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CAIRNS GROUP MEETS TO SET STRATEGY FOR AG TALKS

Ministers from the Cairns Group of agricultural exporting countries met from 27-29 August in Buenos Aires. Ministers discussed the Cairns Group agenda for WTO talks on agriculture set to launch at the Third WTO Ministerial meeting in November.

The Cairns Group objective is clear: to ensure that WTO agricultural negotiations result in the elimination of all trade-distorting agricultural subsidies. To accomplish this the group is expected to target the EU, U.S. and Japan heavily in WTO talks, although the Cairns group has the most grievances with EU agricultural policy. "We need to send a clear message to Europe, the US and Japan that trade in agriculture must be on an equal footing with other sectors. I expect the new round of negotiations to deliver substantial cuts in government support and protection," said Australian trade minister Mark Vaile, chair of the Cairns Group.

Mr. Vaile pointed out that, according to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) agriculture support in the form of subsidies and other mechanisms amounts to an equivalent of US\$33,000 per farmer in Japan, US\$30,000 for European and US farmers. "It is simply unacceptable that in 1998, subsidies to OECD agricultural producers totalled some US\$362 billion," Mr. Vaile said.

The Cairns Group is also expected to attack the position put forward separately by the EU, Japan and the U.S. that the auxiliary "multifunctional" roles agriculture plays in a country (e.g. with

respect to culture, environment or food security) need to be considered when negotiating a farm agreement.

At the outcome of the meeting, U.S. Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman, said the U.S. and Cairns Group members were close to a common position for November's WTO Ministerial Meeting. Other sources seemed to disagree with this statement - the Australian agriculture Minister, for instance, criticised U.S. restrictions on lamb imports.

The Cairns Group comprises Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Columbia, Fiji, Indonesia, Malaysia, New Zealand, Paraguay, Philippines, South Africa, Thailand and Uruguay. Together the countries account for about 20 percent of global agricultural exports.

"Boost for campaign to reform farm trade," FINANCIAL TIMES, 26 August 1999; "The beef with tariffs," AUSTRALIAN FINANCIAL REVIEW, 27 August 1999; "Australia: Cairns Group meet to add impetus for WTO talks," DOW JONES, 25 August 1999; "Cairns group to send Japan clear message on trade," KYODO NEWS INTERNATIONAL, 25 August 1999.

BIG MAC TARGETED BY FRENCH FARMERS

French farmers have taken up arms (and apples) against U.S. agricultural trade policy in a series of demonstrations underway since early August. Protesting punitive tariffs imposed on EU products by the U.S. in the context of the dispute over EU banning imports of U.S. hormone-treated beef, farmers in Southwest France dumped 10 tonnes of nectarines in front of a McDonalds on 20 August, followed the next day by farmers in Arles and Martigues dumping tonnes of fruit, vegetables and manure in front of McDonald's there. These protests follow similar incidents by French farmers throughout the month.

The WTO on 26 July authorised the U.S. (and Canada) to impose retaliatory tariffs against EU goods in response to the EU's failure to comply with a WTO ruling against its ban on hormone-treated beef imports. (See *BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest* Vol. 3, No. 29, 26 July 1999 <http://www.ictsd.org/html/story3.26-07-99.htm>) The U.S. list targets US\$116.8 million worth of goods from France (including Roquefort cheese, truffles and goose liver pate); Germany (pork, fruit juices, mustards and soups); Italy (canned tomatoes and fruit juices); and Denmark (pork). Targeted French products account for about US\$28 million.

McDonalds has become the target of choice for French farmers angered by the trade situation. The French farmers' union Confédération Paysanne said in a statement that, "Globalisation is creating absurd economic conflicts," and that the protests aim to "allow farmers and others to feed themselves as they think best." French farmers have also called for a boycott of U.S. imports. Observers say these incidents show the unfairness of the Dispute Settlement System set up by the WTO: the authorised trade retaliation measures can hit small producers who had nothing to do with the initial conflict - rather than the Government - introducing a variation on the beggar-my-neighbour policies that the GATT was set up to prevent.

As tensions mounted last week, the U.S. embassy in Paris said it would like to hold negotiations with EU officials to find a quick solution to the trade matter. The U.S. embassy said that the retaliatory tariffs were imposed "only as a last resort." The U.S. has so far argued that it would

settle for nothing less than a lifting of the EU ban on hormone treated beef, while the EU has continually said it would not lift the ban until scientific risk assessments are completed.

