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## MERCOSUR TRADE TENSIONS GROWING, BRAZIL MAY COMPLAIN TO WTO

The Southern Cone Common Market (Mercosur, comprised of Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay) failed to resolve nagging trade differences at an emergency meeting ending 8 August, bringing the seven-year-old trade grouping closer to a crisis point.

Mercosur is the world's third-largest trading bloc. Currency devaluation in Brazil earlier this year ignited trade tensions among its members, mainly between Brazil and Argentina (see *BRIDGES* Weekly Trade News Digest Vol. 3, No. 4, 1 February 1999, and Vol. 3, No. 18, 10 May 1999, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/story4.10-05-99.htm>). Argentina's economy is expected to shrink by three percent this year, partly because of reduced exports to Brazil -- currently the destination of over a third of Argentina's total exports. Argentina claims that the 32 percent devaluation of the Brazilian real this past January seriously impaired the competitiveness of Argentinean goods in the Brazilian market. A couple of months ago, Argentina imposed protective import measures on Brazilian shoes, textiles and apparel to protect domestic producers (see *BRIDGES* Weekly Trade News Digest Vol. 3, No. 30, 2 August 1999, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/story4.02-08-99.htm> ).

Brazil had temporarily suspended trade talks on autos and industrial goods until Argentina agreed to drop the restrictions. An emergency meeting held 4-8 August failed to resolve the matter of Argentina's protective import measures. Brazil, Uruguay and Paraguay rejected Argentina's proposal to raise tariffs on textiles and clothing from its Mercosur trading partners, while maintaining the lower tariff rate on imports from other WTO Members. Argentina was expected to

lower these tariffs effective this month, but instead announced it would postpone the lowering until at least March 2000; while at the same time imposing temporary import quotas and export caps on Mercosur products. Brazil left the meeting warning that it would bring the matter to the WTO.

Following the meeting, Argentina on 9 August imposed a quality-control-labelling requirement for Brazilian shoe imports. Mercosur negotiators, with Uruguay currently temporarily in the Chair, are expected to meet from 18-19 August to again try and resolve their differences.

Increasing tensions further, Brazil said it would offer loans to domestic rice producers of up to US\$108 million to buffer domestic producers from the effects of falling prices due to imports from Uruguay and Argentina. The funds will be used to help Brazilian producers take rice off the market to shore up prices. This followed a protest by Brazilian rice producers on 10 August who briefly blocked a bridge in the rice growing region of Rio Grande do Sul to protest rice imports. Argentine producers anticipated rice exports to Brazil of 700,000 tons in 1999, but now say they are unsure what level exports will reach in light of the Brazilian decision.

Amid all the rancour, Mercosur officials did agree to implement a uniform Mercosur passport program as a small step toward increased regional integration.

"Argentina delays tariff cut to protect economy," REUTERS, 11 August 1999; "Brazil protects rice producers due Mercosur import," REUTERS, 10 August 1999; "Le litige commercial entre le Brésil et l'Argentine fragilise le Mercosur," LE MONDE, 10 August 1999; "Brazil, Argentina fail to agree recession measures," FINANCIAL TIMES, 9 August 1999; "Acrimonious Mercosur meeting heralds an escalation of trade squabbles," LATIN AMERICAN WEEKLY REPORT, 10 August 1999; "Mercosur countries agree to standardised passports," TRADE COMPASS, 11 August 1999; "FAX-Mercosul number 234," CNI - CONFEDERAÇÃO NACIONAL DE INDUSTRIA (BRAZIL), 13 August 1999.

## **JAPAN RELEASES GMO LABELLING LIST; U.S. CRITICISES EU FOOD FEARS**

The Japanese Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries on 10 August released its list of 30 items for which it plans to require mandatory labelling showing that the product contains genetically modified organisms (GMOs). Mandatory GMO labelling for the products will go into effect from spring 2001. The labelling will apply to all domestically produced and imported foods. Japan -- the world's largest food importer, plans to inform the WTO of its decision later this year. The U.S. -- the largest exporter of GMO products, has called GMO labelling unnecessary and warned that Japan's labelling regime must be science-based and must comply with WTO rules.

The Japanese list includes corn snacks, tofu, soybean milk and miso. The advisory panel that put together the list included only those products for which GMOs are among the top three raw materials and/or account for more than five percent of the total weight. Japanese consumer groups had called for products containing any GMOs to be included on the labelling list.

