



INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR
TRADE AND SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT

BRIDGES

Weekly Trade News Digest

May 24, 1999

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GENERAL COUNCIL AGAIN MOVING ON MINISTERIAL PREPARATIONS

The General Council met again in Special Session on 20 and 21 May in the context of the preparatory process for the Third Ministerial Meeting, to be held in Seattle at the end of this year. The debate at last week's meeting was felt to have been generally positive, particularly in the light of the bad feelings generated by the impasse on the nomination of a new Director-General of the WTO. With a steady stream of WTO Members coming out with their formal proposals what they would like to see decided at the Ministerial Meeting in Seattle, it is now possible to get a fuller sense of where countries stand on different issues.

At last week's meeting delegations discussed a number of proposals received since the April General Council Special Session (GC-SS). Amongst these were proposals from Korea on services, agriculture and Regional Trade Agreements (RTAs); from Hungary on State trading enterprises and from Hong Kong China on RTAs and industrial tariffs. Norway submitted a proposal on Trade and Environment, and on market access for industrial goods including fish and fish products (see *BRIDGES* Weekly Trade News Digest, 3 May 1999, Vol.3, No.17), Australia submitted one on export subsidies, domestic support, industrial non-agricultural goods, RTAs, and market access for agriculture. The EC put forward a proposal on market access for non-agricultural products, and the U.S. put one forward on the objective and overall framework for the agricultural negotiations.



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Quite a few delegations indicated their intention to submit formal proposals shortly. Amongst these were EC which announced that within the next month it would be submitting proposals on tariff

liberalisation measures to increase market access for LDCs, trade in services, government procurement, TRIPs, trade and environment, trade facilitation, trade and investment, and trade and competition. Japan indicated its intention of submitting a proposal on RTAs, industrial tariffs and agriculture. India indicated that it would soon submit proposals on RTAs and on domestic support in agriculture. ASEAN said it would submit a proposal on compliance with the enabling clause, and on the responsibility of Members vis-à-vis measures taken at state level, regional or local governments or authorities within their territories. Zambia also announced that at the next meeting it would circulate a non-paper - on behalf of itself and other developing countries - on implementation and on how to better integrate developing countries into the multilateral trading system.

Many countries welcomed the proposals on industrial tariffs, and a number reiterated their support for "broad-based" negotiations, although there were no surprises in the positions expressed. A few delegations including India and Egypt expressed reservations on the inclusion of new issues or of industrial tariffs, reiterating that the focus should be on implementation of existing agreements.

Last week's meeting ended with a procedural discussion on the role of the General Council and other WTO bodies in the lead-up to the Ministerial. The issue, raised by Uruguay, is whether the General Council should be the sole leadership body in terms of establishing the guidelines for new negotiations to take place, or should it delegate, particularly in the area of services. Although no conclusion was reached, most Members said GC should be the leadership body, and if needed it was for the General Council to hand down a mandate to other bodies in the Ministerial preparatory process.

The next informal meeting of the GC-SS will take place on 7-8 June.

ICTSD Internal Files.

EU GETS BUTTERFLIES ABOUT GM CORN; BRAZIL LIFTS GM CROP BAN; ADM PAYS MORE FOR CONVENTIONAL CORN

While the EU and U.S. continue to wrangle over an EU ban on imports of hormone treated beef, last week brought other foods - genetically modified ones, that is - to the centre of the plate as a number of new developments unfolded.

Cornell University (Ithaca, NY) researchers reported that pollen from Bt corn, a GMO corn product, had adverse affects on monarch butterflies in laboratory studies. Observers note that the study highlights the lack of definitive information on the safety of GMOs from both a health and environment standpoint. The report provoked a European Commission decision to suspend the approval process for a GMO corn made by Pioneer Hy-bred International. "We want to apply the precautionary principle and there's no way any new products can be approved [until more information is available]," said an EU spokesperson. A Pioneer spokesperson strongly criticised the EU decision, calling it inconsistent with previous EU decisions to approve two similar GMO corn varieties from Monsanto and Novartis.

