



INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR
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INTERNAL TRANSPARENCY CREATES A STIR IN GENERAL COUNCIL

At a formal meeting of the WTO General Council (GC) on 17 July, Members addressed a range of topics, including accessions (see related story, this issue) e-commerce and internal transparency.

On the delicate issue of internal transparency, there was considerable discussion around a statement presented by Norwegian Ambassador and GC Chair Kåre Bryn. Based on ongoing consultations, Bryn brought forward a controversial text that formally described the informal decision-making process employed by WTO Members. Although the text was brought out under the Chair's own personal capacity, some Members -- namely Pakistan, Egypt, India and Malaysia -- criticised the paper for seeming to formalise decision-making procedures over which there is not yet full agreement.

The text in question, "as a complement to, but in no way a replacement of [an open-ended consultation process], consultations may also take place with individual Members of groups of Members," seems to confirm the old practice of so-called "Green Room" sessions, whereby groups of Members meet outside formal WTO structures in order to forge agreement on issues of concern to them. Members indicated that discussion on this issue was far from over. At the failed Seattle Ministerial late last year, lack of internal transparency and an exclusionary Green Room process was targeted by some delegations as a central reason for the collapse of the negotiations.

According to the Chair's statement, however, WTO Members generally do not see any need for major institutional reform that would alter the WTO's decision-making processes, including its practice of making decisions by consensus.

The Chair did include a list of points to keep in mind in conducting group consultations, namely that: Members are advised of the intention to hold such consultations; Members with an interest in the specific issue under consideration are given the opportunity to make their views known; no assumption should be made that one Member represents any other Member except where the Members concerned have agreed on such an arrangement; and the outcome of such consultations is reported back to the full Membership expeditiously for their consideration."

While the Chair's statement was adopted, Members agreed that the debate around these issues was not over, and consultations are expected to continue.

Bryn noted that discussions on the agenda item of preparation and organisation of Ministerial Conferences were not yet far enough along, and that consultations would be initiated in the fall.

On the issue of e-commerce, Members are undecided on how to structure discussions. As yet there is no e-commerce work programme, though the US is waiting to have the issue come up in the Council for Trade in Services. Pakistan stated that should WTO Members decide to go ahead with establishing a working group on e-commerce (an issue many perceive as a primarily developed country one), then they should also consider creating working groups on trade and technology transfer, trade and finance, and trade and debt. While Pakistan's suggestion did not receive much support, neither did it get opposition. When asked how he was going to deal with the issue, Chair Bryn informed Members that he would consult and get back to them in the fall. One WTO official expressed surprise at Pakistan's comment, saying that the WTO has no competence in the areas of trade and debt and trade and technology transfer, and perhaps these issues would be better dealt with in fora such as the UN Conference on Trade and Development or the World Bank.

The GC meeting will continue on 19 July, at which point Members will address the topics of external transparency and document de-restriction. The agenda item on procedures for the appointment of the Director-General -- a process which last year created a political crisis at the WTO -- is likely to be postponed to the fall. *BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest* will report on these discussions in its next issue.

ICTSD Internal Files.

WTO ACCESSIONS UPDATE

Croatia, Albania receive formal approval; Working Parties formed for Yemen & Cape Verde

At the 17 July WTO General Council meeting (see related story in this issue), Members approved WTO Membership for Croatia and Albania. Both governments must ratify the accession accord at their respective parliaments before WTO Membership takes effect, expected within a few months (countries formally become Members 30 days after informing the WTO Secretariat of successful ratification). Members also established working parties on WTO accession for Yemen and Cape

Verde. Yemen has recently requested consultancy bids towards helping the country reform its domestic trade legislation and prepare it for WTO negotiations. The General Council also granted the Bahamas observer status in that country's first step toward WTO Membership, but a request for observer status by Liberia was put off by the US due to concerns over Liberia's precarious governmental situation.