Japanese food companies worry that the labelling requirement would stigmatise their products on the shelf. Already some Japanese food companies are examining non-GMO alternatives to avoid this, but worry that GMO-free ingredients would be more expensive and hard to secure.

In other news, U.S. Ambassador to the EU Richard Morningstar last week sharply criticised the EU for its approach to GMO products, warning that EU-U.S. disputes over GMO trade would dwarf other transatlantic disputes like bananas and hormone-treated beef. Mr. Morningstar charged that the EU resistance to GMO products is based on "scare stories," "politics and demagoguery," which Mr. Morningstar said had completely taken over the EU regulatory process.

EU President-elect Romano Prodi is reportedly keen to overhaul the EU's regulatory process in response to a lack of consumer confidence in current food safety infrastructure and to address growing trade tensions. Mr. Prodi is expected to propose an independent EU-wide regulatory body. However, a number of EU states are expected to oppose this loss of control over food safety matters.

"Panel Oks list of 30 food products for GMO labelling," KYODO NEWS INTERNATIONAL, 10 August 1999; "Move to label food stirs row on altered crops," NIKKEI WEEKLY, 9 August 1999; "US warns Europe on trade war over GM food," THE TIMES (LONDON), 12 August 1999; "EU Commission may shake up genetics policy," WALL STREET JOURNAL, 9 August 1999.

#### **PRE-SEATTLE: PAY TO MEET POLICY-MAKERS? CIA GETS READY, MEMBERS ANNOUNCE POSITIONS**

The brouhaha over fundraising for the Third WTO Ministerial to be held 30 November-3 December in Seattle, Washington is re-emerging as the Seattle host committee -- whose co-chairs are Microsoft's Bill Gates and Boeing's Phil Condit -- is accused of offering companies access to government officials in exchange for their sponsorship money. Apart from the issue of principle, the level of money involved was more than NGOs or members of civil society would have been able to part with to ensure access to trade policy-makers. The offer was later absent from fundraising materials after the Clinton Administration in April wrote to the Seattle host committee to express "serious concern" over the fund-raising policy, and denied it would make U.S. trade officials available for such an event. Still, criticisms about selling access to the WTO to wealthy business interests is unfortunate for the WTO's image, coming as it does at a time when many in civil society and indeed some WTO Members worry that the WTO is a forum for rich countries and powerful business interests. The previous Ministerial Conferences, in Singapore and Geneva, were financed by the WTO and local governments.

Earlier in August, the CIA held a special mock-WTO conference in Washington to try to prepare for the real thing. The CIA said that the meeting had taken place to help "prepare policymakers" for the rigours ahead. Officials said the Washington meeting was part of a concerted attempt by the CIA to improve its analysis of global economic issues after the agency was criticised for failing to anticipate the scale and consequences of the Asian financial crisis.

In separate news, the U.S. last week said that it is pushing WTO Members to provide an opportunity for labour and environmental groups to have direct access to WTO Members, possibly at a forum held a day or so before the Ministerial begins. However U.S. environmental groups remain unimpressed at the U.S. agenda for the next round of global trade talks. "While the U.S. is to be commended for its initiatives on transparency and reduction of fisheries subsidies, overall its WTO proposal on environment is far short of what is needed to respond to our concerns and is significantly weaker than proposals tabled by some other WTO Members," a grouping of

environmental organisations (including Friends of the Earth, Natural Resources Defence Council and the Centre for International Environmental Law among others) said in a 5 August letter.

With respect to WTO Members' positions on other issues, Japan last week reiterated its position that antidumping provisions should be reviewed as part of a new round of global trade talks. A senior U.S. trade official said last week that the U.S. is unwilling to discuss antidumping measures despite pressure from Japan, Korea and some Southeast Asian Members. Japan recently brought a complaint against the U.S. 1916 Antidumping Act, saying it violates international trade rules (see *BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest* Vol. 3, No. 30, 2 August 1999, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/story6.02-08-99.htm> ). The U.S. also said last week that it is unwilling to discuss an accelerated timetable for implementing its Agreement on Textiles and Clothing (ATC) commitments.