Frustrated with the EU approach toward GMOs, U.S. Senate and House members last week called on the Clinton Administration to add trade in biotechnology to the upcoming meeting of the Group of Seven leading industrialised countries and Russia (G-8). "The threat to agricultural trade from

restrictions on products derived from modern biotechnology has become serious enough to warrant the attention of world leaders," Senate and House members said in separate letters to President Clinton. Sources said the Clinton Administration is wary of bringing up biotechnology at the G-8 forum, worried that it could open discussion around a biosafety protocol - multilateral talks for which stalled earlier this year as a result of U.S. and others' intransigence over the scope of the agreement.

Last week conflicting reports emerged in Europe regarding the safety of GMOs. The British Medical Association (BMA) called for labelling of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) so consumers may make an informed choice about whether to buy GMO products until they are definitively proven safe. The BMA does not say GMO foods are dangerous, just that there is not enough evidence as to whether the food is safe. At the same time a Royal Society scientific report said their studies showed no evidence that GMOs are harmful. The Royal Society also said the risk from pollen transfer and cross-fertilisation from GMO crops was minimal.

In related news Brazil last week announced an end to its ban on genetically modified crops. The Agriculture Ministry announced that it would allow biotech giant Monsanto to immediately sell five varieties of GMO soybean for planting. The environmental NGO Greenpeace was expected to issue a court challenge to the decision, calling for an environmental assessment to take place before planting begins. Monsanto officials estimate that half of the 13 million acres planted to soya each year in Brazil will be planted with GMO varieties within 3 years. Brazilian legislators were looking last week at least four separate bills related to GMOs including on regulating the physical distance of GMO crops to water basins and human settlements.

Meanwhile, leading grain-processor Archer Daniels Midland (ADM) is expected to contract 10 million acres of non-GMO soybeans this year. Total acreage for U.S. soybeans is anticipated at 73 million acres, a majority of which will be planted with GMO soya product. ADM will reportedly pay a US\$0.18 cents/bushel premium over regional market price for the non-GMO product.

"British doctors call for labels on gene-altered foods," INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE, 19 May 1999; "Senate, House members want biotech on G-8 agenda, U.S. reluctant," INSIDE US TRADE, 21 May 1999; "ADM to offer premium to grow non-genetic soy," REUTERS, 5 May 1999; "Brazil ends ban on genetically-altered crops," REUTERS, 17 May 1999; "Ministers to insist GM foods are safe," THE TIMES, 19 May 1999; "Modified food research flawed, say top scientists," FINANCIAL TIMES, 19 May 1999; "Un maïs transgénique tueur de papillons attise la méfiance de Bruxelles," LE TEMPS, 21 May 1999. ICTSD Internal Files.

SAARC OPPOSES A COMPREHENSIVE GLOBAL MILLENNIUM ROUND; JAPAN PROPOSES NEW FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

Members of the South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC) met last week to discuss a common agenda for the Third WTO Ministerial scheduled for Seattle later this year. SAARC is comprised of India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, and Maldives. SAARC members agreed that rather than launching a new round of global trade talks WTO Members should give priority to implementation of existing agreements and examine the impact of those agreements on developing and least developed countries (LDCs). SAARC ministers agreed to reject calls for trade and labour linkage at the WTO, upholding developing countries' stance on the issue from the First WTO Ministerial Meeting in Singapore in 1996 when the issue was referred to

the ILO as the appropriate agency to address trade and labour linkages. With regard to agriculture SAARC members agreed on the need for total elimination of export subsidies, but noted that LDCs and net food-importing developing countries should be afforded adequate food security safeguards. SAARC ministers also agreed to collectively address issues related to intellectual property rights at the WTO. SAARC accounts for just 1 percent of all world trade, in spite of the fact that these countries account for 20 per cent of the world's population.

In other news, Japan last week proposed the creation of a Northeast Asian free trade area comprised of Japan, Hong Kong, South Korea and Taiwan. Japan's Ministry of International Trade and Industry made the proposal, saying the region had yet to take advantage of regional integration which could counter other powerful trade groupings such as the North American Free Trade Association (NAFTA, comprised of the U.S., Mexico and Canada). The trade ministry's report said that a regional economic grouping would expand Japan's influence in multilateral trade talks. All WTO Members except three - Japan, South Korea and Hong Kong China - are members of at least one regional trade agreement.

On its part, the Joint Co-operation Committee (JCC) for the EU and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) will meet this week in Bangkok to discuss future co-operation in industry, trade, investment, science and technology. The JCC has not met since July 1997 because of a dispute between the EU and ASEAN over Burma's admission to ASEAN - the EU does not recognise the military authorities in Burma on dispute over the results of the 1990 Burmese elections, allegedly won by the opposition led by Aung San Suu Kyi.

