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UNEP AND WTO PROMOTE SYNERGIES BETWEEN TRADE AND ENVIRONMENT

The WTO and the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) are pushing for enhanced cooperation between their organisations and member governments on trade and environment issues. In a major meeting on 24 October involving high-level representation from a number of countries, the WTO, UNEP, the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), and secretariats from multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), WTO Director-General Mike Moore and UNEP Executive Director Klaus Töpfer emphasised the need to focus more closely on policy coherence in order to mitigate potential trade-environment conflicts. Moore and Töpfer, together with UNCTAD Secretary-General Rubens Ricupero, also underscored the vital importance of using their institutions to help combat poverty, which Moore acknowledged as "the world's greatest threat to the environment."

According to meeting Chairperson Hussein Abaza from UNEP, the session was convened in order to provide a forum for "open and constructive dialogue between trade and environment officials on ways to enhance synergies between MEAs and the WTO," but was not intended to reach formal conclusions..

Capacity building, technical assistance, integrated assessment, technology transfer, and application of the Rio principles (i.e. polluter pays principle, common but differentiated responsibilities, cost internalisation, and the precautionary principle) were targeted as areas for potential synergies between the multilateral trading system and MEAs.

Representatives from a number of trade-related MEAs -- including the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), the Montreal Protocol, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, and the Basel Convention on the Movement of Hazardous Wastes -- contributed practical inputs on areas where synergies between the two regimes could be worked on. These included technical assistance on the environmentally sound management of hazardous waste, financial assistance in building industrial conversion projects to eliminate ozone-depleting substances, and increasing cooperation and coordination among a range of relevant intergovernmental organisations.

Delegates used the occasion to put forward their positions on such issues as the negotiation of a 'code of conduct' governing MEA and trade negotiations as a preventative measure to avoid trade-environment conflicts. Both the EC and Switzerland voiced their positions favouring further clarification on the relationship between MEAs and the WTO. However, many developing countries and the US remain opposed to this concept. At the meeting, India reminded participants that since the WTO-MEA debate began eight years ago, not a single dispute over an MEA-related trade measure has occurred. "Due to meetings such as this one that increase understanding in this area, such a dispute is far less likely today than it was eight years ago," said an Indian delegate. "Additionally, the WTO dispute settlement system itself has evolved and has integrated environmental principles more fully than in the past, and it would now be unlikely to rule against an MEA."

Despite the fact that no concrete results emerged from the session, the close interaction between the WTO, UNEP, the MEA secretariats, and Member delegations served to solidify the UNEP-WTO relationship into what Töpfer hoped could serve as an "early warning system" for potential MEA-related WTO disputes. On similar lines, Töpfer indicated that he wants to "harmonise and strengthen" dispute settlement and liability mechanisms within specific MEAs, and hinted that such measures could be a goal for the forthcoming Rio +10 Conference in 2002.

The debate over MEAs continues to be discussed in the WTO's Committee on Trade and Environment (CTE), which is meeting over 24-25 October on this and on all other areas of its work programme (see http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/envir_e/envir_e.htm). At the 24 October session, Member delegates at the CTE held an information session with a number of MEA secretariats and with Klaus Töpfer. ICTSD will report further on this CTE session in the next issue.

For further information visit on this meeting visit: <http://www.unep.ch/etu/trade/meawto/index.htm>.

ICTSD Internal Files.

DSB HEARS PANEL REQUESTS ON SHRIMP-TURTLE, TRIMS AND ASBESTOS

The WTO Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) convened on 23 October and considered several country requests for WTO panel investigations.

Among these was a Malaysian request for a compliance review of the US ban on shrimp imports from countries the US deems to have inadequate sea turtle conservation measures (see *BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest*, Vol. 4, Number 4, 2 February 2000, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/story3.02-02-00.htm>).

In a 1998 Appellate Body decision, the WTO ruled that while a US import ban on shrimp caught in countries whose fishermen did not use turtle-excluder devices was not in violation of the GATT, the US implementation of the ban did contravene WTO rules. On 27 January 2000, the US stated that it had implemented the DSB's rulings and recommendations, namely by adopting a certification system that was based on shipment-by-shipment, rather than country-by country. Malaysia asserts that the US ban still constitutes a violation of WTO rules.

