



## Discussion of 'Services PTAs: lessons from practice' (P. Sauvé)

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Workshop on PTAs and the WTO: A New Era  
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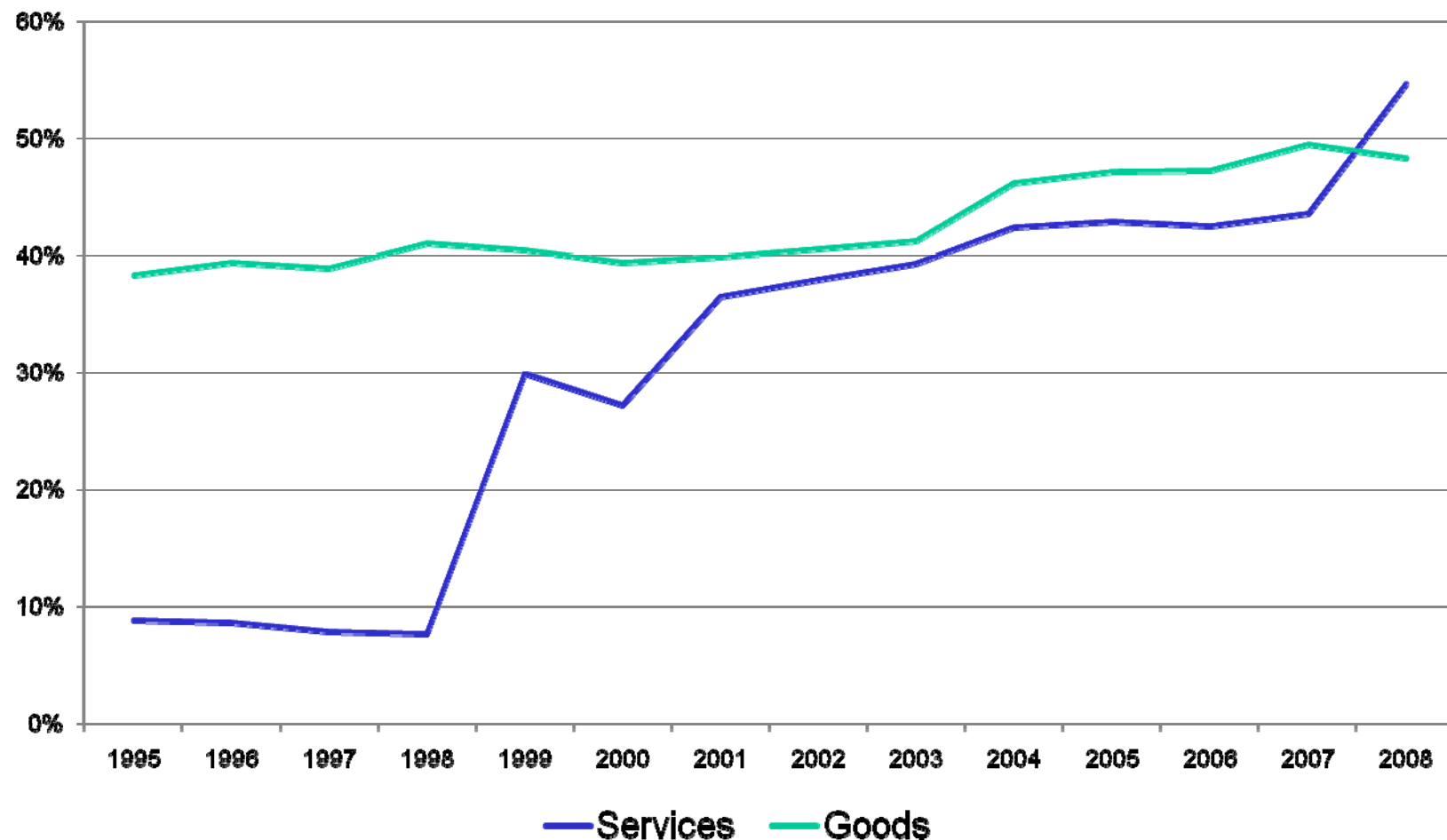
# Key questions

- Are PTAs in services really preferential?
- Can PTAs go beyond the lock-in of domestic (autonomous) reforms?
- How can services provisions in PTAs be multilateralised?

