



INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR  
TRADE AND SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT

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BRIDGES

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

- WTO: First Sights of Big Negotiations and a Millennium Round
- WTO Holds First NGO Briefing
- WTO DSB Meets: EU, U.S. Procedural Disagreements Ripe In Banana Dispute
- U.S.-China Beetles and Trade Deficit Disagreements
- Climate Change - Groups Respond to Kyoto Protocol
- Agriculture: Cairns Group Warns Against Subsidies; NAFTA Dispute
- PM Blair, France Propose Bretton Woods Reform
- IN BRIEF - Brazil Restricts Imports; Candidates for WTO Chief; Other News
- Events & Resources

### WTO: FIRST SIGHTS OF BIG NEGOTIATIONS AND A MILLENNIUM ROUND

Meeting in Special Session on 24-25 September, the WTO General Council kicked off what are essentially the first talks in a new round of trade negotiations. Discussions were held on the definition of the substantive issues which would be covered at this new round. The debate centered on topics arising from the Ministerial Declaration of May 1998 such as implementation of existing agreements, the so-called new issues and the date of the Third Ministerial Conference when the new round of trade negotiations will be formally launched.

Many countries intervened in support of broad-encompassing talks that address pending issues in a limited span of time of three-years. Only a few countries firmly opposed moving ahead on new negotiations.

In its statement to the General Council Special Session, the United States said, concerning recommendations for the WTO's future work programme, that it was holding consultations over the coming months with the private sector and with Congress. It added that it was against another 7-year round, wanting "to tear down barriers without waiting for every issue in every sector to be resolved before any issue in any sector is resolved. And, in a way which is fair and balanced", hinting at its preference for what is termed a "sector-by-sector approach" (i.e. that negotiations should be able to be completed on each issue separately, rather than wait for agreement on all issues as a package).

Canada stated that it too is seeking input from interested domestic constituents in developing its position with respect to a new round of negotiations. Canada said that consideration should be given to clustering groups of issues together on which negotiations could be concluded at different times. The Canadian representative also underlined the importance of increased transparency in the work of the WTO given that "More and more elements of civil society consider that the multilateral

trading system has direct and immediate impact on their well-being". He also stressed that "the trade agenda is increasingly about strengthening markets in addition to opening markets. Its focus becomes the horizontal, domestic agenda of regulatory reform, democratic development and good governance."

In its statement, the European Commission (EC) expressed the view that there should be no move backwards from already agreed-upon tariff reduction schedules and applied levels, adding that future negotiations should not exceed a three-year time span. It underlined the importance of involving civil society in the establishment of the programme for future work, saying that this involvement is essential for the very credibility of the multilateral trading system. In its long statement the EU singled out "The Potential Scope of a New Round" including: services; agriculture (taking into account the "delicate balance between the long term [...liberalisation objectives and] other concerns, notably the experience and effects of implementing the reduction commitments agreed in 1994 and non-trade concerns"); industrial tariffs; Sanitary and Phytosanitary measures-SPS; Technical Barriers to Trade-TBT; competition; investment; trade facilitation; trade and environment; government procurement; Intellectual Property-TRIPs; and, electronic commerce.

India made a long statement highlighting the imbalances that result from the implementation of the Uruguay Round and concluding that: "We are still in the process of implementing the last Round of Tariff Negotiations and will be so engaged until 2000. We will need, as will many others, time to assess the impact of these reductions before launching any new commitments. Overloading the WTO agenda would not be productive and we believe that it is premature to talk about any comprehensive new round of negotiations, as suggested by some delegations." India added that trade and environment issues are often used by industrialised nations as protectionist measures in disguise. Industrialised countries should therefore first meet their obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Rio Declaration, or developing countries would doubt their sincerity.

Egypt stated its commitment to the Built-in Agenda and its opposition to a new round of negotiations that it claims would benefit industrialised countries to the detriment of developing ones.

Korea, on the other hand, stated its preference for a comprehensive round of negotiations in a single undertaking and with a broader scope than the Built-in Agenda. Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, the Slovak Republic and Slovenia expressed the same view. By contrast, ASEAN expressed its preference for a gradual approach to any further negotiations in which agreements are concluded sector by sector.

