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## DSB MEETS, GIVES OKAY TO ECUADOR SANCTIONS AGAINST EU

The WTO Dispute Settlement Body met on 18 May where Members discussed, *inter alia*, developments in the ongoing dispute over the EU banana import regime, a dispute between Colombia and Nicaragua, and the nomination of potential Dispute Settlement Panellists.

Members agreed to Ecuador's request to impose retaliatory trade sanctions against the EU for the EU's failure to comply with a 1997 WTO ruling against its banana import regime.

A WTO dispute arbitrator on 17 March ruled that Ecuador, the world's largest banana exporter, could request over US\$200 million in cross- sector retaliatory sanctions against the EU for the EU's failure to comply with the 1997 ruling (see *BRIDGES* Weekly Trade News Digest Vol. 4, No. 11, 21 March 2000, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/story2.21-03-00.htm> ). Some observers see the cross-sector ruling as potentially an important precedent for developing country WTO Members who would otherwise have very little leverage against major trading powers such as the EU and the US.

Ecuador did not indicate when it would implement the sanctions regime, but did note it would still prefer to negotiate a settlement with the EU. The two sides met earlier this month to discuss a settlement but have thus far been unable to agree on terms for such an arrangement (see *BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest* Vol. 4, No. 19, 16 May 2000, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/story4.16-05-00.htm> ).

In other WTO dispute news, a panel was established to investigate Colombia's complaint against Nicaragua over Nicaragua's 'sovereignty tax' imposed on goods and services from neighbouring Colombia and Honduras. Colombia argues that the sovereignty tax violates international trade rules with respect to guaranteeing most-favoured-nation treatment amongst WTO members.

Nicaragua imposed the 35 percent tax against Honduran and Colombian goods in November 1999 after Honduras and Colombia settled a sea territory dispute, but in the process they allegedly divided an area between them belonging to Nicaragua. In retaliation, Nicaragua assessed what it termed a sovereignty tax against the two countries. Nicaragua justified the tax under Article XXI (b)(iii) of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, which allows a nation to suspend trade preferences for reasons of national security. Meantime, Nicaragua has filed a case against Honduras on the issue at the International Court of Justice at The Hague, Netherlands.

Canada and Australia on 17 May announced a settlement in the long-standing dispute over an Australian ban on the importation of untreated fresh, chilled or frozen salmon from Canada. The WTO Appellate Body ruled in February that Australia had failed to comply with a WTO ruling against its ban. Canada then requested authorisation to impose US\$28 million in trade sanctions in retaliation (see *BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest* Vol. 4, No. 8, 29 February 2000, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/story1.29-02-00.htm> ).

Under the agreement reached on 17 May, Australia agreed to lift the ban on salmon imports from 1 June. Canada agreed to drop its request for retaliatory sanctions against Australia. Australian and Canadian officials welcomed the settlement. "I am delighted the threat of retaliatory sanctions has been removed," Australian Trade Minister Mark Vaile said. "It was vital in reaching this settlement that innocent Australian exporters did not get caught in the crossfire," Mr. Vaile said.

The Australian state of Tasmania, however, has vowed to keep the ban in place, arguing that Canadian salmon can carry a number of diseases that do not exist in Tasmania and that the introduction of any one of those diseases could have a devastating effect on the state's fishing sector. Mr. Vaile said the Australian government would continue talks with Tasmania on the issue.

"If the Tasmanian government needs any reminding that the WTO system benefits Australia, it should note this week Tasmania will send its second consignment of red Fuji apples to Japan, a market opened up by the [Australian] government through the WTO system," Mr. Vaile noted.

In other news, the WTO Appellate Body on 10 May ruled that it has the procedural right to accept and consider *amicus curiae* briefs from individuals and organisations outside the WTO. The Appellate Body ruled that "We are of the opinion that we have the legal authority under the DSU to accept and consider *amicus curiae* briefs in an appeal in which we find it pertinent and useful to do so." The Appellate Body issued this ruling in the context of a dispute between the US and EU over

steel, although, in this specific case, the Appellate Body noted that "we have not found it necessary to take the two *amicus curiae* briefs filed into account in rendering our decision."

