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## SERVICES COUNCIL CREATES 'ROADMAP' FOR NEGOTIATIONS

Meeting for 'Services Week' over the past number of days, WTO Members gathered for a series of meetings on services issues in Geneva, including financial services, most-favoured-nation (MFN) exemptions, and a Special Session on services negotiations. At the Special Session on 26 May, trade envoys agreed on a text for a roadmap on how to structure the first phase of services negotiations, which are mandated under the WTO agreements to begin 1 January 2000.

The roadmap does not replace the guidelines and modalities for services liberalisation negotiations specified in Article XIX of the WTO's General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS). Rather, it outlines basic principles for the negotiations and indications of what countries should do to start the talks. The text underlines the special concerns of developing countries and special treatment for least-developed countries (LDCs), and encompasses the flexibility principle outlined in Article XIX.

Members agreed that the services negotiations process should run in parallel with the ongoing negotiations process in agriculture. Developing country representatives expressed satisfaction with this decision, as most developing countries are more competitive in agriculture than in services, and had been pushing for parity in the negotiations schedules. "Delegations wanted to do something in short order, quickly to demonstrate that they are running this thing seriously," said Director of the WTO's Trade in Services Division David Hartridge. "They also wanted to match what has been done in the agricultural negotiations, where a road map of this sort has been agreed in March," he stated at a press briefing.

Developing country Members have also pushed to keep the GATS negotiating structure as it stands, in what is known as a "bottom-up" approach, whereby nothing is committed unless it is formally included in each country's submitted services list.

According to the roadmap, in the first phase Members will submit proposals on guidelines and modalities up until March 2001 (though December 2000 has been set as a provisional deadline). Following a 'stock-taking' period, countries will begin the process of more concrete negotiations in the second phase.

At the current stage, the services sectors to be negotiated on remain open, and the specific modalities and procedures for the negotiations remain undecided. The European Commission asked at the Special Session for the Seattle text on services modalities to be used as a basis, but some delegations are opposing this move. "The text that was developed in Seattle was created in a context with many different balances," said one developing country representative, "but conditions are not the same now." Members are considering ways to proceed on this work, and have asked the WTO Secretariat to produce a compilation of negotiating procedures and guidelines -- such as those used during the Uruguay Round of trade negotiations -- that can be used as a starting point. However, the main structure for the services negotiations is still expected to come from individual Members' proposals.

Members also met on 29 May for the first session of the review of services MFN exemptions. The meeting addressed exemptions that related to: all sectors; business services; communications services; construction and related engineering services; and distribution services. Most Members see this as an information exchange process, and a number of delegations -- including Mexico; Chile; Hong Kong, China; Japan; and the EC -- submitted questions relating to MFN exemptions granted to other Members.

The next meeting of the Services Council on MFN exemptions will be on 6-7 July, while the Special Session will meet on 13 or 14 July.

"WTO states agree framework for services talks," REUTERS, 26 May 2000; "WTO Members draw up 'roadmap' for services negotiations," AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, 26 May 2000. ICTSD Internal Files.

## **US HOUSE APPROVES CHINA PNTR; CHINA-US SIGN ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATION PACT**

The US House of Representatives on 24 May approved, by a 237-197 vote, legislation granting China Permanent Normal Trade Relations (PNTR) with the US. PNTR would put China on par with the US' other WTO trading partners, and replaces the annual process of Congressional debate over China's trade status with the US. The PNTR bill now proceeds to the Senate, where easy passage is expected in early June.

Opponents of PNTR argued that eliminating the annual review of China's trade status would take away the only leverage the US has with China to press for human rights reform within China, while labour organisations warned that PNTR would lead to significant job losses for US workers. PNTR proponents made the case that the US would enjoy increased exports and business opportunities, which would lead to improved human rights and labour rights in China. PNTR proponents warned that failure to pass PNTR would result in the US being left out of Chinese concessions on improved market access that the EU and other WTO Members would enjoy once China joins the WTO.

The PNTR legislation contains provisions to protect against import surges and creates a permanent commission to monitor Chinese human rights. The bill also includes language calling on the US Trade Representative to push for an annual trade review of China in the WTO.