Also heard at the DSB was a US request to investigate the compliance of the Philippines' Motor Vehicle Development Program (MVDP) with the WTO Trade Related Investment Measures (TRIMs) Agreement. The US contends:

- that the MVDP provides that motor vehicle manufacturers located in the Philippines who meet certain requirements are entitled to import parts, components and finished vehicles at a preferential tariff rate; and
- that foreign manufacturers' import licenses for parts, components and finished vehicles are conditioned on compliance with these requirements. Among the requirements referred to by the US are the requirement that manufacturers use parts and components produced in the Philippines and that they earn a percentage of the foreign exchange needed to import those parts and components by exporting finished vehicles.

A similar request was made by the EU against India.

Both India and the Philippines vigorously objected to the panel requests on the grounds that both have requested separate TRIMs implementation extensions and are presently awaiting decisions from the WTO Council on Trade in Goods. Article 4 of the TRIMs Agreement allows developing countries to deviate temporarily from TRIMs provisions to compensate for injurious Balance of Payments deficits, while Article 5 allows developing countries to request implementation extensions for financial and development purposes. India and the Philippines argue that by requesting these investigations, the EU and the US are jeopardising their rights under Articles 4 and 5. Under Article 6 of the Dispute Settlement Understanding, the US and EU are entitled to resubmit their requests at the next DSB meeting 17 November at which point their panel requests will be automatically accepted.

The DSB also approved a request by Canada to appeal an earlier WTO ruling that upheld France's ban on imports containing asbestos (see *BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest*, Vol. 4, No. 35, 19 September 2000, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/story2.19-09-00.htm>). The panel upheld the French ban under GATT Article XX(b), which allows countries to impose measures "necessary to protect human, animal, or plant life or health." Canada contends that the asbestos they manufacture is safe for human use if used properly, while the French argue that all asbestos is dangerous and that assurances of its safe use can never be completely guaranteed. Asbestos production is a major export for the Canadian province of Quebec.

"India, Philippines Criticise Panel Review of TRIMs Measures," WTO REPORTER, 24 October 2000; "WTO Sets Up Panel To Decide If US has Complied With Shrimp-Turtle Ruling," WTO REPORTER, 24 October 2000; "Canada Appeals Asbestos Import Ruling," ASSOCIATED PRESS, 23 October 2000; ICTSD Internal Files.

SLOW PROGRESS ON IMPLEMENTATION

The WTO General Council met on 18-19 October for a Special Session on Implementation to discuss a progress report on consultations prepared by General Council Chair Kåre Bryn of Norway and WTO Director-General Mike Moore. Various developing countries expressed dissatisfaction with the progress on some implementation-related issues, stressing the need to tackle "bread-and-butter" concerns of developing countries before proceeding to other issues.

The Chair's Report covered issues and concerns reflected in paragraph 21 (implementation issues raised by developing countries that require immediate action) of the 19 October 1999 draft Ministerial text (available at: <http://www.ictsd.org/English/Declaration3.rtf>) in accordance with the work programme agreed at the first Special Session in June/July 2000 (see *BRIDGES* Weekly Trade News Digest, Vol. 4, Number 26, 4 July 2000, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/story2.04-07-00.htm>). In particular, the Report focused on those issues that appeared to offer the greatest prospect of progress, even though the Chairman repeatedly stressed that other issues were not being set aside or ignored. The Report also invited discussion on how to proceed with negotiations related to paragraph 22 (Implementation Review Mechanism) of the draft Ministerial text.

The Report stated that "in an encouraging number of...areas, we are in a position to take note of a high level of common understanding". This sentiment was echoed by Moore, who pointed out that there was constructive engagement between both sides. At the meeting, the EU, Japan, South Korea and the US described the progress made so far as "encouraging", and the EU called on developing countries to move into "high gear" to address the remaining issues.

