

WTO Public Forum 2010
International Chamber of Commerce (UK) session

9am - 11am, Friday 17th September; Room D (please note the revised time and room)

“The post-crisis agenda for growth in developing and emerging economies: unlocking the potential of telecommunications”

A significant body of research highlights that telecommunications have a significant impact on economic growth and social development. This is often interpreted as being due to the fact that telecommunications (and associated services) help to reduce transaction costs, increase the efficiency of markets, and consequently lead to increased investment levels. Much of the literature on the subject suggests that the biggest effect of telecommunications on growth occurs in less developed economies.

In this context, the session will examine the potential role of telecoms services in promoting (renewed) growth in developing and emerging economies following the financial crisis of 2008/9.

Following an initial review of the economic and social benefits of telecoms services, the session will examine the regulatory and trade tools that could be used to unlock the full potential of telecommunications in the developing world. Is there a role for the WTO in this process? Is there a need for greater co-ordination between the WTO and other bodies that are active in this sphere?

In addition to participants from business, civil society and intergovernmental institutions, panellists will include:

- Mike Corkerry, Executive Director, EMEA Government Affairs, AT&T
- Tilmann Kupfer, Vice President, Trade & International Affairs, BT Group plc
- Lee Tuthill, WTO Secretariat
- Wamkele Keabetswe Mene, Economic Counsellor of the South African Permanent Mission to the WTO

The session will be moderated by:

- Iain MacVay, Partner, Steptoe & Johnson, London

To register for the session please email: andrewwilson@iccorg.co.uk