"As we all know, the Third Ministerial Conference is an important occasion for the WTO, since it will be held immediately before the start of the next negotiations, whether you call it a Round or not" stated ambassador Shotaro Oshima, of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Tokyo. In this regard, delegates at last week's General Council Special Session decided that the Third Ministerial Conference would take place on 30 November-3 December 1999 in the United States. The exact venue of the meeting remains to be established. Also, a work programme on electronic commerce was adopted, as was the schedule of upcoming intersessional meetings of the General Council Special Session which will reconvene in February of 1999. These intersessional meetings are in addition to the regular formal and informal meetings of the General Council.

Dates and suggested foci for the forthcoming meetings are as follows:

26-27 October 1998: Implementation of existing agreements and decisions;

23-24 November 1998: Negotiations already mandated at Marrakesh ("built-in agenda");

14 and 16 December 1998: Recommendations on the follow-up to the October 1997 High-Level Meeting on Least-Developed Countries;

Third week of January 1999: Recommendations concerning other possible future work on the basis of the work programme initiated at Singapore, recommendations arising from consideration of other matters concerning their multilateral trade relations, and organisation of future work;

Third/Fourth week of February 1999: General Council Special Session.

ICTSD Internal Files

### **WTO HOLDS FIRST NGO BRIEFING**

On September 28, the WTO held its first briefing for NGOs. The meeting was hosted by ICTSD and attended by two dozen representatives of non-governmental organisations. Peter Pedersen, from the WTO's External Relations Division, and Gabrielle Marceau, from WTO's Legal Affairs Division briefed those present on the Dispute Settlement Body meeting and the General Council Special Session, which took place last week (both of which are reported on in this issue of BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest).

At the end of the meeting participants discussed how the WTO could best conduct briefings for NGOs in the future. Mr. Pedersen outlined other secretariat initiatives to improve civil society relations, such as the upgrading of information for NGOs on the WTO's web site and circulation of NGO documents to member States.

With regard to the latter, the WTO secretariat has agreed to circulate to WTO members a list of documents received from NGOs. The list will also be posted on the WTO website. NGOs wishing to submit documents to the WTO should send them to Mr. Peter Pedersen, External Relations Officer, World Trade Organisation, rue de Lausanne 154, 1211 Geneva 21, Switzerland, fax: (41) 22 739 5777.

The dates of future WTO NGO briefings have not yet been fixed. However, BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest will announce all future WTO briefings for NGOs, and carry reports on them.

### **WTO DSB MEETS: EU, U.S. PROCEDURAL DISAGREEMENTS RIPE IN BANANA DISPUTE**

Most of the discussions at the WTO Dispute Settlement Body (DSB), meeting September 22, were procedural, with the banana dispute dominating. Other issues considered by the Dispute Settlement Body were the status of Canada's implementation of the dispute concerning periodicals; the request by the EU for the establishment of a panel regarding the U.S. tax treatment of "foreign sales corporations;" and the EU and Japanese requests for a panel questioning the U.S. state of

Massachusetts' "Burma law" (see BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest Vol. 2 No. 35, September 14, 1998). The Panel's report on the complaint by the EU against India's patent protection for pharmaceutical and agricultural chemical products was also presented.

The next DSB meeting will take place on October 21. There will also be an informal DSB meeting on October 1, on the review of the Dispute Settlement Understanding.

At last week's DSB meeting, the EU and U.S. remained at loggerheads over pace and conditions under which a dispute settlement panel could review the proposed EU revised banana import regime. The two sides engaged in a war of words at a regular meeting of the Dispute Settlement Body (DSB), with the EU accusing the U.S. of "legal harassment," and the U.S. making calls of "Justice delayed is justice denied." At issue is a difference in interpretation of Article 21.5 of the WTO's Dispute Settlement Understanding, a provision never before applied. Article 21.5 specifies that if one country disagrees with another countries' approach to the implementation of a DSB ruling--in this case the EU's proposed banana import regime--the disagreement "shall be decided through recourse to these dispute settlement procedures, including wherever possible resort to the original panel."

