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## EU-MERCOSUR LAUNCH TRADE TALKS

Leaders from the EU and 33 Latin American and Caribbean countries met last week in Rio de Janeiro for the first-ever summit between Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean. The summit was intended to strengthen the links of political, economic and cultural understanding between the two regions towards developing a long-term partnership.

Towards this, EU and Latin American/Caribbean leaders agreed to a number of initiatives. Regarding trade and development, ministers emphasised "the need to reverse environmental degradation and foster sustainable development through the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources;" according to the Joint Declaration of Rio de Janeiro. Further, ministers agreed to, "enhance international economic co-operation, to promote a comprehensive and mutually beneficial liberalisation of trade. . . Reaffirm our conviction that regional integration plays an important role in growth promotion, trade liberalisation, economic and social development, democratic stability and a more symmetrical inclusion in the process of globalisation."

In advance of the broad Rio meeting, the EU met with leaders from the Mercosur trade bloc-comprising Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay, Paraguay and associate member Chile. The EU and Mercosur agreed to launch bilateral trade talks toward the "progressive and reciprocal liberalisation of trade, with no sector excluded," according to the EU-Mercosur joint communiqué.

Talks on non-tariff barriers to trade are likely to start later this year. However, talks on the more meaty trade matters, including talks on tariff reductions in agriculture, will not start until at least July 2001. The EU refused to specify a specific end-date for negotiations, despite Mercosur's desire to conclude talks within three years.

The EU struggled internally to reach agreement on a negotiating mandate for Mercosur talks, barely forging a compromise agreement in time for the EU-Mercosur meeting. As part of the compromise, EU members agreed that negotiations on tariffs and liberalising services should begin in July 2001 and be held in parallel to the new round of WTO trade talks. France was especially keen to delay talks on agriculture - although failure to include agriculture on the EU-Mercosur negotiating agenda would have precluded talks altogether as Mercosur made clear that improved EU market access for Mercosur agricultural goods was a prerequisite for talks.

The EU hopes to use an agreement with the US\$1 trillion Mercosur market to gain a solid trade footing in the region, and to get a leg up on the U.S. with Latin American trade partners. Mercosur hopes to use an agreement with the EU as a means to keep pressure on the U.S. to move negotiations toward a hemispheric Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) forward. However, linking the timing of EU-Mercosur talks to parallel WTO trade talks could weaken Mercosur's position with the U.S. if WTO talks extend for years. Further, the EU may not be eager to compromise with Mercosur on trade issues if U.S. reluctance delays the creation of the FTAA.

"Joint Communiqué of Rio de Janeiro," EU PRESS RELEASE (9410/99), 28 June 1999; "Latin America/Caribbean/European Union: First Summit / Declaration of Rio de Janeiro," EU PRESS RELEASE, 29 June 1999; "EU and Mercosur agree on progressive free trade," IPS, 28 June 1999; "Libre-échange: les états d'âme du Mercosur," LE FIGARO, 29 June 1999; "Meeting of Heads of State and Government from Mercosur and Chile and from the European Union," EU PRESS RELEASE, 28 June 1999; "Le libre-échange au coeur des discussions entre l'Union européenne et le Mercosur," LA TRIBUNE, 29 June 1999; "EU reaches compromise on Mercosur trade talks," WALL STREET JOURNAL, 22 June 1999; "Rio summit targets trade," INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE, 26-27 June 1999.

## **APEC FALTERS ON REGIONAL LIBERALISATION**

Trade ministers of the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC) forum met last week in New Zealand, where they agreed that tariffs on industrial goods should be included in a proposed new round of WTO trade talks. Ministers also agreed that the new round of talks should conclude in three years.

Ministers agreed "on the need to ensure that the concerns of developing economies, including the least developed economies, are addressed in any new WTO negotiations. Ministers instructed officials to consider the concerns of developing economies and least developed economies together with other possible issues for inclusion on the agenda for the Seattle WTO Ministerial Meeting," according to an APEC statement.

APEC ministers agreed to push its so-called early voluntary sectoral liberalisation (EVSL) initiative at the WTO toward an agreement by the end of 1999. The EVSL covers nine so-called fast track sectors in which WTO members would voluntarily agree to start reducing tariffs and non-tariff barriers in 1999 with a phaseout target of no later than 2005. The fast track sectors include forest

products, environmental goods and services, fishery products, medical equipment, toys, jewellery, chemicals, energy products and telecommunications. The EVSL initiative was moved from APEC to the WTO last year after APEC members failed (acrimoniously) to agree on regional liberalisation, amid strong Japanese opposition to including forest and fishery products in the regime. (See *BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest* Vol. 2, No. 44, 16 November 1998.)