Ukraine still a ways off

The WTO Working Party on Ukraine's accession to the WTO met on 13 July. Trade officials noted that Ukraine was still far away from being admitted to the WTO, despite Ukrainian optimism that it could accede in eight to 18 months. "There is a lot of goodwill, but the Ukrainians will have to do a lot more to come into line with standard trade practices before they can hope to get in," said one trade diplomat.

The Ukraine first applied for WTO Membership in 1993, and most recently took measures to come into compliance with WTO rules, including ending a ban on certain used car imports and passing intellectual property legislation to combat compact disc piracy. The Ukraine agreed to submit by October 2000 a 12-18 month work plan to bring its domestic legislation fully in line with WTO rules, including its tax laws, customs valuation and sanitary and phytosanitary laws.

Ukraine officials noted that WTO admission would also likely require liberalisation of its food processing and agriculture sectors, exposing its producers to heavy competition from cheaper foreign imports. In advance of the 13 July meeting, Ukraine officials held separate bilateral talks on accession with, *inter alia*, the US, the EU, and Canada. Talks are not yet concluded with any of the 17 WTO Members that requested them. More informal talks on Ukraine's accession are expected later this year.

Macedonia in progress

The Working Party on Macedonia's accession met for the first time on 11 July. Macedonia provided general information on its regimes for customs valuation and intellectual property and took questions for further investigation on, *inter alia*, import licensing, investment, safeguards for food products and excise duties on tobacco.

Fall 2000 expected to be busy time for China accession

The next meeting of the Working Party on China's accession is scheduled for 27 July. Officially, China must still conclude WTO accession agreements with Switzerland, Mexico, Guatemala, Ecuador and Costa Rica (though unofficially it has already concluded bilateral talks with the latter). China will be at the WTO from 17 July to engage in a series of plurilateral and informal discussions with other WTO Members through to 28 July. The latter part of September has also been scheduled to forge ahead with China accession discussions (WTO meetings do not take place in August due to holidays). Draft versions of China's accession protocol and elements of the Working Party Report on the Accession of China are already on the table. According to WTO officials, the prospects for Chinese entry by the end of the year are looking good at this stage, though final details still need to be worked out as Members must verify every agreement China signs with others, as well as its domestic laws and the protocol itself.

Chinese Premier Zhu Ronghi met with EU business leaders on 11 July in Brussels, where he announced that China had established a domestic working group charged with ensuring that the country implements its WTO commitments. He also re-emphasised China's commitment to WTO agreements.

"China will surely abide by all the WTO rules and fulfil all of its promises. China has been a trustworthy country in economics and trade," said Premier Zhu. "More than US\$40 billion in foreign investment has come into China annually over the past few years. If China is not credible, who would invest so much money?"

"Albania and Croatia for WTO," FINANCIAL TIMES, 18 July 2000; "Ukraine seen facing long haul to join WTO," REUTERS, 13 July 2000; "WTO Members urge Ukraine to forward legislative action plan," WTO REPORTER, 14 July 2000; "WTO to mull Yemen application this month-officials," REUTERS, 10 July 2000; "Working Party on Macedonia's WTO accession hold's first meeting," XINHUA NEWS, 12 July 2000; "Nation vows to observe WTO rules," CHINA DAILY, 13 July 2000.

AIDS CONFERENCE CALLS FOR ACCESS TO GENERIC AIDS DRUGS

Researchers, activists, representatives of pharmaceutical companies, health care providers, health ministers and heads of state gathered in Durban, South Africa last week for the 13th International AIDS conference. One of the major topics of discussion was access to essential medicines and how the WTO Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs) affects developing countries' abilities to gain access to those medicines.

According to Mark Heywood, the director of the AIDS Law Project in Johannesburg, "This conference is unique for its focus on treatment and barriers to treatment for people living with HIV in Africa and the rest of the developing world. We've always expected the worst from the [pharmaceutical companies], and now we're just getting our act together in figuring out how to challenge their pricing policies, which put drugs out of reach for so many poor people." Activists at the conference announced their plans to protest, lobby and sue both drug companies and governments to provide the poor with access to antiviral drugs.