The EU interprets the article language to mean that the U.S. must follow normal dispute settlement procedures to pursue its complaint, meaning the U.S. must participate in a two-month consultation period with the EU before requesting establishment of a panel if necessary. The U.S. claims that the article does not mandate the consultation period and that the panel must be established upon first request. At last week's meeting, the U.S. did not, in the end, make a formal request for a dispute panel, but U.S. officials noted that no more meetings have been scheduled to discuss the issue with the EU. A number of WTO members endorsed a proposal put forward by Colombia calling on the EU and U.S. to continue consultations on the issue. It is probable that at the next DSB meeting, the U.S. will formally call for a panel to be established.

The WTO ruled last year that the current EU banana import regime violates global trade rules by discriminating in favour of imports from Costa Rica, Colombia, Venezuela and Nicaragua, and from African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) nations, and against all other producers. The EU has until January 1, 1999 to implement a reformed import regime. Earlier this year the EU proposed a revised quota structure for banana imports. The U.S. and co-complainants Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico (G-5) have called the proposed changes "primarily cosmetic," arguing that the revisions perpetuate the discriminatory nature of the existing EU import regime (see also BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest, Vol. 2 No. 36, September 21, 1998).

"Battle continues at WTO over EU banana import rules," INTERNATIONAL TRADE REPORTER, September 23, 1998; "U.S., EU deadlocked over speed, scope of WTO review of banana regime," INSIDE U.S. TRADE, September 25, 1998; "U.S. and EU clash at WTO meeting," FINANCIAL TIMES, September 23, 1998; "Big powers scrap over banana trade, Myanmar at WTO," REUTERS, September 22, 1998.

## **U.S.-CHINA BEETLES AND TRADE DEFICIT DISAGREEMENTS**

China last week criticised the U.S. for what China termed an "unfair" ban on the use of untreated wood pallets and other wood packaging used for China's imports into the U.S. The U.S. Department of Agriculture implemented the ban in order to stop the spread of Asian long-horned beetle

infestations. The beetle has been found in at least 30 U.S. locations, infesting and killing off tree stocks in many cases. U.S. agricultural officials say the beetle is carried into the U.S. on wood pallets and other wood packaging used in the transport of agricultural and other products from China. China cried foul at the ban, with a senior Chinese official noting, "[Asian long-horned beetles] do exist in China, but they are also widespread in other countries such as Russia, Japan and Southeast Asian nations. Why should Chinese exports be singled out for refusal?" China suggested that the ban was a means for the U.S. to reduce its trade deficit with China. China estimates the ban could affect almost US\$40 billion in exports to the U.S.; U.S. officials estimate affected trade to be worth more like US\$20 billion.

China last week lashed out against U.S. criticism over the growing U.S. trade deficit with China, calling U.S. deficit figures exaggerated and urging the U.S. to cease placing excessive demands on China in its quest to join the WTO. U.S. trade officials estimate the U.S. trade deficit with China will reach U.S. \$60 billion this year, a 20 percent jump over 1997. Foreign ministry spokesman Zhu Bangzao said last week that, "[The] deficit is not as big as the U.S. said." Mr. Zhu further noted that, "One reason for the U.S. trade deficit with China is that the U.S. places controls on high-technology exports to China. The trade deficit could be greatly narrowed if this problem is resolved." Mr. Zhu urged the U.S. and other "concerned parties," to fairly assess China's bid for WTO membership--in its tenth year under consideration--and "not place excessive demands on China. We hope concerned parties will adopt a more realistic and flexible attitude towards this issue," Mr. Zhu said.

"China fires back at U.S. trade official on deficit," DOW JONES, September 24, 1998; "China says seeks to resolve trade surplus with U.S.," REUTERS, September 25, 1998; "China criticises 'unfair' beetle ban," JOURNAL OF COMMERCE, September 22, 1998.

## **CLIMATE CHANGE - GROUPS RESPOND TO KYOTO PROTOCOL**

Ministers from 22 countries attended a high-level round of informal climate talks as a follow-up to the Kyoto Protocol, adopted last December. At the meeting arranged by Japan and held in Tokyo, ministers from inter alia the EU, U.S., Argentina, Brazil, India and China discussed the extent to which developing countries should cut emissions and the degree to which countries should be allowed to trade emission credits. The EU argued strongly that reduction targets should be met primarily via domestic efforts and that other flexibility mechanisms such as pollution credits should be used on a supplemental basis. "Flexibility must never become a back door through which rich countries can get away by paying other countries instead of doing their homework," EU environment commissioner Ritt Bjerregaard said. The EU stated that developed countries should pave the way to emissions reductions before engaging developing countries in a binding agreement. Developing countries have not committed to legally binding reductions. According to the Convention and the Protocol, industrialised countries-- which created the emissions problem--must pave the way.