In a replay of last year's divisiveness, APEC ministers last week failed to agree on an EVSL regime for six additional sectors: automotive (no tariff element), civil aircraft, fertilisers, food, oilseeds, and rubber. Among other opposition, Thailand expressed opposition to liberalising trade in oilseeds in deference to Thailand's fragile palm oil industry and Russia expressed strong opposition toward quick liberalisation of its food sector. Ministers agreed instead to push for the six sectors' inclusion in the next round of WTO trade talks. Asia-Pacific business leaders criticised APEC for its failure to move forward with EVSL, arguing that its failure to accelerate regional liberalisation hurts businesses and consumers.

APEC members account for half of the world's trade, economic output and population. Despite these statistics, observers warn that the grouping's failure to move forward with a regional EVSL pact raises doubts about APEC's ability to take a leadership role in shaping the WTO agenda. APEC comprises Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Peru, the Philippines, Russia, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand, the U.S. and Vietnam.

"APEC members endorse three-year WTO talks including industrial tariffs," *INSIDE US TRADE*, 2 July 1999; "Summary of outcomes, initiatives & announcements," *USTR PRESS RELEASE*, 30 June 1999; "APEC trade mins endorse broad WTO round," *DOW JONES*, 30 June 1999; "Rift clouds APEC talks on trade liberalisation," *INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE*, 28 June 1999; "Hopes fading fast for fast-track trade pact at APEC," *REUTERS*, 28 June 1999; "APEC trade ministers to meet in Auckland next week," *KYODO NEWS INTERNATIONAL*, 22 June 1999; "Business leaders urge APEC to push tariff cuts," *REUTERS*, 30 June 1999; "APEC slips from world trade spotlight," *REUTERS*, 1 July 1999.

**Negotiators Meet To Re-start Biosafety Talks** Governments met 1 July in Montreal for informal consultations on how to restart negotiations on a biosafety protocol. Talks for an international biosafety protocol to ensure the safe transfer, handling, use and disposal of living modified organisms (LMOs, often referred to as genetically modified organisms or GMOs) failed in February over trade in GMOs. (See *BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest* Vol. 3, No. 8, 1 March 1999.)

At the 1 July meeting, which followed two weeks of talks on scientific, technical and operational aspects to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), negotiators agreed to hold a five-day informal negotiating session in September 1999. They noted that negotiators should plan to come to the September meeting with the full negotiating authority of their governments. Pending satisfactory progress in September, negotiators targeted February 2000 for the next Extraordinary Session of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD, where a biosafety protocol could be concluded.

Regarding operational aspects of the CBD, discussed as part of the Intersessional meeting on the Operations of the Convention (ISOC) from 28-30 June, delegates agreed on the need to ensure compatibility between the WTO Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property (TRIPs Agreement) and the CBD; the need for exploration of the implications of intellectual

property rights on biodiversity and equitable benefit sharing; and the urgent need for the CBD to achieve observer status in the WTO TRIPs Council.

"Summary of the Fourth Session of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific, Technical and Technological advice and the Intersessional Meeting on the Operations of the Convention on Biological Diversity," EARTH NEGOTIATIONS BULLETIN (IISD), 5 July 1999; "Governments to Discuss Restarting Stalemated Talks on Biosafety Protocol," INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENT REPORTER, 23 June 1999.

### **WTO FOCUSES AGAIN ON MEAS**

The relationship between WTO rules and trade measures contained in multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) were again on the agenda of the WTO's Committee on Trade and Environment (CTE) when it met on 29-30 June. Representatives of five MEA Secretariats met with WTO Members during the meeting, in the ongoing effort to clarify the issues around MEAs and their compatibility with WTO rules. The five Secretariats present were those of the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol (on protection of the ozone layer), the Climate Change Convention, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests and the International Tropical Timber Organisation. The papers submitted to the CTE by these bodies, as well as papers from others such as the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Marine Resources are available via the WTO website (<http://www.wto.org/wto/ddf/ep/public.html> documents WT/CTE/W/ ).

