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WTO TOP SPOT: FOUR CANDIDATES READY FOR ACTION

WTO members will try to reach consensus within the next few weeks on one of four candidates vying to replace outgoing WTO Director-General Renato Ruggiero. New Zealand's Mike Moore, Morocco's trade ambassador Hassan Abouyoub, Thailand's Deputy Prime Minister Supachai Panitchpakdi and Canadian International Trade Minister Roy MacLaren are all candidates for the post.

According to THE ECONOMIST, New Zealand's Mike Moore is favourite. Moore held various ministerial posts from 1984 - 1990, and diplomats in Geneva see Moore as a highly qualified candidate due to his past activities in the international trade arena. Moore was involved in the launching of the Uruguay Round negotiations, and represented New Zealand at the first ministerial meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation forum in 1989. The U.S. is reported to admire Mr. Moore's experience, as well as his affinity for the American agenda, while the EU is reportedly wary of electing a director from the Cairns group of agricultural exporting countries, which has called repeatedly for liberalisation of agriculture. No New Zealander has yet held a major international post, a factor which could work in Moore's favour.

Canada's Roy MacLaren, again according to THE ECONOMIST, is considered the next leading candidate. However, because a Canadian holds the top spot at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), his candidacy may not succeed at the WTO.

Thailand's Deputy Prime Minister Supachai Panitchpakdi is seen in some reports as a viable candidate, one that could give voice to the developing world. Mr. Supachai has said that the WTO must speed up efforts to complete accession talks with China and Russia and adopt a more flexible-negotiating stance with prospective developing country members. Japan, Norway and the Association for Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) have all endorsed Mr. Supachai. Norway offered its support of Mr. Supachai saying, "We have to support the WTO as a global institution."

Morocco's trade ambassador Hassan Abouyoub is, according to the INTERNATIONAL TRADE REPORTER, expected to draw support from Arab and African countries. As a fluent French-speaker, he is also expected to win backing from the Francophone world. However, other media report that sub-Saharan Africa has no great affinity for him.

Observers in the South note that the next director general must be someone who can bring legitimacy to the WTO as more than a forum for rich countries' interests -- a person eager and capable of bringing forward the views of the WTO's weakest members. They caution however that it is not axiomatic that a person from the third world is the best person to achieve this. Observers in the South note that a geographically-desirable candidate could be used to push the first world agenda via a third world figure, by bringing in a person incapable of effectively promoting major third world issues, or a person from the third world who is more inclined toward first world interests.

Mr. Ruggiero has announced his willingness to depart the WTO as early as January if a replacement can be elected by consensus by mid-December. The new director-general would be responsible for presiding over global talks on agriculture, and a proposed new comprehensive trade round.

"Norway says backing Thai deputy PM to lead WTO," REUTERS, October 24, 1998; "Who now?" THE ECONOMIST, October 24, 1998; "New Zealand Nominates Mike Moore, Morocco Pushes Abouyoub to Head WTO," INTERNATIONAL TRADE REPORTER, September 23, 1998; "DIRECTOR'S COMMENT: CRITERIA FOR ELECTION OF A NEW DIRECTOR GENERAL OF WTO," SEATINI BULLETIN, Volume 1, Number 7 (October 1998).

OPPOSITION BUILDING TO MAI AT WTO

The French withdrawal last month from Multilateral Agreement on Investment (MAI) talks at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) have left negotiators and MAI opponents trying to figure out what is next for the embattled global investment agreement, talks for which have been underway since 1995. Much of the talk around what's next centres on the possibility of MAI negotiations moving to the WTO. Much of the developing world, as well as environmental and consumer groups have however expressed opposition to such a move.

The MAI has been vigorously opposed by labour, environment and citizens' groups for not incorporating labour and environment standards and for its lack of transparency. The OECD had also been strongly criticised for its failure to include developing countries in negotiations; developing countries led by India, Egypt, Pakistan and Malaysia have expressed strong suspicion and opposition toward the MAI agreement and its presumed mandate over developing countries.

With the future of the MAI in limbo, the developing world remains opposed to the MAI at the OECD or WTO. "We are against the MAI (being discussed) at the OECD," said Martin Khor of the Third World Network. "We are against the MAI at the WTO even more. There will be a semblance of negotiations with and participation by developing countries. But experience has shown that the WTO is not democratic and not transparent." In addition, Mr. Khor said decision making at the WTO is in reality controlled by a few ultra-powerful members (e.g. the U.S., Canada, EU and Japan), that force smaller economies to comply with their agenda.

