



A. Letter from Committee Director

Dear Delegates, First of all welcome to HaydarpaşaMUN'20, I wish an enjoyable and unforgettable conference for all of you. My name is Can Turan and I am very honoured to be one of the cochairs of the World Trade Organization committee. I am currently a 10th grade in Kabataş Erkek Highschool. This year, I will be participating in HaydarpaşaMUN for the third time. I was a delegate in the Interpol committee in 2018, later in 2019 I become the rapporteur of the Interpol committee, now I will be a committee director in WTO. Thus, this conference has an extremely remarkable place in my three-year MUN journey, I wish the same for you. World Trade Organization is the top authority in the world, regulating international trade. It is the only global organization dealing with the rules of trade. It helps in negotiating trade agreements and resolves trade disputes between the states. It has over 160 countries, representing %98 of world trade. The WTO derives most of the income for its budget from contributions by the member states. These contributions are determined by a formula that takes into account each member's share of international trade. In this conference we will put two agenda items on the table: Brexit Customs and Trade Agreement with the United Kingdom, and, the Importance of Tourism in the Doha Development Agenda. Both of them are really important matters, concerning every member state, regardless of their economic development nor their continents. If you have anything to ask about the committee or the agenda items you can reach me via my email address. Can Turan Co-Chair of World Trade Organization canturan2003@gmail.com

B. Introduction to the Agenda Item

France, West Germany, Belgium, Italy, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands signed the Treaty of Rome, subsequently establishing the European Economic Community (EEC), in 1957. It became the predecessor of today's European Union. It was the last attempt to promote economic cooperation between European nations after World War II. Nations that traded together, could be in a peaceful environment which would make them less likely to go into war with each other. Eventually, in 1973 which is after 10 years since the start of negotiations, the United Kingdom achieved to get into the EEC. Thus started a long period of in or out divergency. The United Kingdom's two major parties, the Labour and the Tory, have altered their beliefs on the issue constantly. In 1975, just two years after the participation, there was a referendum made in the country. Despite the turnout was 67 per cent in favour of the union; this referendum leads the Labour to split over the matter, causing the establishment of pro-European Social Democrat Party. In the '80s, UK's Iron Lady – Margaret Thatcher supported less interference with the EEC, the UK was funding %20 of the community even though the UK was the third poorest country of the organization. Thatcher decreased this amount to %12 per cent but relations between the EEC and the UK had got worse. Due to her Euroscepticism, Thatcher was forced to resign. In 1993, the European Union was founded, but the leave or stay conspiracies continued in the UK. Following the EU Economic Crisis 2008, public opinion started to change in favour of the left. In 2013, newly elected

Conservative PM David Cameron vowed to make a referendum for Brexit. The referendum was made in 2016, turnout came as 52 per cent leave even though Cameron had been supporting to stay in the Union. Cameron resigned after the outcome. After the Brexit referendum, a new era started, questioning: "How will the UK leave the European Union?" Theresa May, the PM of the UK had debated with the EU for 3 years but all the deals she offered to the parliament did not pass. This conducted toward early elections and eventually May's resignation. Boris Johnson, the incumbent Conservative PM of the UK, has promised to leave the EU by 31 January 2020 whether there is a deal or not. With this vow, he got the majority of MPs in the House of Commons in the last early election – which was made on 12 December 2019. The offer has passed in the Commons and it is expected that the UK will leave the EU on 31 January 2020 formally.

C. Key Terms

Tariff

According to the Oxford Dictionary, tariff's meaning is "a tax that is paid on goods coming into or going out of a country". Tariffs are one of the most important topics in trade agreements during the Brexit. Especially for the EU member states and those which have existing trade deals with the EU, tariffs are the most crucial issue as the trade partnership between two countries relies on tariff rates exceedingly. If the UK does not accomplish to sign proper trade deals before the official secession with those countries both the UK's and the aforementioned states will be adversely affected. Exportation – Importation Oxford Dictionary defines exportation as "the process of sending goods to another country for sale" and importation as "the act of bringing a product or service into one country from another". Those countries which have strong commercial ties with the UK will no wonder get a detrimental effect from the Brexit. The UK is a huge exporter which has strong partnerships with almost every country in the world, this makes the situation more of a global issue.

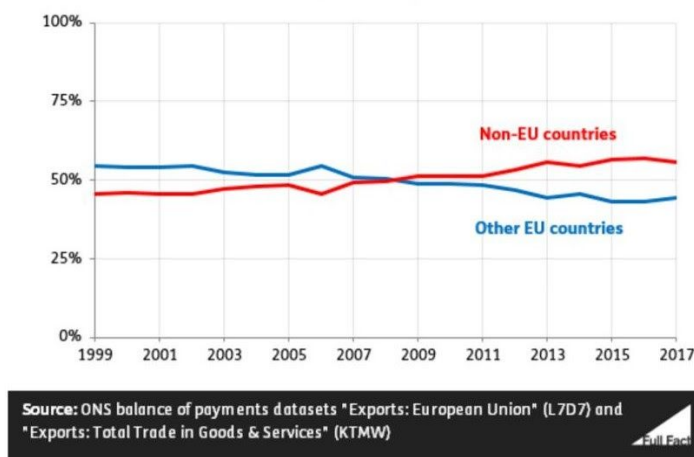
Free-Trade Agreement (FTA) A free trade agreement is "a pact between two or more nations to reduce barriers to imports and exports among them" according to the Investopedia. Free trade agreements reduce governmental implementations such as taxes and tariffs on international trade. Free Markets, such as the EU, is an expanded term of free trade agreements, eliminating commercial borders between countries. The EU has 40 free-trade agreements covering more than 70 countries. After the Brexit, the UK will not be a part of those deals. The UK has made 20 continuity deals with approximately 50 countries so far, however, it will have no agreements with the EU members and those which have deals with the EU in process. Thus, the UK will be regulating its international trade according to the World Trade Organization's rules in case there will be no other options found for those countries.