Meanwhile, banks and insurers from across the world, meeting last week at a UNEP-convened roundtable in Cambridge, UK, were calling to be given a central role in designing any "flexible mechanisms" that might be used by industrialised countries to meet their Kyoto Protocol commitments. The companies adopted a statement--which will be presented to the November meeting of Parties to the Climate Change Convention in November--calling on governments to involve the financial services sector in planning and development of commitments and the so-called

clean development mechanism through which governments gain credits for investments in developing countries.

Also last week, the group chief executive of British Petroleum (BP) announced that BP would reduce its emissions output by 10% from 1990 by 2010. "Our goal is to reduce our emissions of greenhouse gasses by 10 percent from a 1990 baseline over the period to 2010. We'll do that progressively, year by year, and we'll do it in transparent ways, so the reduction can be measured and verified by external observers," Sir John Browne said. Sir John said the target was set in response to the Kyoto Protocol, wherein 39 industrialised nations pledged to cut greenhouse gas emissions by an average 5.2 percent over 1990 between 2008 to 2012.

"BP chief promises 10% emissions cut," ENVIRONMENT NEWS SERVICE, September 18, 1998; "Rights: activists have doubts over oil giant's new image," IPS, September 17, 1998; "Climate talks warmer by a several degrees," ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS SERVICE, September 19, 1998; "Financial industry seeks role in climate negotiations," ENVIRONMENT NEWS SERVICE, September 21, 1998.

### **AGRICULTURE: CAIRNS GROUP WARNS AGAINST SUBSIDIES; NAFTA DISPUTE**

The Cairns Group of agricultural exporting countries last week warned the U.S. and EU against increased use of subsidies to offset falling world agricultural prices. At a meeting of the WTO General Council September 24, the Cairns Group released a statement warning that increasing subsidies could undermine WTO agriculture talks scheduled to begin in 2000. The Cairns' statement also said that subsidies indirectly harm developing nations, as subsidised exports from the EU and U.S. become a substitute for farm exports from developing nations. "Increasing reliance on export subsidies will further hamper the capacity of developing countries to benefit from entry into or expansion of their participation in world trade. It is particularly problematic that some developed and high cost agricultural producers utilise subsidies such that trade between developing countries is further restricted," the Cairns statement said. Cairns members are Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Fiji, Indonesia, Malaysia, New Zealand, Paraguay, the Philippines, South Africa, Thailand and Uruguay.

In other news, Canada last week requested consultations under both the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the WTO over U.S.-states' blockade of Canadian trucks carrying cattle, hogs and grain into the U.S. North Dakota, Montana and South Dakota have each placed restrictions on imports of livestock and grain from Canada, citing health safety concerns. The unspoken reason, Canada charges, is that Northern Plains livestock and grain farmers are facing a domestic oversupply and depressed prices, and want to protect their market from Canadian imports. One North Dakota farmer confirmed that sentiment: "We've got an oversupply of wheat, hogs and cattle already. We don't need any more foreign commodities. We want fair trade, not just free trade." Dozens of North Dakota farmers dumped grain onto a U.S. highway last week, blocking truck traffic for about eight hours. "In addition to violating a number of the United States' obligations under NAFTA and the WTO, the [states'] actions are based on false assertions regarding health and safety of Canadian cattle, hogs and grain shipped to the U.S.," Canadian trade officials said.

Meanwhile, EU agriculture commissioner Franz Fischler last week acknowledged that the world financial turmoil could impact European Commission (EC) plans to reform the EU Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). Mr. Fischler said the EC has ordered a series of reports to assess market

prospects and EU farmers' incomes in advance of debate on CAP reform. Mr. Fischler has previously argued that the proposed reform has little room for manoeuvring around proposed cuts in price support programs. EU farmers worry that the decreased price supports will not compensate enough for a downward trend in commodity prices, threatening their livelihood.

