



INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR  
TRADE AND SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT

BRIDGES

# Weekly Trade News Digest

06 June 2000

ISSN 1563-003X

Volume 4, N°22

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

• EU-US Summit Fails To Resolve Trade Disputes, Renews Call for New WTO Round .....	1
• UNEP Meeting Urges Focus on Poverty Reduction ...	2
• Dispute Settlement: EU Calls for Consultations on US Carousel Provisions .....	3
• EC Holds First 'Issues Groups' Consultations on WTO .....	5
• News From The Regions: The Americas .....	6
• In Brief .....	8
• WTO In Brief .....	9
• On The Move .....	9
• Events and Resources .....	10
• Position Vacancies .....	13

## EU-US SUMMIT FAILS TO RESOLVE TRADE DISPUTES, RENEWS CALL FOR NEW WTO ROUND

EU and US officials met on 31 May in Portugal where officials discussed, inter alia, ongoing EU-US trade disputes and the potential for a new round of WTO trade talks. US President Bill Clinton and US Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky led the high-level US delegation; European Commission President Romano Prodi and EU Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy led the high-level EU delegation.

EU and US officials reported that no progress had been reached at the 31 May meeting toward resolving trade disputes over beef, bananas, US Foreign Sales Corporations or EU Airbus subsidies. Officials on both sides took pains to downplay the lack of progress, noting that the summit was never expected to yield resolutions in the long-standing trade disputes. Officials noted that discussions did help to clarify EU and US positions in the matters and both sides reiterated their commitment to resolving the disputes. European Commission President Romano Prodi said that the two sides agreed that "all trade disputes will be settled, case by case, under WTO rules."

The lack of progress in at least one case -- over so-called carousel retaliation measures to be taken by the US (see related story, this issue) -- has already triggered an EU request for WTO consultations. Carousel retaliation measures are 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/story1.16-15-00.htm> ).

The EU and US issued a joint statement at the end of the summit calling for an early launch of a new round of global trade talks. "Since the last EU-US Summit in December, we have worked together in Geneva to rebuild confidence in the WTO and the multilateral system, with particular reference to developing countries," according to the statement. "The EU and US pledge to build on the constructive work of the last six months to try to launch such a new Round during the course of this year. We have reiterated our common view that the WTO agenda should include the social issues of labour and environment, not as a matter of protectionism but as a matter of social justice and sustainability," the statement said.

It is not clear what support the EU-US push will have amongst WTO Members. Developing countries remain firm that a new round is contingent on resolving issues of interest to the developing world, including implementation. Further, there remains strong opposition amongst most developing countries against labour and environment linkage to WTO agreements.

EU Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy said in advance of the EU-US meeting that an early launch of a new round was even more urgent in light of China's likely accession to the WTO following the conclusion of EU-China WTO accession talks. "A round with China in is going to be much more difficult than a round without China in," Mr. Lamy said.

EU and US officials also agreed on 31 May to hold a non-governmental consultative forum on biotechnology in July where delegates are expected to discuss the scientific, economic and ethical aspects of biotechnology.

"US-EU fail to settle trade disputes, endorse work for a new round," *INSIDE US TRADE*, 2 June 2000; "A wall of trade between US and Europe," *NEW YORK TIMES*, 1 June 2000; "EU gets US agreement on new world trade round," *IRISH TIMES*, 1 June 2000; "Today's EU-US summit joint statement on launching the new trade round," *EU PRESS RELEASE* (4D4MKR), 31 May 2000; "EU seeks quick start to global trade round," *FINANCIAL TIMES*, 25 May 2000; "Round soon," *ECONOMIC TIMES* (India), 31 May 2000.

## **UNEP MEETING URGES FOCUS ON POVERTY REDUCTION**

Environment ministers and delegates from 130 countries gathered in Malmo, Sweden from 29-31 May for the Global Ministerial Environment Forum. Meetings were held under the auspices of the UN Environment Program (UNEP). Delegates discussed, *inter alia*, the major environmental challenges of the 21st century, the private sector and the environment, environmental responsibility, and the role of civil society in a globalised world.

UNEP Executive Director Klaus Töpfer warned that the two main global environmental threats are unsustainable production and consumption patterns in developed countries and poverty in developing countries.

Mr. Töpfer said the Malmo Declaration agreed by delegates would provide "essential input to the UN's Millennium General Assembly in September and to the Rio-plus-10 summit in 2002, which together will set the global agenda for environment and sustainable development for years to come."

Regarding environmental challenges, the Malmo Declaration noted, *inter alia*, that globalisation requires international institutions to adopt new approaches, and called for a balanced and integrated approach to trade and environment policies. The Declaration also noted "the alarming discrepancy between commitments and action, adopting national sustainable development strategies, and increasing support to developing countries.