On 9 July, the first day of the conference, the group Médecins Sans Frontières presented a paper entitled "Setting objectives: is there a political will?" which dealt specifically with the pricing of HIV/AIDS medicines. The paper looked at factors that influence the prices of HIV/AIDS medications, including monopoly rights, the presence or absence of generic production, internationally coordinated programs, and price/cost disconnect. The group then addressed the mechanisms that would reduce the cost of HIV/AIDS treatment, in particular the role of generic drugs and intellectual property rights, including the WTO TRIPs agreement.

According to the MSF paper, countries such as Brazil and Thailand have succeeded in pushing the prices of HIV/AIDS medicines down not by securing markdowns from pharmaceutical companies, but by producing cheap generic equivalents of patented anti-retroviral drugs locally. Daniel Berman, an MSF representative, called upon countries to allow a generic form of essential drugs to be manufactured in their country, or to impose compulsory licensing. The AIDS activist group ACT

UP confirmed this, saying "there is no other solution [to the access problem] except the production of generics by local industries and the importation of those drugs in countries without production capacities."

In closed-door meetings, officials from more than a dozen African countries hardest hit by the AIDS pandemic met with representatives from generic-drug producers from Brazil and India. However, according to Paulo Roberto Teixeira, the director of Brazil's National AIDS program, Brazilian companies "have only a limited capacity to produce generic drugs for export." Dr. Teixeira did say that Brazil could provide expertise if countries elect to build generic drug manufacturers.

One of the overarching concerns for both developing and developed countries is whether the importation and production of generic drugs violates WTO rules regarding patents. UNAIDS -- the convener of the conference -- believes that importing generic drugs into many African countries would not constitute a violation because pharmaceutical companies do not have patent protection in those countries. South Africa is an exception; many of the drugs sold there do have patent protection, but South Africa is seeking to annul the patents as a result of the health crisis (see *BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest* Vol. 4, No. 26, 4 July 2000, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/story4.04-07-00.htm>).

According to documentation from the WTO, there are exceptions to the TRIPs rules on patentable subject matter. From a public health perspective, the important exceptions (contained in Article 27.2) are those for inventions whose exemption from patentability are "necessary to protect public order or morality, including to protect human, animal or plant life or health". The other two exceptions are for diagnostic, therapeutic and surgical methods for the treatment of humans or animals, and for certain plant and animal inventions. Discussions at the WTO on these matters are currently gridlocked (see *BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest* Vol. 4, No. 26, 4 July 2000, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/story3.04-07-00.htm>).

At the conference, Canada announced its support of the temporary suspension of international patent agreements to improve accessibility to AIDS drugs for poor, hard-hit countries. Canada has also backed calls for pharmaceutical companies to lower prices for developing countries, indicating that if prices come down enough, it may be willing to provide subsidies to make treatments available free of charge.

"MSF urges poor countries to continue to bring AIDS prices down," AGENCE FRANCE-PRESS, 9 July 2000; "RIGHTS-THAILAND: Struggling to HIV Drugs Cheaper," INTER PRESS SERVICE, 26 June 2000; "African Nations Studying Generic AIDS Drugs," DOW JONES AND COMPANY, INC., 13 July, 2000; "Canada supports AIDS drug changes," THE GLOBE AND MAIL, 12 July 2000; "AIDS Meeting Evokes New Sense of Urgency," THE WASHINGTON POST, 15 July 2000; "Setting objectives: is there a political will," ACCESS TO ESSENTIAL MEDICINES PROJECT, Médecins Sans Frontières, 9 July 2000; ICTSD internal files.

'SERVICES WEEK' LAYS GROUNDWORK FOR NEGOTIATIONS

The WTO Council for Trade in Services met from 5-14 July for the so-called "services week" planned to facilitate the services negotiations under Article XIX of the General Agreement on Trade in Services. Members convened in a series of working groups, informal meetings, and a special (negotiating) session to continue discussions from their last meeting held on 29 May (see *BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest*, Vol. 4 No. 21, 30 May 2000, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/story1.30-05-00.htm>).