The issue of *amicus* briefs first arose during the landmark WTO shrimp-turtle ruling in 1998. As part of that ruling, the Appellate Body found that accepting non-requested information from non-governmental organisations (NGOs) is not incompatible with the provisions of the WTO Dispute Settlement Understanding. That finding set the precedent for future panels to accept information from NGOs directly, and that parties to a dispute can attach *amicus* briefs to submissions.

The *amicus* brief issue is highly sensitive for developing countries, who worry that the dispute settlement system could become a conduit for expanding the influence of NGOs within the WTO.

"Ecuador given green light on trade sanctions," FINANCIAL TIMES, 18 May 2000; "Ecuador gets WTO go-ahead to retaliate against European Union," WTO REPORTER, 19 May 2000; "Colombian complaint against Nicaragua to panel," SUNS, 22 May 2000; "Canada, Australia end salmon import row," REUTERS, 17 May 2000; "Australia Trade Min: Tasmania maintains salmon import ban," DOW JONES NEWSWIRE, 17 May 2000; "Appellate Body asserts right to receive *amicus curiae* briefs," SUNS, 11 May 2000.

## **EUROPE REVOKES NEEM PATENT; GMO-FREE FUTURES LAUNCH**

The European Patent Office (EPO) on 11 May revoked a patent given to the US Department of Agriculture and the chemical company WR Grace for a process to extract oil from the Indian neem tree for use as a plant pesticide. The EU Parliament's Green Party, Dr. Vandana Shiva of the India-based Research Foundation for Science, Technology and Ecology, and the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements had filed objections to the 1995 patent. They argued that the patent amounted to "bio piracy" and noted that the neem tree and the process under patent has been known in India for over 2000 years, where it has been used to make insect repellents, soaps, cosmetics and contraceptives. In revoking the patent, the EPO panel noted that the patent was characterised by a "lack of novelty," a prerequisite for assigning ownership over intellectual property.

In Europe, the governments of Britain, France, Germany and Sweden are under pressure from environmental groups to tear out thousands of acres of crops accidentally planted with genetically modified (GMO) rapeseed crops. Seeds believed to be GMO-free were imported from Canada by the seed company Advanta and planted in Britain, France, Germany and Sweden. The rapeseed was later revealed to be genetically modified to be herbicide resistant. A majority of the crops have been harvested. Environmental groups last week called for remaining GMO crops to be destroyed - in order to prevent contamination of nearby crops and/or the emergence of herbicide resistant weeds. As *BRIDGES* Weekly Trade News Digest went to press, it was not clear what next steps the governments would take. The UK Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food noted, however, that there was no risk of cross-pollination since the seeds were male and sterile.

Also in the news, the world's first futures contracts on GMO-free soybeans (non-genetically-modified) began trading on the Tokyo Grain Exchange from 18 May. Trading for non-GMO soybeans on the first day of trading yielded a trading volume about seven times higher than the

volume traded for normal, unsegregated soyabean futures in Japan. Observers note the high level of trading reflects high demand for non-GMO products but warned that trading will remain under some doubt until the first futures contracts expire in December 2000 and traders assess whether or not there are problems with delivery. Japan imports about 5 million tonnes of soybeans annually, mostly from the US.

Delegates are convening from 15-26 May in Nairobi, Kenya for the Fifth Conference of the Parties (COP-5) to the Convention on Biological Diversity. Delegates will discuss, *inter alia*, sustainable use of biological resources, scientific and technical cooperation and the Clearing-House Mechanism (CHM). *BRIDGES* Weekly Trade News Digest will report on COP-5's trade-related developments in a forthcoming issue.

"Patent to extract oil from neem tree withdrawn," *ECONOMIC TIMES* (India), 12 May 2000; "Neem patent revoked by European Patent Office," *SUNS*, 11 May 2000; "Conference on world's ecosystem opens in Nairobi," *KYODO NEWS INTERNATIONAL*, 15 May 2000; "French to rule on GM rapeseed crop," *REUTERS*, 22 May 2000; "Government urged to tear up crops after seed error;" "Non-GM soyabean trading launch," *FINANCIAL TIMES*, 18 May 2000.

## **EU AND CHINA REACH WTO ACCESSION AGREEMENT**

The EU and China on 19 May reached a bilateral agreement toward China's membership in the WTO. The agreement brings China ever closer to completing its 14-year-old accession bid, although China must still conclude bilateral accession agreements with Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Switzerland and Venezuela.