D. General Overview

Post-Brexit UK – EU Relations There have been more than 3 years of negotiating between the government of the UK and the EU commission but there is no concrete result of them. After Cameron's resignation, new PM Theresa May has attended in a lot of meetings with the EU commission and presented several deals to the parliament, however, all of them were rejected. The most important economic issues between the EU and the UK are the divorce bill – which is estimated 33 billion pounds – and the future commercial relations between them. There are also some other diplomatic and bureaucratic issues in the deals which are irrelevant to economics and trade. Graph-2 After December 12 Elections, Boris Johnson has passed his deal in the parliament, this means the UK will leave the EU by 31 January 2020. However, this does not indicate how will further relations be. There could be Association Agreements done to create a framework between the UK, the EU and other third parties, currently, this seems like the most suitable and expected solution.

UK exports: EU versus non-EU

UK share of exports of goods and services to other EU countries and to countries outside the EU, rolling annual figures



Graph-2

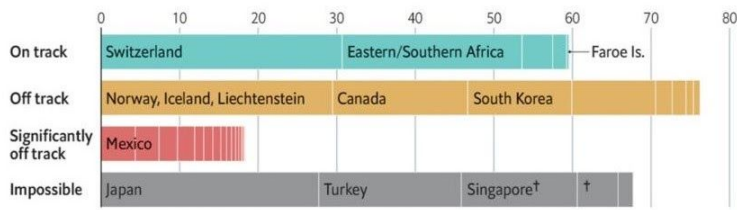
E. Brexit's Impact on International Trade

Brexit will affect international trade mostly in adverse. UK's current trade deals with other countries are based on EU's common trade agreements after Brexit is done the UK will no longer have those trade agreements among with other international partnership deals except with the governments which have signed trade deals for the post-Brexit term. The countries that signing a trade deal before the official secession is impossible for the UK to have significant values in both the UK and their economies reciprocally. The graph-2 shows us how crucial is Brexit internationally, regardless of EU participation.