Chinese officials called the House passage of PNTR a "wise decision," but criticised the inclusion of human rights and other provisions." [The] Chinese side is seriously concerned and dissatisfied that the bill contains provisions that attempt to interfere in China's internal affairs in various areas like human rights and harm the interests of China. The Chinese Government has made solemn representations to the US Government about the matter and announced in explicit terms that it firmly opposes and cannot accept these provisions," according to a Chinese Foreign Ministry statement.

WTO Director-General Mike Moore welcomed the House passage of PNTR. "By extending PNTR to China, the House has given a major vote of confidence to a rules-based trading system, a system which encourages openness and accountability. I am hopeful that the US Senate will also approve PNTR when it votes on the matter in the coming weeks," Mr. Moore said.

China must still conclude WTO accession agreements with five countries: Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico and Switzerland. Swiss officials report that Switzerland and China are "very close" to finalising a deal. However, a report out of China indicates that diplomatic ties between Taiwan and Costa Rica and Guatemala could hinder efforts between China and the two Latin American countries to conclude accession agreements. The next session of the WTO working party on China's entry is scheduled for 23 June.

In related news, the US and China on 19 May signed a joint statement pledging increased US-China co-operation to protect the environment and promote sustainable development. According to the statement, the US and China "recognise that countries can achieve sustained economic growth while protecting the environment and taking actions to combat climate change."

Regarding climate change, the US and China "intend to work together and with other countries toward early agreement on the elements of the Kyoto mechanisms, including the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM)," according to the document. The CDM is a mechanism designed to facilitate the transfer of money and technology to developing nations to fund energy efficiency, resulting in cost-efficient greenhouse gas reductions.

The US-China statement also noted that China's entry into the WTO would advance China's clean energy and environmental protection goals by accelerating the use of environmentally sound technologies in China (e.g., moving from coal to natural gas and renewable energy sources.) The US and China pledged "to work together to ensure that any increased trade flows will not undercut natural resource management and species protection programs," according to the joint statement.

"House approves China PNTR bill with strong Republican backing;" "China denounces human rights commission in China PNTR bill," *INSIDE US TRADE*, 25 May 2000; "DG statement on House of Representatives approval on PNTR for China," *WTO PRESS RELEASE*, 24 May 2000; "US approves China trade bill," *FINANCIAL TIMES*, 24 May 2000; "Vice President Gore announces joint statement of US and China on environment cooperation efforts," *TRADE COMPASS*, 22 May 2000; "China, US pledge cooperation on climate change," *ENS*, 22 May 2000; "Switzerland says it's close to an accord on China's WTO entry," *BLOOMBERG NEWS*, 23 May 2000; "China think tank sees WTO hurdles in Latin America - report," *DOW JONES NEWSWIRES*, 23 May 2000.

#### **DISPUTE SETTLEMENT: EC MOVE FANS THE FLAMES UNDER BEEF ROW**

In the latest development in the long-running EU-US dispute over hormone treated beef, the European Commission (EC) on 24 May adopted a proposal to permanently ban the growth hormone 17-beta oestradiol for any use with farm animals and to implement a provisional ban on five other growth hormones used in beef production. EU officials said that the changes would bring the EU in line with a WTO ruling against an EU ban on hormone treated beef imports, and called on the US to drop retaliatory sanctions imposed from July 1999.

The WTO Appellate Body in January 1998 ruled that an EU ban on beef treated with growth hormones was not based on adequate scientific evidence and therefore violated international trade rules (see *BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest* Vol. 4, No. 11, 21 March 2000, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/story8.21-03-00.htm> ). The WTO in July 1999 authorised the US to impose US\$191.4 million in trade sanctions against the EU for its failure to comply with the ruling.

"We believe this will bring us into line with the WTO panel's findings," EC spokesman Anthony Gooch said. "We are hopeful that the US will respond to what we have put on the table and deem it fit to lift the sanctions." The EC said it would seek a new WTO ruling in the event that the US does not drop the sanctions once the legislation authorising the bans enters into force, expected in early 2001.