Regarding the private sector and the environment, the Declaration called for, *inter alia*, "the private sector to make a greater commitment to engender a new culture of environmental accountability through the polluter-pays principle, a precautionary approach regarding investment and technology decisions, and environmental performance indicators and reporting."

Regarding civil society, the Declaration stated that "the role of civil society should be strengthened through freedom of access to environmental information, broad participation in decision-making, and access to justice on environmental issues, and that governments should facilitate the ability of civil society to have a voice."

The Declaration also called attention to "the pervasive effects of the burden of poverty on a large proportion of the Earth's inhabitants" and the "excessive and wasteful consumption and inefficient resource use." Delegates also called on the Rio+10 summit to concentrate on these problems as the main challenges to sustainable development.

"Report of the Global Ministerial Environment Forum and Sixth Special Session of the UNEP Governing Council: 29 - 31 MAY 2000," EARTH NEGOTIATIONS BULLETIN (IISD), 2 June 2000; "UN environmental summit to tackle industry's role," AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, 26 May 2000; "Environment ministers: reversing poverty key to eco-protection," ENS, 31 May 2000; "Ministers to propose environmental agenda for the 21st century," UNEP PRESS RELEASE, 11 May 2000; "Global environment forum concludes with new agenda," UN WIRE, 1 June 2000.

## **DISPUTE SETTLEMENT: EU CALLS FOR CONSULTATIONS ON US CAROUSEL PROVISIONS**

The EU and the US are once again headed to the WTO in the ongoing beef and banana disputes. The EU has announced plans to hold consultations with the US at the WTO next week over US moves to implement a new provision in its trade legislation that targets a rotating list of EU products.

The US Trade Representative's (USTR) office took the first step toward changing its list of EU exports targeted for retaliation in the two disputes on 26 May. At that time the USTR called for

public comment on whether a final retaliation list should be altered and whether those tariffs should be raised above the current 100 percent level. The request is an attempt to implement the carousel provision of the Africa-Caribbean Basin Initiative legislation signed into law on 18 May. The carousel provision requires the USTR to revise the list of goods subject to retaliatory duties every six months, with the initial revision (against EU products targeted in the banana and beef cases) set for 19 June.

The EU argues that WTO rules make no provisions for rotating retaliation lists and that trade sanctions must be approved multilaterally. EU officials also note that rotating sanctions would exceed the sanctions level previously approved by the WTO because EU producers would continue to face loss of US market share, and EU industries would continue to be under the threat of punitive tariffs.

Said EC Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy at an EU-US summit meeting in Portugal on 31 May (see related story this issue), "We are extremely unhappy about the carousel legislation approach. Sanctions are provided for in the WTO. They are supposed to be proportionate to the damages. They have to be stable and not disrupt trade. The carousel approach is disruptive and we believe this is not the WTO objective."

### **US-FSC dispute continues**

The US and the EU are also embroiled in a dispute over the US Foreign Sales Corporation (FSC) tax provision, which is aimed at providing a partial tax exemption for income earned on imports. In February, a WTO panel ruled that the FSC is a WTO-illegal export subsidy, and gave the US until 1 October to revise it. The current attempt by the US to solve this dispute involves extending the tax benefits to all overseas sales by foreign units of US companies. According to the EU, this proposal fails to resolve the problem as it still leaves tax shelters intact as a WTO-incompatible export subsidy. EU Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy has demanded that the US change this existing proposal on two provisions: the 50 percent US content requirement, and Special Administrative Pricing Rules.

On 5 June, US Deputy Secretary Stuart Eizenstat said that he plans to meet with congressional leaders later this week to begin drafting new legislation aimed at bringing the US tax regime into conformity with the WTO ruling. Since Commissioner Lamy essentially rejected the US proposal for resolving the dispute on 29 May, there have been preliminary discussions about implementing new FSC legislation between the US Treasury, staff of the Senate Finance Committee, and representatives of the US business community.

### **Canada-US consultations on lumber**

On 19 May, Canada requested consultations at the WTO to challenge US regulations and practices that treat a country's export bans as a subsidy subject to countervailing measures. This request comes as a result of the approaching expiration of the US-Canadian Softwood Lumber Agreement, set to terminate in April 2001. The agreement was initially signed to correct for Canadian government pricing of timber in a non-competitive market and log export restrictions in British Columbia. At the time of expiration, it is likely that the US lumber industry will initiate a CVD case if there is no acceptable replacement agreement.