Other voices in the South too are wary of a change of venue for the MAI. According to the International South Group Network, the argument "that the WTO is more 'democratic' because it allows the third world countries also to participate is superficially valid, but the present balance of forces within the WTO does not allow the South an adequate voice in it. Also, the WTO has the force of automatic built-in sanctions mechanism that gives the South little leeway once they sign on the dotted line. They [developing countries] therefore have to be very vigilant about what they sign."

Meanwhile, a coalition of 60 non-governmental organisations last month made a clear statement in opposition to MAI talks at the WTO. "Shifting the investment issue to the WTO will place great pressure on developing countries to negotiate and eventually join an agreement that would have disastrous effects on their development prospects. Moreover, promises to include environmental and social concerns are likely to be only an eyewash to co-opt the public to accept the basic tenets of the MAI. The strong enforcement capability of the WTO through its dispute settlement system will also mean that all countries, especially developing countries, will be forced to comply. We therefore call on all governments, OECD and non-OECD alike, to reject any proposal to negotiate an investment agreement in the WTO," the groups said in a joint-statement last month.

Others have called for any future MAI negotiations to take place at the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), considered a 'fairer' forum for developing countries. "UNCTAD is the obvious forum to look at now," says Nick Maybe, head of economic policy at the WWF. "It's in the UN system and it has been looking at investment for many years. It's true it has not [ever conducted] anything like this. Neither has the OECD--and look at the job that it did. The UN has experience of negotiations and is therefore a more appropriate than the OECD and WTO," Mr. Maybe said. Still others are less keen on UNCTAD as the forum for investment talks--critics have charged that UNCTAD has in recent years tended to favour the interests of multinational corporations.

"FINANCE-DEVELOPMENT: activists castigate investment pact plans," IPS, October 20, 1998; "OECD members likely to water down plans for investment pact," INSIDE US TRADE, October 30, 1998; "MAI: the Reality of Six Months of 'Consultation and Assessment,'" Corporate Europe Observatory (CEO), October 1998; "MAI – A Shift in OECD Strategy," SEATINI BULLETIN (Southern and East African Trade, Information and Negotiations Initiative), Volume 1 No. 7; "Development: NGOs mobilising against WTO investment rules," SUNS, November 4, 1998; "MAI principles alive 'n kicking, analysts say," IPS, October 27, 1998.

CLIMATE TALKS UNDERWAY IN BUENOS AIRES

The Fourth Conference of the Parties (COP-4) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change began meeting November 2 in Buenos Aires. Delegates last week began discussions on

implementation of the Kyoto Protocol, with the main focus on the use of flexible mechanisms in meeting emissions reduction goals and the role of developing countries in the implementation of the Kyoto Protocol. Talks are set to continue through November 13.

The Kyoto Protocol--adopted in December 1997 but not yet in force, requires industrial nations to collectively reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 5.2 percent below 1990 levels by 2008-12. The protocol allows countries to meet some of their reductions by purchasing unused greenhouse gas allowances from other industrialised nations. The Protocol also established a system for trading in greenhouse gases.

Last week, delegates began to address the question of flexible mechanisms; e.g. emissions trading and technology transfer schemes. African countries stressed that the use of flexible mechanisms be limited to an agreed amount since the primary objective of the initiative was to encourage domestic action. Developing countries stressed that whatever mechanisms are adopted, they should not exacerbate the economic disadvantage of a number of developing countries.

A key issue in the flexible mechanisms discussion for developing countries is the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), which would establish a concrete platform for emissions co-operation between developed and developing countries. The CDM is supposed to transfer money and technology to developing nations to fund energy efficiency, resulting in cost-efficient greenhouse gas reductions. Developing countries last week pushed hard for a plan of action around CDM. Latin American countries, led by Honduras, suggested the swift creation of the CDM, calling for an "interim phase approach" to develop guidelines and rules. African countries stressed the importance of equity in the CDM and suggested focusing on infrastructure development in the continent. They also noted that debt relief initiatives in Africa would create an enabling environment for a wide range of CDM projects.