According to an EC statement, the EC adopted the permanent ban on 17-beta oestradiol and the provisional ban on other growth hormones "on the basis of the latest scientific information

available." However, US officials and US industry representatives refuted the notion that any new scientific evidence exists to uphold such a ban. US government officials noted that the EU is merely recycling previously refuted evidence on the health risks of the growth hormones.

"To our knowledge, there is no new publicly available scientific evidence to warrant a modification of the international scientific consensus," said Julie Quick, spokesperson for the US National Cattlemen's Beef Association. "Today's action should be recognised for what it is. It is a creative attempt by the European Commission to try to circumvent international trade rules. The European Union is not in compliance with world trade rules, and their actions today do nothing to change that. A ban is a ban," Ms. Quick said.

In other news, EU Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy expressed frustration over internal EU attempts to comply with a WTO ruling against its banana import regime. France, Spain, Portugal and Ireland are opposed to a proposal for a tariff-only regime for banana imports that would likely comply with WTO rules. The four countries reportedly favour a quota-based system, which thus far has not satisfied either the complainants in the dispute or the African, Caribbean and Pacific banana producing countries benefiting from the current preferential EU regime.

Noting the US\$116 million in sanctions imposed by the US for the EU's failure to comply with the WTO ruling against the EU banana regime, and the more recent WTO authorisation for US\$200 million in retaliatory sanctions by Ecuador, Mr. Lamy warned that EU failure to comply was "getting expensive and cannot go on interminably." Lamy noted that the current quota scheme puts about US\$500 million in the pockets of banana producers, distributors and exporters, while under a tariff-only scheme, that same amount of money could flow into the EU budget.

On 26 May, the US Trade Representative (USTR) announced the deadline of 19 June to review -- and possibly alter -- the range of EU imports subject to US sanctions. US trade officials also indicated that the US was considering raising the level of the punitive tariffs above 100 per cent but applying them to fewer products in order to remain WTO-compliant.

The announcement is the result of a recent requirement by Congress (contained in the Africa-Caribbean Basin Initiative bill passed by Congress in mid-May) that the USTR step up pressure on the EU by regularly rotating the list of products affected by sanctions (see *BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest*, Vol. 4 No 19, 16 May 2000, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/story1.16-05-00.htm> ). The EU has criticised the "carousel" retaliation move and is expected to raise the issue at the US-EU summit next week in Portugal.

Brazil on 22 May appealed a 9 May WTO Dispute Settlement panel ruling that found it had not complied with a 1999 WTO ruling against its aircraft export subsidies regime (see *BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest* Vol. 4, No. 19, 16 May 2000, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/story4.16-05-00.htm> ). Before it can consider the WTO appeal, the Appellate Body must first determine whether it can accept an appeal in a compliance ruling, since dispute settlement rules make no provisions for appeals in compliance matters.

Also on 22 May, Canada requested WTO authorisation to impose US\$3.5 billion in trade sanctions against Brazil for Brazil's failure to comply with the 1999 WTO aircraft export subsidies ruling. Brazil requested WTO arbitration over the level of retaliatory sanctions, and also argued that

Canada should withdraw its request for retaliation until after the Appellate Body rules on the compliance appeal. The EU, Argentina, India, Hong Kong and Malaysia agreed with Brazil, recalling arguments made in the EU-US banana dispute that compliance matters should proceed before countries seek the right to retaliate. Canada argued that the two panels could proceed simultaneously, but agreed not to impose sanctions until the WTO ruled on Brazil's compliance appeal. Brazil and Canada agreed to meet from 22-23 June in an effort to try and reach a settlement in the overall dispute.

"US beef group condemns EU beef hormone decision," BRIDGENEWS, 24 May 2000; "EU proposes amended legislation to outlaw growth hormone; seeks lifting of sanctions," WTO REPORTER, 26 May 2000; "Bruxelles 'habille' l'interdiction des hormones," LA TRIBUNE, 25 May 2000; "EU has new strategy to bring beef dispute back to WTO," WALL STREET JOURNAL, 26 May 2000; "France leads opposition to tariff plan to end EU banana row," BLOOMBERG NEWS, 22 May 2000; "Brazil appeals aircraft subsidies rulings; arbitration panel to hear Canada retaliation," WTO REPORTER, 23 May 2000; "Canada-Brazil trade talks to resume in Geneva June 22-23," BRIDGENEWS, 23 May 2000; "US sets sanctions deadline," FINANCIAL TIMES, 26 May 2000.

