

## **Fostering Resilient, Diversified and Sustainable Value Chains in the Eurasian Region after COVID-19**

### **UNECE high-level launch event of XB project**

**Date:** 24 February 2022 from 10:00 to 11:30 CET  
**Format:** Online session, with English-Russian interpretation  
**Registration:** [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_pWEK1NUzSEqNSUWxfMD3HA](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_pWEK1NUzSEqNSUWxfMD3HA)

#### **Background:**

The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted global and regional value chains and created new challenges for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) enshrined in the 2030 Agenda. Transition economies, including those which are the least integrated into the global economy, were significantly affected. This includes economies in the Eurasian region, where the COVID-19 pandemic, compounded with the collapse of oil prices, significantly hit value chains operations in the region. Differences in the region's integration in the global economy has brought additional shocks caused by economic contractions among its trading partners and weakening of investor confidence in value chains.

When responding to these challenges, it is important to build resilient, diversified and sustainable global value chains. To support shaping such policies within the Eurasian region, the UNECE Economic Cooperation and Trade Division (ECTD) launched a two-year XB project on "Fostering Resilient, Diversified and Sustainable Value Chains in the Eurasian Region after COVID-19", funded by the Russian Federation.

The project will focus on economic and legal/regulatory issues related to global and regional value chains. Among the main activities, UNECE ECTD plans to conduct legal, economic and gap analyses on the existing features of the Eurasian countries' integration into regional and global value chains and the impact of COVID-19; and develop evidence-based policy options for the way forward. During the two-year period of the project, UNECE ECTD also plans to organize outreach events and stakeholder consultations at the national and regional levels to discuss the current state-of-play and the way forward. For additional information, see [here](#).

This launch event will provide an opportunity for the Eurasian economies share their insights into existing developments and challenges in the area of global and regional value chains and suggest directions for the project. Discussions will also benefit from the reflections on existing features of the region's integration into regional and global value chains and the impact of COVID-19 by international experts.

#### **Target audience:**

- Global trade community
- Government representatives, academia, development partners, private sector

#### **Moderator:**

- Ms Elisabeth Tuerk, Director, Economic Cooperation and Trade, UNECE (opening 3 mins)

#### **High-level opening by Geneva-based/capital-based representatives (3-5 mins each):**

- Mr Dmitry Mariyasyn, Deputy Executive Secretary, UNECE
- Ms Ani Ispiryan, Deputy Minister of Economy of the Republic of Armenia
- Mr Vladimir Lobanov, Head of the Main Department of Industrial Economics, Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Belarus
- Ms Natalia Stapran, Director of the Department for Multilateral Economic Cooperation and Special Projects, Ministry of Economic Development of the Russian Federation

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- Mr Nurlan Kulbatyrov, Deputy General Director, «QazTrade» Center for Trade Policy Development, Kazakhstan
- Mr Armen Harutyunyan, Director, Agricultural Policy Department, Eurasian Economic Commission
- Representative of the Kyrgyz Republic (TBC)

**Presentations** (5-7 mins each):

- Mr Robert Koopman, Director, Economic Research and Statistics Division, WTO – *reflections on the recent policy debate on GVCs and their post-COVID-19 transformation*
- Mr James Zhan, Director, Investment and Enterprise, UNCTAD - *reflections on GVCs and investment*
- Ms Polina Tonkikh, Director-General, WTO Expertise Center, Moscow - *reflections on legal/regulatory framework in the region*
- Dr Ben Shepherd, Developing Trade Consultants - *Trade in Value Added and GVCs in the Eurasian Region*

**Q&A and Concluding remarks** (20 mins):

Questions from the audience (chat function)

Concluding remarks on the way forward for the project by Ms Elisabeth Tuerk, Director, Economic Cooperation and Trade, UNECE