Meanwhile the U.S. Agriculture Department said it would resume shipments of hormone-free beef exports under a plan requiring third party verification that beef is hormone free throughout the production process. Shipments of hormone-free beef exports were halted in July after the U.S. Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) said it could not certify that the U.S. beef exports were hormone free.

"US seeks talks with EU to end hormone-treated beef import row," AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, 25 August 1999; "Fresh meat: EU welcomes new U.S. plan on hormone-free beef," WALL STREET JOURNAL, 25 August 1999; "Boeuf aux hormones: les Etats-Unis veulent négocier," LE FIGARO, 26 August 1999; "French farmers block McDonald's," ASSOCIATED PRESS, 22 August 1999.

GMO UNPOPULARITY WORLDWIDE, CALLS GROW FOR LABELLING IN U.S.

Responding to consumer concerns, the Edeka retail association (representing about 6,500 European retailers) on 27 August announced it would not sell products containing genetically modified organisms (GMOs). Edeka members independently operate about 9,000 outlets including supermarkets, bakeries and drugstores in Germany, the Czech Republic, Denmark France and Poland.

In the U.S. on 25 August the Consumers Union called for the labelling of genetically modified foods. "The U.S. requires labelling of orange juice 'from concentrate' and vegetables as 'frozen.' Ignoring 'genetically engineered' threatens to undermine the public trust in a labelling system millions rely on everyday," said Jean Halloran, director of the Consumer Policy Institute at the Consumers Union. The Consumers Union - the largest consumer organisation in the US, is the latest organisation to lend its voice to a growing chorus of U.S. organisations calling for GMO labelling: the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy, Friends of the Earth, and the Environmental Defence Fund called for GMO labelling in July; the Sierra Club did so last week.

French agriculture minister Jean Glavany last week accused US multinationals Monsanto and Du Pont of trying to "flood the world with their products - whether genetically modified or not - and to propagate their own model of agricultural development and food supply." U.S. Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman met with Mr. Glavany at the Cairns Group meeting in Buenos Aires (see related story in this issue). In a diplomatic gesture, Mr. Glickman took the opportunity to offer Mr. Glavany a snack of a Big Mac and french fries. Mr. Glickman denied Mr. Glavany's charge that the U.S. was attempting to dominate world food markets.

Regional non-governmental organisations (NGOs) on 27 August urged Thailand to join together to prevent WTO agreements from forcing countries to open their markets to GMOs. At a regional forum on GMOs, NGOs said Thailand could join with other regional forums in South and Southeast Asia, and like-minded African countries and the EU to establish a viable opposition to expected U.S. and Canadian attempts to open markets to GMOs.

In other news, Australia has established an Interim Office of the Gene Technology Regulator. The office will authorise and regulate GMO research in Australia, requiring firms to sign legally binding contracts ensuring the safety of the GMO product. The office will have the ability to halt research

projects deemed a threat to public health, safety or the environment. A permanent GMO regulatory office will come into effect from 1 July 2001.

In the Brazilian state of Rio Grande do Sul a federal judge on 12 July denied Monsanto and the Federal Government the right to release Monsanto's GMO soybeans. CNTBio - Brazil's biosafety commission had previously approved the soybeans' release. Brazil's Institute of Consumers' Defence and Greenpeace brought the case challenging the release. (See *BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest* Vol. 3, No. 25, 28 June 1999, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/story2.28-06-99.htm>)

"US denies bid to rule world food market," FINANCIAL TIMES, 30 August 1999; "U.S. consumers union calls for labelling gene-altered foods," DOW JONES, 25 August 1999; "Retail group to ban ingredients," FINANCIAL TIMES, 27 August 1999; "Australia sets up watchdog to scrutinise GMOs," REUTERS, 23 August 1999; "Groups warn of pressure in trade pacts," BANGKOK POST, 28 August 1999; "Letter of Rio Grande do Sul," received from GENET, 27 August 1999.

MERCOSUR: ARGENTINA EXTENDS OLIVE BRANCH

High-level working groups from the Southern Cone Common Market (Mercosur) were to meet 24-27 August in Montevideo, Uruguay. The working groups on regional macroeconomic convergence and Mercosur economics and trade were established by Mercosur in June to help address macroeconomic shocks in the region, such as the January devaluation of the Brazilian real. The working groups were also expected to try and resolve other trade disputes between Mercosur members (see *BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest* Vol. 3, No. 33, 23 August 1999 <http://www.ictsd.org/html/story1.16-08-99.htm>)

Meanwhile lawmakers in Argentina on 24 August passed a resolution denouncing protectionist measures and adopted measures aimed at strengthening commercial ties with its Mercosur partners Brazil, Uruguay, Paraguay and associate members Chile and Bolivia.