#### **LABOUR UPDATE: ILO, BURMA TO MEET ON FORCED LABOUR**

Delegates from over 300 countries will meet from 30 May-15 June for the 88th Session of the International Labour Conference at International Labour Organisation (ILO) headquarters in Geneva. In advance of the conference, the ILO released "Your Voice at Work," a report examining trends in countries' respect for freedom of association and collective bargaining rights. The report notes that workers who attempt to organise face intimidation, threats and murder in a number of countries. The report also notes that in several countries, including Bolivia, Honduras, India, Paraguay, and the US, national legislation either fails to legally protect agricultural workers, or denies them the right to organise.

The report also examines the impact of globalisation on labour rights. "Long established practices and deeply felt values are being tested against the criteria for survival in a fiercely competitive global market," according to the report. ILO Director-General Juan Somavia noted further that, "It is very clear that the benefits of globalisation aren't reaching enough people. Its social legitimacy will have to be confronted."

The full report is available at <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/standards/decl/vaw/index.htm>.

In other labour news, Burma (Myanmar) and ILO officials met from 24-26 May to discuss a plan of action toward Burma's implementation of ILO recommendations on labour reform. The ILO last year suspended ILO aid to Burma and barred Burma's participation at ILO meetings over concerns about its "widespread use" of forced labour. The ILO in 1998 reported that an estimated 800,000 Burmese are pressed into forced labour by Burma's military forces.

Ministers from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the US met from 24-25 May to discuss a range of economic matters. ASEAN called on the US to reverse its policy withholding funding from ASEAN regional assistance projects over objections to Burma's human

rights record. ASEAN ministers also reiterated their opposition to trade and labour linkage at the WTO.

The US on 25 May threatened to suspend Swaziland's privileges under the US Generalised System of Preferences (GSP, which extends reduced tariffs on various imports from developing countries) unless Swaziland passes labour legislation bringing its labour laws in line with ILO standards. The legislation has passed the Swaziland Parliament, but King Mswati III has thus far refused to sign the law, insisting that the law be amended to, *inter alia*, hold workers liable for losses incurred from labour actions.

"UN report says union rights ignored in many countries," DOW JONES NEWSWIRE, 25 May 2000; "L'OIT dénonce les atteintes à la liberté syndicale," LE FIGARO, 25 May 2000; "ILO mission opens talks with Government in Myanmar (Burma)," ILO PRESS RELEASE (ILO/00/18), 23 May 2000; "Burma discusses forced labour," BBC NEWS SERVICE, 25 May 2000; "US threatens to sanction Swaziland for king's hard line on labour law," AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, 25 May 2000; "Washington, ASEAN differ over trade," REUTERS, 25 May 2000.

## **RUSSIA QUEUES UP FOR WTO ACCESSION BID**

Russia moved one step closer in its bid to join the WTO last week, at the first meeting in 18 months of the WTO working group on Russian accession. Russia is currently looking to accelerate its six-year efforts to join the organisation, and has said that it will make its international obligations to trade rules a priority in domestic legislation once it has joined to WTO.

In working group meetings on Thursday, 25 May, several WTO members raised questions about the transparency of the country's laws. Japan complained of conflicting regulations in different Russian regions that make conducting business there very difficult. The US and New Zealand both accused Russia of discriminating against their chicken imports because of a law that states that poultry can only be imported by road. Norway questioned the solidity of Russia's legal framework. The EU warned the Russian party that it will not just look at the quantity of reform legislation passed in Russia, but at the quality of that legislation. The US and Japan would like to see any draft legislation proposed in Russia on areas such as intellectual property rights and technical barriers to trade.

Russia's response to the overall concerns was that Moscow would soon publish a number of changes in Russian legislation either proposed or in the process of being ratified by the State Duma, Russia's lower house of Parliament.