# Are PTAs in services really preferential?

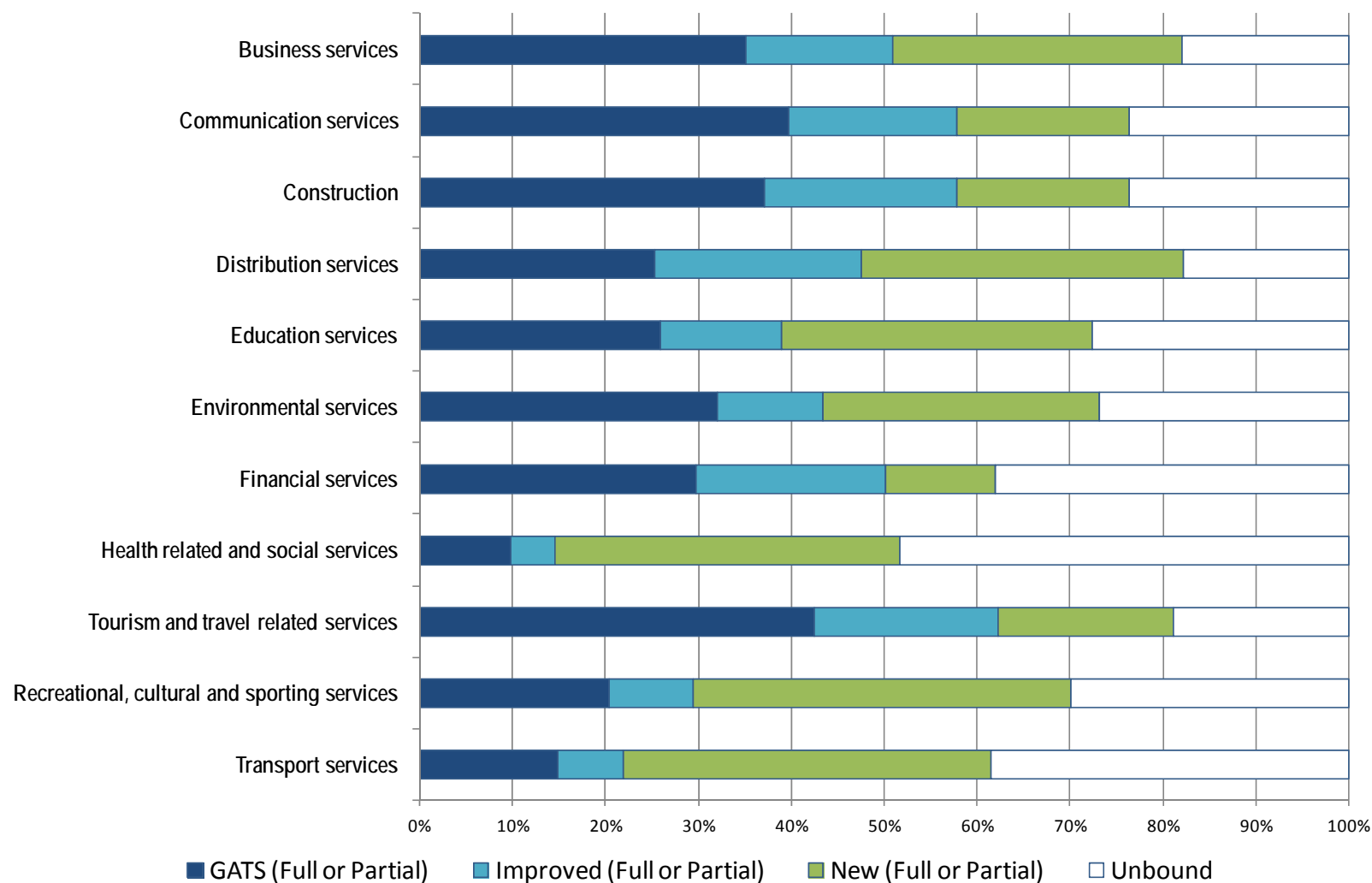
- How much further than the GATS?
- Economic impact?
- Liberal rules of origin
- Difficulty to discriminate among partners