"Cairns Group warns U.S., EU against starting farm subsidies war," *INSIDE U.S. TRADE*, September 25, 1998; "Cairns Group asks U.S. EU to resist grain war," *JOURNAL OF COMMERCE*, September 28, 1998; "Washington prépare un chèque pour les agriculteurs," *LE FIGARO*, September 23, 1998; "Canada taking U.S. farm dispute to NAFTA, WTO," *REUTERS*, September 24, 1998; "U.S. farmers block Canadian farm goods at the border," *REUTERS*, September 22, 1998; "Canada requests consultations on South Dakota blockade," *PR NEWswire*, September 24, 1998; "Range war with Canada may end up at WTO," *JOURNAL OF COMMERCE*, September 25, 1998; "CAP reforms 'could be affected by world turmoil,'" *FINANCIAL TIMES*, September 23, 1998; "Premieres escarmouches sur la reforme agricole europeenne," *LA TRIBUNE*, September 23, 1998.

### **PM BLAIR, FRANCE PROPOSE BRETTON WOODS REFORM**

British Prime Minister Tony Blair last week called for an overhaul of the Bretton Woods institutions within a year. (Bretton Woods refers to the location at which the foundation for the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank was laid after World War II). "This is not a matter of a few technical changes. We should not be afraid to think radically and fundamentally," Mr. Blair said in a speech to the New York Stock Exchange last week. Mr. Blair called for greater openness, transparency and accountability at the IMF and World Bank, and for a higher priority to be placed on improving financial supervision and regulation. Mr. Blair called for broader participation in decision making--specifically, to provide a role for developing nations. "This is not the 1940's," Mr. Blair said. "The new Bretton Woods cannot be built just by governments, or by a handful of industrialised nations. We will have to reach out to a wider community, both to the developing nations, and to outside experts including financiers, economists and business." Mr. Blair is also reported to favour reforms that would require the reformed institutions to pursue policies that maintain high rates of growth and employment.

EU finance ministers were to meet this past weekend in Vienna, and were expected to discuss a proposal put forward by France for reforming the global financial system. The French proposal calls for a strengthened Interim Committee, the IMF body consisting of 24 countries, which is intended to represent the interests of the world economy. France's proposal also outlines a plan wherein countries faced with destabilising short-term capital flows could invoke a "financial safeguard clause," under supervision from the IMF. The proposal also suggests that Europe step in with an increased funding role at the IMF if the U.S. fails to meet its funding commitment.

Also last week, IMF managing director Michel Camdessus admitted the IMF "made mistakes" in predicting and preventing the financial crises gripping Asia and Russia. Mr. Camdessus said that, among other things, the IMF did not "take notice of short-term capital flows soon enough."

"IMF warns India on high fiscal deficit," *FINANCIAL TIMES*, September 24, 1998; "Blair urges finance reform," *THE GUARDIAN*, September 22, 1998; "Tony Blair prône une remise à plat du système financier mondial," *LA TRIBUNE*, September 22, 1998; "Last resort," *FINANCIAL TIMES*, September 22, 1998; "France proposes plan for global financial reform," *WALL STREET*

JOURNAL EUROPE, September 25-26; 1998; "IMF admits making errors in Asia crises," INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE, September 24, 1998.

### **IN BRIEF - BRAZIL RESTRICTS IMPORTS; CANDIDATES FOR WTO CHIEF; OTHER NEWS**

Brazil's Trade Ministry said last week that new health controls would be put on imports of agricultural and medicinal products that would affect eight percent of imports. The controls, part of a series of new technical measures Brazil has been taking to curb imports and redress its gaping trade and current account deficits, are of a technical nature and do not imply a tariff increase. Imports of health-related products will require prior authorisation from health authorities. "The measure increases sanitary control and is going to help us know ahead of time the imports that are being made," trade secretary Mauricio Cortes told reporters. "Brazil puts health controls on 8 pct of imports", REUTERS, September 22, 1998.

Former Moroccan Trade Minister Hassan Abouyoub last week became the fourth candidate in the contest to become Director-General of the World Trade Organisation. The three other candidates are former Canadian trade minister Roy MacLaren, and Supachai Panitchpakdi, current Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand. The present WTO chief, Renato Ruggiero of Italy, is due to step down at the end of April next year after completing his four-year term. The deadline for submission of names to the WTO Secretariat is currently October 1, but diplomats said this could slip. Mid-December has been set as the target for completion of the selection process. "Moroccan ex-minister bids for world trade job," REUTERS, September 18, 1998.