In bilateral meetings with the United States on 26 May, the two countries discussed Moscow's preliminary market access offers in goods and services for accession to the WTO. Russia is expected to hold bilateral meetings with approximately 30 WTO members in the near future, and another formal meeting of the WTO accession group is planned for December.

In other accession news, Lithuania hopes to conclude negotiations on joining the WTO by the end of the summer. According to a statement by the Lithuanian Foreign Ministry, the majority of agricultural issues were settled in bilateral talks with the US, Australian, Canadian, New Zealand,

and Cuban delegations during negotiations in Geneva on 23-24 May. Characterised as a "breakthrough," these sessions included discussions on the trade of products such as beef, poultry, and sugar; it is these breakthroughs that allow Lithuania to expect to conclude WTO negotiations by autumn.

Ukraine is pushing to join the WTO and get associated membership status in the European Union before the end of this year. Prime Minister Yushchenko was in Brussels last week for talks with EU officials. At that time, 14 of the 19 trade issues that were still problematic between the EU and Ukraine were resolved. The Ukrainian government promised to resolve the five issues still outstanding, including review of the country's automobile import duties and letting foreign producers in to the country's pharmaceutical market. The EU has pledged to support Ukraine in its bid for WTO accession and for associated membership status at the EU.

During a two-day meeting last week between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the United States, ASEAN urged the US to support the early entry of Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam to the WTO. In the joint statement released by the parties, ASEAN emphasised that trade matters "should not be linked to labour and other non-trade related issues," while the US maintained that the opening of the trade system must be done "while improving the living conditions for working people everywhere and protecting the environment."

On 16 May, Prime Minister Meles Zenawi of Ethiopia met with WTO Director-General Mike Moore. At that time, the Prime Minister said that Ethiopia must assess the WTO's rules and regulations seriously before applying for membership. Prime Minister Zenawi said that the prevailing situation in the country could not allow the nation to fully participate and fulfil its duties as a member state.

"Russia Discusses Entry to WTO," AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, 25 May 2000; "Russia, United States Make Some Progress in WTO Accession Talks," WTO REPORTER, 30 May 2000; "WTO: Russia promises to give priority to trade rules legislation," BRIDGENEWS, 25 May 2000; "Lithuania Hopes to Conclude WTO Membership Negotiations by the End of the Summer," AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, 25 May 2000; "Ukrainian Aide Says Government Plans to Join WTO by the End of the Year," Oleh Borsuk, BRIDGENEWS, 25 May 2000; "ASEAN Urges US to Back Early WTO Entry for Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam," AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, 25 May 2000; "Nepalese Delegation Confident of WTO Membership by 2001," AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, 26 May 2000; "Ethiopia Needs to Assess WTO Regulations: Meles," THE ETHIOPIAN HERALD, 17 May 2000.

## **NEWS FROM THE REGIONS: EUROPE, CENTRAL ASIA AND THE MIDDLE EAST**

Leaders from Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan met in mid-May to discuss efforts to launch a Eurasian customs union. Leaders set a September deadline for establishing the customs union, under which the five countries would establish a common tariff, customs and tax policy. The customs union agreement would also bring Russia, Belarus, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan in line with WTO rules on customs duties. Kazakhstan is already a WTO Member. The May discussions focused on differences between Russia and its Eurasian partners over Russia's alleged favouring of its industrial sector in tariff discussions.



Officials from the European Free Trade Association (EFTA, comprising Norway, Switzerland, Iceland and Liechtenstein) and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC, comprising Qatar, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates) on 23 May signed a Declaration of Cooperation aimed at expanding and liberalising free trade between the two groupings. "Cooperation will be based on the principles of mutual benefit, non-discrimination and reciprocity, recognising the importance of market forces and competition," according to an EFTA statement. The two groups hope to negotiate a free trade agreement "when conditions permit," according to the statement.

The EU and GCC on 22 May said that discussions toward an EU-GCC free trade agreement would resume in June. The EU has insisted that the GCC establish a customs union before a EU-GCC free trade agreement could be signed. The EU is the GCC's largest trade partner: the Gulf states are the fifth-largest export market for EU products, while GCC states are the largest supplier of oil to the EU.

