



INVITATION TO A ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

Trade and Industrial Policy Strategies (TIPS),
the Department of Trade and Industry (the dti) and the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC)
have the pleasure of inviting you to the following Roundtable Discussion:

TRADE AND CLIMATE CHANGE: EXPLORING THE IMPACT ON SOUTH AFRICAN BUSINESS

Date: Wednesday, 23rd of October 2013
Time: 9h00 – 11h30
Venue: IDC Auditorium, training rooms 3 & 4, 19 Fredman Drive, Sandton, Johannesburg
RSVP: Boitumelo@tips.org.za to confirm attendance

There is growing concern that measures already in place or potentially adopted by developed countries to combat climate change could be trade distortionary, introduce new forms of 'green protectionism' and/or be discriminatory. Such policy and regulatory measures may range from emissions trading schemes (e.g. the EU's deferred airlines tax) to border tax adjustments that price carbon, subsidies, new public and/or private standards (including carbon labelling schemes), taxes on maritime transportation and, among other non-tariff barriers to trade, could entail the introduction of specific legislation.

As a highly carbon-intensive economy, South Africa appears particularly vulnerable to such measures, with a substantial portion of its export basket consisting of carbon-intensive goods. From a geographical standpoint, South Africa is also disproportionately distant from major world markets, especially when compared to some of our competitors, thereby increasing the carbon footprint associated with our exports.

The purpose of this event is to explore these trade and climate linkages for South Africa, especially the risks and opportunities that arise for the business sector and how government should respond. The objective is to capture the views and concerns of industry players so as to inform the South African government's position ahead of international negotiations, including the forthcoming UNFCCC's COP19 in Warsaw, Poland.

We would like to invite participants to consider the following three questions from an industry/sector perspective, preferably providing concrete or anecdotal evidence during the Roundtable Discussion:

- Using specific examples, is your industry/sector vulnerable to existing/new climate- or environment-related regulations/measures in international markets?
- Are any existing regulations/measures already impacting on your competitiveness, or would the latter be affected if these were to be introduced – and if so, how?
- What measures could your industry or sector take to reduce its carbon footprint?