



QUICK FACTS: 10th round of talks on trade in services (TiSA)

Plans for the upcoming round

TiSA negotiations started in spring 2013. The 10th round of talks is taking place **in Geneva** this week, from **1 to 5 December**. Following the last round under the chairmanship of the EU in September, this round is chaired by Australia.

The round will focus on 4 main regulatory disciplines: **financial services, telecommunication, domestic regulation** and so called **'Mode 4'** that refers to international movement of staff.

The negotiators will discuss open issues as regards the **main provisions** of the future treaty, **horizontal issues**, as well as **other proposals** on the table, with the exception of direct sales. The round will also provide an occasion to take note of the Swiss views on **export subsidies**.

The vast majority of participants have already presented their offers specifying areas they are ready to open to international competition. The missing two are Paraguay and Pakistan. The **sectorial aspects** of those proposals will be discussed this week together with the corresponding regulatory disciplines intended for all members. This should help **assessing the collective level of ambition**.

The last day will be devoted to **general stocktaking**.

EU's objectives

The **EU is one of the biggest supporters** of an ambitious agreement on services. Trade in services is of strategic importance to Europe, the sector accounting for some three-quarters of EU gross domestic product (GDP) and of EU jobs.

The EU has actively advocated to **let other interested WTO members** - such as China and Uruguay - **join the**

TiSA negotiations. Both applications have so far been pending.

While TiSA negotiations will not pose a threat to public services, the **EU favours a transparent approach** to these negotiations.

This week, the EU will encourage a high level of ambition and particular progress on:

- ✓ **Movement of staff between head-quarters and subsidiaries**

According to the EU proposal whenever a services company establishes a subsidiary in another TiSA Member, it should be able to bring along its key personnel necessary for an adequate management.

- ✓ **Access to government contracts**

According to the EU non-discrimination proposal tabled in September a subsidiary of a company from country A established in country B should have the same access to government contracts than any other company in the country B. This is an ambitious proposal as it applies to all sectors and all levels of government.

- ✓ **Environmental services**

The EU will seek to end discrimination against foreign suppliers of environmental services. This means removing the existing barriers – not just abstaining from introducing new restrictions.

- ✓ **Red-tape, especially regarding licences**

The EU will seek to establish rules reducing administrative barriers for services providers, especially as regards obtaining licenses.

Learn more about [EU interests and specific proposals](#) in the TiSA negotiations.

Trade in Services Agreement – 10th round

BACKGROUND: WHAT IS TISA?

The Trade in Services Agreement (TiSA) is a trade agreement currently being negotiated by 23 members of the World Trade Organisation (WTO)¹, including the EU. Together, these countries account for 70% of world trade in services.

TiSA is based on the WTO's General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS), which involves all WTO members. The key provisions of the GATS – scope, definitions, market access, national treatment and exemptions – are also found in TiSA.

The talks are based on proposals made by the participants. TiSA aims at opening up markets and improving rules in areas such as licensing, financial services, telecoms, e-commerce, maritime transport, and professionals moving abroad temporarily to provide services.

¹ Australia, Canada, Chile, Chinese Taipei, Colombia, Costa Rica, the EU, Hong Kong China, Iceland, Israel, Japan, Korea, Liechtenstein, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, *Paraguay*, Peru, Switzerland, Turkey, the United States