The CTE also had before it a paper submitted by New Zealand, urging governments to eliminate fisheries subsidies that contribute to environmentally-damaging and trade-distorting effects, and to pursue work in the WTO to reduce and eliminate such subsidies. This paper is also available via the WTO website.

The CTE was preceded by an informal meeting of representatives of MEA Secretariats and the WTO Secretariat, also attended by representatives from UNCTAD, the ILO and the Centre for International Environmental Law. Among the issues covered during this informal meeting were the differences in the WTO's and MEAs' approaches to dispute settlement; the role of the precautionary principle and its implications for the multilateral trading system; and compatibility between the Convention on Biological Diversity and the WTO Agreement on Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs). Workshop participants agreed that it was valuable for the environmental and trade communities to work together to avoid unnecessary conflict between the two regimes and to meet again to discuss these issues.

"Trade and environment secretariats hold informal discussions," UNEP INFORMATION NOTE, 29 June 1999; ICTSD Internal Files.

### **STUDY SAYS REDUCED EMISSIONS AND ECONOMIC GROWTH ARE COMPATIBLE**

According to a study released by the Pew Centre on Global Climate Change, developing countries can limit growth in carbon dioxide emissions from power generation without slowing their economic growth. The report suggests four policy changes developing countries can make to facilitate this: including the cost of delivering electricity to consumers in planning and investment

decisions; privatising the electricity sector; increasing the use of natural gas and renewable energy sources; and boosting the efficiency of electricity generation and usage. (See RESOURCES below for information on how to acquire this report.)

News that two Kirabati islands have disappeared due to soil erosion and raised sea levels highlights the fact that small island states, which contribute only 0.6 percent of all global warming pollution, are suffering disproportionately from its effects. Rising sea-levels, an effect of global warming, threaten the livelihoods of inhabitants of small islands which cannot afford the US\$100 million or so cost to build a temporary sea wall.

Climate change experts last month called on the U.S. Congress to urgently address the issue of global warming by initiating policies to cut emissions through the use of energy-efficient technologies, transportation reform and the adoption of renewable energy sources.

"Developing world can limit emissions without slowing growth, study says," INTERNATIONAL TRADE REPORTER, 23 June 1999; "Update: Kirabati Islands disappear under rising seas," BBC, 14 June 1999; "U.S. Congress gets a scientific wake-up call," IPS, 29 June 1999.

### **CEC URGES BETTER TRADE-ENVIRONMENT CO-OPERATION; FTA CIVIL SOCIETY DISCUSSIONS CONTINUE**

Environmental ministers from the U.S., Canada and Mexico met last week in Banff, Canada for the sixth session of the Commission on Environmental Co-operation (CEC), which ended on 28 June. The CEC reaffirmed the importance of working together to make trade and environmental protection mutually supportive, and also announced the development of a an action plan to reduce chemical pollutants affecting the health of North American citizens, particularly children.

The CEC was established under the North American Agreement for Environmental Co-operation – a side agreement to the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). The agreement provides for environmental reviews of NAFTA, including the review of U.S., Mexican and Canadian citizens' complaints of environmental infringements resulting from NAFTA.

Regarding trade, the CEC said it fully supports and encourages NAFTA's Free Trade Commission (FTC) to continue discussions on NAFTA Chapter 11 (which deals with investors' rights and expropriations), while at the same the CEC said it recognises the sovereign right of governments to legislate in the area of the environment. Environmental groups have been highly critical of NAFTA's Chapter 11, warning that it could be used by corporations to undermine domestic environmental laws. (See *BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest* Vol. 3, No. 17, 3 May 1999.)

The CEC last week announced the launch of a North American Symposium on Understanding the Linkages between Trade and Environment, to be held in October 2000. As part of this initiative, the CEC released a "Final Analytical Framework for Assessing the Environmental Effects of NAFTA," and issued a call for papers encouraging academics, researchers and policy experts to test this framework for specific situations.

The CEC also agreed to develop an environmental monitoring and assessment action plan in support of the sound management of chemicals, and announced the creation of a North American

Regional Action Plan (NARAP) to reduce releases into the environment of dioxins and furans, and hexachlorobenzene (a chemical by-product of chlorine-containing compounds and pesticides).

The Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) Trade Negotiating Committee sub-group on civil society participation (CGR) met 16-17 June in Miami. The CGR continued to discuss the Committee's report on civil society submissions, which will be presented to trade ministers at the November 3-4 FTAA Trade Ministerial in Toronto. The next meeting of the CGR will be held in September. (See *BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest* Vol. 2, No. 23, 22 June 1998.)

