

TAX

Trade and Tax: Adapting to Digitalization

World Trade Organization Public Forum 2019

9 October 2019, 16:30-18:00

Room W, World Trade Organization, Rue de Lausanne 154, Geneva, Switzerland

Join us for a session on “Trade and Tax: Adapting to Digitalization” organized by the World Economic Forum at the [WTO Public Forum](#).

Context

The international trading system is under strain as the gap widens between the rules and realities of a global and increasingly digitalized economy. New business models, alternative growth strategies and concerns around inequality have been left unaddressed. Countries are contemplating or using various economic policy tools to bridge these gaps, sometimes with spill-over effects or unintended consequences. These include digital services taxes, customs duties on electronic transmissions, data localization laws and national security-based tariffs and foreign investment screening. At the OECD, countries are looking for consensus on international tax reform, in the context of digitalization. Strengthening the trading system will require understanding these developments and learning from other areas of international economic governance.

The session aims to bring out the interrelations between trade and tax policy in the context of digitalization. It will address the following questions:

- What policy tools are countries deploying around digitalization?
- What is the state of play in international tax reform? What is the likely outcome and effect on trade?
- What are the intersections between trade and tax in the context of digitalization?
- What lessons does the international tax regime offer for trade rulemaking, consensus-building and dispute settlement?

Speakers

- **Soumaya Keynes**, Trade and US Economics Editor, The Economist (Moderator)
- **Dmitri Jegorov**, Deputy Secretary General for Tax and Customs Policy, Government of Estonia
- **Eric Robert**, Tax Policy Advisor, Centre of Tax Policy and Administration, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
- **Irma Johanna Mosquera Valderrama**, Associate Professor of Tax Law, Leiden University
- **Nicholas Bramble**, Trade Policy Counsel, Google