

Invitation

Ideas on how EU trade policy can contribute to a new growth strategy

Conference on June 12, 2008 - Stockholm

The National Board of Trade has the pleasure to invite you to a one-day conference to discuss ideas for a new EU trade policy strategy to foster growth in Europe in the next decade. The conference is sponsored by the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

The future of the Lisbon Strategy for growth and jobs will be high on the agenda in the coming years. The present strategy does not have an explicit trade policy component; it lacks what today is referred to as an “external dimension”. However, throughout history economic development and prosperity have been built on trade and economic integration between countries. A new strategy for growth and jobs should therefore, among other areas, include trade policy.

Discussions will be held against the background of a report to be published later this spring by the Swedish National Board of Trade. The report and the discussions during the conference will mostly, but not only, concern “non-traditional” aspects of the EU’s external economic relations with a high commercial value, i.e. investments, service trade and the link between the internal market and external trade policy. A number of new policy proposals will also be discussed.

The full program is presented below. Invitation is personal and participation is limited to those invited (or their replacements). Attendance is free, but registration is required.

Date: Thursday, June 12, 9.00-17.30

Venue: Berns Salonger, Berzelii Park, Stockholm (room Strindbergsalen).
Entrance via Berns Hotel (Näckströmög 8)

Please, reply latest 30 May to
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Kommerskollegium
National Board of Trade

Agenda

Session 1

- 8:45 Registration with coffee.
- 9:15 **Opening remarks**
Lena Johansson, Director General, National Board of Trade.
- 9:30 **The political context and processes of a new agenda for growth**
Prof Maria João Rodrigues, Institute for International and Strategic Studies, Lisbon. Former special advisor to several governments in Lisbon related issues.
- 10:30 **Trade policy supporting growth, an integrated vision for meeting global challenges**
Ewa Björling, Minister for Trade, Sweden.
- 11:00 Short break.
- 11:15 **Finding the right trade policy strategies for growth**
Signe Ratsö (on behalf of Director General David O Sullivan), Director responsible for WTO Affairs at DG Trade, European Commission.
- 11:50 **Single market after the review and external trade policies, mutually supportive**
Jörgen Holmquist, Director General, DG Internal Market and Services, European Commission.
- 12:30 Lunch.

Session 2

- 13:30 **The contribution of trade to a new EU growth strategy – presentation of the report**
Henrik Isakson, senior advisor, National Board of Trade.
- 14:00 **The EU as an international regulator and facilitator of trade – how can we go further?**
Christer Arvius, Director Internal Market, National Board of Trade.
- 14:30 **The potential impact of the Lisbon Treaty on EU external trade policy**
Stephen Woolcock, London School of Economics.
- 15:00 Coffee break.
- 15:30 **Policy panel**
Moderator: Lena Johansson, Director General, National Board of Trade.
Discussants: Prof Rolf Langhammer, Kiel Institute for the World Economy,
Prof Patrick Messerlin, Science Po.,
Prof Jim Rollo, University of Sussex,
Prof Pierre Sauvé, World Trade Institute.
- 17:00 **Summing up**
Dr Gaspar Frontini, Chief economist, DG Trade, European Commission.

