60 participants from the Chinese ministries of Commerce, Environmental Protection, Finance Industry and Information Technology and the National Development and Reform Commission attended the workshop. Most of the participants are involved in green goods and services, either from a trade, tariff or technology perspective. The seminar provided a better understanding of the impacts of eliminating tariffs on a wide range of environmental goods. The EU negotiator of the Environmental Goods Agreement introduced the EU's approach to environmental goods and services and three European experts discussed the following issues: 1) liberalisation of environmental goods and impact of free trade on environmental goods; 2) the inclusion of indispensable services in trade of green goods; 3) how to define environmental goods. The seminar included extended Q&A sessions which enabled both Chinese and European participants to discuss in-depth some of the issues at stake.

Results and Dissemination

The roundtable provided Chinese officials with the latest information on the issues being discussed during the Environmental Goods Agreement negotiation rounds in Geneva. It also offered a rare opportunity for both Chinese and European sides to explain their positions on some of the on-going issues being negotiated in Geneva.