

JOINT WORKSHOP

NON-TARIFF MEASURES: ECONOMIC ANALYSIS AND POLICY APPRAISAL

MONDAY, JUNE 30, 2014 – TUESDAY, JULY 1, 2014

Venue: CGSP, Salle Jean Monnet, 18 rue de Martignac, 75007 Paris (France)

Background

The significant reduction in the level of tariffs over the several rounds of WTO negotiations, proliferation of regional trade agreements and unilateral liberalization has increasingly highlighted the importance of non-tariff measures as barriers to trade. There has been ample discussion of two related issues. Firstly, while Non-Tariff Measures (NTMs) are not designed in the first place to hamper trade – but e.g. to address problems of incomplete information on traded products in presence or risks for human health – they may ultimately constitute unnecessary barriers to trade. Secondly, measuring the restrictiveness of NTMs is challenging as data and methods are respectively incomplete and subject to improvement. The purpose of this workshop jointly organized by the CEPII and Paris School of Economics is firstly to examine how to best tackle measurement issues related to NTMs on goods and services, and to investigate how trade patterns are affected. Emphasis will be put on micro-economic evidence, based either on surveys or firm level administrative data. Based on this assessment of what are the detailed effects of the measures, the workshop will address how to best tackle regulatory issues in trade negotiations, be it at the multilateral or regional level. A policy panel will confront academic and policy perspectives regarding the best way of tackling regulatory convergence in an international framework.

Agenda

MONDAY 30 JUNE 2014

13:30-14:00

Welcome coffee

14:00-16:45

Session 1: Measurement of NTM Restrictiveness

What do we know about NTMs and how can we make this information more relevant to those in position of eliminating and/or reducing them? Providing relevant NTM data and information is useful to negotiating terms in international trade agreements, as it allows for regulators to speak the same language.

Chair: Francesco Giavazzi (Bocconi University)

Presentations

- “How trade restrictive are sanitary and technical regulations? New evidence.” - Julien Gourdon (CEPII) / disc.: Frank Van Tongeren (OECD)
- “Firm Surveys to assess NTMs restrictiveness” - Mondher Mimouni (ITC, Geneva) / disc.: Jose Signoret (USITC)
- “Services Trade Cost” - Hildegunn Nordas (OECD) / disc.: Cristina Mitaritonna (CEPII)

16:45-17:00

Coffee break

17:00-19:00

Policy Panel: Is regulatory convergence feasible? Is it desirable?

Regulations flourish in modern economies, as requirements become more stringent in diverse and fundamental areas such as health, environment, safety, or financial security. Increasingly, these issues are taking centre stage in trade negotiations, since differences and inconsistencies may significantly hamper trade flows. While recent agreements have covered new grounds in this respect, on-going negotiations also show how difficult moving toward regulatory convergence is in practice. The Transatlantic negotiation is an obvious case in point. In addition to technical concerns, these difficulties have to do with the legitimacy of trade negotiations when it comes to influencing regulatory practices. Culture, institutions and collective preferences may lead to different but legitimate choices, without any particular system being clearly preferable to another. While the aim of fighting discrimination is easily shared, putting it into practice is far from being straightforward. [[conference website](#)]

Chair: Sébastien Jean (CEPII)
Speakers: Bernard Hoekman (European University Institute),
Lucian Cernat (European Commission),
Lee Hye Min (Ambassador of Korea in France)
Peter Chase (American Chamber of Commerce, tbc)

19:10 Cocktail buffet

TUESDAY 1 JULY 2014

8:30-10:20

Session 2: Microeconomic evidence on NTMs effects on Trade Patterns

What is the impact of NTMs on individual firms' participation and behavior in export markets? NTMs may represent a fixed cost (such as product adaptation) or a variable cost (systematic inspection of shipments). What is the impact on vertical specialization? The aim of the session is also to better capture the effects of NTMs on entry costs, operating costs, and productivity.

Chair: Marc Melitz (Harvard University)

Presentations

- "Product Standards and Margins of Trade: Firm Level Evidence." Gianluca Orefice, (CEPII) / disc.: Olivier Cadot (University Lausanne)
- "Moroccan Non-Tariff Measures' Impact on Domestic Firms: A Booster Through Deeper Integration or Protection Measure?" Marion DAVIS, (University Aix-Marseille) / disc.: Caroline Freund (Peterson Institute)

10:20-10:30

Coffee break

10:30-12:00

Session 3: NTMs effects on Trade Patterns

In presence of Global value Chains, NTMs are a challenging issue. Regional versus international regulations will end up with different impacts on trade and efficiency of firms. Mutual recognition versus convergence of norms will also have very different impact. Lastly, GVCs

will in the future be the vehicle for private norms. All these issues have to be tackled, with a particular emphasis on the ability of developing countries to cope with such complex regulatory environment. One relatively little studied issue is about the classification of goods, its stability and how related information is disseminated to exporters.

Chair: Gianmarco Ottaviano (LSE and CEPR)

Presentations

- “The Economics and Potential Protectionism of Food Safety Standards and Inspections: An Application to the U.S. Shrimp Market”, Stephan Marette, (INRA-AgroParisTech) / disc.: Thierry Mayer (Sciences Po and CEPII)
- “Classification of goods and transparency of customs” M. Ferrantino (World Bank) / disc.: Bernard Hoekman (European University Institute)

12:00-12:30

Sandwich lunch

12:30-14:00

Session 4: How to deal with NTMs

NTMs are now the crucial issue in EPA and Regionalization agenda. Tackling those NTMs' issues in the framework of EPA or RTA is a solution but it also raises a number of issues: what is impact of harmonization vs Mutual recognition? What happen to third countries (spillovers effect)

Chair: Lionel Fontagné (PSE and CEP II)

Presentations

- "NTMs in Agriculture and TTIP." Anne-Celia Disdier (PSE) / disc. : Lucian Cernat (EC)
- Jose Signoret (USITC) / disc : Marc Bachetta (WTO)

14h00-14h15

Wrap-up and end of the workshop