"Notwithstanding the pressing need to find adequate solutions to the current problems facing various sectors, we recognise Mercosur is an irreversible process and must negotiate to find the best alternatives to go forward," the resolution said.

The resolution is an olive branch of sorts from Argentina to its Mercosur trading partners. South America's economic powerhouse has been at the brink of crisis as members try to cope with tough economic conditions while navigating untested waters in its partnership. Mercosur is the world's third-largest trading bloc: intra-Mercosur trade accounts for about US\$15 billion annually. Currency devaluation in Brazil earlier this year ignited trade tensions among its members, most notably 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/story1.16-08-99.htm>). Argentina's government said Aug. 23 that the country's industrial production fell 14.2 percent in July compared with the same month last year, as manufacturer's ability to compete with Brazil, where the currency has weakened by 30 percent this year, has decreased.

"Mercosur session on trade flows begins with cautious tones," ASSOCIATED PRESS, 24 August 1999; "Argentina woos Brazil by pro-Mercosur moves," REUTERS, 25 August 1999; "Argentina's

industrial output declines 14.2 percent for eleventh straight drop," DAILY REPORT FOR EXECUTIVES, 25 August 1999.

BUSINESS LEADERS CRITICISE APEC'S EFFECTIVENESS

The 62-member Business Advisory Council (ABAC) to the Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC) forum on 24 August delivered a less-than-flattering report on APEC's effectiveness. In its report - submitted to APEC's current chairperson New Zealand Prime Minister Jenny Shipley, ABAC said that APEC had "lost sight of its goals", and that the grouping's approach to liberalisation "lacked transparency, specificity and comprehensiveness."

ABAC said it was disappointed that APEC trade ministers failed to agree on targets and timetables for its so-called early voluntary sectoral liberalisation (EVSL) regime for six sectors (automotive, civil aircraft, fertilisers, food, oilseeds, and rubber) before transferring them to the WTO. (See *BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest* Vol. 3, No. 26, 5 July 1999, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/story2.05-07-99.htm>)

"It is disappointing that Trade Ministers referred the tariff component of the back six sectors [of the EVSL] to the WTO before agreeing on the targets and timetable for tariff reductions. A successful transferral of the EVSL/ATL initiative to the WTO is important, both in terms of the pressure it can exert on the upcoming WTO negotiations, and for maintaining APEC's credibility with business," ABAC Chair Philip Burdon said in a letter to Ms. Shipley.

ABAC sharply criticised the lack of progress made by individual APEC countries toward achieving the APEC goal of a free trade area by 2010 for developed APEC member countries and 2020 for developing members. "The individual actions being taken by member economies are not ambitious enough . . . to meet the goals of free and open trade and investment by 2010-2020," the ABAC report said. "[W]e still need to see more serious and substantial commitments, especially from developed economies."

The ABAC report also outlined an ABAC proposal to establish an APEC Food System "to harness the resources of the region." The proposal includes *inter alia* the creation of an export-subsidy-free zone for agri-food trade; the elimination by 2001 of "practices which limit food supplies to other members for political or economic reasons;" and recognises the social, environmental and other non-food roles of agriculture within APEC countries.

The ABAC report was submitted in advance of the 12-13 APEC Leadership Summit to be held in Auckland, New Zealand. APEC comprises Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Peru, the Philippines, Russia, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, the U.S, and Vietnam.

"1999 Report to APEC Economic Leaders: Letter," APEC (Document IWP995776), 24 August 1999; "APEC lost sight of its goals, says report," AUSTRALIAN FINANCIAL REVIEW, 25 August 1999; "APEC seen missing deadline of 2020 for free trade in Asia-Pacific region," INTERNATIONAL TRADE REPORTER, 25 August 1999; "Apec arm critical of slow trade progress," THE PRESS (New Zealand), 26 August 1999; "Business leaders seek accelerated APEC liberalisation," KYODO NEWS INTERNATIONAL, 24 August 1999; "Report: APEC leaders are being tardy," THE STRAITS TIMES (Singapore), 25 August 1999.

PACIFIC FORUM PONDERES FREE TRADE AREA

When South Pacific Forum Island Countries meet for their summit in October they are expected to discuss the establishment of a regional free trade area (FTA). Forum ministers endorsed the FTA idea at their last ministerial in June.

