

TRADE IN LEGAL SERVICES CURRENT REALITIES AND FUTURE POSSIBILITIES

**Monday, 20 May 2019, 15h00-17h30
Room S1 – WTO**

15.00 -15.15 – Overview of Legal Services Commitments under the GATS

Markus Jelitto, WTO Secretariat

15.15 - 15.55 - The Changing Nature of Legal Services Post-Uruguay Round

- How is trade in legal services undertaken and regulated?
- How has trade in legal services evolved globally since 1995 and does this have any relevance for scheduled commitments?
- Regional Trade Agreements and bilateral agreements as a mechanism for liberalisation?

Speakers:

Alison Hook, Hook Tangaza, United Kingdom
Thierry Ngoga-Gakuba, Legaline Partners, Rwanda

15.55 -16.35 - The Future: Challenges and Opportunities

- The challenges and opportunities posed by the growth of digital trade in legal services
- The challenge of regulating legal services in future

Speakers:

Jonathan Goldsmith, Independent Consultant, Belgium
Iain Miller, Kingsley Napley, United Kingdom
Lee Tuthill, WTO Secretariat (Discussant)

16.35 – 17.15 - Trade Commitments and Domestic Policy Change

- How have legal services commitments been used as a tool for domestic change?
- How are acceding Members influenced by the need to make commitments?
- What are the main concerns of those WTO Members without commitments in legal services?

Speakers:

Mickael Laurans, Law Society of England and Wales, United Kingdom
Stevan Dimitrijević, Dimitrijević & Partners, Bosnia-Herzegovina
Mfon Usoro, Paul Usoro & Co, Nigeria

17.15 – 17.30 - Conclusions

- How the IBA can support and assist negotiators in future

Alison Hook, Chair IBA Trade in Legal Services Committee

To be followed by a drinks reception in the Atrium