WTO Director-General Mike Moore hailed the agreement. "This is another major step towards extending the benefits and responsibilities of the WTO system to a quarter of the world's population", Mr. Moore said.

China's Foreign Trade Minister Shi Guangsheng said the agreement assures that the accession process is now largely procedural, and reiterated China's commitment to membership in the global trade body. "Our entry into the WTO now enters the procedural stage," Mr. Shi said. "I make a solemn statement that we will fulfill our commitments to the WTO and follow its rules and principles."

The final deal reflects China's refusal give in to EU demands for majority (51 percent) foreign ownership of Chinese telecoms and insurance firms. EU demands in these areas exceed concessions given by China to the US in their November 1999 negotiated trade accord. Under terms of the EU-China agreement concluded last week, China agreed to a foreign ownership regime based at 25 per cent on accession, 35 per cent after 1 year and to 49 per cent after 3 years.

"Chinese leadership have made absolutely clear that certain things were simply too difficult politically for them to contemplate," Mr. Lamy said in reference to the majority ownership issue. "So the mandate I had this week was, having tested the depth of their resistance, to say to the Chinese: we need you to go as far as you can to the red line you have identified. But if you can't

cross it, then we must have compensation, both inside and outside the particular sector concerned," Mr. Lamy said.

Those concessions include China's promise to end state monopolistic control of oil imports, and tariff cuts to between eight and 10 percent on 150 leading European exports, including machinery, ceramics and glass, textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods, cosmetics and spirits.

"It is my belief that by spreading the improvements across a large number of sectors, we have in fact secured a better deal for a broader range of EU industries than if we had focused solely on China's most politically sensitive interests," Mr. Lamy said.

The EU-China deal is expected to have a positive impact on Clinton Administration efforts to pass legislation granting Permanent Normal Trade Relations (PNTR) with China this week (week of 22 May 2000). The US House of Representatives are scheduled to vote on PNTR Wednesday, 24 May. The US and China concluded talks late last year on a bilateral WTO accession package outlining the terms for market access and other areas as part of China's bid to join the WTO. PNTR is a necessary next step by the US in the accession process as it would put China on par with the US' other WTO trading partners.

While PNTR is expected to pass the US Senate in early June, the vote in the US House on 24 May is not as certain. In an effort to boost support amongst House members, provisions are to be added to PNTR legislation that would protect against import surges and create a permanent commission to monitor Chinese human rights. The provisions are expected to help secure a number of votes in favour of PNTR, however, PNTR opponents said the provisions lacked real enforcement mechanisms and would do little to pressure China on its human rights record.

"Highlights of EU-China agreement on WTO accession," EU PRESS RELEASE, 19 May 2000; "Statement by Mike Moore on EU - China agreement," WTO PRESS RELEASE, 19 May 2000; "Last major obstacle to China accession is lifted by bilateral accord with EU," WTO REPORTER, 22 May 2000; "Beijing signs WTO deal with Brussels," 20 May 2000; "China trade bill supporters confident of passage," REUTERS, 18 May 2000.

## **SUGAR PRODUCERS PRESS FOR FREER TRADE; EU WARNS US ON WHEAT GLUTEN**

The Global Alliance for Sugar Trade Reform and Liberalisation, a grouping of 13 sugar producing countries, met in Honduras earlier this month to discuss strategies for liberalising sugar trade as part of WTO talks on agriculture. The alliance comprises Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, India, Nicaragua, Panama and Thailand. Brazil and Australia are the world's largest sugar exporters.

The Alliance will bring recommendations on negotiating positions to the next round of talks of the 15-member Cairns Group of agricultural exporting countries - to which Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, and Thailand also belong. "Our strength stems from the commitment of members to ensuring positive progressive and meaningful reform of trade distorting policies", said Fernando Fiallos, general manager of Honduran Sugar Producers.

Developing country Alliance members note that their economies suffer most from trade distorting sugar policies in the EU and US. The Alliance noted that sugar producers in the EU and US receive significantly higher prices per pound for sugar because of government subsidisation and quota programs. The alliance noted that EU farmers receive US\$0.28 cents per pound of sugar, and US farmers receive US\$0.17 per pound, compared to US\$0.06 per pound received on the world market by Brazilian and other sellers. Subsidised sugar production in the EU and the US -- for instance in the Florida everglades -- has also been targeted by environmentalists as encroaching on ecologically sensitive areas that would not otherwise be tilled.