In contrast, India, Pakistan and the African Group of countries greeted the report with less enthusiasm. India voiced its disappointment on two accounts, namely that the Report only addressed 20 of the 54 issues of concern, and that it did not address the most important implementation issues, such as the removal of market-related impediments on textiles in developed countries and the difficulties posed by antidumping and anti-subsidy arrangements in industrial nations. Pakistan pointed to the lack of "political engagement" on the side of the major trading nations. However, some developing countries also signalled their preparedness to focus initially on a list of achievable demands, noting that this presented the only opportunity for progress.

What little substantive progress there was at the meeting focused on the potential for Members to: (a) adopt a time period of at least 12 months from the date of notification for compliance of new SPS measures for products from developing countries; and (b) administer tariff rate quotas in Agriculture in a more transparent, equitable, and non-discriminatory fashion.

Overall, the negotiations seemed to revolve more around process rather than substance. Some major developing countries appear determined to deal first with the implementation-related issues in paragraph 21 before moving on to paragraph 22, while industrialised countries pointed out that some of the complex implementation issues can only be resolved through a new round of trade

negotiations. Given the current slow progress, WTO sources speculate that Members may be faced with very little in ways of implementation deliverables for their 2001 work programme when the Special Session reconvenes on 18-19 December.

Sources: "Progress of implementation-related issues in WTO - India, Pakistan express dissatisfaction," DECCAN HERALD, 19 October 2000; "Controversy Still on 'Implementation,'" WASHINGTON TRADE DAILY, 19 October 2000; "WTO looks for early action on implementation demands," INSIDE US TRADE, 20 October 2000; ICTSD Internal Files.

NEWS FROM THE REGIONS: ASEM, VIETNAM-EU, AND CHINA ACCESSION

Asian, European Leaders Meet

On 19-21 October 2000, leaders from 25 Asian and European countries met in Seoul, South Korea for the third Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) since 1996. The forum originated in the early 1990s out of a post-Cold War push to forge a new multipolar global balance of power. Thus far, the forum's main contributions to global economic relations have been the ASEM Trust Fund -- a fund designed to facilitate Asia's recovery from the 1997 financial crisis -- and increased dialogue between the two regions. High on the agenda at last week's meeting was increased trade between Europe and Asia; the prospect of launching a new round of multilateral trade negotiations at the WTO; and increased transparency. Although no formal consensus was reached at the meeting, the general sentiment was that launching a new round, while of importance to continued regional growth for both parties, would be difficult. Presently, one third of EU imports are of Asian origin, while 25 percent of EU exports are destined for Asian consumption.

EU-Vietnam Textile Agreement

Just prior to the ASEM, the EU and Vietnam signed an agreement enabling increased Vietnamese garment exports to the region. The agreement adds an additional 26 percent to the existing Vietnamese garment quota to EU markets, a market valued at \$US590 million in 1999. Vietnam is presently negotiating accession to the WTO.

EU-China

Leaders from the EU -- including EC President Romano Prodi, EC Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy, EC Economics Commissioner Pedro Mira Solbes and French President Jacques Chirac -- met with high-level Chinese representatives on 23 October to discuss China's WTO accession. By meeting with the Chinese authorities, EU leaders aimed to give momentum towards reaching agreement on those issues that thwarted the WTO China Accession Working Group progress earlier this fall (see *BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest*, Vol.4 No.37 3 October 2000, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/story2.03-10-00.htm>). According to Jacques Chirac, it is likely that China will join the WTO before the end of this year, while Romano Prodi cautioned that doing so would not be easy.

"Post-Crisis Asia Seeks Tighter Trade Embrace With Europe," AFP, 18 October 2000; "East Asia and Europe Have An Important Date," INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE, 19 October 2000;

"Vietnam, EU Sign Agreement to Increase Garment Export Quota," ASIA PULSE, 16 October 2000; "Barriers Cleared, China Accession Expected by Year's End, Chirac Says At Sino Summit," 23 October 2000; ICTSD Internal Files.

LATIN AMERICANS UNITE AROUND DOM. REP. BANANA PROPOSAL

On 17 October, a group of Latin American countries -- including Colombia, Venezuela, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama and Nicaragua -- met in Panama to discuss the EC's most recent "first come, first served" banana regime proposal (see *BRIDGES* Weekly Trade News Digest, Vol.4 No. 38 10 October 2000, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/story2.10-10-00.htm>). At the meeting, the group opposed the proposed EC regime and asserted its support for a Caribbean proposal presented by the Dominican Republic in December 1999 with US endorsement.