The Forum Island Countries (comprised of the Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea (PNG), Republic of Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu) together represent a market of six million people. Observers warn the Forum's collective size may be too small for a viable free trade area considering as well that many of the 16 economies are subsistence economies, meaning that the economies basically have nothing to trade with each other.

Forum Secretary General W. Noel Levi refutes such scepticism, saying that "there are a number of goods that can be traded among Forum island countries, e.g. kava and beef from Vanuatu, garments and light manufactured goods from Fiji, canned tuna from the Solomon Islands, agricultural and garden products from Tonga and PNG. There may also be immediate welfare benefits gained from lower tariffs and prices," Mr. Levi wrote earlier this year.

The idea of a Forum free trade area has been around for a number of years, but has gained currency with Forum countries in light of negotiations toward a Lomé V trade and aid agreement between the EU and African, Pacific and Caribbean (ACP) countries. Under Lomé IV, which expires in February 2000, ACP countries are extended preferential trade treatment allowable under a temporary waiver from the WTO. In order to bring Lomé V into compliance with WTO rules the EU has proposed the establishment of reciprocal, inter-regional free-trade areas under Regional Economic Partnership Agreements (REPAs). (See *BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest* Vol. 3, No. 20, 24 May 1999, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/story6.24-05-99.htm>)

Eight Forum countries are signatories to Lomé: Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Fiji, Kiribati, Tuvalu, Tonga and Samoa. Six other Forum countries have applied for membership in the Lomé Convention: Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, Palau and Republic of Marshall Islands. "The rules of global trade have changed since the creation of the World Trade Organisation in 1995 . . . The new rules mean that the market access to developed country markets that were available to the Forum Island Countries will no longer be available in the same way," Mr. Levi wrote.

Meanwhile, in other regional news, Fiji has met with Australia to discuss the continued trade relationship between the two countries under the South Pacific Regional Trade and Economic Agreement (SPARTECA). SPARTECA is comprised of Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, Nauru, New Zealand, Samoa and Tonga. As a member of the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC) forum, Australia (as well as New Zealand) is expected to remove all import tariffs by the year 2010 (see related story in this issue). Fiji worries that Australia's APEC obligations could undermine the trade advantages enjoyed by Fiji through SPARTECA.

"As Lomé pact fades, push for free trade area grows," IPS, 25 August 1999; "The Pacific Free Trade Area - why now?" PACIFIC ISLANDS REPORT, 21 April 1999; "Fiji raises concern over SPARTECA trade agreement," PACIFIC ISLANDS REPORT, 15 July 1999.

IN BRIEF

Members of the South African Development Community (SADC) on 26 August concluded an economic summit in Mozambique where they agreed in principle to launch a regional trade agreement by 1 January 2000. (See *BRIDGES Weekly News Digest* Vol. 3, No. 33, 23 August 1999 <http://www.ictsd.org/html/story5.23-08-99.htm>) "What Africa needs least are trade wars," THE NATION (Kenya), 21 August 1999.

The FAO and Argentina have partnered in an initiative to bring local food quality standards in line with international standards. Brazil and Chile, Argentina's partners in the regional trade bloc Mercosur have completed similar initiatives with the FAO. Uruguay, also in Mercosur, is to follow shortly. Mercosur officials hope the initiative will help establish Mercosur as global power in food exports. "Argentina: Upgrading food quality norms," SUNS, 10 August 1999.

Environmental and other NGOs warned earlier this month that a bilateral trade agreement between Jordan and the EU could result in reduced funding for social and environmental issues in Jordan. The NGOs called on the EU and Jordan to implement measures guaranteeing basic social and environmental needs are provided before implementing the economic reforms called for the EU-Jordan agreement. "Jordanian-EU association agreement: social concerns and environment in Jordan likely to suffer," FRIENDS OF THE EARTH MIDDLE EAST PRESS RELEASE, 19 August 1999.

Nepal's central bank on 25 August reported a 32 per cent increase in exports last year. Much of its growth was fuelled by a 33 percent increase in exports to India, marking the third consecutive year of increased trade between the two countries since signing a bilateral trade accord in 1996. India accounts for 37 percent of Nepal's foreign trade. Increased carpet and garment exports to Europe also contributed to the increase. "Trade pact helps to boost Nepalese exports to India," FINANCIAL TIMES, 26 August 1999.