Argentina and the Netherlands on 15 May signed a joint co-operation agreement for the production and marketing of agricultural goods. The joint co-operation agreement aims to improve the Netherlands' trade relations between and Argentina and its Mercosur trade partners (Brazil, Uruguay and Paraguay). The Netherlands minister of foreign affairs Gerrit Ybema said in a statement that the Netherlands would work to find ways to reduce agricultural subsidies "so that in the future we can eliminate them altogether."

EU Agriculture Commissioner Franz Fischler on 15 May criticised a US decision to cut the annual import quota on EU wheat gluten as of 1 June. Mr. Fischler said the US decision would further aggravate already strained EU-US trade relations. At the same time, a WTO Dispute Settlement panel investigating an EU complaint against US restrictions on imports of EU wheat gluten products could be delayed after the panel chairman resigned citing a possible conflict of interest. The WTO established the Panel in June 1999 to decide whether US restrictions on EU wheat gluten violate the WTO Safeguards Agreement. The Panel's original chair, a Polish diplomat, resigned citing a conflict of interest due to Poland's application to join the EU. A Panel decision was expected by mid-June.

In other news, India is reportedly exploring the possibility of bartering wheat for commodities it would otherwise import. Bartering wheat for other products such as cotton is preferable to selling its wheat stocks for cash on the world market, where the crops would incur heavy losses. Instead, India may seek a trade for cotton with neighbouring Pakistan. However, it is unclear how India would resolve trade restrictions it imposed earlier this year on Pakistani cotton citing phytosanitary considerations (see *BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest* Vol. 4, No. 3, 25 January 2000, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/story3.25-01-00.htm> ).

"Global sugar alliance to increase push for trade liberalisation," BLOOMBERG NEWS, 9 May 2000; "Argentina, Netherlands sign agriculture trade accord," DOW JONES NEWSWIRE, 15 May 2000; "Chairman's resignation to delay WTO panel on wheat gluten," INSIDE US TRADE, 28 April 2000; "EU ag min Fischler slams new US wheat gluten quota," DOW JONES NEWSWIRE, 15 May 2000; "India seeks wheat barter agreement with Pakistan," FINANCIAL TIMES, 17 May 2000.

## **NEWS FROM THE REGIONS: ASIA, NAFTA**

The Board of Governors of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) met in Chiang Mai, Thailand from 6-8 May, where members discussed, *inter alia*, institutional reforms, greater co-operation among Asian countries as they recover from the regional financial crisis, and increased private-sector

participation. The 58 member-countries were unable to agree on funding for a regional poverty-reduction program. The US, one of the main ADB funders, reportedly expressed reservations toward funding the project until the ADB could show more effective use of existing funds, including project selection better targeted to serve recipients.

The ADB meet was also marked by the presence of about 4,000 Thai protestors demanding that the ADB cancel a pending tax on irrigation water use. ADB and Thai government officials said they would hold talks with farmers and non-governmental organisations to set criteria for water charges, but noted that poor farmers would be exempt from the tax. The tax is a condition for a US\$600 million loan extended by ADB to Thailand last year for use in reforming Thailand's agricultural sector. The tax is intended to encourage more efficient use of water resources.

The Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC), the institution created by the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)'s side- accord on the environment, on 16 May declined to investigate complaints submitted on the effects of Alberta's (Canada) Oldman River dam on fish habitat, and on air pollution caused by hog farms in Quebec. The separate complaints alleged that Canada had failed to adequately enforce its environmental laws.

The CEC was established in 1994 to foster public participation in NAFTA affairs, including the review of US, Mexican and Canadian citizens' complaints of environmental infringements resulting from NAFTA. Environmental and citizens' groups criticised the CEC decisions not to pursue the two complaints. "The CEC was set up to be the environmental watchdog of the NAFTA trade agreement," Stewart Elgie with the Sierra Legal Defence Fund said. "This decision...undermines the most important part of the NAFTA environmental side agreement -- the power to investigate whether a country is failing to enforce its environmental laws."

The CEC did agree to investigate a complaint against Mexico's enforcement of environmental laws relating to an abandoned lead smelter in Tijuana.