"Canada, Mexico and the United States join forces to reduce toxic substances, protect birds and save a major river basin as CEC Council meeting concludes in Banff," CEC PRESS RELEASE, 28 June 1999; ICTSD Internal Files.

## **OILY MARKETS**

A regional U.S. group of independent oil producers on 28 June filed dumping and countervailing duty cases against Mexico, Venezuela, Iraq, and Saudi Arabia. The so-called Committee to Save Domestic Oil (SDO) accuses the four countries of dumping crude oil onto the U.S. market.

Mexico, Venezuela and Saudi Arabia strongly denied the dumping charges. The three countries - which co-ordinated their oil policies to halt the dramatic slide in oil prices since last year, said they would co-ordinate a joint-response to the charges. The three countries have also challenged the SDO's legal standing in the case, arguing that the regional grouping does not meet the requirements for bringing a complaint.

If the U.S. Department of Commerce and U.S. International Trade Commission find in favour of SDO in this case, tariffs of between 33 and 170 percent could be applied to oil imports from the four countries. A Venezuelan official warned that should the case go forward, the countries would bring a complaint to the World Trade Organisation. Mexican officials announced that Mexico would temporarily drop plans to abolish a four-percent tariff on US natural gas imports that would have taken effect on 1 July.

Meanwhile, Cameroon is drawing closer to finalising plans for liberalisation of its domestic fuel market. Still at issue is whether there will be uniform pricing for fuel across the Central African franc zone (CEMAC), and the long-term effects for rural areas if the Hydrocarbon Price Stability Fund is cut back. The government is also looking to revive oil exploration in the country.

"Mexico fights crude oil trade cases, warns of possible retaliation," 2 July 1999; "Venezuela rejects US oil dumping charge," DOW JONES, 1 July 1999; "Mexico retaliates against US anti-dumping threat," FINANCIAL TIMES, 2 July 1999; "Fall in oil prices ravages Middle East economies," IPS, 29 June 1999; "Cameroon poised for oil liberalisation," AFRICA ANALYSIS, 28 May 1999.

## **WTO MEMBERS STILL STALLED ON REGIONAL TRADE AGREEMENTS**

Meeting in Geneva on 1-2 July, the WTO's Committee on Regional Trade Agreements (RTAs) again discussed the systemic implications of RTAs, and reviewed a number of specific RTAs. Little progress was made on the underlying issues, i.e. on what the systemic implications of RTAs are,

what form the conclusions of the reviews of RTAs should take, and what the future orientation of WTO work on RTAs should be. (See also *BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest*, Vol. 3, No 18, 10 May, 1999.)

The Committee last week had two (informal) papers before it: the first, from Hong Kong, China considers systemic issues arising from Article V ("Economic Integration") of the GATS. The second - submitted by Japan - comments on Hong Kong, China's paper. These papers formed the basis for discussion, but there is still disagreement between WTO Members as to whether the issue of RTAs should be on the agenda of the WTO's Third Ministerial Conference.

On 30 June, the WTO held a seminar on regional trade agreements. The seminar was organised jointly with the World Bank and the IMF and attended by representatives of most WTO Members. The seminar took place in the context of consultations between the WTO, IMF and World Bank to achieve greater coherence in global economic policy-making, rather than aiming to resolve the issues before the Committee on RTAs. Amongst the issues before the seminar were the effects of the spread of RTAs (which cover an increasing share of world trade); how regional agreements contribute to the welfare of participants and to the development process; effects of RTAs on third countries; and whether RTAs are building blocks or stumbling blocks in the process of multilateral trade liberalisation.

ICTSD Internal Files.

## **IN BRIEF**

Leaders from Melanesian (Southwest-Pacific) countries met last week for a regional summit and reaffirmed their commitment to the proposed Melanesian Spearhead Group Free Trade Area as a nucleus for enhancing trade liberalisation in the region. "Strengthening & facilitating trade to be theme for M.S.G.," VANUATU WEEKLY HEBDOMADAIRE, 16 June 1999; "Melanesian Spearhead Group leaders to reaffirm commitment to free trade area," PACIFIC ISLANDS REPORT, 5 July, 1999.