A great deal remaining

Britain, trade agreements, value of trade in 2017, £bn

By likelihood of completion on Brexit day*

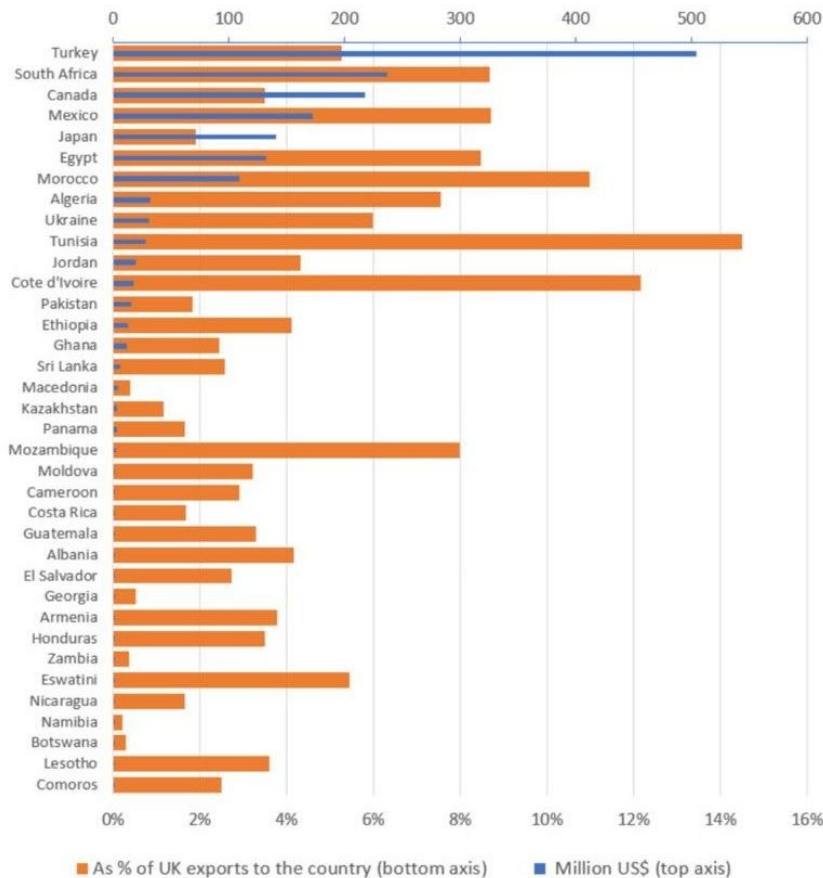


Sources: Department for International Trade; ONS

*March 29th 2019 †Negotiated deal with EU agreed but not yet in force

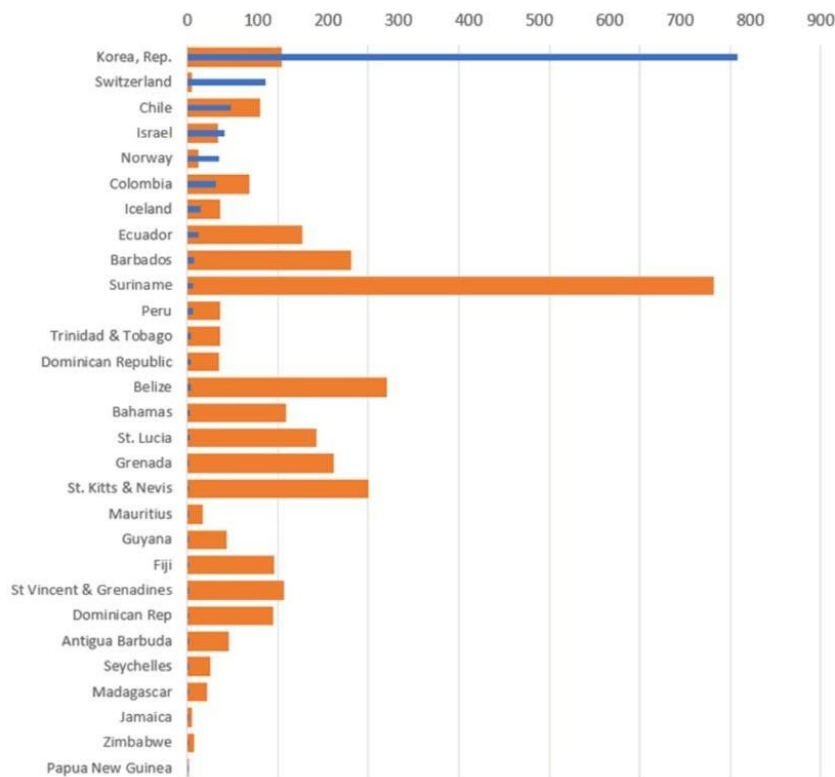
The Economist

Graph-2 Showing the percentages of countries which the UK has a deal with or not.



Graph-3 Showing the loses of exportation for the UK in case there will be a no-deal Brexit.

If the necessary agreements will not be done this means trade costs will increase in value. UK will implement WTO's rules in international trade. WTO rules do not comprise free trade significantly, therefore the countries which implement low taxes and tariffs within their importations and exportations per the EU agreements, are going to be paying more taxes in their trade with the UK. The graph-3 shows us how important trade-deals are for exportation.



Grp-4 Showing us the exportation rates of the UK with the countries which they have rolled over new trade deals.

F. What will be next?

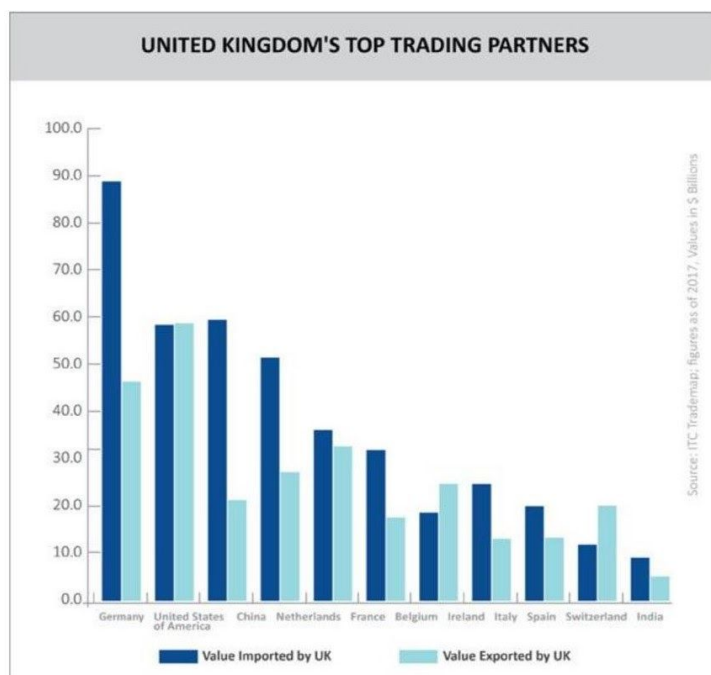
After approval of Boris Johnson's Brexit Deal in the House of Commons, the UK will certainly leave the EU in January 31th if all goes well. But this does not mean the UK will leave the free market and the customs union, it will enter eleven months of a transition period. This will allow both the UK and the EU to get used to further courses. Grap-4 Showing us the exportation rates of the UK with the countries which they have rolled over new trade deals.

The agreements that have been done up to now prevent spending billions of sterling on tariffs both sides. The UK will possibly decide on staying in the customs union, otherwise, all economies will be adversely affected by the no-deal trades.

G. World Trade Organization's Trade Laws

The rules of WTO target easing international trade, decreasing the tariffs and making every member of the organization treat equally in both domestic and international trade without discrimination. The WTO expedites international trade a lot also by being a policymaker

above all. However, countries which have bilateral agreements provide better conditions for the businessman as those agreements are more comprehensive than WTO's rules. The EU has more than 40 trade deals with approximately 70 countries, which are currently the bases of the UK's trade laws. After Brexit the UK will not be a part of those deals, so they have rolled over some of the deals, which they could do before the Brexit, not to get heavily affected by the upcoming results of Brexit. With the countries which their trade deals have not been rolled over, the UK will merchandise regulated by the WTO rules. This will probably increase tariffs and aggravate transportation of goods by financial means. Thus, changing its policy from EU trade rules to WTO rules will harm both UK and other economic partners of it severely.