"Relief initiative stalls," BANGKOK POST, 9 May 2000; "Poor exempt from water tax," BANGKOK POST, 8 May 2000; "International investigative body overruled on complaints Canada failing to enforce laws," GLOBE & MAIL (Canada), 18 May 2000; "CEC Council calls for factual record on Tijuana lead smelter, defers Oldman River and votes down Quebec hogs," CEC PRESS RELEASE, 17 May 2000.

## **IN BRIEF**

Following the 18 May military coup in Fiji, European Commission sources indicated that it is now unlikely that a new trade and aid accord to replace the expired Lomé Convention between the EU and 71 African, Pacific and Caribbean (ACP) countries would be signed on 8 June in Suva, Fiji, as previously planned. Though no official statement has yet been released, EU officials have indicated that it would be politically unfeasible to hold the signing there, due in part to sections of the new agreement that advocate 'good governance' on the part of its signatories. ICTSD Internal Files.

On 10 May, the EU released its fourth draft Proposal for a European Parliament and Council Directive on Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE). The EU has been pressured to

relax its proposed waste management legislation by the US, which has claimed that the WEEE Directive is a barrier to international trade. The WEEE legislation is designed to address obsolete electronic equipment and protect human health and the environment by eliminating the use of certain toxic chemicals and requiring producers to assume greater responsibility for managing their products throughout their life cycle. Two US Congressmen (George Miller and Bernie Sanders) and US Senator Paul Wellstone have written a letter to Vice President Gore urging him to defend the EU Directive. Specifically, they have asked the Vice-President to "ensure that the European Union is allowed to set its own environmental and health standards, unhampered by United States Trade Representative opposition". To access the latest draft of the EU Directive visit: [http://www.svtc.org/cleancc/weee\\_draft4\\_may2000.htm](http://www.svtc.org/cleancc/weee_draft4_may2000.htm) . "Clean Computer Campaign: Don't Trade Away our Health and the Environment," CLEAN COMPUTER CAMPAIGN PRESS RELEASE, 19 May 2000.

Lebanon and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in April signed a free trade agreement under which the two countries will begin to phase out customs duties from 1 June 2001. Customs duties between the two countries will be phased out completely by 1 June 2003. "Lebanon signs free-trade agreement with UAE," AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, 15 April 2000.

More than 1,000 delegates representing civil society in over 100 countries were expected to convene from 22-26 May at UN Headquarters in New York for the Millennium Forum. Delegates will discuss how best to help the United Nations confront the challenges of the 21st Century, with a focus on the challenges of globalisation. The Millennium Forum is part of the preparations for the Millennium Assembly at the UN in Fall 2000. *BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest* will cover the Millennium Forum meetings and outcome in next week's issue. "Media alert for the Millennium Forum," MILLENNIUM FORUM PRESS RELEASE, 22 May 2000.

## **WTO IN BRIEF**

The former Soviet republic of Georgia on 15 May informed the WTO that the Georgian Parliament had ratified the protocol for Georgia's WTO accession. Georgia will be formally admitted into the WTO on 14 June, becoming the trade body's 137th Member. "Georgia ratifies WTO accession; on track to join trade body in June," WTO REPORTER, 17 May 2000.

Nepal met with other WTO Members and the WTO Secretariat on 22-23 May to formalise its bid to accede to the WTO. At the Working Party on Accession of Nepal to the WTO, Nepal's Minister of Industry, Commerce and Supplies Ram Krishna Tamrakar presented a report on his country's trade and economic situation, emphasising its "open and liberal trade regime". Nepal, which is classified as a Least Developed Country, has trade flows worth \$US2.17 billion dollars per year. Said Commerce and Industry spokesman Chandi Prasad Shrestha, "if Nepal can get the unanimous support of the WTO Members, it is hoping to get its membership at the earliest by 2001." Domestically, the Nepalese government has come under fire for its failure to consult with domestic civil society groups before engaging in the WTO accessions process. "Nepalese minister to push for WTO membership," AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, 17 May 2000; ICTSD Internal Files.