# Share of world trade covered by regional trade agreements (1995-2008)



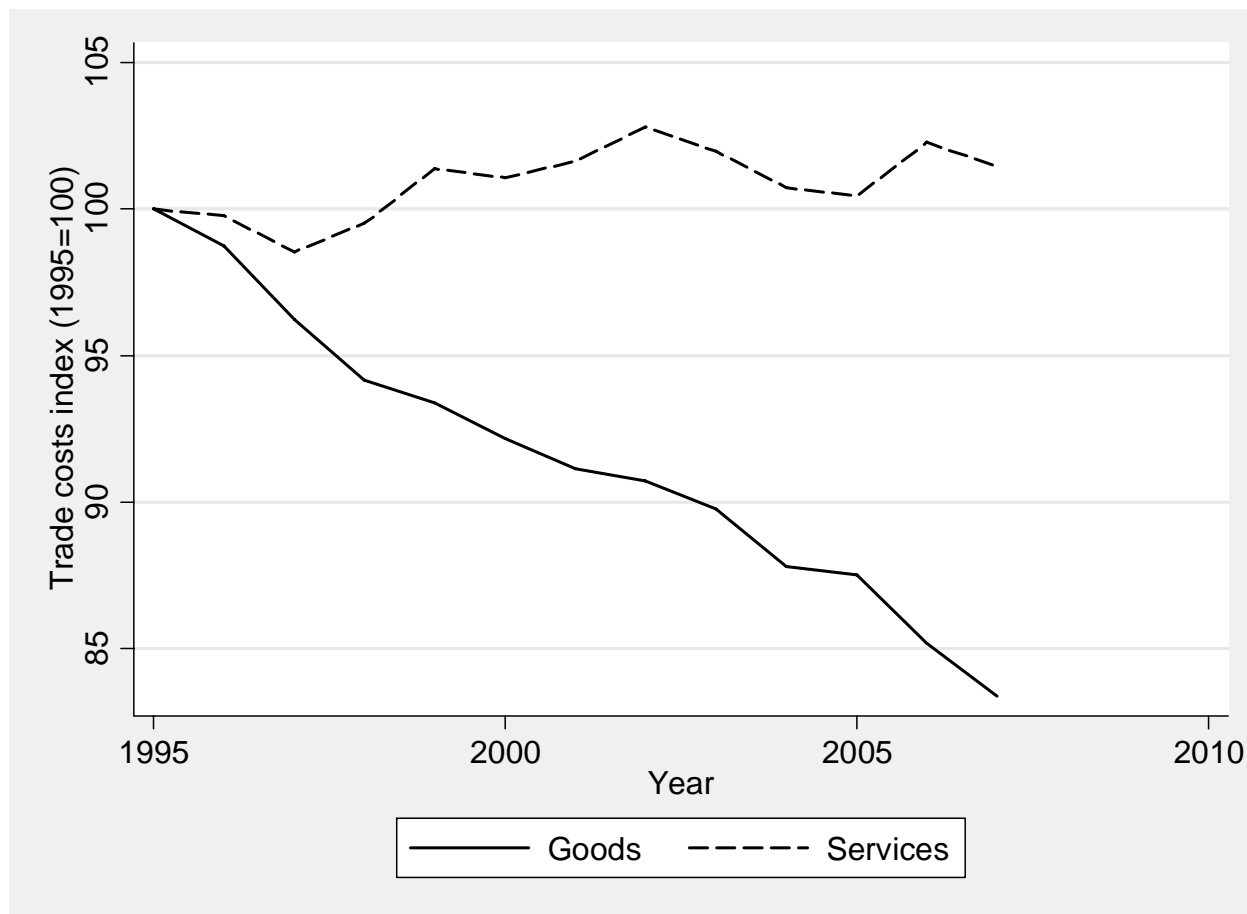
Source: Miroudot, Sauvage and Shepherd (2010)

# Market access commitments in OECD PTAs



Source: Miroudot, Sauvage and Sudreau (2010)