As Codex Alimentarius, the international food standards body, met last week in Rome, the U.S. dropped its insistence that Codex declare Bovine Somatotropin (rbST-a hormone that increases milk output when injected into dairy cows) safe to use. The U.S. said no consensus existed on the issue and asked instead that no standard be adopted at this time. "U.S., EU pull in horns in key dispute over cow hormone; U.N. debate delayed," DAILY REPORT FOR EXECUTIVES(BNA), 1 July 1999; "Udder confusion," THE ECONOMIST, 3 July 1999.

South Korea from 1 July completely opened its domestic market to Japanese imports. South Korea had maintained an "import-diversification policy" since 1978 to help control its perennial trade deficit with Japan. The new regime will give market access to Japanese TV sets, VCRs, cameras and cars. "Buyers' Market," FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW, 1 July 1999.

India last week said it would join the Association of Coffee Producing Countries (ACPC), a Brazil-led body whose members account for about 70 percent of world coffee production. The move is expected to lead to greater India-Brazil co-operation on other commodities like sugar and tobacco, and possible co-operation on commodity issues at the WTO. "New Indo-Brazil trade tango likely," ECONOMIC TIMES (India), 29 June 1999.

The Presidents of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua have endorsed a plan devised by the Central American Institute of Business Administration and the Harvard Institute for International Development, to move away from cheap labour to "investment driven economies," as the main driver of regional comparative advantage. "Central American leaders push investment mode for growth," IPS, 28 June 1999.

United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Mary Robinson on 1 July called on the international financial, economic and trade institutions to take fuller account of the links between the implementation of human rights and sustainable development. "High Commissioner for Human Rights highlights links between human rights and equitable and sustainable economic order," UNHCHR PRESS RELEASE, 1 July 1999.

Stating that "the protection of public health must take precedence over economic considerations," the European Court of First Instance last week upheld an EU ban on the use of four antibiotics used in animal feed. Sales of the four antibiotics are worth US\$350 million a year to the four manufacturers that produce and market them. (*See BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest Vol. 2, No. 48, 14 December 1998.*) "Antibiotic ban upheld," FINANCIAL TIMES, 2 July 1999.

## **WTO IN BRIEF**

The EU and U.S. last week reached agreement-in-principle in a dispute over how U.S. rules of origin will apply to finished textile products. The agreement would allow European textile imports to bear "Made in Europe" labels for products transformed in Europe from fabric produced in third countries. "Global industry: EU, US near agreement on textile trade," JOURNAL OF COMMERCE, 1 July 1999.

Environmental groups last week announced a global campaign opposing the elimination of tariffs on wood products, warning that relaxing tariffs could lead to increased deforestation. WTO Members including APEC countries (see related story in this issue) want wood tariffs discussed as part of the next round of WTO talks. "Wood tariffs help restrict deforestation," FINANCIAL TIMES, 29 June 1999.

India's Commerce Department last month began soliciting input from Indian states in preparation for the Third WTO Ministerial and the proposed Millennium Round of global trade talks. "Hegde seeks CMs, leaders' views on WTO issues," THE HINDU (India), 28 June 1999.

## **ON THE MOVE**

The Ethics in Action Awards (Canada) last month recognised Mr. Bob Thomson of Fair TradeMark Canada for his work to improve the lives of farmers in developing countries and helping to support ethical business practices in Canada. The Ethics in Action Awards recognise leadership in corporate social responsibility and support new ways of doing business to foster sustainability. "Fair TradeMark Canada Managing Director wins 1999 Ethics in Action Award," FAIR TRADEMARK CANADA PRESS RELEASE, 30 June 1999.



**EVENTS & RESOURCES****▪ EVENTS**

For a more complete list of events, 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 WTO does not always announce the important informal meetings of different WTO bodies.

12 July: SUB-COMMITTEE ON LEAST-DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. Members are expected to discuss follow-up to the high-level meeting LDCs; the implementation of the integrated framework; the role of the UN Development Programme in the integrated framework; secretariat report on the compilation of existing market access information; and future work of the sub-committee including possible input into the Third Ministerial Conference. For information contact Lucie Giraud, WTO, (41-22) 739-5075.

12 and 14 July: TRADE POLICY REVIEW BODY (UNITED STATES). For information contact Lucie Giraud, as above.

15 July: GENERAL COUNCIL. For information contact Hans Peter-Werner, WTO, (41-22) 739-5286. Members are expected to discuss ITC-UNCTAD-WTO report, balance of payments restrictions consultations with Bangladesh; work programme on e-commerce, observer status for international intergovernmental organisations, and participation of acceding governments in preparation for the Third Ministerial Conference.