Environmental groups are wary of the large role flexible mechanisms could play in emissions reduction plans for developed countries. "While the Kyoto text authorises trading, it says that trading 'shall be supplemental to domestic actions' for reducing emissions. Does that allow a country to buy 85 percent of its permits abroad instead of requiring its own consumers and industries to curb emission at home?" a Resources for the Future statement asks. Others note that unlimited use of flexible mechanisms does nothing to encourage the development of new technologies, processes and consumer behaviours necessary to address climate change for the long term. The U.S. has proposed there be no limit on the use of emissions--allowance purchases in meeting emissions targets, arguing that this approach would allow for the most cost-effective means of achieving emissions reduction. It is possible that the U.S. would not ratify the Kyoto Protocol if caps on flexible mechanisms were included.

"Highlights from the Fourth UNFCCC Conference of the Parties," EARTH NEGOTIATIONS BULLETIN, November 2-6, 1998; "CSE Dossier Statement On the Buenos Aires Conference," CENTER FOR SCIENCE AND THE ENVIRONMENT (India), October 1998; "Blocks on the road to a climate deal," FINANCIAL TIMES, November 2, 1998; "Details expected to hang up climate talks," ENVIROWIRE, October 30, 1998.

WTO COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT MEETS

On 2 November the WTO Committee on Trade and Development (CTD), chaired by Ambassador Chowdhury (Bangladesh), held its 22nd session in Geneva. The new concept of so-called small economies was discussed in the context of a joint paper submitted by Barbados, Jamaica, Lesotho, Mauritius, Sri Lanka, and Trinidad and Tobago. It requests the WTO to give more attention to small economies, and Members discussed the possibility of establishing a "small economies group." It remained unclear, however, what criteria should be used to distinguish small economies from other economies and to what extent they should be treated differently. This issue will be taken up at the next meeting of the CTD in early December.

On the topic of the application of the special provisions in the multilateral trading agreements and related ministerial decisions in favour of developing countries (DCs), delegates agreed that the Secretariat circulate a questionnaire to all Members asking for an update on the application of the special provisions and a description of problems encountered.

The Committee discussed technical assistance activities for DCs carried out in 1998. By the end of the year, the WTO Secretariat will have organised and/or participated in over 280 different activities, which represents roughly a 24 per cent increase over 1997. These activities concerned primarily the human resource development and training, and were carried out in close collaboration with other international organisations, such as the World Bank, the International Trade Centre and UNCTAD and regional development banks. A full report on WTO technical co-operation activities during 1998 will be provided to the CTD early in 1999.

The next three-year plan (1999-2001) for technical co-operation (WT/COMTD/W/48) was discussed and adopted. In 1999, the focus of the Secretariat's technical assistance activities related to the Agreement on Agriculture will remain on assisting Members in implementing their specific commitments in the areas of market access, domestic support and export competition. Technical co-operation under the SPS Agreement will continue to take the form of national or regional seminars organised in response to developing-country Members' requests, or at the initiative of the Secretariat.

Concerning the Joint Integrated Technical Assistance Programme for Selected Least-Developed and Other African Countries (JITAP) launched in early 1996, a Joint ITC/UNCTAD/WTO Trust Fund with voluntary contributions from a number of donor countries has been established that puts the programme on a sustainable financial basis for 1999.

On the issue of evaluating the effects of technical assistance, Members requested that the Secretariat prepare a paper on the subject of electronic means of delivering technical assistance.

The Committee did not discuss the proposed High-Level Dialogue on Trade and Development, which according to informed sources could take place back-to-back with a High-Level Dialogue on Trade and Environment, in March 1999 in Geneva (See BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest, Vol. 2, No. 42, November 2, 1998.)

ICTSD Internal Files.

U.S. COURT STRIKES DOWN BURMA LAW

A U.S. Federal Court last week struck down a Massachusetts state law which imposes sanctions on firms doing business with Burma (Myanmar). The court found the law unconstitutional because it intrudes on the federal government's exclusive authority to conduct foreign affairs. The Massachusetts law assesses a "pricing penalty" in the government bidding process against foreign firms doing business with Burma—the state instituted its penalty policy in protest against consistent, extensive human rights abuses by the governing regime in Burma. (See also BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digests Vol. 2, No 35, September 14, and Vol. 2, No 31, August 17, 1998).

"The Massachusetts Burma Law was designed with the purpose of changing Burma's domestic policy. State interests, no matter how noble, do not trump the federal government's exclusive foreign affairs power," Chief Judge Joseph Tauro wrote in his decision.