Canada is expected to call for discussion on the relationship between culture and trade policies at the Seattle Ministerial. Canada is reportedly considering calling for a non-WTO global mechanism to set guidelines for and monitor the relationship between cultural policies and trade issues. Canada is reportedly looking at either the Cultural Ministers Network or the UN Economic, Social and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) to implement such a mechanism.

"Unseemly in Seattle," *THE ECONOMIST*, 7 August 1999; "Fund raising for WTO meeting in Seattle raises some eyebrows," *WALL STREET JOURNAL*, 17 May 1999; "Selling the WTO," *LOS ANGELES TIMES*, 19 May 1999; "Les négociations de l'OMC porteront la marque de Boeing et de Microsoft," *LA TRIBUNE*, 17 May 1999; "New round should include antidumping issue, says Yosano," *KYODO NEWS INTERNATIONAL*, 13 August 1999; "U.S. against new round reviewing anti-dumping steps," *KYODO NEWS INTERNATIONAL*, 12 August 1999; "Canada to table proposal on culture and trade at WTO in fall;" "Environmental groups disappointed in U.S. agenda for WTO talks;" "Deputy USTR says textiles, ad rules off the table in new WTO negotiations," *INSIDE US TRADE*, 13 August 1999; "CIA rehearses to end the threat of sleepless night in Seattle for WTO," *FINANCIAL TIMES*, 14 August 1999.

### **MALAYSIA CALLS FOR ONE-YEAR POSTPONEMENT FOR NEW WTO ROUND**

The Group of 15 developing countries (G-15) is to meet in Bangalore, India from 17 August to discuss a common position for the WTO Ministerial in Seattle; ministers will also discuss common problems G-15 countries face with implementation of WTO agreements. The G-15 is comprised of Algeria, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Jamaica, Kenya, Malaysia, Mexico, Nigeria, Peru, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Venezuela and Zimbabwe.

With respect to the launch of a new round of global trade talks, India and other G-15 countries want developed countries to honour Uruguay Round commitments before moving forward with new trade negotiations. Asian developing economies in particular are concerned over developed countries' compliance with agreements on market access for textiles; and over developed countries' use of antidumping measures against developing countries exports.

The EU proposal to include talks on investment has met strong resistance from Asian trade negotiators. "Imagine the legal complications if all our difficulties with foreign investors ended up with the WTO Dispute Settlement Body," mused one official with the Association of Southeast

Asian Nations (ASEAN). Developing countries also balk at attempts to include trade and labour linkage on the WTO agenda, which the U.S. favours.

Malaysia's industrial trade and industry minister Rafidah Aziz on 12 August called for the postponement of a new round of global trade talks until 2001 rather than launching them at the WTO Ministerial later this year. Ms. Aziz said that Malaysia would only agree to a new round of trade talks if the preparatory meetings for that round were postponed by one year. "As for Malaysia, we are busy with the issue of reviving our economy and this multilateral issue must be kept aside," Ms. Aziz said. She noted that developing economies could use the yearlong postponement to discuss in other forums such as the G-15 or the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to prepare a common strategy for the next round of talks.

Malaysia is likely to find itself at odds with its partners in the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation forum (APEC) when ministers meet next month for their annual summit. Most of APEC's members, which include Japan, South Korea and Singapore, New Zealand, Canada and the U.S. favour a new round of trade talks.

"Malaysia sticks by multilateral trade talks in 2001," SKALI, 12 August 1999; "G-15 to meet in India to draw up strategies for new WTO round," AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, 8 August 1999; "Asian nations brace for battle at WTO meeting," DOW JONES, 12 August 1999; "Asian economies further down the free-trade road than expected," AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, 13 August 1999.

### **SOUTHERN AFRICAN TRADE ISSUES, INCLUDING TALKS WITH U.S., INDIA ON PHARMACEUTICALS**

South African and U.S. trade officials on 6 August said they were close to resolving a dispute over a S. African law which allows the country to import lower cost drugs or to locally produce generic HIV/Aids drug treatments as alternatives to higher-priced U.S. pharmaceuticals. The U.S. argues that the law violates the WTO Agreement on Trade-Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs Agreement). The U.S. has been criticised for protecting multinational pharmaceutical companies' interests at the expense of public health. U.S. officials said it supports all efforts to bring affordable HIV/Aids treatments to S. Africa, and that it is looking to secure assurances from S. Africa that would allow the country to implement necessary measures while still abiding by the TRIPs Agreement.

