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WTO GENERAL COUNCIL CONTINUES PREPARATIONS FOR THIRD MINISTERIAL

Meeting in informal intersessional session on 23-24 November 1998, the WTO General Council's Special Session (see BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest, Vol. 2, No. 37, September 28, 1998) discussed the so-called "built-in agenda". The built-in agenda are the negotiations that were already planned for in the Agreements adopted in Marrakesh in 1994, at the end of the Uruguay Round. The built-in agenda mandated negotiations in the area of agriculture and services, as well as reviews of provisions of the Uruguay Round Agreements such as the Dispute Settlement Review, the review of the Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures and of Article 27.3(b) and other provisions of the TRIPS Agreement. (See BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest, Vol. 2, No. 46, November 30, 1998, and related story in this issue, for an outline of positions expressed on the review of TRIPS Article 27.3(b)).

There were no big surprises in the positions put forward at last month's General Council informal meeting. (For countries' positions on services, and more details on their positions on other aspects of the built-in agenda, please refer to BRIDGES Between Trade and Sustainable Development, Vol.2, No. 8, November-December 1998, forthcoming). The U.S. said that the next round of agriculture negotiations in the World Trade Organisation should result in the complete elimination of export subsidies and major reductions in internal supports. The EC stated the importance it attaches to the successful implementation of the WTO's built-in agenda and that negotiations on services should cover all service sectors and subsectors with no possible general exclusions. Regarding agriculture, the EC said, inter alia, that Members have agreed that negotiations on the

continuation of reforms in agriculture should take place in conformity with Article 20 of the Agreement on Agriculture which strikes a balance between the long term objective of substantial, progressive reductions in support and protection, resulting in fundamental reform, with other concerns such as assessment of the impacts of implementation so far, special and differential treatment to developing country Members, and environmental protection. In addition to setting out its position on agriculture and services, the EC emphasised its position that it sees agriculture, services and the other issues that form the built-in agenda as part of a single undertaking subject to a single time-frame. The EC said that the new negotiations should be started, conducted and concluded within approximately three years.

A number of developing countries such as Pakistan, however, warned that completing talks in such a short time will be difficult for agriculture alone, and even more difficult if other issues are added on to the negotiating agenda.

Cairns group set out its very detailed objectives in terms of agriculture, including seeking deep cuts to all tariffs, elimination and prohibition of export subsidies, reductions in levels of production- and trade-distorting domestic support.

Australia stated the importance of its commitment to begin negotiations to further liberalise trade in agriculture and services in about a year. Australia reminded Members that it has argued for some time that the mandated negotiations in services and agriculture should be the basis for a comprehensive round of multilateral trade negotiations including industrial tariffs, but that successful negotiations in agriculture and services should not be held hostage to agreement on a comprehensive round.

Japan pointed out the difficulties it is having in implementing the Uruguay Round commitments in terms of agriculture and said that new negotiations will first have to take into account the experience regarding the Uruguay Round commitments, and that attention must also be paid to non-trade concerns inter alia food security and the multi-functionality of agriculture such as in the protection of the environment.

A number of developing countries - including the Dominican Republic and Honduras - mentioned their concerns regarding production subsidies and market access. These countries said that export subsidies should be gradually removed, with assistance provided in a transition period for Net-food importing developing and least-developed countries.

Indonesia, speaking on behalf of Asean said that the work plan mandated by the built-in agenda is interlinked with the issue of implementation

The 23-24 November meeting is part of the on-going process of preparation for the WTO's third Ministerial Meeting, to be held late in 1999 in the U.S. At this early stage of preparations countries are mapping out their positions which eventually should distil into the Ministerial Declaration that should be adopted at the 1999 U.S. meeting.

ICTSD Internal Files; "U.S. seeks WTO ban on farm export subsidies, cuts in internal support," INSIDE US TRADE, November 26, 1998; "WTO Members call for speed in talks on agriculture, services," INTERNATIONAL TRADE REPORTER, November 25, 1998.