"Broad SAARC agreement to oppose new issues at WTO," THE HINDU, 13 May 1999; "Saarc countries to have joint IPR stand," ECONOMIC TIMES (India), 14 May 1999; "EU, Asean meeting set," BANGKOK POST, 20 May 1999 "Japan proposes new free trade zone for Northeast Asia," AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, 21 May 1999.

VOICES IN FAVOUR OF A WTO GLOBAL COMPREHENSIVE TRADE ROUND

Two weeks ago, BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest presented the views of some of those who are dubious of a new round of global trade talks. This week we offer a selection of views in favour of a new trade round. This is not meant to be exhaustive - but rather to bring you some of the views presented in the press recently.

The U.S. Alliance for Trade Expansion comprising U.S. manufacturers, service providers and agricultural producers last month announced it would embark on a public information campaign extolling the benefits of expanded trade liberalisation and a new round of global trade talks. The Alliance will embark on a "National Trade Education Tour" from 3 May, conducting "trade education events" in 15 U.S. cities. Because the Alliance is comprised of diverse interests it will not espouse a common position for negotiations.

In a paper submitted to the European Commission earlier this year, the Foreign Trade Association (FTA), an organisation representing major European importers, outlined its priorities for a new WTO trade round. The FTA endorsed a Millennium Round of talks which it said should undertake, inter alia, negotiations following-up on work done by the WTO Committee on Trade and the Environment, especially with respect to compatibility between international environmental agreements and WTO rules and on eco-labelling. The FTA also called for WTO negotiations on

"protection and non-discrimination with regard to investment", "harmonisation of competition rules to complement the abolition of import restrictions". The FTA said that social standards should be kept within the remit of the International Labour Organisation.

The U.S. agricultural and food sector, grouped together as "the Seattle Round Agricultural Committee" (SRAC) last week said it supports a comprehensive round of multilateral trade negotiations - to include all goods and services and agricultural and food trade policy reform. The group called for the elimination of export subsidies and tightening of rules for circumvention of export subsidies. Farm groups said they oppose the re-opening of the WTO Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS), governing food safety and plant quality standards. The SPS is featured in U.S.-EU trade disputes over hormone treated beef and genetically modified organisms.

The International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) last week told leaders from the Group of Seven leading industrialised countries (G-7) plus Russia that a new trade round would send a positive message to traders and investors around the world. The ICC said a new round would "make a significant contribution to restoring confidence in the prospects for the recovery of the world economy in the wake of emerging markets crisis," according to an ICC statement. The ICC said the new round should address inter alia global rules on investment.

"Priorities of the Foreign Trade Association for upcoming ministerial trade negotiations in the WTO," AGENCE EUROPE, 23 March 1999; "Settle current rows and launch new trade round, business tells G7," ICC PRESS RELEASE, 20 May 1999; "U.S. farm talks urge comprehensive WTO talks," REUTERS, 20 May 1999; "1999 WTO Policy Statement," SEATTLE ROUND AGRICULTURAL COMMITTEE (SRAC), 21 May 1999.

AFRICAN TRADE: MOVES TOWARD BETTER INTEGRATION

The UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the Organisation for African Unity (OAU) earlier this month agreed to work together to strengthen regional co-operation and integration. This includes working to implement the Abuja Treaty establishing the African Economic Community (AEC) covering such areas as the removal of tariff and non-tariff barriers to regional and intra-community trade in goods and services, and the harmonisation of customs duties and procedures. The two organisations will also help African countries prepare for future WTO negotiations, and improve their trade competitiveness.

While earlier this month in Senegal Nigerian President-elect Olusegun Obasanjo pledged to encourage closer co-operation and economic integration of the 16 countries in the West African sub-region, trade officials from the Common Market for Eastern and Southern African countries (COMESA) have been meeting in Nairobi, where they called for a COMESA free trade area to be established by 2000. COMESA ministers said that a combined market would help member countries compete in the global market place - emphasising that individual COMESA members have little chance of successfully competing if their markets are undiversified, their infrastructure underdeveloped and their human capital under-skilled. "The realisation of a large market is more urgent in the current economic environment, which is becoming increasingly global," said Kenya's minister for economic co-operation Nicholas Biwott. Ministers called for zero-tariff levels for all member countries by 2000, the establishment of a common external tariff and customs union by 2004, and a monetary union by 2025. However, COMESA's Intergovernmental Committee reported that visa requirements, delays in customs clearance, pre-shipment inspection, transport obstacles

and the high-cost of credit posed significant non-tariff barriers to trade between COMESA countries which must be addressed.

