



International Centre for Trade
and Sustainable Development

Sustainable Development Opportunities and Challenges of Trade in Energy Services in the WTO and Beyond

Informal Roundtable

20 April 2007, International Environment House 2; Room Inn

12:00 – 15:00

Programme:

Participants will examine selected horizontal and GATS-specific energy services related issues as well as important energy questions arising in the context of regional and bilateral agreements.

Horizontal issues

- Supply of Energy-Related services
- Classification (value chain approach)
- Export and Import (Supply and Consumption) Interests
- Security of Supply and Demand
- Renewable energy targets

GATS-specific issues

- Doha Round “Collective Request”
- Taking a Reference Paper approach in the energy services sector (related to the subject of competition in network-bound energy markets)
- GATS and trade in renewable energy certificates

Regional/bilateral agreements specific issues

- Investment and performance requirements
- Export restrictions
- List approaches
- Renewable energy targets

Participants will seek responses to the following questions:

1. How does trade in energy services affect sustainable development goals? Are there particular energy services that advance sustainable development objectives?
2. Assuming trade in energy services can make a positive contribution to countries' sustainable development agendas, can the existing GATS system be used to advance these interests?
3. Where the existing system falls short, what improvements or clarifications should be made to enable countries to facilitate use of the system to advance their interests in the energy sector consistent with overall public policy and sustainable development goals.
4. Is there merit in trying to distinguish between core and non-core energy services? If so, how should this be achieved?
5. Where to draw the line between production-related services, which would fall under the GATS, and production itself, which would not be covered by the GATS?
6. Does a commitment on services related to energy entail a right to access the natural resource?
7. What does a GATS commitment on pipeline transportation services cover? Does a commitment on pipeline transportation services entail a right to build a pipeline or to be granted a right-of-way for a pipeline?
8. Would it be desirable and what would be possible contents of a reference paper for energy services?
9. What does "technological neutrality" mean in the context of a mode 3 commitment, and how would it relate to other GATS disciplines, in particular domestic regulation?
10. How would a "technology neutral" approach affect certain national policy targets on specific energy technologies (e.g. 20 percent of renewable energy by 2020 in the EU, 35 billion gallons in 2017 in the US)?
11. What are the implications of a "technology neutral" approach on "policy space" in defining technological choices?