The US Statement of Administrative Action accompanying US legislation implementing the Uruguay round agreements explicitly states that a country's export restraints are considered countervailable subsidies. However, in a WTO challenge, Canada will likely argue that the WTO Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures (SCM) does not list product export restraints as a subsidy against which countries can impose countervailing duties. The key argument by the US is likely to be whether Canada's challenge can be adjudicated in the absence of any CVD actions by the US government, as most WTO cases focus on government policies that have already been implemented. The substance of the case will likely focus on whether the SCM allows export bans to be considered indirect subsidies.

### **Pakistan-US textile dispute**

Pakistan and the US are going to the WTO over a transitional safeguard measure imposed by the United States on 17 March 1999 on imports of combed cotton yarn from Pakistan. On 3 April 2000, Pakistan requested the establishment of a dispute settlement panel to examine the measure. Pakistan has alleged that the US transitional safeguard measure is inconsistent with Article 2.4 of the WTO Agreement on Textiles and Clothing (ATC) and is not justified by Article 6 of the same agreement. Pakistan has also maintained that the US measure does not meet the requirements for transitional safeguards set out in paragraphs 2, 3, 4, and 7 of Article 6 of the ATC.

### **Panel appointed in Japan-US antidumping case**

Director-General Mike Moore has appointed a three-member dispute settlement panel to rule on a complaint by Japan against US antidumping duties imposed on Japanese hot-rolled steel imports. A WTO panel ruling is expected six months from the date of the appointment of the panel members, although this can be extended to nine months if the panel notifies the Dispute Settlement Body of reasons for the delay.

"US Beef, Banana Groups Savor New Tool Against EU," REUTERS, 1 June 2000; USTR Takes Step To Change Retaliation Against EU On Beef, Bananas," INSIDE US TRADE, 2 June 2000; "EU To Take US To WTO Over Sanctions Plan," REUTERS, 31 May 2000; "EU, US Square Off Over Tax Shelter," BLOOMBERG NEWS, 20 May 2000; "EU, U.S. Step Up Dispute Over Tax Scheme," REUTERS 29 May 2000; "EU Takes Hard Line in FSC Dispute With U.S. By Rejecting Proposal," INSIDE US TRADE, 2 June 2000; "US Treasury Official, Congressional Leaders To Begin Drafting FSC Legislation," WTO REPORTER, 6 June 2000; "Canada Moves To WTO Challenge Of U.S. CVD Rules On Export Bans," INSIDE US TRADE, 2 June 2000, "Pakistan Requests WTO Dispute Settlement Proceeding Regarding U.S. Safeguard Measure On Combed Cotton Yarn From Pakistan," INSIDE US TRADE, 30 May 2000; "WTO Chief Moore Appoints Dispute Panel For U.S.-Japan Row Over Steel Antidumping," WTO REPORTER, 31 May 2000.

### **EC HOLDS FIRST 'ISSUES GROUPS' CONSULTATIONS ON WTO**

On 29 and 30 May, the European Commission held its first session of WTO 'issues groups' consultation meetings with civil society and other stakeholders. These consultations on a series of topics were set up by the Commission to focus on WTO negotiations. The issues chosen for

discussion were: Trade and Health Issues, Services, Agriculture, and Environment (including sustainable development).

The discussion on Trade and Health issues involved consumer health, access to health care and trade, public health services, and access to medicines and trade. At the consultation, the Commission presented a briefing paper on the issue of access to medicines and trade. This paper states that the issue of trade and access to medicines is now seen more widely as access to health, because it relates to a wide range of issues such as economic development, insufficient health care, transfer of technology, and poor education.

With respect to Services, the Commission presented the state of the WTO negotiations on services, where Members are still discussing modalities and guidelines for the negotiations. The EU had hoped to have actual negotiations begin in 2002, but this timetable apparently seems unlikely to be met.

In the meeting on Environment, the Commission expressed the need to find a way of "overcoming developing countries' paranoia" on environmental issues. The Commission identified a number of issues for future discussion, including Multilateral Environmental Agreements, labelling, 'sustainable development', special and differential treatment -- including incentives for developing countries, post-Lome trade agreements, and the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs).

The meeting on Agriculture lacked a clear agenda or focus and avoided the issue of food security, according to some NGO participants.

Following the meetings, a group of development, trade and environmental NGOs met to exchange views. The general consensus was that the Commission's Directorate for Development should also have been involved in the discussions. They also noted that most of the participants at the consultations were representatives of business and industry, with little representation from development NGOs.

The issue groups are scheduled to meet every last Monday and Tuesday of each month as of May 2000, with a break for July and August. For further information see: [http://europa.eu.int/comm/trade/2000\\_round/timetable.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/trade/2000_round/timetable.htm).