At the special session, Members debated negotiating guidelines that would define the scope and procedures for negotiations, and exchanged papers and informal documents designed to explore areas for further discussion. According to one participant, the meeting produced "a greater level of understanding among Members," but much remains to be clarified before serious negotiations can begin in earnest.

According to one government representative, the meetings also exposed potential stumbling blocks, namely the treatment of autonomous liberalisation and disciplines on safeguards. Some developing countries are seeking credit for liberalisation undertaken autonomously since the conclusion of the Uruguay Round; these countries object to informal proposals from industrialised countries that would have them begin negotiations at current levels of market access (ie the status quo) rather than at those negotiated under the Uruguay Round. Sources at the WTO noted, however, that this discussion is still premature, since national delegations do not yet have a common understanding of how to define or assess autonomous liberalisation.

Some developing countries are also interested in forging disciplines for the application of safeguards in services trade before further liberalisation could be undertaken. Developed countries question the desirability and feasibility of a safeguard mechanism for services trade.

ICTSD Internal Files.

NEWS FROM THE REGIONS: AFRICA

Draft treaty on African Union signed

At a meeting last week of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) in Lomé, Togo, 36 African heads of state adopted a draft treaty creating an African Union. According to the treaty, African countries will work towards a common market and Economic Community, as well as a common defence policy. While the agreement states that the Union will function with strict respect for existing borders and adhere to the principle of non-interference, it will have the right to intervene in the affairs of a member state upon request or due to circumstances of war crimes, genocide, or external aggression.

The treaty provides for the creation of a Court of Justice and a head of state who will act as Union Chair. Countries are expected to ratify the treaty by 2001 or 2002. Nigeria, Uganda and South Africa have yet to sign the agreement, but have given strong indication that they will do so at a later date. Stated incoming OAU chairperson President Gnassingbe Eyadema, "[the creation of the Union]

expresses our unbending determination to achieve the old dream of the OAU founding Fathers, that is, the construction of the United States of Africa".

The Common Market for Eastern and Southern African countries (COMESA) last month endorsed the creation of the proposed African Union. The idea for a union was originally proposed by the OAU as part of its 1990 Abuja Treaty.

"You will recall that under the Abuja treaty, the regional economic groupings such as COMESA are supposed to be the pillar for establishing the African Economic Community and as far as COMESA is concerned, considerable progress has been made as the organisation is on the verge of attaining a free trade area and feels that it would greatly benefit Africa if we accelerated the whole process of attaining an African economic Union," COMESA Officer-in-charge Stephen Karangizi said.

Referring to groupings such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the Southern Cone Common Market (Mercosur) and the North American Free Trade Agreement, Mr. Karangizi noted, "We believe that if the rest of the world is taking such bold steps to remove barriers to economic integration, the same thing can be done in Africa, too."

Tanzania ratifies tri-nation trade agreement

Tanzania on 7 July announced it had ratified the East African Community treaty between Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda. Tanzania was the last of the three countries to ratify the agreement. Among other things, the agreement would abolish internal tariffs on nearly all goods except certain imports from Kenya, the grouping's largest economy, which would carry tariffs not to exceed 10 percent. Eventually, harmonisation of economic policy would be in place with a common regional currency envisaged within five to 10 years.

Egypt-Kenya dispute flares again

A trade dispute between Kenya and Egypt has resurfaced over import tariffs on key goods from each country. In June, Kenya excluded Egypt's main exports to Kenya -- chiefly wheat and rice -- from a list of goods benefiting from a preferential tariff regime under the Common Market for Eastern and Southern African countries (COMESA) to which both countries belong. Egypt on 9 July retaliated against Kenya by imposing a 35 percent tariff on imports of Kenyan tea, versus the COMESA preferential three percent rate. Egypt is Kenya's third largest export market for tea, behind the UK and Pakistan. Egypt accused Kenya of reneging on an agreement between the two countries under pressure from Kenyan grain farmers.

The Egypt-Kenya dispute is a reprise of a similar disagreement between the two countries resolved earlier this year (see *BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest* Vol. 4, No. 6, 15 February 2000, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/story5.15-02-00.htm>).