COMESA was founded in 1994. Its 21 countries - including Egypt, Ethiopia, Malawi, Mauritius, Zambia and Zimbabwe - have a total population of 380 million. Many Comesa member states want to establish a counterweight to the economic domination of the region by South Africa, who they accuse of flooding the region with subsidised goods.

Meanwhile in Ghana, the Fifth African African-American summit, focusing on trade and investment, took off in Accra. The week-long summit, which registered over 5,000 government officials, business executives and tourists from the United States, Europe Asia and Africa, is important both symbolically and substantively, according to the Vice President of Ghana, John Atta Mills.

"Africa economic integration is the route to growth," IPS, 24 May, 1999; "Fifth African African-American summit opens," PANA, 17 May, 1999; "African free trade zone by the year 2000?" IPS, 19 May 1999; "COMESA to initiate monetary co-operation," PANAFRICAN NEWS AGENCY, 19 May 1999; "Obasanjo pledges to hasten West African integration," PANAFRICAN NEWS AGENCY, 4 May 1999; "UNCTAD and Organisation of African Unity strengthen co-operation," UNCTAD PRESS RELEASE, 7 May 1999.

LOME TALKS SLOWED BY DISAGREEMENT OVER REGIONAL AGREEMENTS

Negotiations are proceeding slowly for Lome V, the successor trade and aid agreement to the current Lome IV Convention between the EU and 71 African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) nations. "The pace of negotiations is itself a symptom of another problem, namely the gap between the attitudes and wishes of each side regarding the nature and content of the successor agreement," according to ACP deputy secretary-general Carl Greenidge.

The WTO has previously ruled that the favourable trade terms the EU affords ACP countries under Lome are not in line with international trade rules, but the WTO allowed the current Lome Convention to operate under a temporary waiver. The EU and ACP will now seek to reform the Lome accord to be WTO-compatible while still affording ACP countries development opportunities intended by the spirit of Lome.

Major disagreement exists over the EU proposal to establish reciprocal, inter-regional free-trade areas under Regional Economic Partnership Agreements (REPAs) (see *BRIDGES* Weekly Trade News Digest, Vol. 3, No 6, February 15, 1999). ACP nations fear that the EU would use REPAs to gain unbalanced access to ACP markets. Observers cite the recent EU-S.Africa trade agreement as an example. Under that agreement the EU negotiated with S. Africa - the region's economic leader, to gain access for its cheap, subsidised agricultural products. However, the agreement extends EU access to S. Africa's economically weaker regional trading partners in the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC)- threatening domestic producers there. Further, ACP countries argue that establishing free trade areas between economically disparate countries/groupings (e.g. between the EU and SADC) tends to be trade-diverting rather than trade-creating.

What is needed, Lome observers say, is a mechanism to bridge the technical and human resource gaps between the EU and ACP countries to enable ACP countries to compete with the EU and to make REPAs workable. The EU proposed a 10-year phase in period for REPAs starting in 2000.

ACP countries are pushing for a transition period to begin in 2005 - with the transition period determined by the competitiveness and preparedness of ACP states.

"ACP-EU negotiations drag on at snail's pace," IPS, 17 May 1999; "ACP must brace up for what replaces Lome pact," PANAFRICAN NEWS AGENCY, 28 April 1999.

IN BRIEF

The U.S. House Ways & Means Committee last week voted to extend the Caribbean Basin Initiative to provide duty-free access for imports of Caribbean textiles and apparel (although fabric must originate from the U.S.). "U.S. House panel approves Caribbean trade bill," ASSOCIATED PRESS, 18 May 1999.

The International Finance Corporation (IFC) last month appointed Ms. Meg Taylor to the newly-created post of Compliance Advisor/Ombudsman - charged with improving environmental and social performance of private sector institutions receiving IFC funding. "IFC World Bank appoints new environmental officer," GALLON ENVIRONMENT LETTER, 22 April 1999.