"WTO Issues Groups Consultations meetings between Commission and civil society," EUROSTEP, 2 June 2000.

## **NEWS FROM THE REGIONS: THE AMERICAS**

Ministers from the Americas met in Windsor, Ontario from 4-6 June for a meeting of the Organisation of American States (OAS) General Assembly. Ministers focused on a number of hemispheric political matters, but also discussed, *inter alia*, strengthening cooperation between governments and civil society, the human rights of migrant workers and preparations for the April 2001 Summit of the Americas in Quebec City, Canada. Between 2,000-3,000 anti free trade protestors on 4 June attempted unsuccessfully to prevent the OAS from meeting.

Addressing the General Assembly on 4 June, Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien urged ministers to press ahead with efforts to create a hemispheric Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) anticipated for 2005, saying free trade helps to create jobs and prosperity. "We must press ahead with an FTAA that can produce benefits for all nations of the hemisphere -- big and small," Mr. Chretien said.

At a meeting with civil society groups in Windsor, Canada's Minister for International Cooperation Maria Minna announced a \$CDN500,000 project to support participation of civil society in activities linked to inter-American co-operation and integration. The money will come from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), which will allocate funding for initiatives by non-governmental organisations that address development challenges facing the Americas, in particular the fight against poverty and inequity. The project funds will provide an opportunity for marginalised groups -- such as women, indigenous peoples, and children -- to organise and participate in conferences, workshops, and seminars linked, among others, to the OAS General Assembly and the Quebec City Summit of the Americas.

### **Mercosur Summit**

At an early-May summit of political and business leaders from the Southern Cone Common Market (Mercosur, comprising Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay and Paraguay), leaders railed against the EU and US for protectionist measures and called for an aggressive Mercosur stance in WTO negotiations. Brazil's President Fernando Henrique Cardoso told the summit that the globalisation process must become "more symmetric, more inclusive," and criticised EU and US protectionist policies that serve to thwart Mercosur trade. "[Mercosur countries] come up against obstacles which have prevented them from reaping the benefits of their competitiveness in sectors which have been excluded from liberalisation, like agriculture," Mr. Cardoso said.

The Mercosur summit was also marked by efforts to boost Mercosur cooperation and cohesion after a year of heightened trade tensions between Mercosur members. Mercosur announced plans at the May summit to attract foreign direct investment, lower interest rates and announced progress on a regional auto trade pact.

### **Central American FTA**

In other regional news, Mexico Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador reached a free trade agreement last month that will liberalise regional trade over the next twelve years. Mexico already has free trade agreements with the Central American countries of Nicaragua and Costa Rica.

### **Andean Community Courts China**

Andean Community Secretary General Sebastian Alegrett and Liu Wenjie, Vice-Chairman of the Chinese Economic Council for the Promotion of International Trade late last month called for closer economic cooperation between the Andean Community and China. "The Andean countries possess a wealth of resources and their economies are complementary to the Chinese in many ways. Furthermore, bilateral trade is increasing year-by-year, while the advances in economic and technological cooperation and mutual investments are fairly sizeable," Mr. Wenjie said on 25 May

in Peru. Mr. Alegrett noted that the Andean Community is eager to expand trade with a number of trade partners, particularly at the regional level.

### **Mexico-Russia Trade on the Rise**

Trade between Russia and Mexico increased significantly in the first quarter of 2000 over the same period in 1999. Bilateral trade in the January-March period totalled US\$39 million, up US\$10 million over the same period in 1999.

"Protesters try to disrupt OAS talks," FINANCIAL TIMES, 5 June 2000; "Canadian Prime Minister opens OAS General Assembly session, stressing the human element," OAS PRESS RELEASE, 4 June 2000; "Russia-Mexico trade growing," BBC NEWS, 31 May 2000; "CAN and China seek stronger ties between their private sectors," ANDEAN COMMUNITY PRESS RELEASE, 25 May 2000; "Mercosur summit points protectionist finger at US," DOW JONES NEWSWIRES, 9 May 2000; "Leaving trade pact woes behind," CHICAGO TRIBUNE, 10 May 2000; "Central American free trade agreement reached," BBC NEWS, 11 May 2000; "Canada Supports Participation of Civil Society in Activities Linked to Hemispheric Cooperation and Integration," CIDA NEWS RELEASE, 5 June 2000.