The Australia Institute has released a paper proposing the integration of emissions trading into business tax reform. The paper develops a detailed domestic emissions trading system, based on an upstream approach with full auctioning of permits defining an emissions path that will meet Australia's Kyoto Protocol target. Features of the emissions trading system include provision for banking and limited borrowing, inclusion of sinks under tight conditions and credit for early action. (See also RESOURCES, this issue, below)

"Australia proposal to integrate emissions trading into tax reform," THE GALLON ENVIRONMENT LETTER, Vol. 3, No. 26, August 27, 1999.

WTO IN BRIEF

EU Environment Commissioner-designate Margot Wallstrom told the European Parliament that as Commissioner she "will strongly oppose any attempt to compromise the effectiveness or integrity of [Multilateral Environment Agreements] by subordinating them to WTO rules." Ms. Wallstrom said she will "ensure that trade rules do not reduce the ability of countries to pursue effective environment policies." "Trade and environment agreements have equal status, says new environment commissioner," MEDITERRANEAN FREE TRADE ZONE (MFTZ) ENVIRONMENT MONITOR, August 1999.

A senior EU trade official on 25 August indicated the EU is likely to retract its WTO complaint against Japan's rice tariffication scheme before the Third WTO Ministerial in November. (See *BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest* Vol. 3, No. 12, 29 March 1999, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/story6.29-03-99.htm>) "EU to retract WTO 'reservation' on Japan's rice tariff," KYODO NEWS INTERNATIONAL, 25 August 1999.

In a paper submitted to the Human Rights Sub-Commission this August, experts call for human rights impact assessments of policy decisions made in multilateral organisations such as the WTO, World Bank and OECD. The experts' paper said that the growing influence of these organisations poses a real threat that unmitigated promotion of increased international trade, investment and finance be "at the expense of the observance and protection of fundamental human rights and sustainable human development." "Dawn of human rights in BWIs and WTO?" SUNS, 13 August 1999.

In a 6 July letter to U.S. Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky, outgoing EU Trade Commissioner Sir Leon Brittan warned of the devastating effect on the WTO's credibility from fund raising practices undertaken by the Seattle Host Committee for the Third WTO Ministerial. (See also *BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest* Vol. 3, No. 32, 16 August 1999.) "Text: Brittan letter to Barshefsky," INSIDE US TRADE, 6 July 1999; "Access to ministers 'for sale' at WTO meeting: report," AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, 22 August 1999.

ON THE MOVE

The Honourable Sergio Marchi, Canada's Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade until a few weeks ago and formerly Minister of Environment, has been appointed as Permanent Representative and Ambassador of Canada to the U.N. and the WTO in Geneva, effective this week September. He will replace Amb. John Weekes, who served as Chairman of WTO's General Council, among other leading roles in the system. ICTSD Internal Files.

Hamdallah Zedan of Egypt has been appointed Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) with effect from 1 August 1999. Since 1996 Mr. Zedan served as Acting Chief of the Biodiversity Unit for the UN Environment Program and as Acting Executive Secretary of the CBD since October 1998. He replaces Dr. Calestous Juma, now a senior fellow at Harvard University. "New head for Convention on Biological Diversity secretariat in Montreal," THE GALLON ENVIRONMENT LETTER, Vol. 3, No. 26, August 27, 1999.

The Alberta, Canada-based Pembina Institute, has appointed David Pollock as its new Executive Director. Mr. Pollock has previously held leadership positions in a number of Canadian non-governmental organisations including Greenpeace Canada Foundation and the Anglican Church of Canada. "Pembina Institute, Alberta gets new executive director," PEMBINA INSTITUTE PRESS RELEASE, 19 August 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. Unless otherwise indicated, all WTO meetings are held in Geneva, Switzerland.

8 September: Informal Meeting of the General Council Special Session, on Ministerial Preparations. At this meeting, Members are expected to finish discussions in the context of the "second phase" of Ministerial preparations, covering issues such as industrial tariffs and the environment, which had not been addressed before the summer break. For information, contact: Peter Pedersen, External Relations Division, WTO, tel: (41-22) 739-5848.

13 September: Committee on Trade-Related Investment Measures. For information, contact Mark Koulen, WTO, tel: (41-22) 739 5224.

20 September: Informal Meeting of the General Council of the General Council Special Session, on Ministerial Preparations. For information, contact: Peter Pedersen, as above.

23 September: Special Session of the General Council, on Ministerial Preparations. For information, contact: Peter Pedersen, as above.