The National Foreign Trade Council (NFTC), a coalition of more than 600 large U.S. companies, brought the suit against the Massachusetts law. The EU filed an amicus brief on behalf of NFTC arguing that the law interferes with U.S.-EU relations, and raises questions about the ability of the U.S. to honour its trade obligations.

The ruling is expected to help the EU and Japan in their complaint against the Massachusetts law at the WTO. At the WTO, the EU and Japan contend that the Massachusetts' and like laws violate the 1994 Government Procurement Agreement, signed as part of the Uruguay Round of global trade negotiations, which stipulates that government procurement decisions—including at the state and local levels—must be made on economic grounds only.

Massachusetts is considering an appeal to the Federal Court ruling.

"Federal district court strikes down Burma law," *INSIDE US TRADE*, November 6, 1998; "Court strikes out Burma sanctions law," *FINANCIAL TIMES*, November 6, 1998; "Massachusetts sanctions struck down," *JOURNAL OF COMMERCE*, November 6, 1998.

REPORT CALLS AQUACULTURE INTO QUESTION, NATIONS AGREE ON FISHING

A report published in the journal *SCIENCE* this month finds that shrimp and salmon farming does not help protect the world's fish supply, refuting earlier scientific claims that fish farming, also known as aquaculture, provided an ecologically-sound alternative to ocean-fishing. In its report, "Nature's subsidies to shrimp and salmon farming," researchers found that fish farming endangers the environment. "The increasingly large scale of these [aquaculture] industries, combined with other human activities, now places substantial demands on ocean ecosystems, which in turn result in the demise of fisheries and biological diversity," the report said. The expansion of aquaculture operations between 1986-1996 increased the dependence on ocean fishing for fishmeal and fish oil for feed. Further, aquaculture operations pollute the ecosystems that fish and other marine life inhabit. "Shrimp and salmon farms discharge untreated effluents laden with polluting nutrients, pesticides, and other chemicals directly into ecologically fragile coastal waters," according to the report.

In other news, 81 nations and the EU have agreed to voluntarily limit global fishing. The agreement was reached during the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) conference on

fishing held late last month in Rome. FAO estimates that most of the world's most valuable fish stocks are already depleted or overfished. Nearly all the leading fishing nations--including the U.S., Chile, Thailand and China, have fishing overcapacity in excess of 150 percent. The countries agreed to voluntarily limit fishing capacity, "where capacity is undermining achievement of long term sustainability outcomes," in which case countries "should endeavour initially to limit at present level and progressively reduce the fishing capacity applied to affected fisheries". The countries emphasised the need to improve data collection on fishing capacity, especially as regards the characteristics of fleets, their mobility, and their effect on the sustainability of the stocks that they exploit.

In related news, in a paper on subsidies in the fisheries sector submitted to the WTO's Committee on Trade and Environment last week, the EC take the position that subsidies do not necessarily lead to increased pressure on fish stocks.

"Fish farms criticised," IPS, November 2, 1998; "Study questions aquaculture benefits," JOURNAL OF COMMERCE, November 2, 1998; "International conference approves draft documents on the management of fishing capacity, sharks and seabird bycatch," FAO PRESS RELEASE, November 9, 1998; "Commentaires de la Communauté européenne sur le document du secrétariat du Comité du commerce et de l'environnement sur les subventions et les aides à la pêche," WT/CTE/W/99, November 6, 1998.

GCC-EU MEET ON FREE TRADE

Foreign ministers for the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) met with EU trade officials in Luxembourg late last month to revive talks for an EU-GCC free trade agreement. The EU is the GCC's largest trade partner: the Gulf states are the fifth-largest export market for EU products, while GCC states are the largest supplier of oil. The GCC has complained since 1988 that it is the only trade bloc not to have a free trade agreement with the EU. In April 1997, the two sides agreed to conclude a free trade agreement within two years. Among issues to be worked out is the GCC unhappiness with the fact that import tariffs make up 90 percent of consumer gasoline prices in the EU, and its complaint that the EU aluminium import-tariff scheme is applied unequally among trade partners. The EU has resisted free trade negotiations with the GCC pending unified customs laws across member-countries: individual tariff levels on like-products entering GCC countries can at present vary between four and 20 percent. To address this, the GCC announced in September a plan to fold 2,000 goods into a customs union by early next century. The GCC plan would also allow increased foreign ownership of GCC firms, in an effort to spur foreign investment in the region.