In related news, India has requested WTO consultations with South Africa over S. Africa's 1997 antidumping laws. Specifically, India takes issue with tariffs assessed on imports of Indian pharmaceuticals. India argues that the S. African antidumping investigation that led to the tariff assessment was not objective and failed to take into account India's position as a developing country.

In other regional news, EU officials are to meet with officials from Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and Swaziland (BLNS) next month to discuss support packages aimed at lessening potential blows to BLNS economies from the EU-South Africa free-trade agreement agreed earlier this year (see *BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest* Vol. 3, No. 12, 29 March 1999, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/story7.29-03-99.htm> ) which is to come into force in January 2000 and would encompass 90 percent of the US\$20 billion in annual bilateral trade. As the agreement

extends market access for EU goods to the Southern African Customs Union (SACU) -- comprised of S. Africa and BLNS countries -- BLNS officials and other observers worry that cheap, subsidised EU agricultural exports will flow onto the S. African and SACU markets, which could seriously threaten small (and unsubsidised) BLNS farmers (see also *BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest* Vol. 3, No. 18, 10 May 1999, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/story5.10-05-99.htm> ). BLNS officials are also concerned that foreign direct investment will be diverted to S. Africa at the expense of BLNS countries, and worry that increased competition from EU goods could lead to a decrease in SACU customs revenues.

The EU signed an agreement on 11 August with the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) under which the EU will provide financial assistance towards COMESA's implementation of a free trade area next year and a common external tariff by 2004.

"HIV/Aids: US envoy says South African dispute near resolution," UN WIRE, 6 August 1999; "India takes SA to WTO over antidumping laws;" "EU/SA agreement worries BLNS countries," AFRICANEWS, 6 August 1999; "European Union grants COMESA 12.6 euros," AFRICANEWS, 11 August 1999.

## **FISHY TRADE MATTERS DOWN UNDER**

Australia and New Zealand last month initiated arbitration proceedings against Japan at the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea over Japan's alleged overfishing of Pacific blue fin tuna. Australia and New Zealand allege that Japan harvests the fish over and above quotas agreed to in 1993, and warn that Japan's continued violation of the quota could wipe out the tuna in the South Pacific. Japan's fisheries Ministry said that fishing beyond the agreed quota has been conducted for scientific and experimental purposes. Japan consumes 95 percent of the annual harvest of Pacific blue fin tuna: the fish is mainly used in sushi or sashimi.

Australia said it is researching the possibility of including the southern blue fin tuna in the UN Convention on International Trade on Endangered Species (CITES). Australia is reportedly looking into whether or not to include the fish under CITES Appendix II, which requires parties wanting to export a listed species to obtain approval from their government. Australia will most likely make its proposal during the CITES Conference of the Parties in April 2000.

Meanwhile in New Zealand, lawmakers warn that a bill to protect trout could lead to a WTO dispute with trade partners. The Conservation (Protection of Trout as a Non-commercial Species) Amendment Bill currently working its way through New Zealand's parliament would prohibit the sale of trout. Parliament's Transport and Environment Committee warned that more study is needed regarding the risks of trout poaching and environmental impacts from a loss of trout stocks before implementing the bill, to avoid trade disputes.

In the U.S., the Wild Oats grocery chain announced on 11 August that it will not sell Atlantic swordfish, marlin, orange roughy or Chilean sea bass until better conservation measures are adopted to combat overfishing. Wild Oats (with 75 stores) is the second largest natural foods supermarket chain in North America. Environmental groups hope the decision will lend momentum to a campaign to secure agreement on an international recovery plan that would restore swordfish within ten years. The International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) will discuss quota reductions in swordfish fishing when it meets in Brazil this November.

"Calls for Pacific blue fin tuna to be listed as endangered species," PACIFIC ISLANDS REPORT, 30 July 1999; "Protecting trout: a nasty kettle of fish?" NEWSROOM (New Zealand), 6 August 1999; "Trade ministers to discuss Aussie salmon ban," NEWSROOM (New Zealand), 12 August 1999; "List grows of retailers refusing to sell endangered swordfish," JOURNAL OF COMMERCE, 12 August 1999; "Wild Oats markets removes four overfished species from stores," WILD OATS PRESS RELEASE, 11 August 1999.