Instead of a 'first come, first served' system, the Caribbean proposal would allow the first 2.7 tonnes of bananas to be imported with equal tariffs for all countries. A second tier of approximately 850,000 tonnes would enter tariff-free from former European colonies in the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) while Latin American countries would pay a tariff of approximately \$US100 per ton.

While this scheme is supported by at least the Dominican Republic (an ACP country) and the US, the EU and certain other ACP countries remain opposed. The Latin Americans will seek a meeting with US Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky to ask her to push the proposal.

"Banana remedy gains backing," FINANCIAL TIMES, 19 October 2000. "US, EU Banana Talks Fail to Advance Solution On New Trade Rules," INSIDE US TRADE, 20 October 2000; ICTSD Internal Files.

UNCTAD CONTRIBUTES TO LDC CAPACITY ON CLIMATE CHANGE; PUBLISHES INVESTMENT REPORT

UNFCCC Meets on LDCs

The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) post-Lyon Workshop on "The Special Situations, and Specific Needs and Concerns of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), within the Context of the Climate Negotiations at the sixth Conference of the Parties (COP 6)" was held at the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) from 16-17 October.

The agenda of the meeting included presentations on the impacts of climate change on the economies of LDCs, their needs and concerns as they relate to water resources, food security and health, as well as coastal zones and extreme weather events. The focus remained on articles 4.8 and 4.9 of the UNFCCC, both concerning funding, insurance, and technology transfer to meet the specific needs of LDCs in the above areas, among others. The second day of the meeting was dedicated to the development of proposals as input from the LDCs to the COP 6 negotiation process. Donors from France, Netherlands, Canada, Sweden, and Australia, among others, were also presented with an LDC proposal.

The LDC proposal requested an "immediate" and a "long-term" LDC adaptation fund. The former would help provide technology, telecommunications and networking facilities along with the necessary equipment and training. Its main aim would be the development of national adaptation programmes of action (NAPAs). The latter fund would be dedicated to the implementation of NAPAs. The text also proposed the creation of an LDC Expert Group that would provide guidelines for country NAPAs, hold regional workshops to this end, and serve as a regional-level channel for reporting national communications.

COP 6 is scheduled to take place from 13-24 November in The Hague, Netherlands.

Investment Report Tackles Int'l Mergers and Acquisitions

The 10th anniversary issue of the UNCTAD World Investment Report addresses the question of whether the manner in which investment enters a country (i.e. in the form of new enterprises or merger and acquisitions (M&As)) affects the contribution that foreign direct investment (FDI) can make to development. The report is split into two parts, namely 'trends' (the expanding international production system; regional trends; the largest transnational corporations) and cross-border M&As (trends in cross border M&As; performance, motivations and outlook; FDI and development: does mode of entry matter?).

The report states that acquisitions in particular raise concerns over impacts on employment, ownership and market structure. That is, the ownership transfers are often accompanied by layoffs of employees; local markets can become dominated by global oligopolists whose presence would threaten local entrepreneurial and technological capacity-building; and, regardless of the performance of cross-border M&As, it should be noted that the commercial interests of transnational corporations and the development objectives of host countries may not coincide.

FDI policies that the report draws attention to for maximising positive impacts and minimising costs from cross-border M&As include: sectoral reservations, ownership regulations, size criteria, screening and incentives. However, the most important policy instrument, it argues, is competition policy - particularly cooperation among competition authorities at the bilateral, regional and multilateral levels.

"World Investment Report," UNCTAD, 2000; ICTSD Internal Files.

IN BRIEF

ICTSD HOSTS DIALOGUE ON FISHERIES. On 23 October, ICTSD held a dialogue in Geneva entitled "Fisheries, International Trade and Sustainable Development - Ensuring Trade Rules Affecting Fisheries are Supportive of Sustainable Development". The meeting focused on subsidies, market access issues, and the importance of fisheries for sustainable development. The dialogue attracted 50 representatives from various fishing nations, intergovernmental organisations, and non-governmental organisations. ICTSD will report further on this dialogue in the next issue of *BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest*. Documentation from the will be posted on the ICTSD website, <http://www.ictsd.org>, in the forthcoming week.