"OAU Moves Towards Union Of Africa," IPS TERRAVIVA, 17 July 2000; "Egypt and Kenya in new trade row over tea, cereals," REUTERS, 11 July 2000; "Egypt asks Kenya to apply COMESA duties," REUTERS, 12 July 2000; "COMESA backs establishment of African Union," PANAFRICAN NEWS AGENCY, 22 June 2000; "Tanzania signs EAC treaty," THE NATION (Kenya), 11 July 2000.

NEWS FROM THE REGIONS: THE CARIBBEAN

Leaders from the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) met earlier this month for CARICOM's annual summit. CARICOM officials noted that little progress was made toward bringing the 15-member regional economic forum into a single market. CARICOM leaders have been working on such a union since 1992. A single regional market has gained urgency in light of the -- albeit slow going -- Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) negotiations and a possible new round of global trade talks. CARICOM members believe that unity will benefit them when negotiating with the US, EU, and MERCOSUR in multilateral negotiations. Progress toward a common market has been slowed by, *inter alia*, disagreements between the relatively richer CARICOM countries and their poorer counterparts over the issues of free movement of labour and capital.

Also at the summit, CARICOM and associate-member Cuba on 5 July signed a preferential trade agreement aimed at boosting bilateral trade and better integrating Cuba into regional trade activities. Details of the agreement were not yet available at press time, but CARICOM officials indicated the agreement would provide duty-free access for certain CARICOM exports to the Cuban market, while keeping in place import tariffs on Cuban imports in CARICOM countries. The agreement also calls for the development of joint tourism marketing campaign targeted at European travellers.

Caribbean leaders said the agreement also sends a signal that the US economic embargo against Cuba should come to an end. "The US has run out of excuses. There is no argument they can make to leave Cuba out in the cold. Cuba is part of the Caribbean," Dominica's Prime Minister Rosie Douglas said.

In other regional news, Guyana's rice industry has appealed to Jamaican officials to increase imports of Guyana rice. Under a food-aid program with the US, Jamaica is now receiving large quantities of US rice. Guyana's rice producers argue that the US rice is displacing Guyana exports to Jamaica since Guyana producers cannot compete with subsidised US rice.

"We are not saying that the Jamaicans should say no to the [food aid] program. All we are saying is that they can switch to another product like wheat, corn or soybeans, products that do not directly compete with the production and exports of a fellow Caribbean Community member," according to Bram Stroot, managing director of a Guyana rice producer.

"Trade deal between Caribbean, Cuba," ASSOCIATED PRESS, 5 July 2000; "Caribbean leaders discuss unity amid internal disputes," DOW JONES NEWSWIRE, 2 July 2000; "Guyana asks Jamaica to buy its rice, ignore US product," DOW JONES NEWSWIRE, 14 July 2000.

IN BRIEF

CALL FOR CIVIL SOCIETY INPUT TO FTAA. The Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) Committee of Government Representatives on the Participation of Civil Society has extended an invitation to civil society in FTAA participating countries to express written submissions of their views on the FTAA process. The Committee was established as a mechanism to fulfil the FTAA's principle of transparency in the negotiating process and to obtain ongoing input from civil society on trade matters relevant to the evolving free trade zone. The Committee will prepare its next report

to Ministers on the basis of submissions received up to 30 September 2000. Further information is available from the FTAA website at: <http://www.ftaa-alca.org>. "Open Invitation To Civil Society In FTAA Participating Countries," FTAA website, http://www.ftaa-alca.org/spcomm/soc2_e.asp.

EU TRADE COMMISSIONER INTERNET CHAT. On 12 July, EU Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy hosted an Internet chat on the topic "Why the world of trade is changing for the better". Lamy fielded questions on a broad range of issues, including the ongoing France-Canada WTO dispute on asbestos, Chinese accession to the WTO, and the EU's assistance for developing countries in WTO proceedings. To view multilingual transcripts (in Spanish, English, French and German) of the informal online chat, visit: http://europa.eu.int/comm/chat/lamy3/index_en.htm.