## **U.S COMMERCE DEPARTMENT REJECTS OIL DUMPING CASE**

The U.S. Commerce Department on 9 August dismissed an antidumping and countervailing duty petition filed by a coalition of independent U.S. oil producers against Venezuela, Mexico, Iraq and Kuwait, saying that there was not enough industry support for the petition to move forward. The decision marks the first time the U.S. Commerce Department has rejected an antidumping petition since the WTO agreement on antidumping and countervailing duties went into effect in 1995.

The regional U.S. group of independent oil producers -- the Committee to Save Domestic Oil (SDO), on 28 June filed dumping and countervailing duty cases against the four countries, accusing them of maintaining pricing policies designed to drive U.S. producers out of business (see *BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest* Vol. 3, No. 26, 5 July 1999, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/story7.05-07-99.htm>).

Large oil companies such as Exxon Corp. and Texaco Inc. opposed the SDO petition, arguing that if antidumping duties went forward Venezuela, Mexico, Iraq and Kuwait would be forced to sell oil normally sold to the U.S. on the world market, causing a glut in oil supply and driving down prices across the world (including the U.S.). On hearing that the U.S. Department of Commerce would not press dumping charges, Venezuelan Energy Minister Alia Rodriguez expressed satisfaction, saying that this has "staved off the grave risk of an upset on the global oil market, whose consequences would have been disastrous for everyone - producers and consumers alike."

In response to the Commerce Department decision, Mexican officials announced that Mexico would move forward with plans to abolish a four percent tariff on US natural gas imports that would have taken effect on 1 July, but which were put on hold when SDO filed its anti-dumping suit. SDO plans to appeal the case to the Court of International Trade in New York, according to sources close to the petitioners.

"Combining national interests with free markets," IPS, 16 August 1999; "Commerce dismisses crude oil case solely on domestic opposition," INSIDE US TRADE, 13 August 1999; "Oil fight: industry image hurt cloud in dumping case," DOW JONES, 10 August 1999; "Mexico says to drop tariff on U.S. gas imports," REUTERS, 10 August 1999; "US energy secretary praises oil dumping ruling," REUTERS, 9 August 1999.

## **IN BRIEF**

The UN Development Program on 30 July launched a year-long effort to bring Vietnam's customs procedures up to international standards. The project is expected to help bring Vietnam closer to

WTO membership. "UN project to help Vietnam upgrade customs ops," DOW JONES, 9 August 1999.

Chilean trade officials on 9 August said Chile had given up on trying to join NAFTA in light of the Clinton Administration's inability to secure so-called fast track trade negotiating authority, and proposed instead that the U.S. and Chile conduct bilateral free trade talks. "Chile seeks to move forward in bilateral free-trade deal with US," AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, 10 August 1999.

According to TAKING STOCK 1996 (see RESOURCES below) -- a study of North American pollution by the Commission for Environmental Co-operation (CEC - set up in 1994 to implement NAFTA's environmental side-agreement) -- industrial pollution in the U.S. and Canada continued to decline in 1996, dropping 2.3% from 1995. Meanwhile opinion is divided on the effect of NAFTA on Mexico's environment. While Mexico has taken serious steps in regard to the environment since NAFTA took effect in 1994, others say NAFTA has caused adverse environmental effects, particularly on the water supply and by increasing toxic wastes. Critics say that CEC's gentle urgings are outweighed by NAFTA's strong investor-protection provisions. Moreover, a recent IISD report points out that these provisions are increasingly used by business to the detriment of the environment (see also *BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest*, Vol. 3, No 25, 28 June 1999, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/events.28-06-99.htm>). "A greener, or browner, Mexico," *THE ECONOMIST*, 7 August 1999; "Industrial pollution in North America: downward trend continues," CEC PRESS RELEASE, 10 August 1999.

The Centre for International Environmental Law (CIEL) on 2 August called on the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) to make changes in the examination process for patent applications. CIEL wants the PTO to recognise the contributions of indigenous peoples and non-western cultures to universal knowledge and encourage equitable sharing of benefits between the users of traditional knowledge and those who have created and maintained it. "CIEL asks US Patent and Trademark Office to boost recognition of traditional knowledge," CIEL PRESS RELEASE, August 1999.

