WTO Public Forum 2012, Session 24
16:15–18:15, Centre William Rappard, Geneva, Room S1

Liberalisation, predictability, trade facilitation 2012: What can the WTO still deliver to economic operators?

EuroCommerce and the Foreign Trade Association represent European commerce, a strong sector that stands to win from a strong WTO.

Against the backdrop of the slow progress made during the Doha Round, many companies question the usefulness of investing time in the multilateral process. Trade policy makers in many WTO member states increasingly focus on bilateral initiatives.

At the same time, the existing framework of the WTO continues to offer significant advantages to the private sector in terms of stability and predictability. Negotiations on issues like trade facilitation are making reasonable progress and early harvest in that area could deliver tangible benefits to economic operators reasonably soon.

Moderators:
- o Ralph KAMPHÖNER, EuroCommerce, Director International Trade & Wholesale
- o Pierre-Michael GRÖNING, FTA, Trade Policy Advisor

Opening keynote:
- o Vital MOREIRA, Member of the European Parliament, Chairman International Trade Committee (confirmed)

Panelists:
- o Olivier GANNE, Oxylane, Directeur Douane (confirmed)
- o Paolo GARZOTTI, European Commission, DG Trade, Head of Unit (confirmed)
- o Ruslan KOKAREV, Association of European Businesses in the Russian Federation, Chief Operations Officer (confirmed)

EuroCommerce represents the retail, wholesale and international trade in 29 European countries. Commerce is the largest consumer-related market service. It generates 11 % of EU GDP and 31 million jobs through 6 million companies, more than 95% of them SMEs.

The Foreign Trade Association (FTA) is the association of European and International commerce that promotes the values of free and sustainable trade. It brings together hundreds of retailers, importers, brand companies, and national associations to improve the political and legal framework for trade in a sustainable way.