US-VIETNAM FTA. Vietnam and the US concluded a bilateral free trade agreement on 13 July. As part of the agreement, Vietnam agreed to lower import tariffs on a range of goods, including agricultural and industrial goods. Vietnam also agreed to adopt WTO standards on intellectual property rights and to allow increased market access for US services and investment. Vietnam and the US concluded a similar bilateral agreement in July 1999 after three years of talks. That agreement broke down after Vietnam refused to sign the accord, citing fairness concerns around tariff cuts and caps under the accord. Current US-Vietnam trade totals about US\$900 million, about US\$800 million of which is Vietnamese exports to the US. As part of the 13 July accord, the US agreed to help Vietnam in its WTO accession bid. "Washington, Hanoi reach deal to liberalise trade relations," *WALL STREET JOURNAL EUROPE*, 14 July 2000.

US RELEASES DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL GUIDELINES FOR TRADE NEGOTIATIONS. The Clinton Administration on 10 July released draft guidelines for implementing a November 1999 Executive Order mandating environmental reviews of all trade agreements the US negotiates (see *BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest* Vol. 3, No. 45, 15 November 1999, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/story4.15-11-99.htm>). US Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky said the guidelines show that "when it comes to trade and the environment, we don't have to choose one or the other." Some environmental groups have criticised the draft guidelines. The Sierra Club points out that the guidelines fail to include a requirement that draft texts of future trade agreements be released to the public, making it "impossible for the public to provide adequate comment," according to Daniel Seligman, director of the Sierra Club's Responsible Trade Program. A public hearing on the guidelines will be held from 2-3 August in Washington. "USTR, CEQ on environmental reviews for trade agreements," *USTR PRESS RELEASE*, 10 July 2000; "US cites environmental trade rules," *ASSOCIATED PRESS*, 10 July 2000.

EU MINISTERS TACKLE GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS. EU ministers gathered in an informal meeting on 14-15 July in Paris, where the ongoing debate on controlling genetically modified organisms overshadowed all other environmental issues at the meeting. In spite of strong divisions, ministers were able to agree that there is an urgent need for decisions on labelling, traceability, and liability. They also agreed that international structures for enforcing the rules had to be made more efficient and rigorous. There was a minimal discussion on climate change, which centred on the state of preparation for the COP-6 meeting scheduled for later this year. The ministers also discussed the question of establishing a World Environmental Organisation. According to Dominique Voynet, France's Environment Minister, no one saw the point of creating another international organisation, but "everyone agreed there is a need for a place which can be identified by public as the place where things happen regarding environment and the place which is

the privileged interlocutor with other international organisations." "EU Ministers Grapple With Genetically Modified Food," IPS/TERRAVIVA, 17 July 2000.

WTO IN BRIEF

The WTO completed its biennial trade policy review of the European Union on 14 July, drawing mixed conclusions about the EU's trade regime. While most governments commended the EU for its overall openness and recent economic recovery, some criticised the EU for maintaining protectionist barriers to trade in textiles and agriculture - two economically important sectors for developing countries. The EU's average tariff rate for industrial goods is only 4.2 percent, but jumps to an average of 17.3 percent for agricultural goods. Furthermore, the EU has only liberalised about 5.4 percent of its protected textiles market under the first two phases of the WTO Agreement on Textiles and Clothing. Some governments also expressed concern that the EU's food safety and technical standards may unfairly limit exports from the developing world, though others applauded the EU for reaching mutual recognition agreements with other industrialised countries. The full press release is available on the WTO website at: http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/tpr_e/tp137_e.htm. "EU has open market, but still holds back on agriculture and textile products," WTO Press Release, 4 July 2000.

On 17 July, Dirk Bruinsma, the new Director-General of Foreign Economic Relations of the Netherlands, signed a memorandum of understanding with the WTO to replenish his country's contribution to the WTO's global trust fund. In this context an additional 1.9 million Swiss Francs will be made available for the WTO's technical cooperation activities for the period 2000-2001. ICTSD Internal Files.