**EVENTS & RESOURCES**

- **Coming Up This Week:**

For more information on these events please visit ICTSD's online calendar at: <http://www.ictsd.org/html/calendar.htm>

22-26 May, Dresden, Germany: CONSULTATIVE GROUP ON INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH (CGIAR) MID-TERM MEETING 2000 (MTM2000). The meeting is being hosted by the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development. For information contact: CGIAR Secretariat, The World Bank, 1818 H Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20433, USA; tel: (1-202) 473-8951; fax: 473-8110; email: [cgiar@cgnet.com](mailto:cgiar@cgnet.com); web: <http://www.isnar.org/>

24 May, Geneva: WTO TEXTILES MONITORING BODY. For information contact: Luis Ople, WTO Information and Media Relations, tel: (41-22) 739-5374.

24-26 May, Islamabad, Pakistan: 4th SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE. This conference is hosted by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) and is entitled "Dialogue on Human Security." For information contact: SDPI, SDC Program Committee, PO Box 2342, Islamabad, Pakistan, tel: (92-51) 278-134; email: [saima@sdpi.org](mailto:saima@sdpi.org) or [fari@sdpi.org](mailto:fari@sdpi.org)

25 May, Geneva: WTO RUSSIA ACCESSION WORKING PARTY. For information contact: WTO Information and Media Relations, tel: Hans-Peter Werner: (41-22) 739-5286.

25 May, Amsterdam, The Netherlands: WTO LINKING WITH DEVELOPMENT. Organised by the South-North Federation, this international conference focuses on developmental perspectives of the WTO. For information contact: The Wemos Foundation, tel: (31-20) 468-8388; email: [kristel.klomp@wemos.nl](mailto:kristel.klomp@wemos.nl); web: <http://www.wemos.nl>

25-26 May, 1996 Classroom Block, University of Victoria, Victoria, BC, Canada: WORKSHOP ON SEAFOOD SUSTAINABILITY IN A CHANGING CLIMATE IN THE NORTHEAST PACIFIC OCEAN AND COASTAL ZONES. A participatory workshop to develop solutions and recommendations for research and policy to sustain the fisheries during anticipated climate change. For information contact the University of Victoria, tel: (1-250) 472-4291; web: <http://www.cics.uvic.ca/workshop>

26 May, Geneva: WTO SERVICES COUNCIL - SPECIAL SESSION (i.e. NEGOTIATIONS), FOLLOWED BY REGULAR MEETING. For information contact: Nuch Nazeer, WTO Information and Media Relations Division, tel: (41-22) 739-5393.

27 May, Brussels, Belgium: EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT NGOS MEETING ON WTO. This meeting is organised by the NGO-EU Liaison Committee in cooperation with European development NGO networks. For information contact: Gordon Deuchars, NGO-EU Liaison Committee; tel:(32-0) 274-38796; fax: 735 -0951; email: [gdeuchars@clong.be](mailto:gdeuchars@clong.be)

28-31 May, Brussels, Belgium: INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE IN THE NEW MILLENNIUM - THE IMPACT OF MODERN BIOTECHNOLOGY ON DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. Sponsored by the Friends of the Earth, Oxfam Solidarity Belgium, and the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, this conference examines the impact of modern agricultural biotechnology on developing countries. For information contact: Martin Rocholl, Friends of the Earth Europe, 9 rue Blanche, B-1060 Brussels, Belgium, tel: (32-2) 542-0183; fax: 537-5596; web: <http://www.foeeurope.org/>

29-30 May, Brussels, Belgium: DG TRADE ISSUES GROUP MEETINGS. This meeting will focus on health, services, agriculture, environment and sustainable development. For information contact: Haitze Siemers, Trade G-1, European Commission CHAR 15/16, Rue de la Loi 200 1049 Brussels, tel: (32-2) 299-0185; fax: 299-0900; email: [Haitze.Siemers@cec.eu.int](mailto:Haitze.Siemers@cec.eu.int); web: [http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/trade/2000\\_round/fmig.htm](http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/trade/2000_round/fmig.htm)

29-30 May, Granada, Spain: PANEL OF EXPERTS ON PESTICIDE SPECIFICATIONS, REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS, APPLICATION STANDARDS AND PRIOR INFORMED CONSENT (16th SESSION). At this session, FAO specifications under the new procedure for a range of individual pesticides will be considered. For information contact: Gero Vaagt, FAO; tel: (39-6) 5705-5757; email: [Gero.Vaagt@fao.org](mailto:Gero.Vaagt@fao.org); web: <http://www.fao.org/waicent/FaoInfo/Agricult/AGP/AGPP/Pesticid/Events/c.htm>