A few changes in the WTO Secretariat will take place in the next few days. Gary Sampson, Director of the Trade and Environment Division will take a leave of absence. The new Director will be Jan-Eirik Sørensen, currently head of the Technical Cooperation Division.

At a meeting of the so-called "invisibles group" (a broad gathering of OECD and developing country ambassadors) and at other talks last week, the decision on holding a High-level Meeting on Trade and Environment in the spring of 1999, seems to have been clearly confirmed. The exact format and content of the meeting as well as dates and venue are still to be decided. At this stage, it is clear though, that it will not be formally bound to the Committee on Trade and Environment, the relevant WTO body.

In its effort to be more open to civil society participation, UNCTAD has notably used a prominent NGO as its spokesperson in the launch of its annual Trade and Development report this year. Martin Khor, leader of the Third World Network presented the report in Kuala Lumpur on behalf of the UN agency on 16 September.

ICTSD Internal Files.



**EVENTS & RESOURCES****• EVENTS****WTO Meetings:**

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, 30 September-1 October 1998. For information, contact: Peter Ungphakorn, WTO, tel: (41) 22 739 5412.

WORKING GROUP ON TRADE AND INVESTMENT, 1-2 October 1998. For information, contact: Luis Ople, WTO, tel: (41) 22 739 5374.

COUNCIL FOR TRADE IN GOODS, 1 October 1998. For information, contact: Nuch Nazeer, WTO, tel: (41) 22 739 5393.

GENERAL COUNCIL, INFORMAL SESSION, 12 October 1998. For information, contact: Nuch Nazeer, as above. This meeting will be of particular interest to NGOs as the issue of transparency is expected to be discussed, as is the question of the appointment of a new Director-general.

GENERAL COUNCIL, 14 October 1998. For information, contact: Nuch Nazeer as above. This General Council is also expected to discuss the issues of transparency is expected to be discussed, and the appointment of a new Director-general.

GENERAL COUNCIL, SPECIAL SESSION, 26-27 October 1998. For information, contact: Nuch Nazeer, as above.

COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND ENVIRONMENT, 26-28 October 1998. For information, contact: Hans-Peter Werner, WTO, tel: (41) 22 739 5286.

**Other Meetings:**

MAKING CHANGE IN THE MARKETPLACE: A National Conference on Eco-Labels, 22-23 October 1998, Portland, Oregon, USA. Hosted by The Food Alliance (TFA), this meeting will focus on the use of eco-labels in changing consumer purchases and farm practices. For information, contact: The Food Alliance, 1829 NE Alberta, Suite 5, Portland, OR 97211, USA; tel: (1) 503 493 1066; fax: (1) 503 493 1069; email: [conference@thefoodalliance.org](mailto:conference@thefoodalliance.org); web: [www.thefoodalliance.org](http://www.thefoodalliance.org)

GREEN GOODS V: Ecolabelling for a Sustainable Future, 26-28 October 1998, Berlin, Germany. For information, contact: Green Goods V, OECD, 2 rue André-Pascal, 75775 Paris Cedex 16, France; email: [GreenGoods.Conference@oecd.org](mailto:GreenGoods.Conference@oecd.org); web: [www.oecd.org/env/divppc.htm](http://www.oecd.org/env/divppc.htm)

TRADE, ENVIRONMENT AND GENDER, Brussels, 5-6 November 1998, Brussels, Belgium. This event is co-hosted by ICDA and WWF. For more information, contact: ICDA, 115 rue Stévin, 1000 Brussels, Belgium; tel: (32) 2 230 0430; fax: (32) 2 230 5237; email: [icda@skynet.be](mailto:icda@skynet.be)

GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FORUM 11, 6-8 November 1998, Buenos Aires, Argentina. The 11th session of the Global Biodiversity Forum will convene during the 4th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) (2-13

November). For more information, contact: Frank Vorhies, IUCN Economics Service Unit, Rue Mauverney 28, 1196 Gland, Switzerland; tel: (41) 22 999 0273; fax: (41) 22 999 0025; email: [economics@indaba.iucn.org](mailto:economics@indaba.iucn.org)