REVIEW OF TRIPS ARTICLE 27.3(B): WTO MEMBERS DISCUSS WHAT AND HOW TO REVIEW

The TRIPs Council held its last meeting of 1998, on December 1-2. Significant amongst issues on the TRIPs Council's busy agenda was the discussion of the review of Article 27.3(b), due to take place in 1999. The Council also considered requests for observer status from 11 organisations, how to carry out the post-2000 review of developing countries' legislation implementing the TRIPs Agreement, implementation of Articles 70 (8) & (9) and electronic commerce. The 1998 Annual Report of the Council for TRIPS (IP/C/15) is available via the WTO's web-site on-line documents at: <http://www.wto.org/wto/ddf/ep/public.html>

The 1998 review of Article 27.3(b) will be significant. Last week's meeting was the first time that there was an exchange of views amongst WTO Members as to how the review should be carried out. It was provisionally agreed that the procedure set out in the TRIPS Council Annual Report (see reference above) would be followed, pending the agreement of India, which still needed to get the necessary go-ahead from its capital. According to the procedure provisionally agreed to, Members already under an obligation to apply Article 27.3(b) would be invited to provide information on how they have done so under their national law. Other Members would be invited to do so on a best endeavour basis. The WTO Secretariat would contact the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV) to request relevant factual information. Although WTO officials say that the discussion on the 27.3(b) review process went well, there were strong disagreements, in an informal session last week, about the scope of the review. Most developed countries favoured reviewing implementation of 27.3(b), while most developing countries said that the review should cover the provision itself.

If India accepts the proposed schedule, the Secretariat will have prepared a paper in time for the next meeting of the TRIPS Council, on February 16-17 1999. Although the review of Article 27.3 (b) is due to be completed in 1999, if a new round of multilateral trade negotiations is mandated to begin after the Third Ministerial Meeting (scheduled in November-December 1999), a lot of the heat might be taken off the review itself, as the subject could become an issue in a future round of multilateral trade talks.

ICTSD Internal Files

WTO GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING AND NGO BRIEFING

As BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest goes to press, the WTO General Council is meeting, with a number of items of great interest to the trade, sustainable development and environment community on its agenda.

Amongst these are the appointment of the new WTO Director General, the High Level Meetings on Trade and Environment and on Trade and Development, Document Derestriction and Transparency, and the exact date and place of the third Ministerial Meeting, due to take place in the U.S. at the end of 1999. The General Council will also adopt decisions on the timing of the Dispute Settlement Review (which will carry over until 1999) and will adopt the 1998 reports of the various WTO Committees. Mr Alain Frank, head of WTO's External Relations Division, will

brief NGOs on the work of the General Council, on Friday 11th December (see Events & Resources section below).

EU, JAPAN JOIN FORCES ON MILLENNIUM TRADE ROUND APPROACH

The EU and Japan last week agreed to jointly reject an U.S. proposal for a sector-by-sector approach to a new round of global trade talks proposed to begin in 2000. Meeting last week in Tokyo, the EU and Japan jointly reaffirmed their calls for a "comprehensive, single undertaking" to a so-called Millennium Round of trade talks. This would be the same approach as taken in previous multilateral trade rounds - most recently in the Uruguay Round - which allows members to gain concessions in one sector by making concessions in another. The U.S. argues that a comprehensive approach can take too long: the Uruguay Round took seven years to complete. Instead, the U.S. wants to take a sector-by-sector approach wherein negotiations would be completed on each issue separately, rather than waiting for agreement on all issues as a package (sometimes referred to as the "early harvest" approach). EU and Japanese officials, however, think the comprehensive approach would provide greater benefit to more WTO members. "It is our view based on experience that sectoral negotiations do not spread the benefits on all WTO members," an EU official said last week.

Meanwhile, many developing countries remain wary of a new round of trade talks until the impacts of the Uruguay Round Agreements are fully assessed (See BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest, Vol. 2, Number 42 November 2, 1998). Further, developing countries are eager to see developed countries such as the EU and U.S. implement WTO commitments to liberalise their own markets, especially with respect to textiles--an important source of export revenue for many developing economies.

"EU, Japan agree to demand WTO talks be comprehensive," DOW JONES, December 3, 1998; "Europe says no 'protectionist' EU-Japan alliance against U.S.," AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, December 4, 1998; "Japan, EU join forces against U.S. for 2000 WTO talks," KYODO NEWS INTERNATIONAL, December 2, 1998.

HEAT STILL ON IN BANANA WAR

Talks between EU and U.S. negotiators over the EU's banana import regime broke down last week. Senior level negotiators failed to agree on a timetable by which a WTO Panel could decide whether the EU has gone far enough in its revised banana import regime to comply with the spirit of a 1997 WTO Panel ruling (see WTO In Brief below; see also BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest Vol. 2, No. 44, November 16, 1998).