## **WTO IN BRIEF**

The U.S. last week called for the admission of Georgia, Estonia, Lithuania, Armenia and Moldova - five former Soviet republics, in time for the Third WTO Ministerial. "Les Etats-Unis soutiennent l'entrée de cinq Républiques ex-soviétiques," *LA TRIBUNE*, 12 August 1999.

The European Commission (EC) will this fall again try to revise its sugar policy in an effort to bring the EU into compliance with impending WTO limits on export refunds from 2001. An EC proposal to revise the EU sugar market met strong opposition earlier this summer from EU member-states. The current EU regime including quotas, levies and payments places EU sugar prices at twice world market levels. "Sweeteners: EU struggles to reform closed sugar market to meet WTO deadline," *WALL STREET JOURNAL*, 12 August 1999.

## **ON THE MOVE**

Dr. Malan Lindeque, currently serving in Namibia's Ministry of Environment, has been appointed head of scientific co-ordination at the Geneva-based Secretariat of the UN Convention on International Trade on Endangered Species (CITES). Earlier this year Dr. Lindeque co-ordinated



Namibia's first legal ivory sale, facilitated under CITES (see *BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest* Vol. 3, No. 8, 1 March 1999, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/inbrief.01-03-99.htm>). "Elephant man' gets top environment job," THE NAMIBIAN, 11 August 1999.

Mr. Mats Karlsson, State Secretary for International Development Co-operation at the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, has been appointed Vice President for External Affairs and UN Affairs at the World Bank. Karlsson, who will take up his post in early September, replaces Mark Malloch Brown, who recently left the Bank after being appointed to the position of Administrator of UNDP. "Mats Karlsson appointed vice president of the World Bank," TRADE COMPASS, 16 August 1999.

## **EVENTS AROUND SEATTLE MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE**

Please refer to <http://www.ictsd.org/html/seattlecalendar.htm> for a more complete list of events taking place around the WTO's Ministerial Conference in Seattle in November-December 1999. Many other events taking place between now and November will also address WTO-related issues; as many of these as possible will be listed on ICTSD's existing web calendar at <http://www.ictsd.org/html/calendar.htm>

28-30 November, Seattle: 1999 PEOPLE'S CONFERENCE AND MARCH AGAINST WTO/GLOBALISATION IN SEATTLE. Main convenor is Sentenaryo ng Bayan. The conference will take place 28-29 and the march will be held on 30 November. Both events will serve as a counterpoint and alternative to the WTO 3rd Ministerial Conference. A special half-day session is being planned to focus on the WTO's Agreement on Agriculture (AOA), peasants, and rural women. Invited are organisations, groups and individuals -- whether within or outside of the Peoples' Campaign Against Imperialist Globalisation (PCAIG) network -- who have been active in resisting the WTO, globalisation and monopoly capitalism. For information contact the Campaign Against the AOA (CAOA) Secretariat, fax: c/o Gabriela (63-2) 374-4423, email: [tpl@cheerful.com](mailto:tpl@cheerful.com)

29 November; 1 December, Seattle University, Seattle: AFRICAN DAY BUSINESS FORUM. The forum will address the "Africa Trade Bill and WTO Impacts". Sponsored by the African Chamber of Commerce. Evening reception on 29 November; Business Forum on 1 December. Speakers include Heads of State, Ambassadors, US Government and US Trade Representative officials. For information contact Therese Kunzi-Clark, King County Office of Trade, tel: (1-206) 296-7421.

## **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.

20 August, Geneva: DISPUTE SETTLEMENT BODY: on adoption of Appellate Body decisions on Canada-Brazil civil aircraft disputes. Canada and Brazil may announce how they are planning to implement the Appellate Body's conclusions. For information contact Nuch Nazeer, WTO, (41-22) 739-5393.

13 September, Geneva: FOURTH WTO SYMPOSIUM ON COMPETITION POLICY AND THE MULTILATERAL TRADING SYSTEM: A DIALOGUE WITH CIVIL SOCIETY. Presented by the Secretariats of the WTO, UNCTAD and the World Bank. The Symposium will take place immediately prior to the next meeting of the WTO Working Group on the Interaction between Trade and Competition Policy. A number of places are available for representatives of non-governmental organisations and other members of the public interested in the subject. To register contact Ms. Tjamke van der Vegt, WTO, tel: (41-22) 739-5651, fax: 739-5790, email: [tjamke.vandervegt@wto.org](mailto:tjamke.vandervegt@wto.org) not later than 6 September.