In other news, EU and Palestinian officials met on 23 May to discuss trade and cooperation issues. Officials discussed, *inter alia*, the establishment of an EU-Palestine free trade area, rules of origin, barriers to trade, competition policy and intellectual property rights.

The EU and Bangladesh on 22 May signed an economic cooperation accord aimed at increasing bilateral trade and sustainable development. The accord extends economic benefits to Bangladesh in return for Bangladesh's pledge to improve human rights conditions and follow principles outlined in the Universal Declaration on Human Rights.

Egypt and Morocco on 23 May signed a cooperation agreement, pledging to expand the list of goods covered under a 1998 bilateral free trade agreement.

"Ex-Soviet states pledge new life for customs union," REUTERS, 23 May 2000; "EU hails Ukrainian government's resolve for reform," AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, 23 May 2000; "EFTA, Gulf states pledge closer cooperation," REUTERS, 23 May 2000; "EU-Palestinian Joint Committee holds first meeting," AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, 23 May 2000; "Ex-Soviet states to meet for tough customs talks," REUTERS, 22 May 2000; "EU-Bangladesh sign cooperation accord based on human rights," AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, 22 May 2000; "Egypt, Moroccan free trade summit sees six accords signed," AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, 23 May 2000.

## **IN BRIEF**

An EU Parliament - Council Conciliation Committee on 23 May agreed to require carmakers to pay the costs of recycling both existing cars and new cars from the 2001 model year. The EU end-of-life vehicles law would require car manufacturers to pay costs associated with recycling and other forms of recovery of end-of-life vehicles, estimated at US\$200 per vehicle. The Committee also agreed to implement from 2003 a ban on lead, cadmium, mercury and hexavalent chromium in car manufacturing. "European auto makers must pay to recycle new and existing cars," ENS, 25 May 2000; "Green light for end-of-life vehicles' directive," EU PRESS RELEASE (8828/00), 23 May 2000.

Delegates met from 15-26 May in Nairobi, Kenya for the Fifth Conference of the Parties (COP-5) to the Convention on Biological Diversity. COP-5 considered and adopted 30 decisions on a range of topics, including, *inter alia*, access to genetic resources; biodiversity and tourism; progress in implementing the work programmes on agricultural, inland and water ecosystems; scientific and technical cooperation; and the Clearing-House Mechanism (CHM). During discussions, Ethiopia and India highlighted the issue of intellectual property rights and endorsed the recommendation to further explore the compatibility of the Convention's objectives with the WTO Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs). On Genetic Use Restriction Technologies (GURTs), many delegates and NGOs expressed concern over their risks to food security and farmers' rights. "Fifth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity: 15-26 May 2000," EARTH NEGOTIATIONS BULLETIN, 29 May 2000.

Civil society representatives from more than 100 countries met from 22-26 May for the Millennium Forum on how best to help the United Nations confront the challenges of the 21st Century, with a focus on the challenges of globalisation. Delegates agreed to a Millennium Forum Declaration, in which delegates expressed concern for, *inter alia*, "the degree to which the international trade regime, under the WTO, is managed by governments in a way that is secretive and unaccountable to the people." The participants at the forum called for the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the WTO to be integrated within the UN, and to democratise all levels of decision-making within those institutions. The declaration that was adopted by the participants covered a wide range of items, such as poverty eradication, human rights, disarmament, environment, globalisation, and strengthening of the UN. At the Millennium Summit in September, heads of state will discuss the proposals adopted by the participants. "Draft Millennium Forum Declaration," 24 May 2000; "NGOs urge U.N. to abolish veto, absorb IMF, WTO, World Bank," KYODO NEWS INTERNATIONAL, 27 May 2000; "Poor Nations At UN Forum Crave Global Econ's Benefits," DOW JONES INTERNATIONAL NEWS SERVICE via DOW JONES, 27 May 2000.