Both sides remained intransigent in their positions: the U.S. would not drop its demand that a WTO panel review the EU revised banana regime by January 15, and the EU remained adamant that a review could not be concluded that quickly. The U.S. rejected an EU proposal to set a 170-day timeframe for a panel decision, compared to the standard 449 days allowed under WTO dispute settlement procedures. The U.S. late last week broke off talks with the EU, and warned the EU that it would move forward with a trade-retaliation plan in January.

"The U.S. appears ready to break off negotiations and to resort to a course of action which is very likely to lead to a major trade dispute between the EU and U.S. and to do great damage to the WTO," EU Trade Commissioner Sir Leon Brittan said last week in a letter to U.S. Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky. "As I have said before, I believe this would be an act of great political unwisdom." While some WTO members support the EU contention that its revised regime deserves due-process under Article 21.5 of dispute settlement rules, members are reportedly growing weary of EU attempts to slow down the settlement process. As BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest went to press, it was unclear when or if the two sides would meet again on this issue. Meanwhile, the issue of whether a country has the right to pursue recourse under Article 22 of dispute settlement rules before a regime has been examined under Article 21.5 is expected to be discussed at length this week at a special session of the Dispute Settlement Body.

The banana dispute is just one of three disputes between the EU and U.S. highlighting tensions between the two trade powers. The others, over an EU ban on hormone-treated beef imports and the other over EU restrictions on imports of genetically modified organisms, could follow similar paths this winter.

"U.S., EU banana talks break down; U.S. to pursue WTO retaliation," INSIDE U.S. TRADE, December 4, 1998; "U.S. dismisses EU proposal to resolve banana dispute," AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, December 3, 1998; "A beef over bananas," WASHINGTON POST, December 2, 1998; "Brittan asks U.S. to resume banana talks," WALL STREET JOURNAL, December 4, 1998; "EU's Fischler meets U.S. delegation over trade rows," REUTERS, December 1, 1998.

FTAA NEGOTIATORS MEET, HOPE TO SUSTAIN INTEREST IN TALKS

Negotiators to Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) talks met last week in Suriname, officially to discuss business-facilitation measures related to the agreement, but the sub-text was definitively on how to maintain hemispheric interest in the FTAA. The FTAA would create a hemispheric-wide free-trade zone by 2005, linking 34 countries from the Yukon to Patagonia in the world's largest single market, estimated to be worth US\$10 trillion dollars. FTAA negotiators last week discussed strategies by which to keep regional governments and businesses interested in FTAA talks.

Since talks were launched last spring, interest in FTAA negotiations has been hampered by at least three factors. First, the economic crises affecting Latin America and Caribbean countries have preoccupied a number of FTAA participants. Second, the Clinton Administration's inability to secure "fast-track" negotiating authority worries a number of countries. Fast-track negotiating authority would give the Clinton

Administration the ability to bring negotiated free trade agreements such as FTAA to Congress for a straight yes or no vote immune from amendment. Fast track is critical to U.S. credibility at the negotiating table since hemispheric leaders are reluctant to negotiate with the U.S. if hard work can be unravelled by the U.S. Congress.

Third, FTAA negotiations will soon vie for attention with a proposed new round of WTO trade talks. A number of smaller economies face a difficult challenge managing negotiating resources between two sets of major negotiations. Further, larger economies like Brazil (South America's

largest economy) place a priority on global trade talks because it could yield improved access to developed markets for important exports.

However, while smaller economies face resource issues between FTAA and WTO negotiations, the FTAA process is prompting greater economic dialogue in smaller regional groupings such as the Andean Community (Ecuador, Bolivia, Peru, Colombia and Venezuela) and the 16-member Caribbean Community (CARICOM).

With respect to civil-society participation in FTAA negotiations, a number of countries last week noted that they had requested comment from non-governmental organisations (NGOs) on FTAA negotiations, with a March 31 deadline. One U.S. official commented, "Frankly, a number of [countries] have reached out [to NGOs] more aggressively than we have. We don't have to reach out so aggressively since the information gets out very quickly, and part of it was public relations on [other countries' part], but they wouldn't have done that a year ago or two years ago."

"FTAA talks refocus on regionalism," JOURNAL OF COMMERCE, December 7, 1998; "FTAA focuses on customs to invigorate talks," JOURNAL OF COMMERCE, December 4, 1998.