The GCC includes Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

"GCC aims to revive campaign for free trade accord with EU," AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, October 25, 1998; "GCC customs officials OK unified law; inform WTO-Agency," DOW JONES, September 29, 1998; "Gulf Arabs send unified customs proposal to WTO," REUTERS, September 28, 1998.

U.S., EU VIE FOR MERCOSUR ATTENTION

In a high-powered love triangle, the EU and US are rival suitors in the courtship of the Southern Cone Common Market (MERCOSUR). As a trade partner, MERCOSUR demands attention: the grouping of Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay boasts a population of 200 million and annual economic output of US\$1 trillion. At stake for the EU and U.S. is improved market access to MERCOSUR, on top of already healthy trade relationships. The U.S. last year sent US\$22 billion worth of exports to MERCOSUR, while the EU managed about US\$27 billion in exports to the group.

However, timing may be everything when it comes to winning the heart of MERCOSUR. The EU seems to be in a better position than the U.S. to conclude an agreement with the LatAm trade bloc first, and usurp U.S. sales potential there. The EU has proposed a free trade accord with MERCOSUR that would provide for free trade in both goods and services as well as the free flow of capital and common rules ranging from government procurement to intellectual property rights protection.

Pending European Council approval, the EU and MERCOSUR are expected to launch negotiations in June 1999, with the goal of reaching agreement by 2004-5. MERCOSUR is pressing for greater market access to EU agricultural markets, a move not favoured at present by France and Germany. Further, a recent study by Brazil's Getulio Vargas Foundation estimates an EU-MERCOSUR accord would generate 5 percent annual economic growth for MERCOSUR.

Meanwhile, that same study estimates only 2.5 percent MERCOSUR economic growth from a hemispheric-wide free trade agreement, the vehicle by which the U.S. is negotiating free trade with MERCOSUR and the other hemisphere economies, to be concluded by 2005. At the same time, the Clinton Administration's inability to secure fast track negotiating authority (the ability to negotiate free trade agreements on behalf of the U.S., subject to an up-or-down vote in Congress) continues to threaten viable U.S. participation in hemispheric trade negotiations. U.S. business groups have expressed deep concern that lack of fast track could ultimately give the EU an edge in concluding an agreement with MERCOSUR before the U.S.

As appealing as MERCOSUR is to the U.S. and EU, it faces its own difficulties regarding free trade agreements. Brazil and Argentina, feeling the effects of the global financial turmoil, may be forced to divert resources away from free trade negotiations and toward other pressing economic policies. Also, MERCOSUR has yet to develop a regime dealing with intellectual property rights and government procurement.

In related news, Brazilian officials characterised as "disturbing" a new bilateral trade agreement between Argentina and Mexico. Brazil worries that Argentina will become an avenue through which cheap Mexican imports will flow into Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay, taking advantage of the MERCOSUR customs union. A broader MERCOSUR-Mexico trade accord has been stymied by differences between Brazil and Mexico.

"US, EU race to negotiate free-trade pact with Mercosur," JOURNAL OF COMMERCE, November 4, 1998; "Argentina-Mexico pact heightens tension in MERCOSUR," IPS, November 4, 1998.

WTO IN BRIEF

At the meeting of the Council for Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights on 17 September 1998, the Chair, Ambassador Major (Hungary), called the attention to the upcoming 1999 review of Article 27:3 (b) of the TRIPs Agreement, saying that the next meeting of the Council scheduled for 1-2 December 1998 will be a good opportunity to have a first exchange of views on the way in which the review should be undertaken. ICTSD Internal Files.

WTO Director-General Renato Ruggiero last week called for the creation of a global environment body that could shape a multilateral environmental policy better suited to resolve environmental policies in conflict with each other and with global trade rules. Addressing a conference organised by the Royal Institute of International Affairs (RIIA) in London, Mr. Ruggiero said that building global trade policies in concert with environmental issues would be made easier "if we could create a house for the environment to help focus and co-ordinate our efforts." "WTO calls for global green policy," THE GUARDIAN, November 1, 1998. ICTSD Internal Files.

The number of disputes brought to the World Trade Organisation has topped 150 since it was created nearly four years ago, compared to 300 handled by its predecessor over 47 years. The growing number of cases brought to the WTO is seen as a sign of growing confidence among its 132 Members that they can get justice from the body's independent panelists. "WTO's trade dispute agenda swells," REUTERS, November 3, 1998.