### **IN BRIEF**

Following the 18 May military coup in Fiji, the Fiji mission in Brussels announced late last month that it had withdrawn its candidacy to host the signing of a new EU-ACP trade and aid accord if the agreement is to be signed before 19 June as previously planned. The accord would replace the expired Lomé Convention between the EU and 71 African, Pacific and Caribbean (ACP) countries. ACP officials announced that six new Pacific states would join the ACP-group: Marshall Islands, Cook Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Nauru, Niue and Palau. EU officials have indicated that the new accord would be signed at a later date in June. While no location has been decided on as yet, Benin, Botswana, Jamaica and Mauritius have all applied to host the signing. ICTSD Internal Files; "Benin, Botswana, Jamaica and Mauritius apply to host signing ceremony of new ACP-EU agreement," EUROSTEP, 2 June 2000.

Metals producers, battery firms and carmakers criticised a proposed EU ban from 2003 on the use of lead, cadmium, mercury and hexavalent chromium in car manufacturing (see BRIDGES Weekly News Digest Vol. 4, No. 21, 30 May 2000, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/inbrief.30-05-00.htm>). Industry officials said the EU failed to consider the full benefits of the metals and noted that the EU had yet to prove that the metals' lead to unacceptable levels of pollution. "Industry alarmed by EU ban on heavy metals," REUTERS, 26 May 2000.

As part of the 15-26 May meeting in Nairobi, Kenya for the Fifth Conference of the Parties (COP-5) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), sixty-seven countries plus the European Union signed the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. The Cartagena Protocol is intended to ensure the safe transfer, handling, use, and disposal of genetically modified organisms (GMOs), and represents the first binding international agreement addressing situations where GMOs cross national borders. The Protocol was adopted on 29 January, and will take effect once it is ratified by 50 signatories. The US is not formally a part of the CBD and therefore was not amongst those who signed the Protocol.



"Fifth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity: 15-26 May 2000," EARTH NEGOTIATIONS BULLETIN, 29 May 2000.

The World Bank has issued its latest report on African development outlining the continent's possibilities for the 21st century. The report, entitled "Can Africa Claim the 21st Century?" states that people in sub-Saharan Africa live less well today than they did in the 1960s, and that large influxes of aid in recent decades have done little to improve conditions. The report also says that the new century gives Africa a window of opportunity to reverse the region's marginalisation, and calls for decisive action in four major areas in order to effect this reversal: conflict resolution and improved governance; more investment in people; increasing competitiveness and diversifying economies; and better support from the international community. "Aid to Africa Often Wasted, World Bank Study Admits," INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE, 2 June 2000; "Chance of Economic Revival Beckons Marginalized Africa," FINANCIAL TIMES, 1 June 2000.

## **WTO IN BRIEF**

Trade ministers from the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum will meet in Australia from 6-7 June. Ministers are expected to discuss a Japanese proposal to assist developing countries in meeting their free-trade commitments. The proposal is geared toward building developing countries' support for a new round of global trade talks. The meeting will also be the first time that subregional trade agreements will be taken up as a central agenda item. "Japanese APEC proposal key to new WTO round: Australia," KYODO NEWS INTERNATIONAL, 31 May 2000; "APEC to focus on free trade pacts for 1st time," KYODO NEWS INTERNATIONAL, 22 May 2000.

Last week, in its first session dedicated to Peru, the Trade Policy Review Body of the WTO praised the liberalisation of trade and investment in the country under Alberto Fujimori, but urged the government to pay more attention to improving living standards. According to the representatives of the European Union, "the impact of economic performance on poverty alleviation was inadequate." In a sharply worded criticism of the domestic affairs of the country -- rarely heard in the WTO -- the Canadian delegation censured Peru's electoral process, stating that the run-off election "lacked transparency and credibility." "Fujimori Under Fire From Canada, EU," IPS TERRAVIVA, 31 May 2000; "WTO Praises Peru's Free Market Policies," IPS TERRAVIVA, 1 June 2000.

## **ON THE MOVE**

The European Commission appointed Danish Commission official Mr. .Mogens Peter Carl as the new Director General of DG Trade from 1 June. Mr. Carl has served as acting Deputy-Director General in charge of multilateral and sectoral trade policy since 1998. Most recently Mr. Carl played a central role in coordinating the Commission's negotiating team for the Seattle WTO Ministerial Meeting held at the end of 1999.

Prior to joining the Commission in 1974, Mr. Carl worked for the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and for the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

(OECD). "New EU Trade Director-General and details of EU-US summit tomorrow," EU PRESS RELEASE (4D4MKQ), 31 May 2000.

## **EVENTS AND 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>.

7 June, Geneva: WTO DISPUTE SETTLEMENT BODY. For information contact: Nuch Nazeer, WTO Information and Media Relations Division, (41-22) 739-5393.

