



UNDER THE AUSPICES OF
THE EGYPTIAN MINISTRY OF TRADE AND SUPPLY

**GATS 2000: ISSUES, COORDINATION AND PRIVATE SECTOR
INPUT FOR TRADE IN SERVICES POLICIES**

*A Conference Co-sponsored by
the Egyptian Center for Economic Studies
&
the Commercial Law Development Program
U.S. Department of Commerce
United States*

*at
the Cairo Marriott Hotel (Aida Ballroom)
September 21st & 22nd, 1999*

In November of this year, all WTO members, including Egypt, will begin a new round of negotiations on different aspects of trade liberalization. High on the agenda, is the issue of broadening and deepening the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS).

The sponsors are pleased to invite you to a conference to initiate dialogue between key government officials from Ministry of Trade and Supply (MOTS) and other service-related ministries, on one side, and Egyptian private businesses, on the other.

We hope that this conference will be a chance to acquaint Egyptian businesses with the framework of the GATS negotiations, Egypt's current GATS commitments, and the issues expected to be raised and negotiated in the next round. Also, the conference offers an opportunity for the private sector to voice its concerns and ideas about liberalization and the GATS commitments of specific sectors while Egypt's service policies and negotiation positions are being developed.

The two-day conference is a chance for participants to brainstorm, develop policy recommendations, and formulate negotiation positions and strategies. The discussants are expected to explore a range of topics geared towards developing Egypt's service sector and enhancing their integration in the global market for services. Topics on the agenda include the legal framework and policy issues underlying GATS 2000 negotiations, an assessment of the progress of service liberalization in Egypt, and the private sector's perspective on the effects of service liberalization on business.

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Agenda

Day I – Tuesday, September 21, 1999

- 8:00 – 9:00 *Coffee & Registration*
- 9:00 – 9:45 **Opening Remarks:** *Taher Helmy (Chairman, ECES ; and partner, Baker & McKenzie)*
Stephen Gardner (Managing Attorney, Commercial Law Development Program)
Keynote Speakers: *The Hon. Daniel Kurtzer (U.S. Ambassador to Egypt)*
H.E. Dr. Ahmed Goweily (Egypt's Minister of Trade and Supply)
- 9:45 – 10:15 *Coffee Break*
- 10:15 – 11:30 *Overview of GATS Agreement and What to Expect in the Next Round of Negotiations*
Chairperson: Magda Shahin, (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)
Speaker: Richard Self (USTR Geneva Representative Services Negotiator)
- 11:30 – 11:45 *Coffee Break*
- 11:45 – 1:00 *GATS: Egypt's Commitments and Policy Priorities*
Chairperson: Sherif Delawar (Alexandria Businessmen Association)
Speaker: Sahar Tohamy (ECES)
- 1:00 – 2:15 *Opening International Insurance Markets*
Chairperson : Hossam Badrawy (HMO Egypt)
Speaker: George Nichols (National Association of Insurance Commissioners)
- 2:15 – 2:30 *Break*
- 2:30 – 4:30 *Lunch*
Global Electronic Commerce Issues
Speaker: Laura Lane (United States Trade Representative Office)

Day II – Wednesday, September 22, 1999

- 9:00 – 10:00 ***Policy Issues, Implementation and Legal Framework***
Chairperson: Ashraf Shams El Din, (National Subcommittee on Trade in Services)
Speaker: Abdel Hamid Mamdouh (World Trade Organization, Trade in Services Division)
- 10:00 – 11:00 ***The Benefits to Egypt of Increased Trade in Services***
Chairperson: Taher Helmy (Chairman, ECES ; and partner, Baker & McKenzie)
Speaker : Laura Lane (United States Trade Representative Office)
- 11:00 – 11:30 ***Coffee Break***
- 11:30 – 12:30 ***Financial Services- Potential for GATS***
Chairperson: Mahmoud Mohieldin (Ministry of Economy)
Speaker: Mahmoud Aboul Eioun (Central Bank of Egypt)
- 12:30 – 1:00 ***Coffee Break / Snack***
- 1:00 – 3:00 ***Private Sector Perspective for GATS 2000***
Moderator: Abdel Hamid Mamdouh (WTO, Trade in Services Division)
Panel:
Tourism, Ahmed El Maghraby (Egyptian Federation of Tourist Chambers and ECES)
Exports, Mohamed Kassem (World Trading Co.)
Transportation, Hussam Leheta (Egytrans)
Construction, Ismail Osman (Arab Contractors)
Professionals, Hazem Hassan (Egyptian Society of Accountants and ECES)
E-Commerce, Adel Danish (Standard Data Egypt)
Legal, Samir Hamza (Baker & McKenzie)

We hope you will join us.