EVENTS

For the full calendar of forthcoming events in trade and sustainable development, please visit <http://www.ictsd.org/html/calendar.htm>.

Coming Up This Week

19 & 20 July, Geneva: WTO APPELLATE BODY. For information contact: Nuch Nazeer, WTO Information and Media Relations, tel: (41-22) 739-5393.

19 & 20 July, Geneva: WTO WORKSHOP ON TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADE. For information contact: Luis Ople, WTO Information and Media Relations, tel: (41-22) 739-5374.

19-21 July, Geneva: WTO TEXTILES MONITORING BODY. For information contact: Luis Ople, WTO Information and Media Relations, tel: (41-22) 739-5374.

21 July, Geneva: WTO COMMITTEE ON TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADE. For information contact: Luis Ople, WTO Information and Media Relations, tel: (41-22) 739-5374.

21 July, Geneva: WTO SUB-COMMITTEE ON LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. For information contact: Lucie Giraud, WTO Information and Media Relations, tel: (41-22) 739-5075.

21-23 July, Okinawa, Japan: OKINAWA G-8 SUMMIT. For information visit: <http://www.virtualokinawa.com/> (click on icon at top of page). From IISD Linkages, <http://www.iisd.ca/linkages/>.

23-26 July, Saint John, Canada: RISING TIDE: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FOR A CHANGING WORLD. This conference highlights the rising importance of community development not only for communities themselves but for co-operative efforts involving businesses, government, non-profits, higher education, and citizen groups. For information contact: Gwen Lister, tel: (1-506) 364-2394; email: glist@mta.ca; Internet: <http://www.comm-dev.org/>.

24-26 July, Geneva, Switzerland: UNCTAD EXPERT MEETING ON IMPACT OF THE REFORM PROCESS IN AGRICULTURE ON LDCs AND NET FOOD IMPORTING DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND WAYS TO ADDRESS THEIR CONCERNS IN MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS. For information contact: UNCTAD secretariat, Intergovernmental Support Services, Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10; tel: (41-22) 907-5007; fax: 907-0056, email: correspondence@unctad.org; Internet: <http://www.unctad.org/en/special/clem11no.htm>.

24-28 July, New York, New York, USA: UNCTAD INTERGOVERNMENTAL PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR LDC III (first part). For information contact: UNCTAD secretariat, Intergovernmental Support Services, Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10; tel: (41-22) 907-5007; fax: 907-0056, email: correspondence@unctad.org; Internet: <http://www.unctad.org/en/special/ldc3p1no.htm>.

WTO Events

An updated list of forthcoming WTO meetings is posted at http://www.wto.org/english/news_e/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.

25 July, Geneva: WTO COMMITTEE ON CUSTOMS VALUATION. For information contact: Luis Ople, WTO Information and Media Relations, tel: (41-22) 739-5374.

27 July, Geneva: WTO WORKING PARTY ON THE ACCESSION OF CHINA. For information contact: Hans-Peter Werner, WTO Information and Media Relations, tel: (41-22) 739-5286.

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

3 August, Geneva: WTO DISPUTE SETTLEMENT BODY -- SPECIAL SESSION. For information contact: Nuch Nazeer, WTO Information and Media Relations, tel: (41-22) 739-5393.

Other Forthcoming Events

5-11 August, W. Lafayette, Indiana, USA: EIGHTH ANNUAL COURSE IN GLOBAL TRADE ANALYSIS. The Global Trade Analysis Project (GTAP) is designed to facilitate multi-country, economy-wide analyses of issues relating to trade, technology, resources and the environment. For information contact: contact Judy Conner, Center for Global Trade Analysis, 1145 Krannert Building, Purdue University, W. Lafayette, IN 47907-1145; tel: (1-765) 494-4267; fax: 494-9176; Internet: <http://www.gtap.org> (select "courses").