8-9 June, Geneva: WTO WORKING GROUP ON TRADE AND INVESTMENT. The meeting will focus mainly on further analysis of the implications of the trade and investment relationship for development and economic growth. For information contact: Luis Ople, WTO Information and Media Relations Division, tel: (41-22) 739-5374; email: [luis.ople@wto.org](mailto:luis.ople@wto.org).

12-13 June, Dallas, Texas: COUNCIL OF THE NORTH AMERICAN COMMISSION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATION (CEC) ANNUAL SESSION. For this session, Carol M. Browner, Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency, hosts her counterparts, David Anderson, Canadian Minister of Environment, and Julia Carabias, Mexico's Minister of Environment, Natural Resources and Fisheries. The meetings will take place at the Sheraton Grand Hotel, Dallas Fort Worth Airport, 4440 W. John Carpenter Freeway, Irving, Texas 75063; tel: (1-972) 929-8400; fax: (1-972) 929-4885. Press briefing at 14:00 13 June. For information contact Christine Larson, CEC Media Officer, before 9 June at the CEC in Montreal at (1-514) 350-4331 or by email: [clarson@ccemtl.org](mailto:clarson@ccemtl.org); from 11 June at the Sheraton Grand Hotel in Texas at (1-972) 929-8400 or (1-514) 577-3075 (cell); Internet: <http://www.cec.org>.

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 UNEP. 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); Internet: <http://irptc.unep.ch/pops>. From IISD Linkages, <http://www.iisd.ca/linkages>.

12-16 June, Bonn, Germany: 12TH SESSION OF THE UN FCCC SUBSIDIARY BODIES. The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change subsidiary bodies meeting 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); Internet: <http://www.unfccc.int/sessions/00june/index.html>.

### **• 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.

26-30 June, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO TRIPS COUNCIL MEETING. On the agenda (inter alia): observer status for international intergovernmental organisations; notifications; technical cooperation; review of Article 27.3(b); review of the implementation of the agreement under Article 71.1; and non-violation complaints. For more information contact: Peter Ungphakorn, Information and Media Relations Division, WTO, 154 rue de Lausanne, 1211 Geneva 21, Switzerland; tel: (41-22) 739-5412; email: [peter.ungphakorn@wto.org](mailto:peter.ungphakorn@wto.org); Internet: <http://www.wto.org/wto/intellect/intellect.htm>.

29 June, Geneva: WTO ROUNDTABLE MEETING ON "TRADE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: MOVING THE AGENDA FORWARD". Discussion will focus on what is needed at the national and international levels to ensure that countries and their citizens benefit from trade. Views will be discussed by representatives from an NGO, from an academic institution, from business, from two trade-related inter-governmental organisations and from a developing country government. Presentations and the public question and answer session will be conducted by a moderator. The meeting is organised as part of the Geneva 2000 Forum (for registration, check site <http://www.geneva2000.org>), a parallel event to the UN's Social Summit in Geneva from 26 to 30 June 2000. The meeting is public and will take place from 10 to 12:30am in the Centre International de Conférences de Genève (CICG), Rue de Varembe 15, Geneva. For information contact: Bernie Kuiten, WTO External Relations, tel: (41-22) 739-5676; email: [bernard.kuiten@wto.org](mailto:bernard.kuiten@wto.org).

- **Other Events**

19-20 June, Squaxin Island First Nation, Washington State, USA: INDIGENOUS CAUCUS TO CONSIDER TREATY ON CULTURAL PROPERTY RIGHTS. Sponsored by the Centre for World Indigenous Studies, the Northwest Indian Applied Research Institute, and the Morning Star Institute. Indigenous peoples from across the United States, Canada, Mexico, Panama and the South Pacific have been invited to this caucus. Here, indigenous leaders, scholars, activists and elders will consider how to best ensure their traditions and knowledge are protected for future generations in the face of approaching globalism, TRIPs, and the WTO. For information contact: Rodney Bobiwash Center for World Indigenous Studies, tel: (1-416) 929-4581; email: [abobiwash@cwis.org](mailto:abobiwash@cwis.org); Internet: <http://www.cwis.org>.

22-25 June, Geneva, Switzerland: INTERNATIONAL NGO GATHERING PRIOR TO UN WORLD SUMMIT ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT. The principle objective of this parallel summit is to further enlarge the number of organisations acting and working together internationally. Meetings will be used to discuss the major questions being raised by corporate globalisation today. The objective is to produce a common plan of action for the future. For information contact: Comité Suisse de l'Appel de Bangkok, c/o Maison des Associations, 15 rue des Savoises, CH-1205 Geneva, Switzerland; fax: (41-22) 320-4261; email: [bangkok.ch@europe.com](mailto:bangkok.ch@europe.com).