Graph-5

H. Timeline of Key Events

23 June 2016	Brexit Referendum was made. 52% vote in favour of the Brexit.
24 June 2016	Cameron announces resignation
15 July 2016	Theresa May becomes new PM
17 January 2017	May sets out plan for Brexit at Lancaster House
2 February 2017	UK white paper on Brexit
29 March 2017	UK triggers Article 50
18 April 2017	May announces snap election
8 June 2017	May loses majority
19 June 2017	First round of UK-EU exit negotiations begin
22 September 2017	May details Brexit stance, Florence speech
8 December 2017	Joint report proposes solutions for Irish border
28 February 2018	Commission publishes draft Withdrawal Agreement
19 March 2018	UK and EU agree on money, citizens' rights
14 November 2018	May and EU publish Withdrawal Agreement
25 November 2018	EU endorses Withdrawal Agreement
17 December 2018	May announces date for vote on Brexit deal
15 February 2019	May loses meaningful vote
29 March 2019	Brexit day I May loses 2nd meaningful vote
1 April 2019	Indicative votes - no majority for any proposals
5 April 2019	May asks for extension to 30 June 2019
10 April 2019	At emergency EU summit, Brexit extension agreed until 31 October 2019
23 May 2019	European elections
24 May 2019	May announces resignation
24 July 2019	Boris Johnson becomes new PM
28 August 2019	Proroguing of Parliament
24 September 2019	Supreme Court rules prorogation unlawful
2 October 2019	Johnson proposes alternative to the backstop
17 October 2019	Johnson agrees new Withdrawal Agreement with EU

19 October 2019	Parliament votes for more time to scrutinise agreement
28 October 2019	EU agrees extensions to 31 January 2020
29 October 2019	UK general election called for 12 December 2019
31 October 2019	Brexit day II
31 January 2020	Brexit day III
31 December 2020	End of transition period

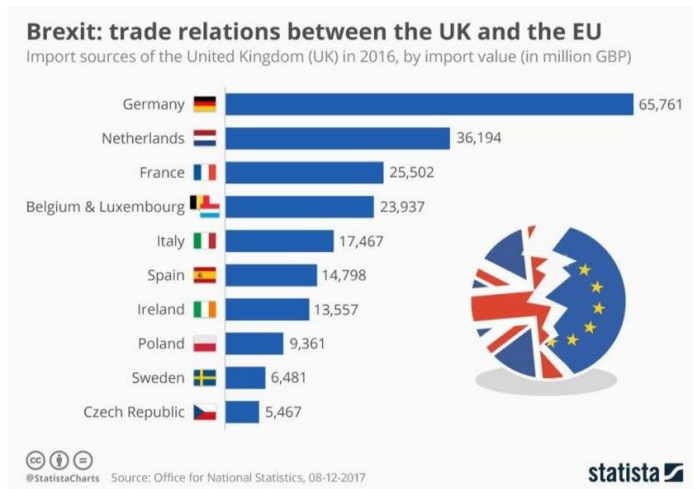
I. Major Parties Involved

The United Kingdom

The UK has the leading role in Brexit deals, all the further improvements that can be done are depended on the UK itself. One more bill has passed in the Commons recently, indicating us clearly that the UK will not be a participant of the EU after 31 January. The most crucial thing to be concerned about is the WTO trade rules and diplomatic and commercial relations what if a no-deal Brexit happens. Some pro-Brexit economists state that currently most of international trade is done by WTO trade rules, meaning that the UK will not affected badly from the Brexit. However many other economists believe that the UK's economy will get harshly damaged by a no-deal Brexit, especially in sectors of services, manufacturing and agriculture. The new government has legislated an updated tariff regime for a nodeal Brexit, saying it would not tax 88% of imports. However, the EU can not treat the UK differently than any other countries, this will influence both of their economies negatively as they have strong commercial ties with each other.

The EU

Every negotiation that the UK does concerns the EU as much as the UK itself since the EU is the biggest trade partner of the UK and also the UK is currently imposing EU's trade laws within its international trade.



Graph-6

There must be an efficient trade deal done between the EU and the UK to prevent both sides from a major bankruptcy and economic crisis. However, as the European Commission President indicated, making a trade deal by the end of 2020 is impossible. The UK and the EU will still be good trade partners, but it will never be the same as the previous times again.

The United States

The US Dollar is the most common currency used in international trade. 1 British Pound equals to 1,3 US Dollars while 1 Euro to 1,1 US Dollars in the first week of 2020. When the Brexit referendum was made, American Dollar increased in value, %1 to Euros and %8 to GBP. However, this is not good for the US because an increase in their currency makes the country less appealing to foreign entrepreneurs and investors. Some US companies use the UK as the gateway for free trade with European nations. UK and US has a lot of investors among each other and Brexit puts all of them, regardless of their countries, at risk.



Graph-7 The value of GBP decreased drastically in 23 June 2016 subsequently after the Brexit Referendum.

G. Previous Attempts to Resolve the Issue

Except for the negotiations between the government of the United Kingdom and the European Commission, there was not much done to resolve the issue. The United Kingdom promulgated some trade deals with approximately 40 countries, not including the EU members and the ones which are currently a member of European Customs Union.