NORTH AMERICANS, EUROPEANS SEEK FORWARD-LOOKING STANCE ON AG. Agricultural subsidies continue to be a point of contention as the 28th North American-European Union Agricultural Conference wrapped up on 18 October. While little consensus was achieved at the Canadian agricultural conference, Americans, Europeans, Canadians and Mexicans for the first time, according to an informed source, felt "shared intention" to have more forward-looking stands on agriculture. According to the head of the Quebec Farmers Union, domestic financial support will be a "crucial element" in future agriculture negotiations. At the same time, Brazil is threatening to oppose a new round of WTO negotiations if an agricultural pact is not signed first. Brazilian Agricultural Minister Marcus Vinicius Pratini de Moraes told reporters, "If there are no important negotiations in agriculture, we don't see a reason for any round at all." Pratini contends that the interests of poorer countries are not being heard under the current WTO farm trade system. "Agriculture summit sees subsidies as key to WTO talks," REUTERS, 18 October 2000. "Brazil's Pratini: Without Ag Pact, No Need For Trade Round," DOW JONES, 17 October 2000. "Brazil may oppose WTO round without ag pact first," REUTERS, 17 October 2000.

US CONGRESS PASSES RESOLUTION ON BURMA. On 10 October, the US House of Representatives passed Concurrent Resolution 328 reaffirming US sanctions on the Burmese military regime. In passing the resolution, the US called on the military regime in Burma/Myanmar to immediately and unconditionally release all detained members elected to the 1990 parliament and to uphold the resolutions passed by the UN General Assembly. Other American governmental institutions have followed the House of Representatives in condemning the Burmese military regime. The Minneapolis City Council on 13 October directed the city to divest its stocks in and avoid future investment in countries that do business in Burma. "US Congress Passes Resolution on Burma," NEW ENGLAND BURMA ROUNDTABLE, 12 October 2000. "Minneapolis City Council Approves Human Rights Policy on Burma," FREE BURMA COALITION, 13 October 2000.

BYRD AMENDMENT PASSES US SENATE. In an 86-8 vote, an overwhelming majority of US Senators approved an agricultural spending bill on 18 October that included the Byrd Amendment. The Byrd Amendment -- spearheaded by West Virginia Democratic Senator Robert Byrd -- allocates the revenues generated by antidumping and countervailing duties to American companies. Despite the White House's opposition to the bill, President Clinton is expected to sign the broader spending bill into law. The EC and Japan expressed regret over the bill's passage. Japan's International Trade and Industry Minister Takeo Hiranuma said, "it is a matter for regret that such a protectionist bill has been approved," while the EC warned that the bill could spark a WTO dispute. "US Senate Oks aid for companies over EU objections," REUTERS, 18 October 2000. "Japan calls US antidumping bill 'protectionist,'" KYODO NEWS INTERNATIONAL, Inc, 19 October 2000.

EU EXTENDS MORE FAVOURABLE ANTIDUMPING POLICIES TO 7 NATIONS. Following market reforms in several former command economies, the EU on 11 October offered more favourable anti-dumping procedures. Under the old system, fair market prices were determined through a comparison of production costs in a comparable market economy. Countries affected by this policy had argued that this method failed to account for competitive advantages. The legislation gives exporters in these seven countries the option of showing the EU that they were operating under free market conditions so that in future, anti-dumping investigations using their own costs would be used. The countries included are Albania, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Ukraine, and Vietnam. Similar programs were launched for Russia and China in 1998. "EU changes anti-dumping procedure for 7 nations," REUTERS, 11 October 2000.