INSURANCE COMPANIES FEAR GENETIC ENGINEERING

The world's second largest reinsurance company, Swiss insurance company Rueck, has declared that the risks of genetic engineering can no longer be insured with traditional means, as the risks of genetic engineering can not be covered with classical liability insurance models. The central point of Rueck's analysis is that the pharmaceutical, agricultural and food companies are applying genetic technologies without, in most cases, being insured themselves against likely genetic damages.

According to Rueck, the main danger of genetic technologies for insurance companies lies in the fact that political and legislative rules may change suddenly, the so-called "changerisk." Positive thinking towards genetic engineering may also collapse suddenly. Public opinion worldwide is an unpredictable factor. Genetic technology in the area of medicine, Rueck points out, is more easily accepted than in the areas relating to food, even though "the few Gentechnology damages that occurred until now," occurred in the area of medicine. The tendency for a pragmatic handling of Gentechnology may collapse if even the minutest damage occurs.

ICTSD Internal Files; THE AGROBUSINESS EXAMINER, October 22, 1998.

EFTA, PALESTINE SIGN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

The European Free Trade Association (EFTA), comprised of Norway, Switzerland, Iceland and Liechtenstein, signed November 30 an interim free trade agreement with the Palestinian Authority. The agreement, to go into effect July 1999, covers free trade in industrial goods, processed agricultural goods and fish and marine products. EFTA and Palestine agreed to review the agreement after Palestine and Israel finalise their peace process. The agreement with Palestine brings to 14 the number of trade accords between EFTA and non-EU countries, including an agreement with Israel signed in 1992.

EFTA is currently negotiating separate agreements with Egypt, Jordan, Tunisia, Cyprus and the Gulf Co-operation Council. Perhaps more significant, EFTA anticipates concluding a trans-Atlantic trade accord with Canada by mid-1999. Concluding an agreement there could prompt EFTA to more seriously pursue separate trade agreements with Mexico and MERCOSUR (Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay), toward whom EFTA has made recent overtures.

EFTA accounts at present for 3.1 percent of world trade.

"L'AELE s'engage pour la paix au Proche-Orient," *TRIBUNE DE GENEVE*, December 1, 1998; EFTA signs free trade deal with Palestinians," *REUTERS*, November 30, 1998; "EFTA to extend trade overtures," *FINANCIAL TIMES*, December 1, 1998.

VARIOUS AFRICAN TRADE NEWS; FUNDING AGAINST DESERTIFICATION SOUGHT

France's agricultural minister last week said he supports EU-African co-operation in a new round of WTO trade talks. "I believe that due to the old and historical ties between Europe and the African continent that resulted in the Lome I and II accords, one could imagine the organisation of seminars, even negotiation accords so that we could enter the [WTO] negotiations together," French Agricultural Minister Jean Glavany said, speaking informally at the Franco-African summit held in Paris November 26-28.

U.S. Commerce Secretary William Daley last week travelled to Southern Africa, where he signed an agreement between the U.S. and South Africa designed to promote investment in small and medium size enterprises. Mr. Daley urged southern Africa to break down trade barriers between southern African economies and to create a more unified regional marketplace. "For Africa to be on a global stage, it cannot be small, disconnected markets. It must be regional markets," Mr. Daley said. Mr. Daley noted that intra-African trade was exceptionally low in terms of total African trade, and urged the Southern African Development Community to conclude a free trade agreement by 2004.

Meanwhile, EU ministers are expected to vote this week on a trade agreement with South Africa. EU and South African negotiators have for three years tried to conclude an agreement, stymied at times over market access to the EU for South African agricultural products and on issues related to South Africa's fisheries sector. As late as last week, there seemed to be a gap between the two sides, but the EU remained optimistic that an agreement could be reached by year's end. Trade between the EU and South Africa was worth about US\$20 billion last year.

In other news, African delegates to the Conference of Parties to the UN Convention against desertification last week in Dakar, Senegal, called for the funding mechanism supporting implementation of the desertification convention to be given "the same advantages as those granted by the international community to the conventions on biodiversity and climatic change." Africa is the continent most affected by desert encroachment and drought, and the Convention aims to attract technical and financial resources to help Africa deal with the situation. African delegates' calls for funding were echoed by a group of 450 NGOs which called on participants to allow the Global Environment Facility to help fund anti-desertification activities. At present, the funding mechanism for the Convention on Desertification has no funds to lend.

"Interview: France supports Africa role in WTO talks," REUTERS, November 25, 1998; "U.S. warns on southern African trade barriers," FINANCIAL TIMES, December 2, 1998; "U.S. Commerce Secretary Daley oversees signing of investment agreement," AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, December 1, 1998; "EU, South Africa move closer to trade accord," REUTERS, November 20, 1998.