H. Relevant UN Treaties, Resolutions and Events

- European Parliament resolution of 18 September 2019 on the state of play of the UK's withdrawal from the European Union (2019/2817(RSP))
http://www.epgencms.europarl.europa.eu/cmsdata/upload/6da1f1d0-82bc-41f0-8283-308fe876ea77/TA-9-2019-0016_EN.pdf
- European Parliament resolution of 14 March 2018 on the framework of the future EUUK relationship (2018/2573(RSP))
http://www.epgencms.europarl.europa.eu/cmsdata/upload/e9270809-8891-4d5d-bea4-1a764178e282/European_Parliament_resolution_on_the_framework_of_the_future_EUUK_relationship_14_March.pdf
- European Parliament resolution of 13 December 2017 on the state of play of negotiations with the United Kingdom (2017/2964(RSP))
<http://www.epgencms.europarl.europa.eu/cmsdata/upload/e845eb9c-8326>

-44b6-b70e461d5602d0a9/EP_RESOLUTION_13_December_2017_State_of_Play.pdf

- European Parliament resolution of 3 October 2017 on the state of play of negotiations with the United Kingdom (2017/2847(RSP))
http://www.epgencms.europarl.europa.eu/cmsdata/upload/cd4c389a-cfd7-4703-bbf8-be07f0272cd7/European_Parliament_Resolution_3_October.pdf
- European Parliament resolution of 5 April 2017 on negotiations with the United Kingdom following its notification that it intends to withdraw from the European Union (2017/2593(RSP))
http://www.epgencms.europarl.europa.eu/cmsdata/upload/b9a0c645-21c2-4117-b933-04689cf7cb46/European_Parliament_Resolution_5_April.pdf

I. Possible Solutions

One of the most important things to do is ensuring that there will be special tariff regimes in the UK to impose on the EU states and the countries that the EU has common tax laws. The UK should be induced in order not to implement heavy taxes on the further foreign investors and the current foreign businessmen trading among the UK. The delegates should strive to maintain the current values of currencies. UK should be encouraged to make new negotiations and certainly, there must be found a new solution for the further EU – UK free trade deals and possible customs unions. Business relocations are also important for the future trade.

J. Further Reading

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IiOC5XG2I5Y&list=PL_5mnzxLXz1MUvos p1rhacPVSK8cCOuGl&index=44

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eQ6NuYuzzTE>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7eoDwvl0QGk>

<https://www.pwc.nl/nl/brexit/documents/pwc-brexit-monitor-trade.pdf>

<https://www.bakermckenzie.com/->

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PDF. (2017)

Agenda Item 2: The Importance of Tourism in the Doha Development Agenda

INTRODUCTION

The Doha Round is the most recent round of WTO membership trade negotiations. Its aim is to bring about a major reform of the international trading system through the introduction of lower trade barriers and revised trade rules. The work program covers some 20 areas of trade.

The Round is also semi-officially referred to as the Doha Development Agenda, which aims at enhancing economic opportunities in developing countries.

The Round was officially launched in November 2001 at the 4th World Trade Organization Minister's Conference in Doha, Qatar. The Declaration of the Ministers in Doha provided a mandate, including on agriculture, services and an earlier issue of intellectual property.

Ministers also approved at Doha a decision on how developing countries can tackle their problems when implementing the existing World Trade Organization Agreements.

Virtually every WTO member emphasizes the importance of tourism, especially in its contribution to employment and foreign exchange generation. In fact, tourism-related services are one of the most diverse industries in the market and have a lot of work with other significant segments in the economy.

Tourism and travel facilities; provide hotel and restaurant services (including catering), tour operators and tourism agents, tour guide services and other related services.

The cross-border movement of consumers is one of the most important aspects of international tourism. This enables even skilled people from remote areas to be exporters of services—for example, through the sale of handicrafts, cultural shows or the work in a holiday lodge.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Negotiations on agriculture and exchange in resources had already begun before the Doha Ministerial. In the last round of multilateral trade negotiations (the Uruguay Phase 1986–1994), the talks were necessary. However, some countries, including the United States, wanted to expand the agriculture and services talks to allow trade-offs and thus achieve greater trade liberalization.

The first WTO Ministerial Conference in 1996 in Singapore set up permanent working groups on four issues: public procurement transparency, trade facilitation (customs), trade and investment, and trade and competition. These were regarded as the issues in Singapore. These issues were pushed by the European Union, Japan, and Korea and opposed by most developing countries in successive

ministerials. As no agreement was reached, developed countries pushed to include the aforementioned issues in any new trade negotiations.

It was intended that the negotiations be initiated at the 1999 Ministerial Conference in Seattle and that the Millennium Round be called, although negotiations were never initiated because of several events including protest activities external to the Conference (the so-called Seattle Battle).

Because of the failure of the Millennium Round, negotiations had been decided not to restart until the next ministerial conference in Doha, Qatar, was held in 2001. Just a few months before the Doha ministerial, on 11 September 2001 the United States was attacked by terrorists. Some officials of the government called for greater national unity and saw trade negotiations as a tool for that reason. A fresh round of multilateral trade negotiations, some officials claimed, could support a global economy that has been disrupted by stagnation and jihadist instability.