**BIO-PARTNERSHIPS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT:** Commercialisation and the Bio-industry Challenge," 10-12 November 1998, Lyon, France. This conference will discuss ways to benefit from the commercial potential of biodiversity in line with the Convention on Biological Diversity. It is organised in the framework of UNCTAD's Partners for Development Summit, 9-10 November 1998, Lyon, France. For information, contact: Juan de Castro, tel: (41) 22 917 5791, fax: (41) 22 907 0044, email: [juan.de.castro@unctad.org](mailto:juan.de.castro@unctad.org); web: [www.ibcusa.com/conf/u.n.trade](http://www.ibcusa.com/conf/u.n.trade) or [www.biotrade.org](http://www.biotrade.org)

**INTERNATIONAL TRAINING ON FOOD SECURITY:** A Program Manager's Course, 9- 28 November 1998, Cavite, Philippines. This course, organised by the International Institute of Rural Reconstruction, (IIRR) will, inter alia, address world food security issues, environmental issues affecting agricultural resources and the World Food Summit Plan of Action. For information, contact: Tita Rios, Food Security Course Co-ordinator, Educating and Training Department, IIRR, Silang, Cavite, Philippines; fax: (63) 46 414 2423; email: [etd-iirr@cav.pworld.net.ph](mailto:etd-iirr@cav.pworld.net.ph)

**GLOBAL WORKSHOP ON UNDERLYING CAUSES OF DEFORESTATION AND FOREST DEGRADATION,** 18-22 January 1999, San José, Costa Rica. This workshop is part of a joint initiative of NGOs and the Government of Costa Rica to contribute to the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IFF) and will build on the outcomes of seven regional workshops and one indigenous peoples organisation's workshop. For information, contact: Netherlands Committee for IUCN; tel: (31) 20 626 1732; fax: (31) 20 627 9349; email: [slovera@nciucn.nl](mailto:slovera@nciucn.nl)

## • RESOURCES

"Welfare Gains from Liberalised Banana Trade and a New International Banana Agreement," by Henk Kox, Amsterdam: Vrije Universiteit, April 1998, 36 pp. This paper argues that a reform of the European banana import regime could pave the road to an International Banana Agreement that reconciles market efficiency goals, development goals and environmental goals. Available from: Henk Kox, Economics Department and the Economic and Social Institute of the Free University, De Boelelaan 1105, 1081 HV Amsterdam, Netherlands; tel: (31) 20 444 6143; fax: (31) 20 444 6127; email: [hkox@econ.vu.nl](mailto:hkox@econ.vu.nl)

"Financing for Development: Preparations for a high-level consultation before the year 2001." The International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), publisher of the Earth Negotiations Bulletin, has set up a new email distribution list intended to facilitate information exchange on the high-level international inter-governmental forum on financing for development (FFD). To subscribe, send a message to [listproc@mbnet.mb.ca](mailto:listproc@mbnet.mb.ca) with the following in the body of the message: subscribe FFD-L. For information on the FFD process, contact: Ian C. Kinniburgh, Director, Development Policy Analysis Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations, Room, DC2-2170, New York, N.Y. 10017, USA; tel: (1) 212 963 4723; fax: (1) 212 963 1061; email: [ffd@un.org](mailto:ffd@un.org)

"The Natural Wealth of Nations: Harnessing the Market for the Environment," by David Roodman, Washington DC: Worldwatch Institute, 1998, 304 pp. In this book, the author calls on governments to fundamentally reorient how they raise and spend money in order to protect the earth. For

information, contact: David Roodman, Worldwatch Institute, Washington DC, USA; tel: (1) 202 452 1999; email: [drood@worldwatch.org](mailto:drood@worldwatch.org), web: [www.worldwatch.org/pubs/ea/nwn.html](http://www.worldwatch.org/pubs/ea/nwn.html)

"Trade and Development Report 1998," UNCTAD, 1998, 229 pp. This report offers an in-depth analysis of the causes and consequences of today's global financial crisis, new ideas on reforming the international financial system and a fresh approach to development prospects in Africa. To order, contact: United Nations Publications, Sales and Marketing Section, Room C 115, Palais des Nations, 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland; tel: (41) 22 917 2613/2614; fax: (41) 22 917 0027; web: [www.unctad.org/en/pub](http://www.unctad.org/en/pub)

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