WTO IN BRIEF

CANADA, AUSTRALIA RELEASE DIVERGING PAPERS ON WTO EXTERNAL TRANSPARENCY. Both Australia and Canada recently issued papers detailing their positions on external transparency issues within the WTO. In its informal paper, Canada has proposed to webcast its upcoming trade policy review on 13-15 December. Canada noted that its proposal does not set any precedent or create obligations for other Members to webcast their trade policy reviews. With respect to access to WTO documents, Canada reiterated its call for Secretariat working papers, formal contributions from Members, and draft meeting agendas be circulated -- with very limited exceptions -- as unrestricted documents. Canada also proposed that the WTO develop a mechanism whereby Members' Parliaments could provide input on international trade policy debates via a once-yearly meeting organised by the Geneva-based Inter-Parliamentary Union.

In a marked contrast to Canada, Australia's formal submission dated 12 October (WT/GC/W/414), expressed reservations about increasing external transparency. Australia noted that while more rapid dissemination of documents was a desirable means to increase external transparency, the inter-governmental character of the WTO could be jeopardised by more radical measures. In relation to dispute settlements, Australia warned that increased external transparency could lead to non-governmental persons or organisations (NGOs) gaining rights/access to the dispute settlement system which exceed those of Member governments, especially in relation to *amicus briefs*. Australia also expressed concerns about size constraints of the WTO and noted that the WTO already holds symposiums for NGOs where they may take part in policy debates. Confidentiality was also a central concern of the Australians, as the nature of internal domestic consultations and the role of informal consultations could be hurt by increased external transparency. Australia further stated that in developing national positions, it is the responsibility of the Member governments -- and not that of the WTO Secretariat -- to keep their domestic interest groups informed of relevant developments in the WTO. ICTSD Internal Files.

QATAR WITHDRAWS FROM HOSTING 2001 WTO MINISTERIAL. Qatar, thus far the only country to volunteer to host the mandated 2001 WTO trade Ministers' Conference, no longer wants to host the event due to a lack of hotel space and the fact that the meeting would coincide with the Muslim fasting month, Ramadan. Qatar's pull-out means that the WTO currently has no host for its next Ministerial meeting. The last Ministerial, in Seattle in November-December 1999, was rocked by protests and ended with Ministers unable to agree to launch a new round of trade negotiations. "Qatar pulls out of hosting next WTO meeting," AFP, 22 October 2000.

SAUDI ARABIA MOVES CLOSER TO WTO ACCESSION. John Weekes, the chairman of the working party on Saudi Arabia's accession to the WTO and former Canadian Ambassador to the WTO, said on 17 October that it appears likely that Saudi Arabia will become the trade body's 141st member by the end of 2001. However, several obstacles still exist, including bilateral trade agreements with the US and the EU. The US wants Saudi Arabia to eliminate tariffs on information technology, pharmaceuticals, and chemicals and to lower significantly duties on agricultural products. Additionally, the US and the EU are asking Saudi Arabia to open its banking, insurance and telecommunications markets to foreigners. While the US and EU continue to press the Saudis for more concessions, Saudi officials have accused some WTO members of making excessive demands on prospective Members. A WTO spokesperson explained Saudi Arabia's seven-year accession process by saying "generally, the bigger a country is, the more time it takes to accede."

"Saudi Arabia close to WTO membership," BUSINESS NEWS, 19 October 2000. "Working Party Chair Predicts Saudi Accession by End of '01," WTO REPORTER, 18 October 2000.

EVENTS

PLEASE NOTE: In order to simplify and shorten this section, *BRIDGES* Weekly Trade News Digest has changed its Events format. Only those events to be held in the forthcoming week will be posted, with selected WTO events in a separate sub-section. For all other events in trade and sustainable development, please check the ICTSD online calendar at: <http://www.ictsd.org/html/calendar.htm>. Our Resources (and occasional Position Vacancies) section remains unchanged.

Events This Week

24-30 October: ONLINE-FORUM: SCALE AND SUSTAINABILITY: MANAGING CONSUMPTION IN A GROWTH ORIENTED ECONOMY. For information contact: Ewa Charkiewicz, Tools for Transition Netherlands; Atjehstraat 20, NL-2585 UK Den Haag; tel: (31-70) 3520-289; Internet: <http://www.cuspforum.com/>.

25-27 October, Crystal City, Virginia: THE INTERNATIONAL ANTICOUNTERFEITING COALITION ANNUAL FALL CONFERENCE. For information contact: Richard Wynne, IACC; tel: (1-202) 661-7099; email: rwynne@iacc.org.