29-30 MAY, Paris: DAC WORKSHOP-TOWARDS GOOD PRACTICES FOR DONORS ON CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT FOR TRADE. Sponsored by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), this workshop will serve as the key building block towards the preparation of a set of donor good practices in capacity development for trade, to be presented to the DAC Senior Level Meeting in December 2000. A set of four country case studies have been prepared as a basis for discussion at this workshop (El Salvador, Ghana, Senegal and Vietnam) and have been issued as background documents. For information contact: Ebba Dohlman, OECD, tel: (33-1) 45-24-98-48; fax: 44-30-63-33; email: [ebba.dohlman@oecd.org](mailto:ebba.dohlman@oecd.org)

- **WTO Events:**

An updated list of forthcoming World Trade Organisation meetings is posted at <http://www.wto.org/wto/about/meets.doc>. 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 at the WTO, Centre William Rappard, Rue de Lausanne 154, 1211 Geneva, Switzerland.

29-30 May: COUNCIL FOR TRADE IN SERVICES (MFN review). For information contact: Nuch Nazeer, WTO Information and Media Relations Division, tel: (41-22) 739- 5393.

30-31 May, Geneva: Trade Policy Review Body - Peru. For information contact: Lucie Giraud, WTO Information and Media Relations Division, tel: (41-22) 739-5075.

- **Other Events:**

30-31 May, London, England: THE OPPORTUNITY FOR BUSINESS TO CHANGE THE WORLD TRADE DEBATE. Organised by the Commonwealth Business Council (CBC) this conference brings together trade ministers, senior government officials, and business leaders through a series of private-public dialogues. Some of the discussion will include: how to advance the ongoing WTO agenda; how to ensure that globalisation does not disadvantage some WTO members; and what are the benefits and impact of WTO rules for business and governments? For information contact: Sandeep Bahl, Commonwealth Business Council, Quadrant House, 58 Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5JH, UK, tel: (44-0) 20-7747-6557; fax: 20-7747-6530; email: [s.bahl@commonwealth.int](mailto:s.bahl@commonwealth.int); web: <http://www.cbc.to>

1-2 June, Mexico: NAFTA CEC MEETING ON BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION. The Commission for Environmental Cooperation of the North American Free Trade Agreement will host its Priority Regions Workshop for the CEC Biodiversity Conservation Strategic Plan. The meeting is open only to invited participants. For information contact: Hans Herrmann, Commission for Environmental Cooperation, 393 St.-Jacques W., Suite 200, Montreal, Quebec, H2Y 1N9, Canada, tel: (1-514) 350-4340; fax: 350-4314; email: [hherrman@ccemtl.org](mailto:hherrman@ccemtl.org); web: <http://www.cec.org>. -- From IISD Linkages, <http://www.iisd.ca/linkages/>

5-8 June, Toronto, Canada: THIRD AGRICULTURAL BIOTECHNOLOGY INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE (ABIC 2000). More than 1000 participants are expected from business, academia, government and international organisations. Under the theme, "Agbiotech: The Science of a New Century," participants will consider the opportunities agricultural biotechnology can offer. For information contact: Sharon Murray, ABIC Conference Coordinator, The Signature Group Inc., 489 Second Avenue North, Saskatoon, SK, Canada S7K 2C1, tel: (1-877) 925-2242 or (1-306) 934-1772; fax: (1-877) 333-2242 or (1-306) 664-6615; email: [siggroup@sk.sympatico.ca](mailto:siggroup@sk.sympatico.ca); web: <http://www.abic.net/>. -- From IISD Linkages, <http://www.iisd.ca/linkages/>

12-16 June, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia: INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR MANAGING PLANT GENETIC DIVERSITY IN THE 21ST CENTURY. This conference is organised by the Palm Oil Research Institute of Malaysia (PORIM) and the International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI), with support from the Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment, Government of Malaysia (MOSTE). The conference will review the state of the science concerning the conservation and sustainable management of plant genetic resources. For information contact: Patti Sands, Assistant to the Deputy Director, IPGRI, Rome, Italy, fax: (39-6) 575-0309; email: [p.sands@cgiar.org](mailto:p.sands@cgiar.org); web: <http://www.cgiar.org/ipgri/sosindex.htm>

