

**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL  
COUNCIL**

---

**Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)****Expert Group Meeting on Transport and Trade Facilitation in ESCWA region**

Venue: Movenpick Hotel, Deira | Corner Abu Baker Al Siddique and Sallahuddin Road|  
Dubai, UAE

Date: 10-11 April 2013

**PROVISIONAL AGENDA****Day one: Wednesday, 10 April**

8:30 – 9.00 a.m.                      Welcome and **Registration**

9.00 - 10:30 a.m.                      **Session 1: Opening Session**

- Welcome Remarks , Mr. Mohamed Saleh Shalawah,  
Assistant Undersecretary for Economic Policies , Ministry  
of Economy, UAE
- Key presentation 1: Why Trade Logistics Matter in the  
Arab Region?, Abdalah AlDardari, Chief economist and  
Director of Economic Development and Globalization  
Division, ESCWA
- Key presentation 2: Reduce the thickness of Border to  
promote trade & participation in Global Chains- *Raed  
Safadi, Deputy Director, OECD, Trade and Agriculture  
Directorate*

10.30 - 11.00 a.m.                      **Coffee Break**

11:00– 12:30                              **Morning session:**

**Session 2: How Trade Logistics Matter in the Arab Region?**

Chair: Raed Safadi, OECD

-The role of trade in services in reducing trade costs-  
*ESCWA*

- Road Transport: Driving Regional and International Trade across  
the Middle East Region -*Mr. Haydar Ozkan, IRU*

- Efficiency of trade logistics in the region- *Mr. Khalid Bichou  
ESCWA's consultant.*

## **Discussions**

12: 30 – 14: 00 p.m.

### **Lunch Break**

14:00 – 15:15 p.m.

### **Afternoon sessions:**

#### **Session 3: Assessing Technical Barriers to trade in the Arab Region**

Chair: Mohamed Chemingui, ESCWA

- Findings and recommendations of the World Bank Trade & FDI Report prepared for the Deauville Partnership, *Jean Pierre Chauffour, Lead Economist, World Bank.*
- Technical Barriers to Trade and Trade Facilitation: Evidence from the Arab Countries – *Mr.Chahir Zaki-ERF*
- Company perspectives on non-tariff barriers in Arab region, *Mr.Mathieu Loridan- ITC*
- *Discussions and country presentations*

**15:15 – 15:30**

**15:30- 17:00 :**

### **Coffee Break**

#### **Session 4: Assessing Technical Barriers to trade in the Arab Region (Cont.)**

Chair: Abdallah Dardari, ESCWA

- Trade facilitation in the region Mona Haddad, the World Bank
- ESCWA initiatives in improving transport and trade logistic in the region / *ESCWA*
- Tariff Removal versus Trade Cost Reductions: preliminary assessments for the Arab region, Mohamed Chemingui, ESCWA

## **Day two: Thursday, 11 April**

09:00 – 10.30 a.m.

### **Session 5: Experiences from other regions in reducing trade costs**

**Chair: Jean Pierre Chauffour, the World Bank, ESCWA**

- Trade Facilitation measures in the context of the CFTA - trade and income implications for Africa- *Mr.Simon Mevel- ECA*

- Facilitating Trade: An Asia-Pacific perspective- *Mr. Yann Duval-UNESCAP*

- How to benefit from WTO Agreements: The case of the SPS Agreement and the approach envisaged for Trade Facilitation". - *Mr. Serafino Marchese- WTO*

10:30 – 11:00 a.m.

**Coffee Break**

11.00 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.

**Session 5: Trade Facilitations in the Context of WTO**  
**Chair: Fathia Abdelfadhil**

-WCO ECP approach to trade facilitation in the context of WTO TF negotiations . - *Ms.Milena BUDIMIROVIĆ-WCO*

- Achieving Compliance with WTO future Trade Facilitation Agreement: Learning from UNCTAD's Experience of Working with 25+ Developing Countries' .*Mr. Mohammad Saeed*

-Discussions

12: 30 – 14: 00 p.m.

**Launch break**

14:00 – 15: 30 p.m.

**Session 5: Strategies and Policy Recommendations.**  
*Round Table Discussion*