### **Other Events**

24-26 August, New York: UNCTAD TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD: MEETING OF GOVERNMENTAL EXPERTS FROM LAND-LOCKED AND TRANSIT DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. Governmental experts from land-locked and transit developing countries, and representatives from donor countries and financial and development institutions will meet to improve trade and transport facilitation and to seek international support. For information contact Mr. Ernest Mbuli, UNCTAD, tel: (41-22) 907-5905, fax: 907-0540, email: [ernest.mbuli@unctad.org](mailto:ernest.mbuli@unctad.org)

30 August, Geneva: BASEL CONVENTION (ON HAZARDOUS WASTES) AD HOC WORKING GROUP OF LEGAL AND TECHNICAL EXPERTS TO CONSIDER THE PROTOCOL ON LIABILITY AND COMPENSATION. For information contact Per Bakken, Officer in Charge, Basel Convention Secretariat, 13, ch. des Anemones, 1219 Geneva, Switzerland, tel: (41-22) 979-9213.

15 September: INTERNATIONAL DAY OF ACTION AGAINST THE WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION. This event will include simultaneous press conferences around the world, call-in campaigns to members of Parliaments/Congress, protests, hearings and teach-ins etc., to launch the international campaign against a "New Round" in Seattle. For information contact Margrete Strand, Public Citizen's Global Trade Watch, U.S., email: [gtwinfo@citizen.org](mailto:gtwinfo@citizen.org), web: <http://www.tradewatch.org/>

### **▪ RESOURCES**

SELLING SUICIDE: FARMING, FALSE PROMISES AND GENETIC ENGINEERING IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, Christian Aid, 1999. This publication presents Christian Aid's position on the use of genetically engineered crops in developing countries. It argues that these crops are irrelevant to ending hunger and expresses concerns about concentration of power in food production. Includes case study material from India, Brazil and Ethiopia. 52 pp. UK\$3.50. Contact Christian Aid, P.O. Box 100, London SE1 7RT, U.K., tel: (44-171) 620-4444, fax: 620-0719, email: [info@christian-aid.org](mailto:info@christian-aid.org), web <http://www.christian-aid.org.uk>

AN ACTIVIST'S HANDBOOK ON GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS AND THE WTO. 1999. By Matthew Stilwell and Brennan Van Dyke. Provides interpretation of WTO rules that may be used to challenge national labelling requirements for genetically modified organisms (GMOs). Suggests ways GMO labelling systems can be protected from interference from international trade rules. 25 pp. Available free from Consumer's Choice Council, 2000 P Street NW, Suite 308, Washington, DC 20036-6923, tel: (1-202) 785-1950, fax: 452-9640, email: [consumer@ibm.net](mailto:consumer@ibm.net), web: <http://www.consumerscouncil.org>

THE FUTURE OF GENETIC RESOURCES: SOUTH FACES CRITICAL CHOICES. June 1999. Produced by World Resurgence, Third World Network (Penang). This article argues that countries of the South may have to take some crucial decisions this year in order to preserve their most precious wealth: their genetic resources. The decisions have to be taken in order to resolve the conflict and tensions between two international agreements: the UN Biodiversity Convention (CBD) and the TRIPs agreement of the WTO, which have an important bearing on the earth's biodiversity and genetic resources. To access visit <http://www.twinside.org.sg/souths/twn/focus.htm>

TAKING STOCK 1996 (see In Brief above). Copies of this report are available from the Commission for Environmental Co-operation (CEC), 393, rue St-Jacques Ouest, Bureau 200 Montréal, Québec, Canada H2Y 1N9. tel: (1-514) 350-4318, fax: 350-4314, email: [ndaoust@ccemtl.org](mailto:ndaoust@ccemtl.org). The report can also be viewed at <http://www.cec.org>

THE INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND WORLD ECOLOGY. Latest issue: June 1999. In this issue: the bioethics of genetically modified crops -- biologist's views (Cowie); Genetically modified crops: the social and ethical issues (Institute of Biology et al.); Defining and achieving sustainable development (Klauer).

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