## **WTO IN BRIEF**

The Philippines Agriculture Secretary Edgardo Angara on 25 May said the Philippines would move forward with its complaint against Australia for Australia's ban on Philippine mango, banana and pineapple exports. Mr. Angara noted that consultations between the two countries failed to settle the dispute. Australia imposed its ban citing sanitary reasons. The Philippines implemented a ban on Australian food products from February in retaliation. "Philippines to take fruit trade issue vs Australia to WTO," DOW JONES NEWSWIRE, 25 May 2000.

## **ON THE MOVE**

On 25 May, the WTO's Dispute Settlement Body completed the appointments to the Appellate Body by selecting Mr. Yasuhei Taniguchi of Japan as a new member. Mr. Taniguchi replaces Mr. C. Beeby of New Zealand, who passed away on 19 March. Appellate Body members are usually appointed for a four year term, but as Mr. Taniguchi is replacing Mr. Beeby, his term is limited to three and a half years, through December 2003. The appointment was made in accordance with the WTO Dispute Settlement Understanding, which stipulates that the Appellate Body shall be

comprised of individuals "of recognised authority with demonstrated expertise in law, international trade, and the subject matter of the WTO agreements generally."

"Second Japanese Appointed to WTO Appellate Body," Kyodo News International, Inc., 25 May 2000, "WTO Completes Appointment of Appellate Body Members," WTO Press Release (Ref: PRESS/179), 25 May 2000.

## **EVENTS & RESOURCES**

### **• Coming Up This Week:**

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

29 May, Moscow, Russia: EU-RUSSIA SUMMIT. For information contact: European Commission, DG-1 (Trade), Information Unit, fax: (32-2) 296-9854, email: [eis@dg1.cec.be](mailto:eis@dg1.cec.be); web: <http://europa.eu.int/comm/trade>

30 May-2 June, Miami, Florida: FREE TRADE AREA OF THE AMERICAS MEETING (FTAA) NEGOTIATING GROUP ON SERVICES. For information contact: FTAA Secretariat at: [ftaa-alca@ftaa-alca.4tz.com](mailto:ftaa-alca@ftaa-alca.4tz.com)

30-31 May, London, England: THE OPPORTUNITY FOR BUSINESS TO CHANGE THE WORLD TRADE DEBATE. Organised by the Commonwealth Business Council. 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>

31 May, Queluz, Portugal: EU-US SUMMIT. For information contact: : European Commission, DG-1 (Trade), Information Unit, fax: (32-2) 296-9854; email: [eis@dg1.cec.be](mailto:eis@dg1.cec.be); internet: <http://europa.eu.int/comm/trade>

31 May - 1 June, Ottawa, Canada: THE TRADE KNOWLEDGE NETWORK: TRADE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FROM A SOUTHERN PERSPECTIVE. This conference is hosted by the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) and the Centre for Trade Policy and Law (CTPL), with the support of the International Development Research Centre (IDRC). For information contact: Christine Carlin, CTPL, tel: (1-613) 520-6696; fax: 520-3981; email: [ccarlin@ccs.carleton.ca](mailto:ccarlin@ccs.carleton.ca); or Aaron Cosbey, IISD, email: [acosbey@iisd.ca](mailto:acosbey@iisd.ca)

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/>

- **WTO Events**

An updated list of forthcoming WTO 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 & 31 May, Geneva: TRADE POLICY REVIEW BODY - PERU. For information contact Lucie Giraud, WTO Information and Media Relations Division, tel: (41-22) 739-5075.

8-9 June, Geneva: WORKING GROUP ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN TRADE AND INVESTMENT. For information, contact Nuch Nazeer, WTO Information and Media Relations Division, tel: (41-22) 739-5393.