25-27 October, Miami, Florida, USA: 8th MEETING OF FTAA NEGOTIATING GROUP ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS. For information visit: http://www.ftaa-alca.org/ngroups/ngprop_e.asp#Meetings.

26-28 October, Bergen, Norway: ECONOMICS AND THE COMMON FISHERIES POLICY - PERSPECTIVES ON THE FUTURE ECONOMIC MANAGEMENT OF EUROPE'S FISHERIES. For information, contact: Aaron Hatcher; CEMARE, University of Portsmouth, Portsmouth PO4 8JF, UK; tel: (44-2392) 844-230 or 844-082; fax: 844-037; email: aaron.hatcher@port.ac.uk.

30 October - 1 November, Geneva, Switzerland: UNCTAD EXPERT MEETING ON SYSTEMS AND NATIONAL EXPERIENCES FOR THE PROTECTION OF TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE, INNOVATIONS AND PRACTICES. For information contact: External Relations Service; UNCTAD, Palais des Nations, 1211 Geneva, Switzerland; tel: (41-22) 907-1234; fax: 907-0043; email: ers@unctad.org; Internet: <http://www.unctad.org>.

30 October - 3 November, Geneva, Switzerland: SEVENTH PIC-NIC MEETING. For information visit <http://www.fao.org/waicent/FaoInfo/Agricult/AGP/AGPP/Pesticid/Events/c.htm>. or contact: Niek Van der Graaff, FAO; tel: (39-6) 5705-3441; fax: 5705-6347; email: Niek.VanderGraaff@fao.org; From IISD Linkages, <http://www.iisd.ca/linkages/journal>.

30 October - 4 November, Washington, DC: AFRICA FORUM 2000. The Forum provides an opportunity for business people from throughout the world to meet with the African business and political leaders. For information contact: Africa Club Secretariat; World Bank Group, 701 18th

Street NW, Room J10-014, Washington DC, 20433; tel: (1-877) 236-9156; fax: (1-202) 522-3331; email: Africa_Day@worldbank.org.

31 October - 3 November, Beijing, China: THIRD WORLD FISHERIES CONGRESS. For information contact: Congress Secretariat; Bldg. 22, Maizidian Street, Chaoyang District, Beijing, China; tel: (86-10) 6419-4233; fax: (86-10) 6419-4231; email: cnsfish@public.bta.net.cn or csfish@agri.gov.cn; Internet: <http://www.fisheries.moa.gov.cn>

WTO Events This Week

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 the different bodies. Unless otherwise indicated, all WTO meetings are held at the WTO, Centre William Rappard, rue de Lausanne 154, 1211 Geneva, Switzerland.

24-25 October, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND ENVIRONMENT. For information, contact: Sabrina Shaw, WTO Trade and Environment Division, tel: (41-22) 739-5482.

27 October, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT. For information contact: Lucie Giraud, WTO Information and Media Relations; tel: (41-22) 739-5075.

30 October, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO TRADE POLICY REVIEW BODY - BRAZIL. For information contact: Lucie Giraud, WTO Information and Media Relations; tel: (41-22) 739-5075.

30 October, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO COMMITTEE ON SAFEGUARDS. For information contact: Luis Ople, WTO Information and Media Relations; tel: (41-22) 739-5374.

30-31 October, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO COMMITTEE ON ANTI-DUMPING PRACTICES - AD HOC GROUP ON IMPLEMENTATION. For information contact: Luis Ople, WTO Information and Media Relations; tel: (41-22) 739-5374.

RESOURCES

INSIGHTS FOR CLIMATE POLICY IN EUROPE. By Frank Convery, in INTEGRATED ASSESSMENT, v.1 no.2, April 2000, pp. 165-176. This paper addresses the following key issues: the so-called "South" -- the Group of 77 and China -- and how to engage their interest and commitment; the purported savings if the flexible mechanisms are used, and the macro-economic impacts of meeting the Kyoto objectives; the associated issues of narrowing the extent and scope for such trading by setting a limit on how much can be traded, and "hot air" -- the surplus quota above their own projected needs which Russia and most of the old Soviet Union have to offer; operational issues, including units to be traded, monitoring and enforcement, allocation of permits, competitiveness and risk management; in the case of emissions trading, the initial allocation of permits.