A ministerial meeting in Doha, Qatar started with the Doha Round in 2001. The aim was to concentrate on the interests of less developed countries. The key reasons for the conference were the concerns of the developing countries. The key factors covered include facilitation of trade, services, rules of origin and settlement of disputes. Special and differential treatment was also discussed as a major concern for developing countries. The next Ministerial Meetings were held in Cancún, Mexico (2003), the Ministerial Meetings were held in Hong Kong (2005). Paris, France (2005), Potsdam, Germany (2007) and Geneva, Switzerland (2004, 2006, 2008) have been active in the relevant negotiations;

The most significant differences between developed countries led by the European Union (EU), the US, Canada, and Japan, and major developing countries leading by and representing India, Brazil, China, and South Africa have stalled. Progress in negotiations is stalled after the breakdown of negotiations of July 2008. The EU and the US are also very contentious over their continuation of agricultural subsidies which are designed to work successfully as obstacles for exchange.

There have been several efforts to reinvigorate the talks since the collapse in 2008, until now without results. At the end of 2008, intense negotiations were held, mainly between the USA, China and India, in search of agreement on modes of negotiation. In April 2011, then director-general Pascal Lamy "asked members to think hard about' the consequences of throwing away ten years of solid multilateral

work'." A report to the WTO General Council by Lamy in May 2012 advocated "small steps, gradually moving forward the parts of the Doha Round which were mature, and re-thinking those where greater differences remained. A ministerial declaration in Bali was adopted on December 7, 2013, and a small part of the Doha Round Agenda was successfully addressed for the first time. The prospect of the Doha Round remains uncertain, though, as of January 2014.



DOHA ROUND 2001

Presented By:-

Karun Mahajan
05-MBA-IB-12

KEY TERMS

Gross Domestic Product (GDP)

The total monetary or market value of all finished products and services manufactured within the borders of the country is the gross domestic product (GDP). This serves as a detailed scorecard of domestic economic health as a specific indicator of domestic total production.

Although GDP is generally calculated annually, it can also be calculated quarterly. The nation, for instance, reports annualized GDP figures in the United States per quarter as well as a complete year. The majority of the data sets are also provided in real terms, which means that the data are adjusted to price changes, which means that they are net of inflation.

Inflation

The average price rates of a pantry of chosen goods and services rise over a given period of time as an inflation quantitative measure. It is the steady increase in the general price level, where a unit of currency purchases less than in previous periods. Inflation, sometimes expressed as a percentage, signals a decrease in national currency purchasing power.

The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT)

International goods commerce is covered by the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). It is the responsibility of the Goods Council (GATT), which is composed of members from all WTO members, to operate the GATT agreement. The GATT Agreement The Goods Council has 10 committees dealing with specific subjects (such as agriculture, market access, subsidies, anti-dumping measures and so on). Again, all the member countries make up these committees. Also reporting to the Goods Council are a working party on state trading enterprises, and the Information Technology Agreement (ITA) Committee.

GENERAL OVERVIEW

Implementation-Related Issues and Concerns

The ' implementation ' shall shorten the problems of enforcing the current WTO Agreements, including those posed by developing countries. This important issue was dealt with in two respects in Doha. First of all, the ministers also decided to implement some fifty decisions clarifying Member States ' commitments on topics such as production, tariffs, textiles and clothing, technical barriers to international transactions, trade-related steps for investment and rules of origin.

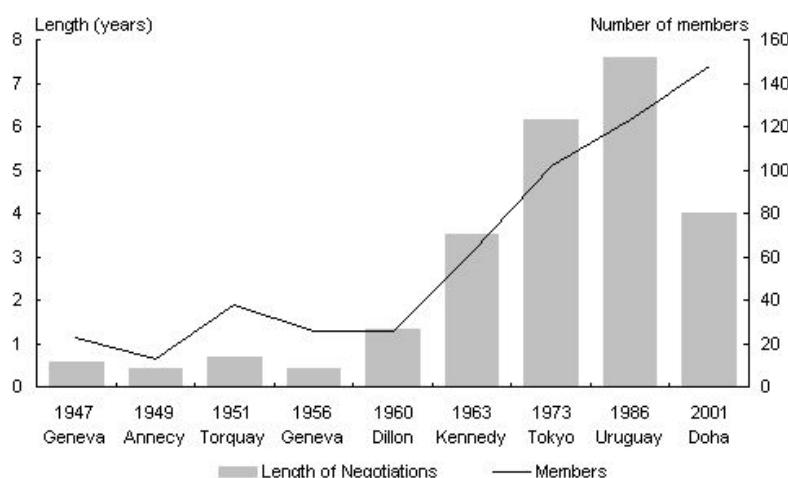
Accordingly, the delegates had to negotiate hard during almost three years on these topics.

Nevertheless, a variety of other implementation problems relating to developing countries were not addressed. To order to deal with these issues, the Ministers settled on a future work plan to Doha.

The Ministers found out in paragraph 12 of the Ministerial Resolution (the 14 November 2001 Decision on the "Implementation-related issues and concerns") and that "negotiations on outstanding issues of implementation would form part of a work program" over the next years. The Ministers pointed out that they had made a decision about the 50 or so acts in a different minister's paper.

The Ministers have established a two-way strategy. In accordance with the terms of that provision, certain issues for which an understanding had been established in the declaration would be answered.

Where there is no bargaining mandate, these compliance concerns would be discussed by the qualified WTO councils and committees as a "priority issue." These bodies shall report on their progress towards 'appropriate action' to the Trade Negotiations Committee by the end of 2002.