**Other Events**

8 July, Brussels: SOLIDAR QUESTION TIME: "SOCIAL RIGHTS ARE FUNDAMENTAL". Venue: European Parliament L3 G2. The Question Time will take place immediately after the SOLIDAR 1999 General Assembly. For information contact SOLIDAR, 22 rue du Commerce, 1000 Brussels, tel: (32-2) 500-1020, fax: (32-2) 500-1030, email: [solidar@skynet.be](mailto:solidar@skynet.be), web: <http://www.solidar.org>

9 July, Geneva: WTO BRIEFING FOR NGOs (on preparations for the WTO's Third Ministerial Meeting). Venue: room 64 of the WTO building, 154 rue de Lausanne, Geneva, at 3 p.m. For information, contact Peter Pedersen, WTO, tel: (41-22) 739 5848, email: [peter.pederson@wto.org](mailto:peter.pederson@wto.org)

14 July, Washington DC: THE DEBATE ON GENETICALLY ENGINEERED FOODS. The Consumer's Choice Council is hosting an educational luncheon focused on the lawsuit filed by the Alliance for Bio-Integrity and the International Centre for Technology Assessment, which demands labelling and testing for genetically engineered foods. For information or to attend contact Alexei Monsarrat, Consumer's Choice Council, 2000 P Street, NW, Suite 308, Washington, DC 20036, tel: (1-202) 785-1950, fax: 452-9640, email: [consumer@ibm.net](mailto:consumer@ibm.net), web: <http://www.consumerscouncil.org>

19-23 July, Geneva: UNCTAD COMMISSION ON ENTERPRISE, BUSINESS FACILITATION AND DEVELOPMENT MEETING ON E-COMMERCE. The Commission meeting will be preceded by a three-day (14-16 July) Expert Meeting on the Legal and Regulatory Dimensions of Electronic Commerce. The experts will inter alia examine the potential impact on developing countries of current legal and regulatory proposals. Roundtables on e-commerce and development are scheduled to take place 4-5 August in Lima (Peru), and in Kenya and Sri Lanka in the autumn. For information contact Bruno Lanvin, UNCTAD, tel: (41-22) 907-4895, fax: 907-0052, email: [bruno.lanvin@unctad.org](mailto:bruno.lanvin@unctad.org)

22 July, Anchorage, Alaska: ALASKAN CONFERENCE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND THE ENVIRONMENT. The Alaska Conservation Alliance and the Alaska Wilderness Recreation and Tourism Association are co-sponsoring a conference entitled: "Can the Last Frontier Have a Sustainable Future?" The purpose of the conference is to elicit credible, creative ideas to help build a prosperous, sustainable future based on economic activities that do not degrade or too quickly deplete our natural assets. For information contact Kay Brown, Executive Director, Alaska Conservation Alliance, 750 W. 2nd Ave., Suite 109, Anchorage, Alaska 99501, tel: (1-907) 258-6174, fax: 258-6177, email: [kay@akvoice.org](mailto:kay@akvoice.org)

15 September, Brussels, Belgium: HEARING ON GREEN PURCHASING IN THE FIELD OF INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES. One of the most powerful leverages in moving towards sustainability is green purchasing. The European Green Purchasing Network aims to speed up the move towards sustainable development and foster environmentally responsible government procurement. For full text and registration form contact ICDA Secretariat, Rue Stévin 115, B-1000, Brussels, tel: (32-2) 230-0430, fax: 230-5237, email: [icda@skynet.be](mailto:icda@skynet.be), web: [www.icda.be](http://www.icda.be)

10-16 October, Seoul, South Korea: THE 1999 SEOUL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF NGOs. One of the largest NGO gatherings to date, this conference aims to assess the status of global development and map out a strategy for the new millennium. The conclusions of the meeting will be relayed to the UN Millennium Summit scheduled to take place in New York in September 2000. For information contact the Conference of NGOs (CONGO) at the United Nations, 866 United Nations Plaza, Suite 120, New York, New York 10017-1822, tel: (1-212) 803-2522, fax: 803-2561, email: [mngof@bic.org](mailto:mngof@bic.org)