IN BRIEF

Exxon last month announced plans to buy Mobil Oil Corporation to form the world's largest oil corporation. Environmentalists immediately took up arms against the deal, warning that the deal would lead to increased oil drilling and exploration further offshore into remote areas such as tropical rain forests and indigenous homelands. Environmentalists warned that increased exploration could jeopardise Kyoto Protocol

commitments, because of the role petroleum plays in climate change. "Exxon-Mobil merger could poison the well," IPS, December 3, 1998; "Environmentalists oppose oil merger," IPS, December 4, 1998; "Environment the Loser in Exxon-Mobil Merger, Critics Say," ENS, December 1, 1998.

The fate of 4,000 tonnes of toxic incinerator ash originating from Pennsylvania and dumped in 1988 outside the Haitian city of Gonaïve remains in doubt. The ash is at the centre of a decade-old dispute between Philadelphia and environmental groups in and outside of Haiti (See BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest Vol. 2, Number 44 November 16, 1998). In a settlement agreed last month, the ash, which originated from the city Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and which was dumped in Haiti by the U.S. trash-hauling firm Eastern Environmental Services, was to be cleaned up and repatriated to a land fill in the U.S. "U.S. ports refuse to accept repatriated waste," IPS, December 2, 1998.

Zambia, a signatory to the 1987 Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, has established a Refrigeration Management Control Plan, geared toward eliminating local sources of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) by 2000. The initiative includes stopping the import from industrialised countries of refrigerators utilising CFCs, as well as replacing CFC refrigerators currently in use. "Zambia takes steps to counter CFC dumping," IPS, November 30, 1998.

Socialist International, a group of 100 social democratic, socialist and labour parties world-wide, has proposed the formation of a world economic security council. The council would operate within the framework of the UN, and address issues such as international capital flows, review institutions such as the IMF, and developing a global recovery program to promote trade, investment and employment. Socialist International also advocated the adoption of a preferential trade regime for developing countries at the WTO, tied to adoption of the controversial "social clause," banning the use of forced and child labour and ensuring the right to collective bargaining and trade unions. "Socialists see need for UN trade council," JOURNAL OF COMMERCE, December 2, 1998.

The IMF last month announced an emergency loan package for Brazil to shore up the country's currency, in exchange for a Brazilian austerity plan. The proposed plan calls for a number of severe cuts to domestic environmental programs designed to protect Brazil's rainforests, manage floodplains and define lands belonging to indigenous peoples. The Amazon Work Group, a grouping of 300-plus environmental organisations, are calling on the IMF to reject Brazilian plan. "Mad-Cut disease detected in Brazil," IPS, November 30, 1998.

WTO IN BRIEF

In its annual report released last week, the WTO said it expected growth in global trade by volume to slow to 4% in 1998, and said the outlook for 1999 shows only a slight increase over 1998 levels. WTO Chief Economist Patrick Low said the 1999 outlook is "far more precarious than usual," and will depend on what happens in efforts to stabilise and revive struggling Asian economies. The slower-growth forecasts are in sharp contrast to the 10% growth in global trade last year. The WTO urged countries--both developed and developing--against implementing protectionist trade measures, and said a new round of global trade talks would send a positive signal to markets. The WTO report offered a gloomy outlook for Africa and the Middle East, whose trade flows it said had been most affected by a dramatic decline in commodity prices. "WTO SECRETARIAT RELEASES 1998 ANNUAL REPORT," WTO PRESS RELEASE, November 26, 1998; "WTO sees modest world trade growth in 1999," REUTERS, December 3, 1998.

In a communication to the Permanent Mission of the U.S. and to the Chair of the Dispute Settlement Body, circulated on November 30 (WT/DS152/1), the EU formally requested consultations with the U.S, in the context of the dispute regarding bananas which oppose the two. The EU claims that the latter's Trade Act of 1974 (namely sections 305 and 306) does not allow the U.S. to comply with the rules of the DSU in situations where a prior multilateral ruling under the DSU on the conformity of implementing measures has not yet been adopted by the DSB. In the same communication, the EU requests consultations with the U.S. on the announcements the U.S. made in October, including that the U.S. will make unilateral determinations on 15 December 1998 that the EU's revised banana regime is not compatible with the DSB's recommendations. The communication is available via the WTO's web-site's on-line documents at: <http://www.wto.org/wto/ddf/ep/public.html>

EVENTS & RESOURCES**• EVENTS****WTO MEETINGS**

8 December 1998: Dispute Settlement Body (meeting on the Dispute Settlement Review). For information, contact Nuch Nazeer, WTO, tel: (41) 22 739 53 93.