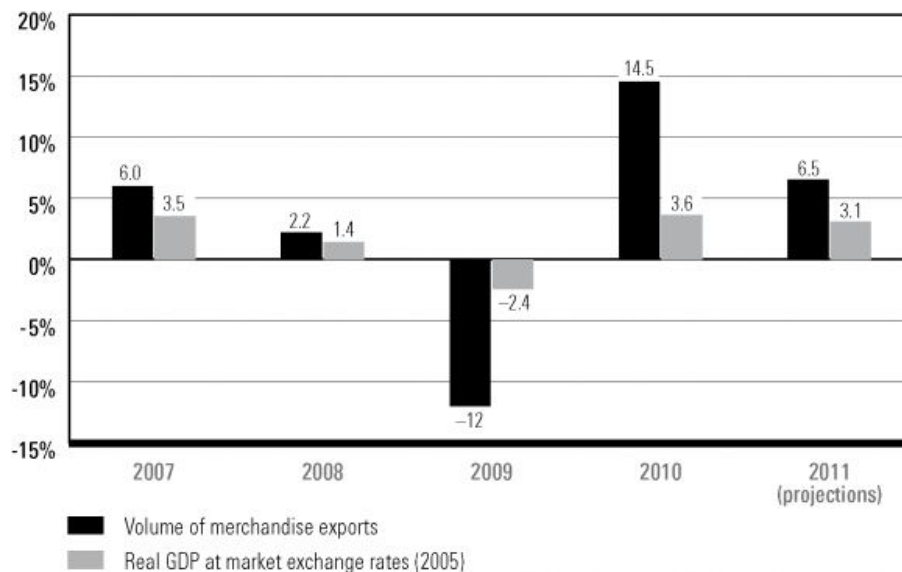
Relationship Between Trade and Investment

A working group set up by the Singapore Ministerial Conference in 1996 discussed this 'Singapore question.' This is a challenge.

The Declaration instructs the working group in the period leading up to the 2003 Ministerial Conference to concentrate on clarifying the nature and meaning of the problems, accountability, non-discrimination, ways to develop agreed agreements, implementation arrangements, exemptions

and balance of payments assurances, consulting services and dispute resolution. The negotiated commitments would be shaped according to those made in services that specify where "positive" lists of commitments are made rather than broad commitments and listing exemptions.

The statement also lays out a series of concepts, including the need to consider the needs of the countries in which foreign investment is extracted and spent, the ability of individual countries to control trade, growth, public interest and the specific circumstances of individual countries. It also addresses development support and strategic collaboration and communication with other international organizations, such as the United Nations Trade and Mutual Committee (UNCTAD).



The Importance of Tourism



Tourism is the largest export sector and foreign exchange outlet for nearly all of the LDC's non-oil exports. However, this importance is not always immediately clear: for example, in the recent WTO Market Access Report for the 50 LDCs, the general export figure of trade services (including tourism) in 2006 (10% of total exportations) was estimated to be only 10,1% as compared with 14,7% for 2005.

Tourism was the third largest export in the LDC, at 5.2 billion USD 4 — just behind mineral fuel (US\$ 41.4 billion) and clothing (USD 12.8 billion), well ahead of next major categories of fish (US\$ 2.5 billion), pearls (USD 2.1 billion), and ores (US\$ 1.8 billion) in 2005 (most recent data available). Tourism ranked 3.2 billion USD export. On a national basis, the leading LDC tourism exporters in 2006 were Cambodia, with US\$ 963 million in receipts, Tanzania (US\$ 950 million), the Maldives (US\$ 434 million), and Uganda (US\$ 309 million)

The importance of tourism in many countries is not overestimated: 80% of Samoa's overall exports of products and services were made up of 80%, the Maldives of 70%, São Tomé & Príncipe of 56% and Vanuatu of 43%⁷. In general international

tourism arrivals and the incomes of LDCs have increased rapidly over past years, by 8.2% and 12.0% per year between 2000-2005. In comparison, global tourism growth was significantly lower over the same period, at 3.3 percent and 7.1 percent, respectively.