- **Other Events**

3-5 June, Windsor, Ontario, Canada: SYMPOSIUM ON HEMISPHERIC INTEGRATION AND DEMOCRACY IN THE AMERICAS: Citizenship, Participation, Accountability. Hosted by the International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development, the symposium will include such topics as: Democratic Governance, Human Rights, Citizenship and Participation, Visions from the four corners of the continent, and civil society priorities for the Summit of the Americas. For information visit: <http://www.ichrdd.ca>

12-15 June, Seoul, Republic of Korea: UNEP WORKSHOP ON MANAGEMENT OF DIOXINS. This is a workshop on the management of dioxins, furans, and PCBS, organised by the UN Environment Programme. For information, contact: Murray Newton or Heidi Fiedler, UNEP Chemicals (IRPTC), tel: (41-22) 979-9111; fax: 797-3460; email: [mnewton@unep.ch](mailto:mnewton@unep.ch) or [hfriedler@unep.ch](mailto:hfriedler@unep.ch); web: <http://irptc.unep.ch/pops>. -- From IISD Linkages, <http://www.iisd.ca/linkages/>

12-16 June, Bonn, Germany: 12TH SESSION OF THE FCCC SUBSIDIARY BODIES. It will be preceded by one week of informal meetings, including workshops. For information contact: the FCCC Secretariat, tel: (49-228) 815-1000; fax: 815-1999; email: [secretariat@unfccc.de](mailto:secretariat@unfccc.de); web: <http://www.unfccc.int/sessions/00june/index.html>

13-16 June, Rome, Italy: IPPC OPEN-ENDED EXPLORATORY WORKING GROUP MEETING ON THE PHYTOSANITARY ASPECTS OF GMOs, BIOSAFETY AND INVASIVE SPECIES. Hosted by the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation and the International Plant Protection Convention. For information contact: Christina Devorshak, Associate Professional Officer, FAO-IPPC; tel: (39-06)5705-4006; fax:5705-6347; email: [Christina.devorshak@fao.org](mailto:Christina.devorshak@fao.org); Internet: <http://www.fao.org>

19-21 June, Geneva, Switzerland: SUMMER COURSES ON DISPUTE SETTLEMENT IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE, INVESTMENT AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW. Sponsored by the Academy of International Economic Law and Dispute Settlement. The courses

will offer participants practical insights into the law and dispute settlement practice of the United Nations, the WTO, and the World Intellectual Property Organisation. For information contact: Professor E.-U. Petersmann, ACADEMIE DE DROIT INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIQUE; Dpt de Droit international public et organisation internationale, FACULTE DE DROIT - UNIVERSITE DE GENEVE, 20 bd du Pont d'Arve, CH-1211 Geneve 4; tel: (41-22) 705-8542; fax: 705-8543.

22-23 June, Geneva, Switzerland: SUMMER COURSES ON INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION LAW AND POLICY. The courses will offer participants practical insights into the law and dispute settlement practice of the United Nations, the World Trade Organisation, and the World Intellectual Property Organisation. For information, contact: Professeur E.-U. Petersmann, ACADEMIE DE DROIT INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIQUE; Dpt de Droit international public et organisation internationale, FACULTE DE DROIT - UNIVERSITE DE GENEVE, 20 bd du Pont d'Arve, CH-1211 Geneva 4; tel: (41-22) 705-8542; fax: 705-8543.

- **Resources**

PRIVATE CAPITAL FLOWS TO AFRICA. 2000. by Nils Bhinda, Stephanie Griffith-Jones, Johnathan Leape, Matthew Martin. This book presents the facts on the scale and composition of private capital flows to Africa and the difficulties in monitoring them, looks at what motivates people to invest, focuses on the macroeconomic impact and policy implications of capital flows, and identifies measures which will help African governments attract more development-oriented private flows. To obtain contact: FONDAD, Noordeinde 107a, 2514 GE The Hague, The Netherlands, fax: (31-70) 346-3939; email: Forum\_Fondad@wxs.nl

TRADE BLOCS AND BEYOND: POLITICAL DREAMS AND PRACTICAL DECISIONS. 2000. Published by Oxford University Press for the World Bank. This book analyses both the political and the economic benefits of regional trade blocs. It argues that the benefits can sometimes be illusory, and that careful economic choices have to be made if the schemes are to bring benefits. To obtain contact: The World Bank Order Fulfilment Operations, Washington, D.C., USA, tel: (1-800) 645-7247 or (1-703) 661-1580; fax: 661-1501; email: books@worldbank.org; web: <http://www.worldbank.org/html/extpb/howtoorder.htm>

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