The U.S. Court of Appeals last week upheld a 1997 anti-dumping rule that prohibits the transfer of pollutants in the gasoline-refining process. In August 1997, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency lowered clean gasoline standards to comply with 1996 WTO ruling that found U.S. rules to discriminate against non-U.S. refiners. The old rules required foreign refiners to meet a different standard for gasoline quality than domestic refiners. The revised EPA rule upheld last week allows foreign refiners to petition for individual baselines for pollutants, but allows the EPA to monitor the average aggregate quality of imported gasoline for emissions of nitrogen oxides. Should the aggregate-level exceed the base-1990 emissions level, the EPA is then allowed to reduce permissible nitrogen oxide levels for subsequent imported gasoline to achieve a balance. A domestic refiner and an importer brought the suit challenging the EPA ruling, arguing that the EPA went beyond its mandate to protect air quality when formulating the rule, and could in effect allow foreign firms to import "dirtier gasoline" than domestic producers. "U.S. appeals court follows changes sought by the WTO," DOW JONES NEWSWIRE, November 3, 1998.

IN BRIEF

A report released this month finds that developing countries have exceeded industrialised nations in the use of anti-dumping measures. "The International Use of Anti-dumping 1987-1997" (published this month in the JOURNAL OF WORLD TRADE), finds that developing countries, collectively, have launched at least half the anti-dumping investigations since 1993. Mexico, Argentina and Brazil were cited as the heaviest users of anti-dumping measures. However, on individual measure, three developed countries, the U.S., the EU and Australia, still lead the pack by far as the three most frequent and intensive users of anti-dumping within WTO membership. The report notes that trade liberalisation, leaving developing economies vulnerable to increased foreign competition, could have provoked the use of anti-dumping measures in developing

economies. "Environment: developing world leads in anti-dumping," FINANCIAL TIMES, October 29, 1998. ICTSD Internal Files.

Japanese farm minister Shoici Nakagawa last week said the WTO, not the regional Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC) forum, is the appropriate place to discuss fishery and forestry sector tariffs. Mr. Nakagawa expressed the Japanese position in advance of a November 17-18 APEC ministerial meeting, where APEC-ministers are expected to press Japan hard to lower trade barriers to its fishing and forestry sectors. Much of the focus at the upcoming APEC ministerial will be on concluding an APEC fast-track trade liberalisation program for a number of sectors, including fisheries and forestry. "WTO should be forum for fishery, forestry talks: Nakagawa," KYODO NEWS INTERNATIONAL, November 3, 1998.

EVENTS, CALL FOR PAPERS & RESOURCES

• EVENTS

WTO MEETINGS

10-12 November 1998: Informal Meetings of the Heads of Delegations. The four candidates for the position of WTO Director General, namely Roy Maclaren (Canada), Supachai Panitchpakdi (Thailand), Mike Moore (New Zealand) and Hassan Abouyoub (Morocco), will introduce themselves to, and be questioned by, the Heads of Delegations during these meetings. For more information, contact: Nuch Nazeer, WTO, tel: (41) 22 739 5393.

11-12 November 1998: Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures. For more information, contact: Lucie Giraud, WTO, tel: (41) 22 739 5075.

12-13 November 1998: Trade Policy Review of Trinidad and Tobago. For more information, contact: as above.

13 November 1998: Committee on Customs Valuations. For more information, contact: Luis Ople, WTO, tel: (41) 22 739 5374.

20 November 1998: Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade. For more information, contact: Lucie Giraud, as above.

OTHER MEETINGS

NGO FORUM - THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL, 19-20 November 1998, Cairo, Egypt. This International NGO Forum will be held in parallel to the 10th meeting of the parties to the Montreal Protocol (16-24 November 1998). For information contact: Dr. Emad Adly, The Arab Office for Youth and Environment (AOYE), 14 Abou El Mahasen El Shazley, Mohandesen, Cairo, Egypt; tel: (202) 304 1634; fax: (202) 304 1635; email: aoye@ritsec1.com.eg

ATTAINING THE WORLD FOOD SUMMIT'S OBJECTIVES THROUGH A SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY, 29 November-2 December 1998, Rome, Italy. This conference is organised by the Inter-Parliamentary Union with the support of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) and hosted by the Italian Parliament. For information

contact: Inter-Parliamentary Union, C.P. 438, 1211 Geneva 19, Switzerland; tel: (41) 22 919 4150; fax: (41) 22 733 3141/919 4160; email: postbox@mail.ipu.org