16 June, Fontainebleau, France: FREE TRADE AND THE ENVIRONMENT: CONFLICT OR CONVERGENCE? Hosted By INSEAD, this conference will consist of three main sessions: Tensions between regulatory systems, The North-South Dimensions in Environmental Issues, and Greening the WTO. For information contact: Valerie Martins-Boer, tel: (33-0) 160-746162; email: [valeri.martins.boer@insead.fr](mailto:valeri.martins.boer@insead.fr)

16-18 June, Oslo, Norway: ACUNS THIRTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING: "THE EROSION OF TRADITIONAL PARADIGMS: TRANSNATIONALISM VERSUS SOVEREIGNTY IN THE

NEW MILLENNIUM." This meeting is being organised by the Academic Council for the UN System/Norwegian Institute for International Affairs. For information contact: ACUNS, Yale University Box 208206 New Haven CT 06520 USA, attn: Thirteenth Annual Meeting, fax: (1-203) 432-5634; email: [acuns@yale.edu](mailto:acuns@yale.edu).

19-20 June, London, England: THE KYOTO PROTOCOL: THE END OF THE BEGINNING? This conference is hosted by the Royal Institute of International Affairs (RIIA). For information contact: Georgina Wright, RIIA, Chatham House, 10 St James's Square, London SW1Y 4LE; tel:(44-20) 7957-5700; fax: 7321-2045; email: [info@riia.org](mailto:info@riia.org); web: <http://www.riia.org>. -- From IISD Linkages, <http://www.iisd.ca/linkages/>

29-30 June, Manchester, England: ECO-MANAGEMENT AND AUDITING CONFERENCE RESEARCH WORKSHOP ON CORPORATE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYMPOSIUM: TOWARDS NEW MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS. Sponsored by ERP Environment, in association with the Nijmegen Business School, this sixth annual conference provides a forum for the dissemination of research findings, practical guidance and case studies associated with the implementation and experiences of environmental management systems and associated corporate environmental management tools. For information contact: Elaine White, ERP Environment, P.O. Box 75, Shipley, West Yorkshire, BD17 6EZ UK, tel: (44-0) 1274-530408; fax: 1274-530409; email: [elainewhite@erpenvironment.org](mailto:elainewhite@erpenvironment.org); web:<http://www.erpenvironment.org/cfrence/indexc.htm>

- **Resources**

SPECIAL BIODIVERSITY ISSUE. March 2000. Vol. 76. No. 2. Published by International Affairs, the articles in this issue include: Biodiversity Finance, Biodiversity and Business: Coming to Terms with the "Grand Bargain" and Regulating Biotech Trade: The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. To obtain contact: Blackwell Publishers Journals, PO Box 805 108 Cowly Road, Oxford OX4 1FH, UK, tel: (44-0) 1865-244083; email: [jnlinfo@blackwellpublishers.co.uk](mailto:jnlinfo@blackwellpublishers.co.uk); web: <http://www.blackwellpublishers.co.uk>

ALTERED STATES: GLOBALIZATION, SOVERIGNTY, AND GOVERNANCE. Published by the International Development Research Centre ISBN 0-88936-917-8. Written by Gordon Smith and Moisés Naím, this book provides practical recommendations for improved governance and for strengthening and reforming the United Nations. It also explores the dynamics of globalisation and discusses what makes today's globalisation distinct. To obtain contact: International Development Research, PO Box 8500 Ottawa, Canada K1G 3H9, email: [pub@idrc.ca](mailto:pub@idrc.ca)

RECONCILING THE MONTREAL AND KYOTO PROTOCOLS: Problems, Issues and Suggestions. Brifieng Paper, Sustainable Consumption Series #1/2000. Published by Consumer Unity and Trust Society - CUTS, Jaipur, India. Written by Rajat Chaudhuri, this paper examines the interlinkages between the regimes on the protection of the ozone layer and on global warming, and argues for a cogent policy-making informed by scientific understanding, and implemented through closer cooperation between them. To obtain contact: CUTS, [cutsjpr@jp1.dot.net.in](mailto:cutsjpr@jp1.dot.net.in) or from [www.cuts-india.org](http://www.cuts-india.org)

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