

Training Course in WTO Law

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Speaker Biographies



Iryna Polovets is Advisor to a Deputy Director-General at the World Trade Organization (WTO). Previously, she worked as Dispute Settlement Lawyer at the Appellate Body Secretariat and the Legal Affairs Division of the WTO where she assisted Appellate Body members and panelists in resolving inter-state trade disputes.

Iryna holds a Bachelor's degree from Odesa National Maritime Academy and a Master's degree from Kyiv National Economic University (Ukraine) as well as a Master in International Law and Economics (MILE) degree from the World Trade Institute (WTI), University of Bern (Switzerland), and an LLM in International Trade and Business Law from the University of Arizona (USA).



Carlo Gamberale is an attorney, member of the Rome Bar, and works as Counsellor for the Market Access Division of the WTO Secretariat since 1 April 2020. Between 2007 and 2020, he worked for the Secretariat of the Appellate Body where he advised the Appellate Body and directed the work of the legal teams assisting the Appellate Body in the conduct of appeals. During his stay at the Appellate Body Secretariat, he assisted the Appellate Body in 22 appeals on matters including GATT 1994, Trade in Services, Agriculture, Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, Technical Barriers to Trade, Import Licensing Procedures,

Anti-Dumping, Subsidies and Countervailing Duties, and Intellectual Property Rights. He also assisted two WTO Arbitrators in proceedings concerning the determination of the reasonable period of time to comply with WTO rulings.

Before joining the Appellate Body Secretariat in 2007, he worked as a private lawyer in Brussels for the law firm Cleary, Gottlieb, Steen and Hamilton (2001-2004), focusing mainly on EU trade law, EU competition law and Italian law; and as Legal Officer and Counsellor for the Trade in Services Division of the WTO (1996-2001 and 2004-2007), where he serviced the post-Uruguay Round negotiations on basic telecommunications, financial services, professional services and services domestic regulation.

He has taught postgraduate courses in WTO law at the LUISS University in Rome, at the University of Barcelona (IELPO), at the University of Bern (WTI) and at the University of Zurich. He currently teaches a postgraduate course on WTO law at Lyon Catholic University (UCLY).



Rohini Acharya is a Counsellor with the World Trade Organization and since 2007, Chief of the Regional Trade Agreements Section in the Trade Policies Review Division. She has a PhD in Economics and joined the WTO's Trade Policies Review Division in 1996, having previously worked as Senior Research Fellow at the International Economics Programme of the Royal Institute of International Affairs (Chatham House) in London. Her work at the WTO has included the trade policy reviews of several WTO Members, including Australia, Egypt, India, New Zealand, and Singapore as well as the first Trade Policy Review of China. She is currently in charge of the WTO's work on regional trade agreements.



Mr. Erik Wijkström joined the WTO in 1995. He has broad experience from several areas of trade policy relating to standards and regulations, including agriculture, sanitary and phytosanitary measures (SPS Agreement), trade and environment, as well as trade and health. He is currently Head of Section for Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) in the Trade and Environment Division of the WTO. Mr. Wijkström has a master's degree in agriculture and economics from the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, in Uppsala (Sweden).



Dr. Doaa Abdel-Motaal is Senior Counsellor at the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agriculture and Commodities Division. She is the former Executive Director of the Rockefeller Foundation Economic Council on Planetary Health, the former Chief of Staff of the United Nations International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), and former Deputy Chief of Staff of WTO.



Josefita Pardo de León works at the Intellectual Property, Government Procurement and Competition Division, where she is responsible for monitoring IP-related measures, trade policy reviews and regional trade agreements. She also serves as the Special Coordinator for Trade and Public Health, leading inter-disciplinary WTO work related to COVID-19. Previously, she worked in the Accessions Division; the Institute for Training and Technical Cooperation; the Agriculture and Commodities Division; and the External Relations Division. Before joining the WTO Secretariat in 2005, she worked at the Ministry of Economy, Chamber of Commerce and the Association of Exporters, in Guatemala City. She has published on intellectual property and access to medicines, government procurement, EU Association Agreements in the Americas, DR-CAFTA and its lock-in effects; as well as extensively contributed to WTO publications. She is fluent in English, French and Spanish.



Antonia Carzaniga is Counsellor in the Trade in Services and Investment Division at the World Trade Organization (WTO). She is an economist with a degree from Bocconi University, Italy, and Masters from the College of Europe, Belgium, and the London School of Economics, UK. She has worked in the WTO since 1998. She is the Secretary of the WTO Council for Trade in Services and deals, inter alia, with issues relating to the movement of natural persons (mode 4), various transport services and e-commerce. She has conducted many technical assistance activities focused on services trade and the disciplines of the General Agreement on Trade in Services, including for economies seeking to accede to the WTO. Ms Carzaniga has published extensively on matters relating to trade

in services, including by coordinating the WTO's 2019 World Trade Report "The Future of Services Trade", and has contributed to many expert fora, conferences and academic seminars.