ENVIRONMENTAL PERMITTING SYMPOSIUM, 17-19 February 1999, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina, USA. This symposium is sponsored by the Air & Waste Management Association and the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency. For information contact: Leo Stander, Operating Permits Group, Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards (Mail Drop 12), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Research Triangle Park, NC 27711, USA; tel: (1) 919 541 2402; fax (1) 919 541 5509; email: stander.leo@epamail.epa.gov

• CALL FOR PAPERS

Researchers on development problems are invited to present papers for the 9th General Conference of the European Association of Development (EADI) that will take place in Paris, France on 22-25 September 1999. The subject of the conference is "Europe and the South in the 21st Century: Challenges for Renewed Cooperation." Papers must pertain to this topic and may refer to a particular developing country or to relations between different countries. Abstracts must be sent to the EADI Secretariat by 28 February 1999. For more information, contact: EADI Secretariat, 24 rue Rothschild, P.O. Box 272, 1211 Geneva 21, Switzerland; tel: (41) 22 731 4648; fax: (41) 22 738 5797; email: ead@uni2a.unige.ch; website: www.eadi.org

• RESOURCES

"Trade and the Environment: A Comparative Study of EC and US Law," by Damien Geradin, Université de Liège, Cambridge Studies in International and Comparative Law, 8, 1997, 256 pp. To order contact: Cambridge University Press, Gill Hale, tel: (44) 1223 325577, fax: (44) 1223 325151, email: intcustserve@cup.cam.ac.uk

"The Changing International Law of High Seas Fisheries," by Francisco Orrego Vicuña, Universidad de Chile, Cambridge Studies of International and Comparative Law, 9, forthcoming, 1999, 336 pp. This book examines the international law of high seas fisheries in the light of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, the State and international practice that followed and its influence on the 1995 Straddling Stocks Agreement. To order contact: Cambridge University Press, as above.

"Against the Grain: Biotechnology and the Corporate Take-over of Your Food," by Marc Lapp and Britt Bailey, Common Courage Press, 1998, 175 pp. This book analyses both scientific and political aspects of biotechnology and its implications for world food security. To order, contact: Common Courage Press, 1 Red Barn Road, Monroe, ME 04951, USA; tel: (1) 207 525 0900; fax: (1) 207 525 3068; email: info@commoncouragepress.com

"The Monsanto Files: Can We Survive Genetic Engineering?," The Ecologist, Sept./Oct. 1998. This article gives an overview of Monsanto's corporate history, examining products such as Agent Orange, Roundup, recombinant bovine growth hormone, and Terminator technology. To order, contact: The Ecologist, c/o Cissbury House, Furze View, Five Oaks Road, Slinfold, W. Sussex RH13 7RH, United Kingdom; tel: (44) 1403 786 726; fax: (44) 1403 782 644; email sgc@mag-sub.demon.co.uk

"Altered Genes - Reconstructing Nature: The Debate," Richard Hindmarsh et. al. (eds.), St. Leonards, Australia: Allen and Unwin, 1998, 228 pp. This publication contains fourteen essays on biotechnology from writers in New Zealand and Australia. It reviews, inter alia, Australian bio-industrial development; agricultural biotechnology in Australia; transgenic cotton; the human genome project; bioprospecting, biopiracy and intellectual property rights. To order, contact: Allen and Unwin, P.O. Box 8500, 9 Atchison St., St. Leonards, NSW 2065, Australia; tel: (61) 2 8425 0100; fax (61) 2 9906 2218; email: frontdesk@allen-unwin.com.au

JOB OPPORTUNITY

The World Wildlife Fund (WWF-US) is looking for a full time Program Officer for a position with its Sustainable Commerce Program in its Washington D.C. office. The program officer position will concentrate on two areas within the Sustainable Commerce Program: (1) The North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation (NAAEC) Implementation Project; and (2) the NAAEC Certification Policy and Public Procurement Project. In addition, the Program Officer will assist the Sustainable Commerce Program in expanding its linkages with WWF's Latin American and Caribbean regional program. For more information, contact: David Schorr, Director, Sustainable Commerce Program, World Wildlife Fund (WWF-US); fax: (1) 202 778 9721; email: david.schorr@wwfus.org.

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