## ▪ RESOURCES

ECONOMIQUITY. This publication is the quarterly newsletter of the India-based Consumer Unity and Trust Society (CUTS) and the Centre for International Trade, Economics and Environment (CITEE). The newsletter aims to inform the public on issues of concern in trade, economics and environment. Annual subscription: US\$ 15.00. To subscribe contact Consumer Unity and Trust Society, D0128, Bhaskar Marg, Bani Park, Jaipur 302 016, India, email: [cutsjps@jpl.dot.net.in](mailto:cutsjps@jpl.dot.net.in)

DOCUMENTATION FOR THE WTO'S THIRD MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE. Includes submissions from a number of Members on a variety of issue-areas. Visit: <http://www.wto.org/wto/minist/seatdocs.htm>. Also visit the WTO's Seattle Ministerial Information page at <http://www.wto.org/wto/minist/seatmin.htm> to view press releases, documents, and other relevant information.

**AGAINST THE GRAIN: BIOTECHNOLOGY AND THE CORPORATE TAKEOVER OF YOUR FOOD, 1999. VIDEO.** With Britt Bailey and Marc Lappe. Introduces scientific, political, and economic concerns about genetic engineering of crops. Discusses corporate control of genetic resources, implications for food security, popular resistance to genetic engineering of crops and more. Includes three page summary of 160 pp. book by the same name. 13 minutes. Individuals/non-profits US\$29.95, schools/libraries/ corporations US\$59.95. For information contact The Video Project, 200 Estates Dr., Ben Lomond, CA 95005, tel: (800) 4planet, fax: (1-831) 336-2168, email: [videoproject@videoproject.org](mailto:videoproject@videoproject.org), web: <http://www.videoproject.org>

**THE WTO MILLENIUM BUG - TNC CONTROL OVER GLOBAL TRADE POLITICS.** Produced by Corporate Europe Observatory. The subject of this special issue of the Corporate Europe Observer newsletter is the World Trade Organisation (WTO). With a special focus on the role of the European Union, the newsletter presents case studies of industry's use of the WTO dispute settlement system and corporate lobby group power over negotiations on WTO Agreements. The newsletter is available online in Adobe pdf format at: <http://www.xs4all.nl/~ceo/observer4/index.html>. For print copies contact Corporate Europe Observatory, Prinseneiland 329, 1013 LP Amsterdam, Netherlands, tel/fax: (31-30) 236-4422, email: [ceo@xs4all.nl](mailto:ceo@xs4all.nl), web: <http://www.xs4all.nl/~ceo/>

**INTERNATIONAL TRADE LAW REPORTS.** Edited by Ulick Bourke and Robin Griffith. The International Trade Law Reports detail the growing volume of WTO dispute settlement decisions in full with annotations and commentary, putting the cases in their legal and economic context. Available in either a loose-leaf binder or electronic format. £180/\$290 annually. ISSN 1364-9205. Published by Cameron May, 69-71 Bondway, London, SW8 1SQ UK, tel: (44-171) 582-7567, fax: 793-8353, web: [www.cameronmay.com](http://www.cameronmay.com)

**PROCEEDINGS ON THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ALTERNATIVES TO GLOBALISATION.** The International Conference on Alternatives to Globalisation was held from 7-10 November 1998 in Tagaytay City, Philippines in response to a need expressed in various occasions and quarters to explore alternatives to globalisation. To obtain a copy of the proceedings contact Reach Expansion Department, IBON Foundation, Inc. Rm. 303, SCC Bldg. 4427 Int. Old Sta. Mesa, Manila 1008, Philippines, tel: (63-2) 713-2737/2729, fax: 716-0108 web: <http://www.ibon.org>

**DEVELOPMENT UPDATE.** Published by United Nations. Department of Public Information. Latest issue (June-July 1999) contains articles entitled "UN In The Mix On Hotly Contested Trade-Environment Issues" and "MEAs vs. WTO?" To view visit <http://www.un.org/News/devupdate/latest.htm#unctad>

**POSITION VACANCY.** The World Conservation Union (IUCN) Environmental Law Centre (ELC) in Bonn, Germany seeks an Information Specialist to run the information centre data bank. Library and Internet experience required. Understanding of environmental issues. Excellent English, other languages (French, Spanish, German) an asset. Interested candidates should apply before 31 July 1999 to: IUCN-ELC, Attn. Ms. D. Montag, Office Manager, Godesberger Allee 108-112, 53175 Bonn, Germany, tel: (49-228) 269-2218, fax: 269-2246, email: [dmontag@elc.iucn.org](mailto:dmontag@elc.iucn.org)

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