23 June, Geneva, Switzerland: IS GENUINE SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT POSSIBLE UNDER GLOBALIZATION? Organised by the International South Group Network, Resource Centre for

People's Development, ATTAC. This conference will investigate the question of poverty and social development from the perspective of alternatives to globalisation. It will cover the debate, exchange and struggles against globalisation, and will tackle the meaning of genuine social development in an era of globalisation. For information contact: Alice Raymundo, Resource Center for People's Development (RCPD), 24 Unit-7 Mapang-akit St., Brgy. Pinyahan, Quezon City, Philippines; tel: (63-2) 435-08-15; tel/fax: 436-18-31; email: [rcpd@info.com.ph](mailto:rcpd@info.com.ph) and [alice@info.com.ph](mailto:alice@info.com.ph) (use both).

24-28 June, Iran: UNEP WORKSHOP ON MANAGEMENT OF DIOXINS. 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 [hfiedler@unep.ch](mailto:hfriedler@unep.ch); Internet: <http://irptc.unep.ch/pops>. From IISD Linkages, <http://www.iisd.ca/linkages>.

26-27 June, Paris, France: OECD COUNCIL MEETING AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL. The OECD Council will meet under the chairmanship of Australia. Journalists wishing to cover the Council meeting can register online at <http://www.oecd.org/Forum2000/About/press.htm>; for information see Internet: <http://www.oecd.org>.

26-28 June, Paris, France: OECD/OCDE FORUM 2000 "PARTNERSHIPS IN THE NEW ECONOMY." Sponsored by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development. The Forum's objective is to impart and share information, improve communication and foster a climate of enlightened policy-making in the global public interest. It comprises two elements: a Major International Open Conference, and a Knowledge Fair for up to 100 organisations and companies. For information contact: Caroline Stevens, Touchstone Exhibitors and Conferences Ltd., 4 Red Lion Street, Richmond, Surrey TW9 1RW UK; tel: (44-0) 20-8-322-0044; fax: (44-0) 20-8-322-0874; Internet: <http://www.oecd.org/forum2000>.

26 June, Coimbra, Portugal: EU-CANADA SUMMIT. For information contact: European Commission, Trade DG, Information Unit; fax: (32-2) 296-9854; email: [eis@dg1.cec.be](mailto:eis@dg1.cec.be); Internet: <http://europa.eu.int/comm/trade>.

28 June, Coimbra, Portugal: EU-INDIA SUMMIT. For information contact: European Commission, Trade DG, Information Unit; fax: (32-2) 296-9854; email: [eis@dg1.cec.be](mailto:eis@dg1.cec.be); Internet: <http://europa.eu.int/comm/trade>.

29 June, Geneva, Switzerland: CUTS PANEL DISCUSSION ON LABOUR LINKAGE FROM THE VIEWPOINT OF TRADE SANCTIONS. A panel discussion on Labour Linkage from the Viewpoint of Trade Sanctions on the sidelines of the World Social Summit for Development-5, being held in Geneva during 26-30 June 2000. Hosted by the Consumer Unity and Trust Society. For information contact: CUTS-CITEE, D-217, Bhaskar Marg, Bani Park, Jaipur 302 016 India; tel: (91-141) 207482-5 (Four Lines); fax: 202968 or 207486; email: [cutsjpr@jp1.dot.net.in](mailto:cutsjpr@jp1.dot.net.in); Internet: <http://www.cuts-india.org>.

- **Resources**

TRADE AND ENVIRONMENT: A CRITICAL ASSESSMENT AND SOME SUGGESTIONS FOR RECONCILIATION in *The Journal of Environment & Development*, v. 9, no. 2; June 2000;

pp.138-159. This article critically assesses three ways in which trade might harm the environment. The article concludes with some constructive suggestions on how trade and the environment can be reconciled in future trade negotiations.

**RETHINKING LIBERALISATION AND REFORMING THE WTO** in *Third World Resurgence*, no. 114-5; Feb/Mar 2000; pp.41-47. Warning that trade liberalisation does not necessarily bring about economic growth and, if pursued ruthlessly, could trigger a cycle of financial instability, debt and recession, the author, in his presentation to the recent Davos World Economic Forum, called for the reform of the multilateral trade system to make the economic development of the developing countries its main aim.

