

Call for Applications

Working Europe Seminar on EU Trade Policy

Brussels, 29 January – 02 February 2018

In the framework of the **PONT (Professional Training on EU Affairs)**, co-funded by the ERASMUS+/Jean Monnet Programme, the Trans European Policy Studies Association (TEPSA) is organising its third '**Working Europe seminar**', a 5-day seminar at the heart of EU politics, in Brussels. The seminar will offer 20 Master students from different national and disciplinary backgrounds an opportunity to gain first-hand insights from researchers, EU practitioners and policymakers on the current top priorities and trends of EU policy and politics in the field of trade.

Why studying trade policy?

'Trade' is a substance matter serving as the basis of EU cooperation. It represents the core business of the **internal market** characterised by the so-called four fundamental freedoms: free movement of goods, persons, services and capital.

While access to the EU internal market is a key point in **trade talks** (EEA, Brexit, Switzerland), trade agreements have also acquired an increasing impact in the international arena in the form of international trade agreements (such as TTIP, CETA). Trade is nowadays strictly connected with many other policy areas of the EU, such as development cooperation or the EU external action (including human rights promotion), which makes it one of the most interesting and challenging fields to explore. It also has an impact on citizens' lives, as testified by the ongoing public discussion regarding the content and consequences of international trade agreements (e.g. with regard to safety standards, environmental impact or investment protection provisions).

Objective and impact of the seminar

The main objective of the seminar is to deepen the knowledge of Master students on **EU political processes** by providing them first-hand knowledge on the roles and functions of EU institutions in view of the priorities of the EU's strategic agenda including the **EU trade interests, challenges and possible developments**.

By attending this seminar, participants will be able to:

- Acquire and deepen their **knowledge** on EU politics in the field of trade, gaining valuable insights into the practicalities of **Brussels policy-making**.
- Meet high level **professionals** from EU institutions, academia, and NGOs
- Meet and exchange views with **students** from different disciplinary and national backgrounds from all over the EU and beyond.
- Improve their **analytical and argumentative skills**.
- Enhance their **employability**.

Dates, location and format of the seminar

The seminar is a 5-day event. It will be held in Brussels from **Monday 29 January to Friday 02 February**. Prior to the start of the programme, participants will be asked to read relevant literature and draft a written assignment that will be integrated in the training programme. Full participation to all elements of the programme is compulsory. Participants will receive a **certificate of attendance** on the final day of the programme.



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The seminar will be devoted to meeting **practitioners** from several EU institutions, academia and NGOs involved in the field of trade policy. Consequently, students will get an overview of the different actors and interests involved in trade policy and the complexity of negotiating satisfactory solutions.

On the last day of the seminar, students will be asked to combine the theoretical and practical insights they gained during the week in a **simulation game on trade negotiations**. The simulation game will be assessed by experts and each student will receive an individual feedback on her/his performance. Students will thus be able to comprehend the complex character of EU negotiations and improve their argumentative skills.

The training seminar is organised by TEPSA and will be led by **Prof Jaap W. de Zwaan**, Emeritus Professor of European Union Law at Erasmus University Rotterdam and Secretary General of TEPSA.

Target group and application procedure

The PONT Seminar on EU Trade Policy is designed as an interdisciplinary seminar and is open for **20 outstanding Master students** in Law and Social Sciences (e.g. Political Science, European Studies, International Relations, Economics).

Participants will be selected by a review committee. To apply please send 1) your **CV**; 2) a **motivation letter** explaining your research focus and interest in the seminar to pont@tepsa.eu. Non-EU citizens are also encouraged to apply. **Deadline for applications is 10 December 2017 (midnight).**

The participation fee for the 5-day seminar amounts to **€ 200**. This fee includes all training and documentation. Participants be reimbursed for their travel and accommodation costs **up to € 250**. After the selection decision has been communicated, participants will have **7 days** to transfer the participation fee. Failure to do so in time will result in exclusion from the training.

About the PONT project

[PONT \(Professional Training on EU Affairs\)](#) is a project that aims at building a bridge connecting postgraduate students and young academics with EU practitioners, in order to improve their employability. The project takes place over three years.