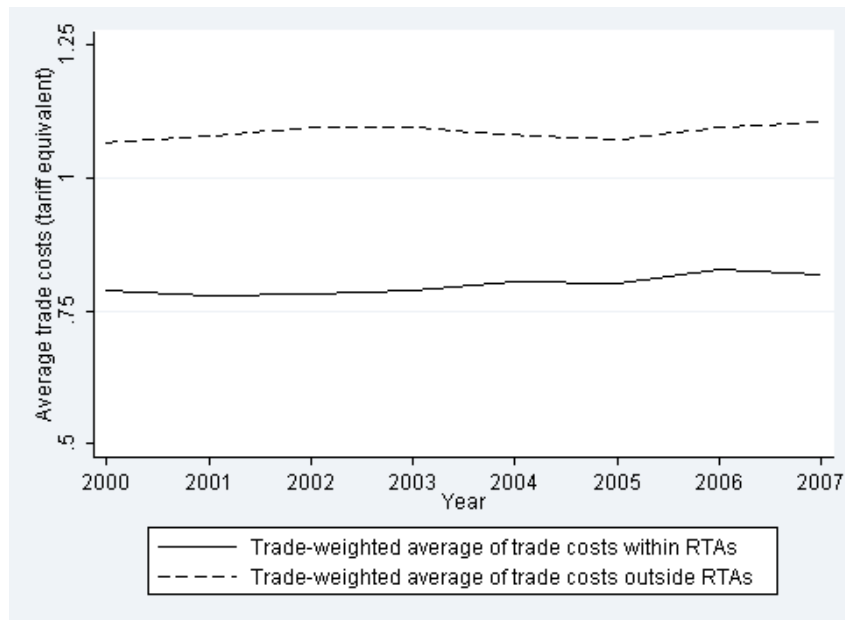
## World aggregate trade costs indices, 1995-2007 (1995=100)



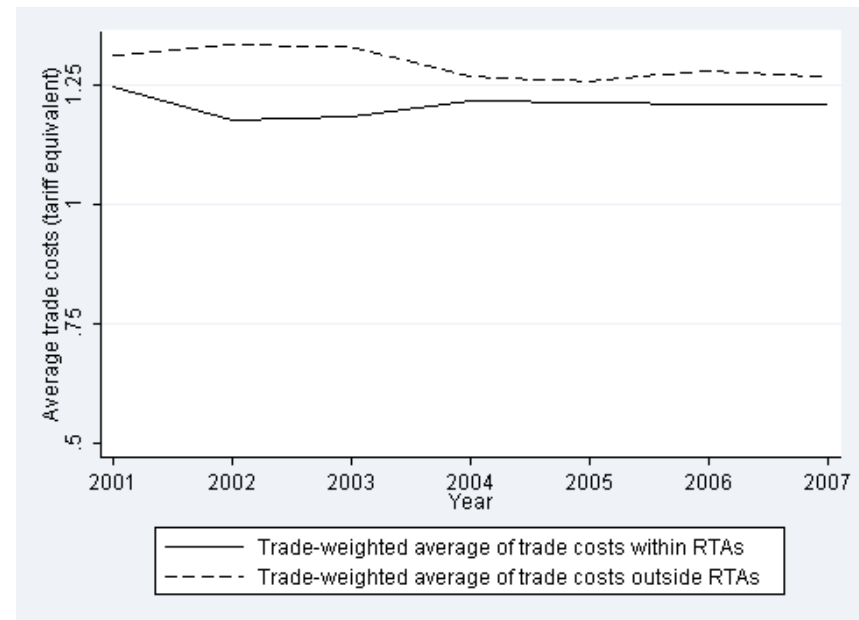
Source: Miroudot, Sauvage and Shepherd (2010)