EARTH SUMMIT 2002: A NEW DEAL. Produced by UNED, 2000. The book offers an insider view on the Rio +10 process. It is intended as a resource for starting discussions providing information for those preparing for the Earth Summit 2002. To obtain a copy contact: UNED Forum; tel: (44-0-20) 7839-1784; email: gledevellec@earthsummit2002.org.

GATS: HOW THE WTO'S NEW "SERVICES" NEGOTIATIONS THREATEN DEMOCRACY. By Scott Sinclair, 2000. The book critically analyses the existing GATS, how its broadly worded provisions have been interpreted in recent disputes such as EC bananas and the Canadian Auto Pact cases, and the policy implications of the negotiations currently underway to broaden and deepen the GATS. The book argues that the GATS and the current negotiations to expand it pose multiple threats to public service systems (such as universal health care and public education) and to the right to regulate in the public interest. To obtain a copy contact: Scott Sinclair, Senior Research Associate; Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, Suite 410, 75 Albert Street, Ottawa, ON, K1P 537; tel: (1-613) 233-1458; fax: 233-1458; email: ccpa@policyalternatives.ca; Internet: <http://www.policyalternatives.ca>.

THE INFLUENCE OF MINERAL EXPORTS ON THE VARIABILITY OF TROPICAL DEFORESTATION. By William D. Sunderlin and Sven Wunder in ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT ECONOMICS, v.5 no.3; July 2000; pp.309-332. This study tests the hypothesis that countries with a high of petroleum or non-petroleum mineral exports in total experience a relatively low deforestation rate because of economic 'Dutch disease' effects.

ELECTRICITY AND EMISSION-PERMITTS TRADE AS A MEANS OF CURBING CO2 EMISSIONS IN THE NORDIC COUNTRIES. By T. Unger, in INTEGRATED ASSESSMENT vol. 1, no. 3, July 2000. Sweden, Denmark, Finland and Norway have fully integrated electricity grids implying trade in electricity will be an important part of each country's power balance. Electricity trade allows for cost-efficient means of fulfilling their CO2 obligations.

AGRICULTURAL LIBERALISATION AND ITS ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS: A SURVEY OF 250 FARMS IN VARIOUS LOCATIONS IN UK AND OTHER AREAS OF EUROPE. By C. Potter, M. Lobley and R. Bull, 1999. Available from English Nature. To obtain a copy contact: Jonathan Burney, English Nature; tel: (44-1733) 455-211; email: jonathan.burney@english-nature.org.uk.

WTO AGRICULTURAL IMPACT. Published by Oxfam GB and WWF International. The study compares the anticipated impacts of liberalising the Mexican corn sector under NAFTA with the actual socio-economic and environmental outcomes. To obtain a copy contact: Mireille Perrin, Policy Adviser, Trade & Investment Unit; WWF International, Ave Mt Blanc, CH-1196 Gland; tel: (41-22) 364-9026; fax: 364-8219; email: mperrin@wwwfint.org.

Electronic Resources

"Information in International Environmental Governance: The Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Trade in Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides." By Jonathan Krueger. ENRP Discussion Paper 2000-15, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University (September 2000). Available at: <http://environment.harvard.edu/gea/pubsbytype>.

POSITION VACANCIES

The IUCN Environmental Law Programme is looking for a legal officer. The legal officer would report to the Director of the Environmental Law Centre and work with the ELC legal, documentation officers and the legal staff as well as members of the Commission on Environmental Law in project-related development work. Applicants should have a Juris Doctor or equivalent with a strong academic record and an emphasis on environmental law as well as good research, writing and analytical skills. Excellent speaking and writing skills in English and French, and knowledge of German, is desirable. Applications should be received before 30 October. For information contact: Ms. D. Montag, Office Manager, Godesberger Allee 108-112, 53175 Bonn Germany; tel: (49-228) 269-2218; fax: 269-2246; email: dmontag@elc.iucn.org; Internet: <http://www.iucn.org/themes/law>.

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