28 & 30 September: Informal Meeting of the General Council of the General Council Special Session, on Ministerial Preparations. For information, contact: Peter Pedersen, as above.

Other Events

6 - 10 September, Trondheim: THE NORWAY/UN CONFERENCE ON THE ECOSYSTEM APPROACH FOR SUSTAINABLE USE OF BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY. Organised by the Norwegian Ministry of Environment in co-operation with UNEP and the Norwegian Institute for Nature Research (NINA). The Conference Conspectus and other information about it may be found at <http://chm.naturforvaltning.no> or by contacting Rita Strand, Conference Secretariat at (47 73) 80 1400 or rita.strand@ninatrd.ninaniku.no

8 September, Brussels: EC NGO MEETING ON TRADE AND LABOUR RIGHTS RE: NEW WTO NEGOTIATIONS. Organised by DG-1 for all NGOs. To participate, answer by 3 September to Karin Victorin, tel: (32-2) 299-2392, email: karin.victorin@dg1.cec.be

10 September, Brussels: EC-NGO BRAINSTORMING SEMINAR ON TRADE AND ENVIRONMENT. Only a few experts and NGOs are invited. Organised by DG-11. For information contact Monika Luxem, tel: (32-2) 296-7161, email: monika.luxem@dg11.cec.be

19-21 September, Geneva: UN CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT CONSULTATION WITH NGOS. A preparation meeting for UNCTAD X on the theme 'making globalisation an effective instrument of development for all'. For information contact Jo Butler, Chief, UNCTAD Public Affairs Unit, tel: (41-22) 917-5048, email: jo.butler@unctad.org

23-26 September, Washington DC: 50 YEARS IS ENOUGH - ANNUAL CONFERENCE. Will include several hundred anti-globalisation activists. There will be a Tobin Tax workshop at the event again this year. Conference will be followed immediately by annual World Bank and IMF meetings. For information contact wb50years@igc.org

1-2 October, New York, NY: COLLOQUIUM ON THE RISKS AND REGULATION OF GMO FOOD PRODUCTS. Presented by the New York University School of Law Center on Environmental and Land Use Law. The colloquium aims to address the legal and policy issues presented by the rapidly expanding use of genetically modified (GM) food products. For information contact Ms. Bobbie Glover, Director of Special Occasions, New York University School of Law, Fuchsberg Hall, 3rd Floor, 249 Sullivan Street, New York, NY 10012, tel: (1-212) 998-6415 or 998-6417, fax: 995-4037.

▪ RESOURCES

HUMAN RIGHTS AS THE PRIMARY OBJECTIVE OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE, INVESTMENT AND FINANCE POLICY AND PRACTICE, June 1999. Working paper submitted by J. Oloko-Onyango and Deepika Udagama to the UN's Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities. Available from the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, United Nations, 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland, tel: (41-22) 917-9000 or on the Web via: <http://www.unhchr.ch/huridocda/huridoca.nsf>

BUSINESS TAX AND THE ENVIRONMENT - EMISSIONS TRADING AS A TAX REFORM OPTION, by Clive Hamilton and Hal Turton, for the Australia Institute for a Just, Sustainable, Peaceful Future. August 1999, ISSN 1322-5421. See In Brief above. For information contact The Australia Institute, PO Box 72, Lyneham ACT 2602, tel: (61-2) 6249-6221, fax: (61-2) 6249-6448, web: <http://www.tai.org.au/>

ESSAYS ON THE NATURE OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE LAW. 1999. By Robert Hudec. This resource provides an analysis of the nature of international trade law, the concept of fairness and discrimination in international trade law. 397 pp, ISBN: 1 874698 77 5, \$125.00. To order contact Cameron May LTD, 69-71 Bondway, London SW8 1SQ, tel: (44-171) 582-7567, fax: 793-8353, email: orders@cameronmay.com

INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT RULES AND THE ENVIRONMENT: STUCK IN THE MUD? 1999. By Lyuba Zarsky, Nautilus Institute for Security and Sustainable Development. In the MAI (Multilateral Agreement on Investment) process, even after a storm of public criticism, environmental issues made only a minor appearance. Yet the evidence shows that regulation -- or the lack of it -- matters. Foreign investment, both direct and portfolio, could act to promote ecological sustainability, which is -- or should be -- a strategic U.S. foreign policy goal. To order visit <http://www.foreignpolicy-infocus.org/briefs/vol4/v4n22env>

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