9-11 December 1998: General Council. For information, contact Keith Rockwell, WTO, tel: (41) 22 739 50 07.

11 December 1998: Information Technology Agreement Committee. For information, contact Luis Ople, as above.

14 and 16 December 1998: WTO General Council Special Session. Informal meeting on Recommendations on the follow-up to the October 1997 High-Level Meeting on Least-Developed Countries.

OTHER MEETINGS

WTO NGO BRIEFING, 11 December 1998 at 10:00, Geneva Executive Centre, 13 chemin des Anemones, 1219 Chatelaine, Geneva, Switzerland. Alain Frank, Director, WTO External Relations Division, will brief NGOs on the results of the WTO General Council meeting held on 9-11 December, as well as on the perspectives it provides for future negotiations. For information, contact Miguel Jimenez-Pont, ICTSD, tel: (41) 22 917 84 78, fax: (41) 22 917 80 93, email: mjimenez@ictsd.ch

TRADE & FINANCE AT WTO, INCLUDING INVESTMENT, 14 December 1998 at 16:00, Geneva Executive Centre, 13 chemin des Anemones, 1219 Chatelaine, Geneva, Switzerland. Richard Eglin, Director, WTO Trade and Finance Division will be the speaker at this meeting. For information, contact Miguel Jimenez-Pont, as above.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON HAZARDOUS WASTE: SOURCES, EFFECTS AND MANAGEMENT, 12-16 December 1998, Cairo, Egypt. For information, contact Prof. Abdul Fattah I. Helal, Atomic Energy Authority, 101 Kasr El-Ainy Street, Cairo, Egypt; tel: (20) 2 355 8264; fax: (20) 2 354 0982; email: hisham_f@frcu.eun.eg

RECOVERY, RECYCLING, RE-INTEGRATION (R '99), 2-5 February 1999, Geneva, Switzerland. For information, contact Maria Buhler, Project Manager, Peak Ltd., Seefeldstrasse 224, 8008 Zurich, Switzerland; tel: (41) 1 386 4444; fax: (41) 1 385 4445; email: buehler@peak.ch

SUSTAINABLE TECHNOLOGY AND DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE, 22-24 February 1999. For information, contact Dr. R.D. Gupta, Madhav Institute of Technology and Science, P.O. Residency, Gwalior, 474 005 M.P., India; tel: (91) 751 364 479; fax: (91) 751 364 684; email: mitsrdg@gwr1.vsnl.net.in

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON INDUSTRIAL TRANSFORMATION, 24-26 February 1998, Amsterdam, The Netherlands. For information, contact Peter Mulder, Institute of Environmental Studies, Vrije Universiteit, De Boelelaan 1115, 1081 HV Amsterdam, The Netherlands; tel: (31) 20 444 9555; fax: (31) 20 444 9553; email: peter.mulder@ivm.vu.nl

• RESOURCES

GATT/WTO DISPUTE SETTLEMENT PRACTICE RELATING TO ARTICLE XX, PARAGRAPHS (b), (d) AND (g) OF GATT (WT/CTE/W/53/Rev.1), Note by the WTO Secretariat, 26 October 1998 and Corrigendum (WT/CTE/W/53/Rev.1/Corr.1), 30 November 1998. Both documents are particularly relevant in the light of recent developments, most notably last month's Appellate Body Report on the shrimp-turtle case. They are available via the WTO's site search function at www.wto.org/wto/ddf/ep/search.html

CROSS BORDER LINKS: 1998 FAIR TRADE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT DIRECTORY, edited by Rachel Hays, Interhemispheric Resource Centre, November 1998, 129 pp. To order, contact the Interhemispheric Resource Centre, Box 4506, Albuquerque, NM 87196 USA; tel: (1) 505 842 8288; fax: (1) 505 246 1601; email: resourcectr@igc.apc.org

JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC LAW, Volume 1, Issue 4, 1998. This issue focuses on TRIPS régimes, within and outside the WTO. To order, contact the Journal of International Economic Law, Oxford University Press, Great Clarendon Street, Oxford OX2 6DP, UK; email: www-admin@oup.co.uk; web: www.oup.co.uk/jielaw/

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