PONT enhances teaching and training activities in selected policy fields, with the objective to give postgraduate students and young academics the opportunity to develop their professional skills and prepare them for taking up a job in public administration, the EU institutions, NGOs, academic institutions or think tanks across Europe. The two main branches of the project are the Working Europe seminars for students and the Career Skills Trainings for young professionals.

More information about the project can be found at <http://www.tepsa.eu/projects/pont/>

About TEPSA

The Trans European Policy Studies Association (TEPSA) was established in 1974 as the first trans-national research network in the field of EU affairs. It comprises leading research institutes throughout Europe, with an office in Brussels. Its aim is to provide high quality research on European integration in order to stimulate discussion on policies and political options for Europe. This is achieved by interaction between the European and national institutions as well as the academic and research community.

More information on our activities can be found at www.tepsa.eu



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*Draft Programme**
Working Europe III –
EU Trade Policy

29 January – 02 February 2018, Brussels

**please note that this is a draft and the programme might be subject to changes. Speakers will be announced soon.*

Monday 29 January 2018

Venue: Fondation Universitaire, Rue d'Egmont 11, 1000 Brussels, Hoover Room

- 14:00 – 15:00 *Opening and Introduction to the seminar by TEPSA Team & Prof. Jaap de Zwaan (TEPSA Secretary General and Working Europe Seminar Leader)*
- 15:00 – 17:00 *Introductory lecture: Internal market, Customs Union and Common Commercial Policy*
- 17:00 – 17:30 *Questions & Answers*
- 18:00 – 19:30 *Informal get-together*

Tuesday 30 January 2018

- 09:00 – 10:30 *Lecture: Common market beyond the EU: the European Economic Area by Michele Chang (Professor at the European Political and Governance Studies Department, College of Europe Bruges)*
- 11:15 – 13:00 *Visit to the European Commission – DG Trade: Transatlantic trade relations: a comparative analysis of TTIP and CETA by Hiddo Houben (Head of Unit E1, USA and CANADA)*
- 13:00 *Lunch Break*
- 14:30 – 16:00 *Lecture: Brexit, which future for the EU-UK trade relations? By John Palmer (Federal Trust for Education and Research)*
- 16:00 *Coffee Break*
- 16:30 – 18:00 *Panel Debate: Brexit, TTIP and CETA – an evolving scenario of EU trade relationship in the Atlantic*



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Wednesday 31 January 2018

- 09:00 – 11:00 *Australia, New Zealand and new trade perspectives for the EU by an official of the European Commission – DG Trade*
- 11:15 – 13:00 *Visit to European External Action Service: the EU and its Eastern Neighbourhood: between trade interests and soft power, by an official of the EEAS - Europe and Central Asia Division*
- 13:00 *Lunch Break*
- 14:30 – 16:00 *Lecture with official from DG NEAR: Association Agreements and the trade dimension of the EU relations with its Southern Neighbours*
- 16:00 *Coffee Break*
- 16:30 – 18:00 *Lecture: EU-Russia relations and the EU sanctions policy by Michael Emerson (Associate Senior Research Fellow, Centre for European Policy Studies)*
- 18:00 – 18:30 *Analysis and discussion by Prof. Jaap de Zwaan*

Thursday 01 February 2018

- 09:00 – 11:00 *Visit to the European Parliament: Trade as a development tool: the COTONOU agreement and post 2020 framework(s) with an MEP from the INTA/DEVE committees*
- 11:45 – 13:15 *Visit to a Civil Society Organization: The impacts of EU trade agreements on developing countries*
- 13:00 *Lunch Break*
- 14:30 – 16:00 *Feedback on policy brief by Prof. Jaap de Zwaan/Prof. Andreas Maurer*
- 16:00 *Coffee Break*
- 16:30 – 17:30 *Introduction to the simulation game by Prof. Andreas Maurer*
- Evening *Time to prepare for the simulation game*

Friday 02 February 2018

- 09:00 – 12:00 *Simulation Game on EU Trade Negotiations with Prof. Andreas Maurer*
- 12:00 *Lunch Break*
- 13:30 – 14:30 *Evaluation and individual feedback on the simulation game by Prof. Andreas Maurer*
- 14:30 – 15:00 *Final discussion and evaluation of the seminar with TEPSA team & Prof. Jaap de Zwaan*



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