

GLOBAL TRADE REGIME UNDER PRESSURE

IMPLICATIONS OF THE EMERGING TRADE CONFLICT

Tuesday 18 December 2018, at 14:00 – 16:00
Auditorium of the Annex Building of the Parliament,
Arkadiankatu 3, Helsinki

The US and China, as well as the US and the EU, have held a series of high-level trade talks on trade deficit reduction. The recent zeal of the US for tariffs and customs against its main trading partners and the consequent tit-for-tat counter-measures have yet to derail the global economic outlook. However, the long term mood has significantly shifted away from conditions favoring trade liberalization. The risks are increasing, and uncertainty is rising over what comes next and how seriously the underlying global trade regime is going to be harmed. The seminar examines the consequences of the recent twists and turns in the trade policies, including their implications for the European Union and Finland as well as their responses.

Opening remarks:

Teija Tiilikainen, Director, FIIA

Speakers:

Carla Norrlof, Associate Professor of Political Science, University of Toronto

Amela Hubic, Senior Economic Advisor, European Political Strategy Centre, European Commission

Comments:

Lauri Vilmi, Senior Economist, Bank of Finland

Ilkka-Pekka Similä, Director General, Department for External Economic Relations, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland

Chair:

Mika Aaltola, Programme Director, FIIA

Speakers' biographies 

Biographies



Carla Norrlof is Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of Toronto. Her research is on theories of international cooperation with a special focus on great powers particularly US hegemony in the areas of money, trade and security. Majoring in economics (B.A.) and political science (M.A.), she graduated from Lund University. At the Graduate Institute of International Studies (Switzerland), she specialized in political economy and received a Diplôme d'Etudes Supérieures and a Ph.D degree in International Relations. Norrlof has published on hegemony, the international political economy of global currencies, trade, conflict and inequality.



Amela Hubic is a senior economic advisor at the European Political Strategy Centre (EPSC), the in-house think tank of the European Commission. She has strong educational background in economics and finance and extensive experience in high-level international relations and policy dialogue. Hubic has been Senior Economic Counselor at the Central Bank of Luxembourg (2017), Senior Advisor to the Executive Director of the International Monetary Fund (2011-2017) and a Fiscal Expert at the Central Bank of Luxembourg (2007-2011). She has taught at the EcoMod Modeling School since 2005. More recently, her work has focused on the policies related to deepening and strengthening of the EU's economic and monetary union, and EU trade policies and their distributional impact. Hubic holds a PhD in economics and business from Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB) & Solvay Brussels School.



Lauri Vilmi acts as a senior economist at the Bank of Finland's International and Monetary Economy Unit. At the bank he has specialised in the euro area economy, inflation and economic structures. He also has expertise in the global economic model that allow to analyse interconnections between the major economic areas. Lauri has a Ph.D. in macroeconomics from the University of Oulu. He has previously worked at the Swedish Riksbanken and the European Commission.



Ilkka-Pekka Similä has been Director General of the Department for External Economic Relations since September 2017. Previously, he has been the Head of Mission in Hanoi, the Ambassador in Abu Dhabi, and has held various positions in the Permanent Mission of Finland in Geneva and the Embassies in Cairo and Vienna. At the Ministry Similä has worked as Director in the Department for External Economic Relations and held position in the Political Department and the Department for International Development Cooperation. He joined the Foreign Ministry in 1989.



Teija Tiilikainen is the Director of the Finnish Institute of International Affairs (FIIA). Previously, Dr. Tiilikainen was the Director of the Network of European Studies at the University of Helsinki (2003-2009). She has also served as Secretary of State at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland from 2007 to 2008. Dr. Tiilikainen was the Special Representative of the Prime Minister of Finland in the Convention on the Future of Europe in 2002-2003. Currently, she is also Editor-in-Chief of *Ulkopolitiikka* - the Finnish Journal of Foreign Affairs.



Mika Aaltola is the Programme Director of the Global Security research programme at the Finnish Institute of International Affairs. His areas of expertise are US foreign and domestic policies as well as the international system and major-power relations. Dr Aaltola is a visiting professor at the Tallinn University since 2011 and he holds the rank of docent from the University of Tampere. He has been a visiting researcher at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (fall 2013) and at the CERI Sciences Po (fall 2011). He obtained his PhD in social sciences from the University of Tampere in 1999.