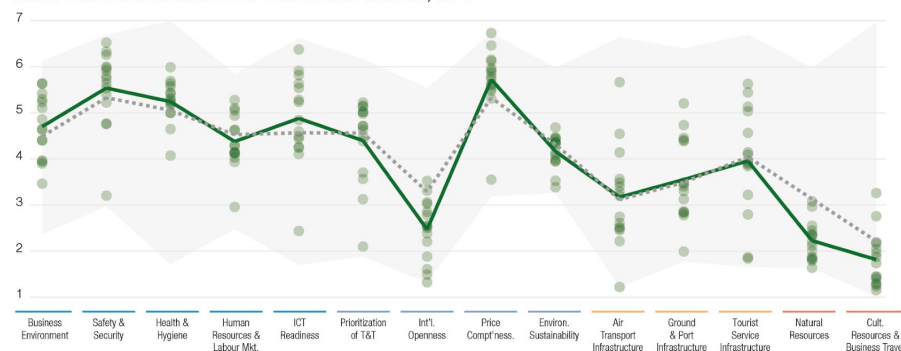


Travel & Tourism Competitiveness Index 2019

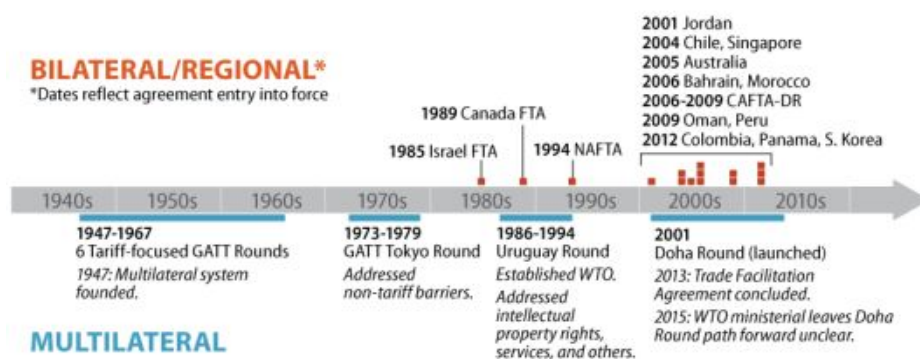
Key Indicators

International tourist arrivals (thousands).....	84,658.4	Domestic spending (share of internal T&T spending).....	42.0%
International tourism inbound receipts (US\$ millions).....	84,323.5	Visitor spending (share of internal T&T spending).....	58.0%
Average receipts per arrival (US\$).....	996.0	T&T industry employment (thousands).....	4,655.5
T&T industry GDP (US\$ millions).....	119,434.4	% of total.....	4.0%
% of total.....	3.9%		

Middle East and North Africa Pillar Performance Overview, 2019



TIMELINE OF EVENTS



Nov 2001 -
WTO members
meeting in Qatar
agree to launch

Doha round of multilateral talks with an emphasis on development and

opening markets in agriculture, manufacturing and services. Countries set a goal to finish the round by Jan 1, 2005.

Jan 2002 - Talks get off to promising start with quick selection of chairman to head negotiating groups in Geneva, the WTO's headquarters.

Oct 2002 - WTO Director-General Supachai Panitchpakdi expresses concern about the slow pace of talks.

March 2003 - Countries miss deadline for deciding on formula to cut agricultural tariffs, domestic support and export subsidies. Similar deadlines are missed in the manufacturing talks and services negotiations begin to fall badly behind.

Sept 2003 - Developing countries savage U.S.-EU agricultural proposal at a ministerial meeting in Cancun, Mexico, and form the G20 negotiating block led by India and Brazil. Conference chairman Luis Ernesto Derbez ends the acrimonious conference, saying it was impossible in the time left to bridge differences.

Jan 2004 - U.S. Trade Representative Robert Zoellick encourages countries to pick up pieces from Cancun and begin again.

July 2004 - Negotiators agree in Geneva on a framework for finishing the round, but put off the toughest decisions.

Jan 1, 2005 - WTO members miss deadline for finishing round.

Dec 2005 - The WTO holds its fifth ministerial meeting in Hong Kong. Countries agree to eliminate agricultural export subsidies by 2013, but again fail to agree on formula for cutting domestic farm subsidies and tariffs.

April 2006 - Negotiators miss new agriculture and manufacturing deadlines set in Hong Kong.

July 2006 - WTO Director-General Pascal Lamy suspends the negotiations after the G6 comprised of the United States, European Union, Brazil, India, Japan and Australia fail to break the impasse on agriculture.

Feb 2007 - After months of bilateral and small group consultations, Lamy declares multilateral negotiations in Geneva back in full swing.

May 2007 - Lamy warns Doha failure would mean “breaking the commitment for a more developing-friendly world trading system.”

June 2007 - U.S. Trade Representative Susan Schwab, EU Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson, Brazilian Foreign Minister Celso Amorim and Indian Commerce Minister Kamal Nath meet in Potsdam to see if they can break the impasse. The talks collapse with India and Brazil complaining the United States and the European Union were demanding

too much new manufacturing market access in exchange for cutting farm subsidies and tariffs.

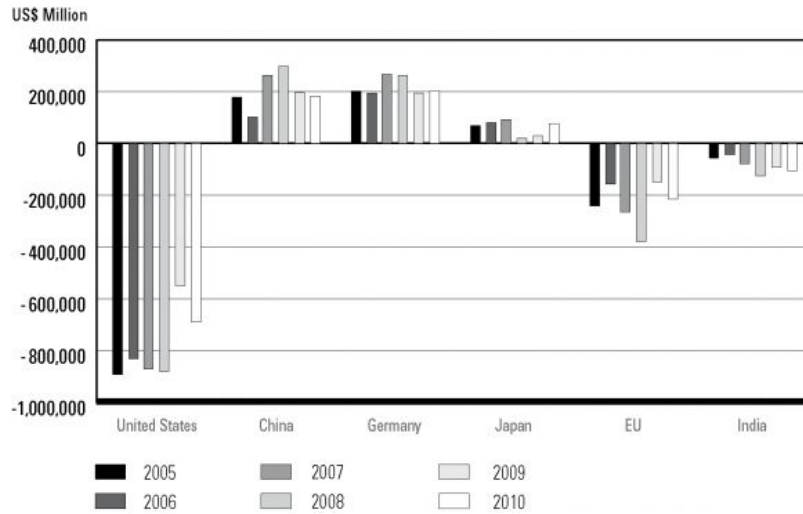


MAJOR PARTIES INVOLVED

Countries like Brazil, China and India and many WTO members insist on continuation of the Doha Round, because as formally known, the Doha Development Agenda encompasses issues of crucial importance to poorer countries such as efforts to rein in farm aid in richer economies such as the United States and the European Union The Doha Round must continue.

Many big advanced economies such as the EU and Japan have worked with the US to adopt a new strategy after the talks in Nairobi and to discuss specific markets more directly than to seek a monolithic global agreement.

While the developed economies and other proponents of free ization and world trade, including Australia and New Zealand, are still a minority within the 160-member World Trade Organisation, where the vote is by majority.



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