17-22 August, Kananaskis Village, Alberta, Canada: WORLD CONGRESS ON MANAGING AND MEASURING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. This will include discussion of two local/global indicators to replace GNP/GDP:- Gross Environmental Sustainable Development Index (GESDI)- Gross Sustainable Development Product (GSDP). In addition, it will attempt to establish a benchmark for the 21st Century and a scale of values for assessment. For information visit: <http://environment.harvard.edu/HERO/wrapper/pageid=lists/archives/envconfs-l/msg00881.html>

11-15 December, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso: 12TH MEETING OF THE PARTIES OF THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL. For information contact: the Ozone Secretariat; tel: (254) 262-1234; fax: 262-3601; email: ozoneinfo@unep.org; web: <http://www.unep.org/ozone/meet2000.htm>. From IISD Linkages, <http://www.iisd.ca/updates/upcoming.html>.

11-22 December, Bonn, Germany: FOURTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION: COP-4. For information contact: the CCD Secretariat, P.O. Box 260129, D-53153 Bonn, Germany; tel.: (49-228) 815-2800; fax: 815-2899; email: secretariat@unccd.de; Internet: <http://www.unccd.de> From IISD Linkages, <http://www.iisd.ca/linkages/>.

RESOURCES

If you have a relevant resource (books, papers, bulletins, etc.) you would like to see announced in this section, please forward a copy for review by the *BRIDGES* staff to hcameron@ictsd.ch. Submissions of publications to ICTSD's documentation centre would also be welcome (contact mgalvin@ictsd.ch).

THE EMPLOYMENT ISSUE IN INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT AGREEMENTS. 2000. The paper identifies the main issues covered by international instruments in this area to include general employment issues, human resource development, conditions of work and life, and industrial relations practices. To obtain contact: UN Publications, Sales Section, Palais des Nations, CH 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland; fax: (41-22) 917-0027; email: unpubli@unog.ch; Internet: <http://www.un.org/publications>; or from UN Publications, Two UN Plaza, Room DC2?853, Dept. PRES, New York, NY 10017, USA; tel: (1-212) 963-8302 or (1-800) 253-9646; fax: (1-212) 963-3489 ; email: publications@un.org.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND GLOBAL WARMING, by Jota Ishikawa (Faculty of Economics, Hitotsubashi University) and Kazuharu Kiyono (Waseda University, University of Tokyo). 2000. The paper shows that emission taxes make the competitive production equilibrium

unstable, while emission standards work as "hidden production subsidies" towards emission-intensive industries. This paper can be downloaded at: <http://www.e.u-tokyo.ac.jp/cirje/research/dp/2000/>. The paper code is: 2000cf78.

PROTECTING BIODIVERSITY: NATIONAL LAWS REGULATING ACCESS TO GENETIC RESOURCES IN THE AMERICAS. IDRC 1999. Edited by Susan P. Bass and Manuel Ruiz Muller with a foreword by Mohamed L. Ashry. This book addresses one of the most fundamental aspects of biodiversity: the lack of adequate national laws regulating access to, and compensation for, the use of local genetic resources. It is the first to compare such laws and policies across a range of countries in both the industrialised and developing worlds, including Argentina, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Paraguay, Peru, and the United States. It also presents legal viewpoints, conclusions, and recommendations for future action. La version française sera disponible en 2000. ISBN 0-88936-900-3. To obtain visit: <http://www.idrc.ca/books/900.html>.

Electronic Resources

A new WTO panel report on "United States: Import Measures on Certain Products from the European Communities" is now available on the WTO website. To reference the report, visit: http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/dispu_e/distab_e.htm

Calls For Nominees

On the evening of October 18, in the European Parliament, SOLIDAR will inaugurate the annual award of the Solidar Silver Rose. The prize will be given to two European individuals or organisations who have made an outstanding contribution to social inclusion and to civil society. The evening will be presided over by Glenys Kinnock, Member of the European Parliament and Honorary Member of SOLIDAR. SOLIDAR is currently taking nominations for the award; the nominations must be received before 26 August 2000. For information contact: Roshan Di Puppò at SOLIDAR; tel: (32-2) 500-1021; email: roshan@solidar.org; Internet: <http://www.solidar.org/DocList.asp?SectionID=27&tod=95936>.

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