**CAN AFRICA CLAIM THE 21st CENTURY?** May 2000 Published by the World Bank, this is a product of the growing collaboration among some of the main institutions involved in African development: the African Development Bank, the African Economic Research Consortium, the Global Coalition for Africa, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, and the World Bank. More than 50 scholars, policymakers, and development practitioners--predominantly African--appraised the region's development at the start of the new century and articulated a road map for the future. To obtain, write: The World Bank, P.O. Box 960, Herndon, VA 20172-0960, USA; tel:(1-703) 661-1580 or (1-800) 645-7247; fax: (1-703) 661-1501; email: [books@worldbank.org](mailto:books@worldbank.org); Internet: <http://www.worldbank.org/publications>

- **Electronic Resources**

**OPEN REGIONALISM IN THE ANDEAN COMMUNITY: TRADE CREATION AND SOCIAL ACCESS.** Written by German Creamer of Tulane University, this paper evaluates the open regionalism approach using the case of Ecuador's trade liberalisation and integration to the Andean Community. The paper concludes that a regional agreement leads to a situation where there is pure trade creation and social access for low-income groups. To access this paper visit <http://www.ssrn.com>. Keywords: Trade Liberalisation, Open Regionalism, Latin America, Small Producers, Andean Community JEL Classification: F15, O15, O17. Working Paper Series

## **POSITION VACANCIES**

International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development: **BUSINESS AND DEVELOPMENT OFFICER (BDO)**

The main work of this position will be in the provision of accurate financial, accounting, control and forecasting information to ICTSD's projects and programmes. ICTSD has established a cost-centre system of accounting for time and materials that enables better management and reporting outputs. A significant portion of the work in this position will focus on ensuring that this system is functioning properly and efficiently; and that it is being used properly in the assessment of projects and programmes. The incumbent will be responsible for maintaining, developing and monitoring financial, human resources and fundraising activities at ICTSD. He/she will serve all programme components as the organisation's focal point on all budgeting and finance issues. The BDO will work as part of a small team reporting directly to the Executive Director, with supervision from and coordination with the Programmes Director. The position focuses heavily on accounting, budgeting

and entrepreneurial-base support; it also concentrates on donor reporting and liaison with vendors. For further information please consult ICTSD's website at: <http://www.ictsd.org/forms/vacancies.htm>.

#### Friends of the Earth Middle East: PROJECT MANAGER

Friends of the Earth Middle East (FoEME), a regional environmental organisation, is seeking a Project Manager responsible for monitoring and lobbying on issues related to trade and environment. The candidate should have a good background in international economics and environmental affairs. S/he will be expected to develop policy positions and direct regional lobbying campaign. Tasks include: research and policy analysis; editing and publication of monthly electronic newsletter; writing of articles and press releases on relevant topics; coordination with other organisations in international lobbying campaigns; and organisation of regional conference and workshops. The position demands: knowledge of the international trade system and ability to analyse economic development issues; background in environmental issues; good research and analytic skills; ability to read and write English at a high level; writing experience preferred (applicants should submit short writing sample (e.g. a brief article) in English and Arabic; familiarity with standard computer programs (email, word processors, etc.); and grand-writing skills preferred. Applicants should have at least a Bachelors degree, and preferably a Masters' degree, in economics, international development or related field. Interested applicants should submit a C.V. and English writing sample by 10 June to: Friends of the Earth Middle East; fax: 02-532-4692; tel: 02-532-4667; email: [info@foeme.org](mailto:info@foeme.org).

*BRIDGES* Weekly Trade News Digest© is published by the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD) with support from the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (IATP). This issue has been researched at ICTSD by Elizabeth Stepnowski; written by Judy Brienza (IATP) and edited by Hugo Cameron, [hcameron@ictsd.ch](mailto:hcameron@ictsd.ch). The Director is Ricardo Meléndez-Ortiz, [rmelendez@ictsd.ch](mailto:rmelendez@ictsd.ch). ICTSD is an independent, not-for-profit organisation based at: 13, ch des Anémones, 1219 Geneva, Switzerland. Tel: (41- 22) 917- 8492; fax: (41-22) 917- 8093..

Excerpts from *BRIDGES* Weekly Trade News Digest© may be used in other publications with appropriate citation. Comments and suggestions are welcomed and should be directed to the Editor or the Director.

To subscribe to *BRIDGES* Weekly Trade News Digest©, send an email to: [listserv@iatp.org](mailto:listserv@iatp.org). Leave the subject line blank. In the body of the message type: subscribe bridges To unsubscribe, please send an email to [listserv@iatp.org](mailto:listserv@iatp.org). In the body of the message type: unsubscribe bridges. *BRIDGES* Weekly Trade News Digest© can also be found at the ICTSD web page: <http://www.ictsd.org/html/newsdigest.htm> and at the IATP web page: <http://www.newsbulletin.org>