

Geneva Watch

An overview of the WTO negotiations on agriculture

G-20 Trade Ministers Meeting (TMM)

Mexican Secretary of Economy, Bruno Ferrari, will host a meeting of the G-20 trade ministers (Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States and the European Union) in Puerto Vallarta on April 19-20. Also invited to join the group are trade ministers from Benin, Cambodia, Chile, Colombia, New Zealand and Peru.

The meeting will seek to engage trade ministers in discussions on the challenges and opportunities facing the multilateral trading system, as directed by their respective leaders last year in Cannes.

To do so, discussions in Puerto Vallarta will include the Doha Round, where Ministers will brainstorm “ways to support the ongoing negotiations in the WTO” as well as ensuring that they all fulfil their commitment to keep protectionism at bay by avoiding implementing new restrictive measures.

Both WTO and OECD Director Generals – Pascal Lamy and Angel Gurría – will brief ministers on a variety of issues including a presentation on the state-of-play in global trade and how it relates to job creation and growth.

Ministers will also brainstorm the importance of global value chains and how it can better regulate trade now that technological progress and lower transportations costs have changed the shape of world trade.

“A deeper understanding of the functioning of global supply chains is needed to better apprehend how trade operates today, how its benefits are allocated among different countries, and how it impacts different sectors in their respective economies. Better knowledge of global value chains will help to better shape the trade rules of the future and (...) ultimately help build a new narrative on trade,” the G-20 TMM draft agenda stipulates.

The Mexicans have identified trade finance, services and trade facilitation as important items, “essential to oil global value chains.” Service inputs are essential to the efficient operation of value chains, as is access to available and affordable trade finance, the draft says.

Among the “desired outcomes” sought from the meeting, Mexico wants trade ministers to endorse the so-called “new trade narrative that takes account of the emergence of regional and global value chains.”

The conclusions of the meeting will be taken to G-20 leaders at their summit which is due to be held on June 18-19 in Los Cabos, Mexico.



Upcoming Events

- Trade Facilitation Negotiating Group, April 16–18 and July 9–12, 2012
- G-20 Trade Ministers, April 19-20, 2012, Puerto Vallarta (Mexico)
- UNCTAD XIII, April 21–26, Doha (Qatar)
- WTO General Council, May 1-2, July 25-26, October 3-4, December 19-20, 2012
- TPP Negotiations May 8–18, 2012 Dallas (U.S.)
- OECD Forum, May 22–24, 2012, Paris (France)
- APEC Ministers Responsible for Trade, June 4-5, 2012, Kazan, (Russia)
- G-20 Summit, June 18-19, 2012, Los Cabos, Baja California Sur (Mexico)
- APEC Leaders Summit, September 2–9, 2012, Vladivostok, (Russia)
- Regular Agriculture Committee, September 20-21, November 14-15, 2012
- WTO Public Forum, September 24–26, 2012

Geneva Watch is published by Dairy Farmers of Canada, Chicken Farmers of Canada, Egg Farmers of Canada, Turkey Farmers of Canada and Canadian Hatching Egg Producers to report on the various events occurring in Geneva, particularly on the WTO negotiations on agriculture.

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