

Rules

- **SUBSIDIES:** The 'negotiating guidelines' of the ongoing services negotiations state that Members complete negotiations on services subsidies prior to the conclusion of the services market access negotiations. The progress has been slow with members still not having consensus on how to go about information exchange.
- **ESM: Emergency safeguard mechanism:** The ASEAN Countries are strong proponents while other developing countries believe that such a mechanism could be used against developing countries by developed countries and by developing countries against each other. Others opine that a fire escape is necessary even if never used. Developed countries also do not favour an ESM.
- **Government procurement in services Article 13 of GATS:** The European Communities are the proponents and presented a communication on the structure of an annex to the GATS on procedural rules for government procurement. A number of developing countries take the stance that the negotiating mandate under Article XIII did not entail market access issues and refuse to engage. Some developing countries also opine that since members have agreed not to have negotiations on the Singapore issue of transparency in government procurement how could negotiations on services government procurement go ahead. Others argue that the mandate for negotiations in government procurement is provided for in Article XIII of GATS. No significant progress has been made.