A grouping of U.S. independent oil producers - the "Committee to Save Domestic Oil," announced it would file an anti-dumping complaint against at least four oil producing nations: Venezuela, Mexico, Iraq and Kuwait. The group alleges that governments of the targeted countries maintain pricing policies designed to drive U.S. producers out of business. "U.S. oil companies to file anti-dumping complaint," FINANCIAL TIMES, 19 May 1999.

The EU this month refused to lift a ban on fish imports imposed on 30 March from Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda after three deaths were linked to East African fish caught with the use of pesticides. The EU wants further assurances around government control of fishing activities and full studies of the pesticides allegedly used by fishmongers. "Europe bans East African fish caught with poison," ENS, 13 May 1999.

The Sustainable Agriculture/Food Systems (SAFS) Farmer/NGO caucus is preparing recommendations for agriculture-related topics to be considered for next year's dialogues session at the Commission on Sustainable Development (April 2000). The SAFS caucus is asking for comments on proposed topics. For information, contact safs@eGroups.com, fax: (1-202) 778-6134.

WTO IN BRIEF

The U.S and Canada will seek formal permission to impose sanctions against the EU in the beef hormone row at a WTO Dispute Settlement Body on 3 June. A U.S. spokesperson said in Geneva last week that the U.S. would ask for a green light on imposing sanctions worth US\$202 million. Canada had informed the WTO last week of their intention to proceed likewise on imports of EU goods worth an additional US\$51 million. The EC has said it will challenge the U.S. amount, setting the scene for WTO arbitration which could last until mid-July. "US seeks June 3 WTO meeting on beef sanctions," REUTERS, 18 May 1999; ICTSD Internal Files.

Estonia last week successfully concluded accession talks to become the 135th member of the WTO. "Estonia to become 135th member of WTO," WTO PRESS RELEASE, 21 May 1999.

Australian and New Zealand trade officials are warning the Clinton Administration against imposing import restrictions on lamb imports in advance of the WTO talks on agriculture to be launched later this year. (See *BRIDGES* Weekly Trade News Digest Vol. 3, No. 6, 15 February 1999.) U.S. lamb industry officials also rejected an Australian-New Zealand offer to create a joint marketing campaign geared toward boosting U.S. demand for lamb. "U.S. industry rejects proposed deal to solve fight over lamb imports," *INSIDE US TRADE*, 7 May 1999.

India last week announced that four major trade and industry organisations would be part of its delegation to WTO Ministerial in Seattle. The government faced domestic criticism after the Uruguay Round for not consulting with domestic industry representatives. "India enlists industry to boost WTO role," *JOURNAL OF COMMERCE*, 20 May 1999.

New Zealand's government has invited public comment regarding the development of the agenda for future multilateral trade negotiations, ie on areas New Zealand might seek to include in a proposed Millennium Round of trade negotiations, as well as comments on any trade barriers faced by New Zealand producers in foreign markets. "Request for public comment: New Zealand's Approach to further multilateral trade negotiations," New Zealand Parliamentary Press Release, April 1999.

The Danish Parliament on 11 May adopted a resolution on a new global trade round. The resolution called, inter alia, for duty-free market access for goods from least developed countries; WTO acceptance of the precautionary principle; promotion of ILO Conventions, and an improved dispute settlement mechanism. ICTSD Internal Files.

ON THE MOVE

John Audley, currently Director of International Affairs at the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) in Washington, DC will move in the next few weeks to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency with responsibility on the agency's trade and environment dossier.

Juan de Castro, head and original spinner of the UNCTAD BIOTRADE project resigned by means of a vociferous letter this week in Geneva. The BIOTRADE initiative, at first controversial, has been gaining momentum lately, attracting funding from diverse and innovative sources and establishing partnerships with governments, academia, business and NGOs.

EVENTS & RESOURCES

▪ EVENTS

For a more complete list of events in coming months, please refer to ICTSD's web calendar at: <http://www.ictsd.org/html/calendar.htm>

WTO Meetings

An updated list of forthcoming WTO meetings is posted at <http://www.wto.org/wto/about/meets.htm>. Please bear in mind that dates and times of WTO

meetings are often changed, and that the important informal meetings of different WTO bodies are not always announced.

26 May: WTO MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE - U.S. TASK FORCE MEETING WITH DELEGATIONS. For information contact Peter Pedersen, WTO, (41-22) 739-5848.