# Trade costs within and outside PTAs

## Goods

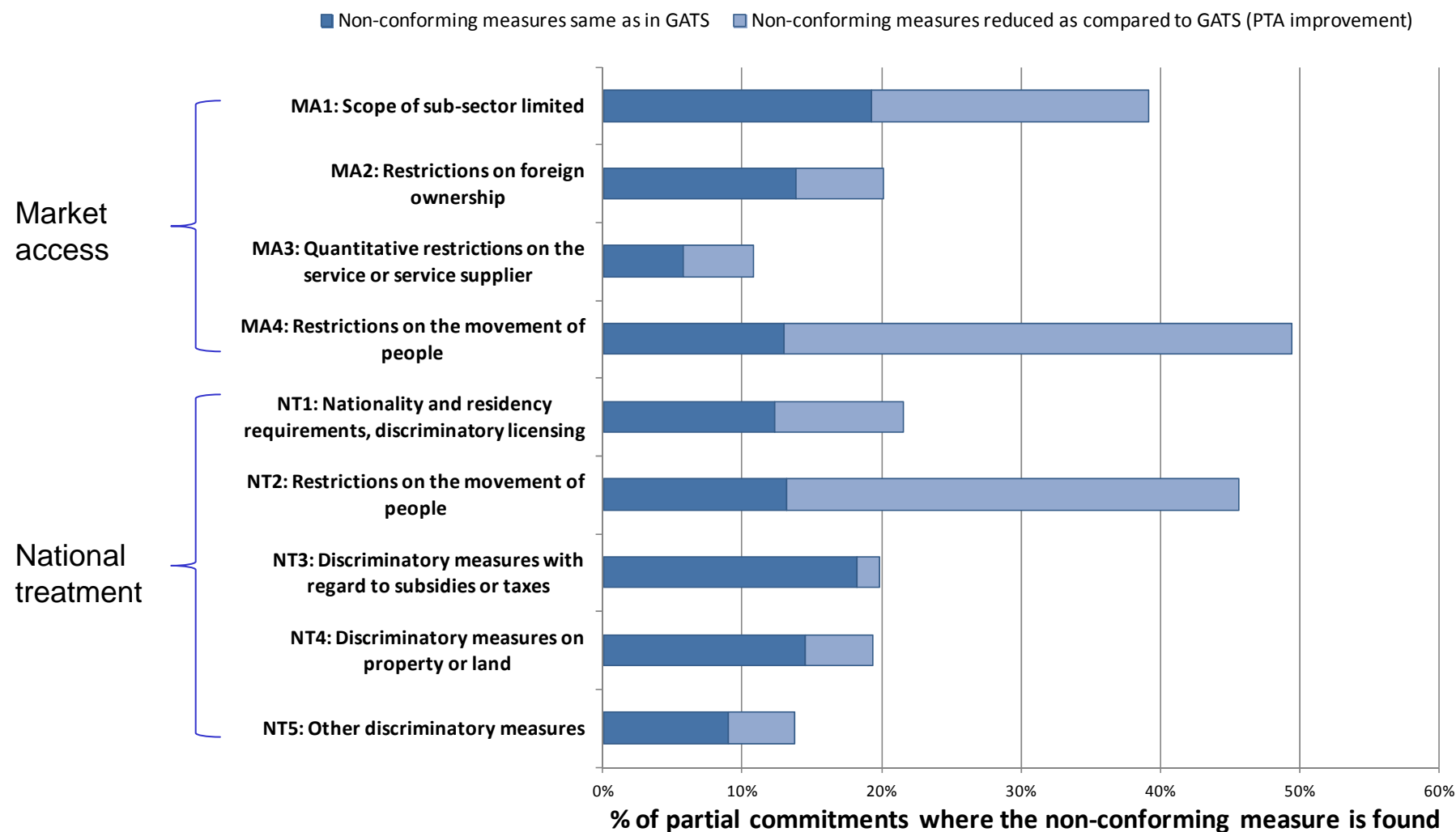


## Services



Source: Miroudot, Sauvage and Shepherd (2010)

# Decomposition of partial commitments in OECD PTAs



Source: Miroudot, Sauvage and Sudreau (2010)



## Can PTAs go beyond the lock-in of domestic (autonomous) reforms?

- Status quo or real liberalisation: the “water” in services commitments
- Rule-making PTAs? Facilitation of regulatory convergence?
- Trade policy vs. domestic reforms

## How can services provisions in PTAs be multilateralised?

- Variation in architectures and levels of commitments
- Multilateralisation through MFN commitments?
- Are countries willing to multilateralise?

# The “new era of PTAs”

- **Services provisions illustrate that PTAs are:**
  - **Less about preferences**
  - **More about governance**
  - **Also motivated by non-economic considerations**