26 May: DISPUTE SETTLEMENT BODY. Followed by an informal meeting on the review of the Dispute Settlement Understanding. For information contact Nuch Nazeer, WTO, (41-22) 739-5393.

3 June: DISPUTE SETTLEMENT BODY. For information contact Nuch Nazeer, as above.

3-4 June: WORKING GROUP ON RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN TRADE AND INVESTMENT. For information contact Luis Ople, WTO, (41-22) 739-5374.

Other Events

28 May, Geneva: WTO-NGO BRIEFING. Topics include: preparations for the Ministerial Conference in Seattle; Special Session of the General Council (20 May); and Meeting of the Dispute Settlement Body (26 May). Participants should confirm their attendance with the WTO Secretariat. Contact either Alain Frank: alain.frank@wto.org or Peter Pedersen: peter.pedersen@wto.org. Time: 15:00. Place: WTO, 154 rue de Lausanne, Room 64.

28 May, Brussels: MEETING ON THE TRADE AND CO-OPERATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN UNION AND MEXICO. The meeting will include representatives of Mexican civil society organisations, and will be an opportunity to learn about the nature and implications of the agreement, and to discuss strategies for joint lobbying initiatives. The working language will be Spanish, although there will be assistance for French and English speakers. For information and to confirm attendance contact Paul Wheeler, CIFCA, Vlasfabriekstraat 11, B-1060 Brussels, Belgium, tel: (32-2) 536-1912, fax: 1943. e-mail: paul.wheeler@cifca.ngonet.be

31 May, Geneva: "COMPETITION POLICY AT THE WTO - WHAT IS AT STAKE?" ICTSD will hold this informal "café & croissants" meeting in the context of current and forthcoming trade negotiations. Time: 10:00 - 12:30. Place: Geneva Executive Centre, 13, chemin des Anémones, 1219 Geneva. For information contact Miguel Jiménez-Pont, ICTSD, tel: (41-22) 917-8478, fax: 8093, e-mail: mjimenez@ictsd.ch

2-4 June, Geneva: EXPERT MEETING ON SUSTAINABLE FINANCIAL AND NON-FINANCIAL SERVICES FOR SMALL MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SME) DEVELOPMENT. For information contact the UNCTAD secretariat, tel: (41-22) 907-5007, fax: 0056, e-mail: correspondence@unctad.org

2-4 September, Cambridge, Massachusetts: INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON BIOTECHNOLOGY IN THE GLOBAL ECONOMY. Hosted by the Center for International Development and the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs. The conference will address the implications of biotechnology for: (a) international trade; (b) intellectual property rights; (c) biodiversity prospecting; (d) developing countries; (e) human and environmental safety; and (f)

social values. For information contact Calestous Juma at Harvard University, tel: (1-617) 496-0433, fax: (1-617) 496-8753, e-mail: Calestous_Juma@Harvard.Edu

▪ RESOURCES

PASSERELLES entre le commerce et le développement durable, the French edition of BRIDGES, is now available online at http://www.ictsd.org/html/arct_sd.htm#Passerelles. It is published between in collaboration with ENDA-Tiers Monde in Dakar, Senegal.

TRIPs VERSUS BIODIVERSITY: WHAT TO DO WITH THE 1999 REVIEW OF ARTICLE 27.3(B). This report by Genetic Resources Action International (GRAIN) can be found on the web at: <http://www.grain.org/publications/reports/tripsmay99.htm>

AGRICULTURAL POLICIES IN OECD COUNTRIES: MONITORING AND EVALUATION 1999. OECD Report. The 1999 Monitoring and Evaluation report shows the fragility of agricultural policy reform after a decade of efforts to bring down levels of support for farm products, dismantle trade-distorting tariffs and narrow the gaps between sheltered product prices and world market prices. For a summary visit: http://www.oecd.org/news_and_events/release/nw99-48a.htm. Available in electronic or print versions. Cost: FF380; US\$67; DM113. ISBN 92-64-17034-0 (51 99 04 1). To order visit: http://electrade.gfi.fr:8765/isroot/OECDBookShop/Static_html/ab_8.htm

ONLINE FORUM ON AGRICULTURE AND THE WTO. Hosted by the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy. To participate contact Tanya Naumann at wtoforum@iatp.org

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