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## **Rapprochement On Doha Prep Evades WTO Members As Time Grows Short**

Despite almost two months of discussions around issues to be addressed at the WTO's Fourth Ministerial Conference in Doha, Qatar, in November, Members remain far apart on most challenging potential negotiating areas, according to WTO General Council Chair Stuart Harbinson. Summing up an intensive week of discussions around preparations for Doha on 13 July, Harbinson told Members that, "the differences between positions have narrowed little, if at all, on the more difficult issues".

Since the release of his six-point checklist forwarded to Members on 20 April, Harbinson has held open-ended informal meetings on Trade-Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS)-related issues; investment; competition policy; Other Elements of the Work Programme (i.e. subsidies (including fisheries subsidies), small economies, trade & debt,

LDCs, and special and differential treatment); Ministers' Views/Statements on Current Issues (preambular language); and Technical Cooperation and Capacity Building.

According to trade officials, Members remain far from achieving common ground on most of these areas, with discussions on agriculture, investment, competition, dispute settlement review, and subsidies continuing to reflect traditional positions (see BRIDGES Weekly, 6 June 2001, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/06-06-01/story1.htm>). "Everybody's playing a poker game," said one, "and no one wants to make the first move."

However, some progress was made on 12 July during discussions on 'Ministers' Views/Statements on Current Issues' (i.e. preambular language). In this session, delegates altered existing sub-topics to structure further discussions on the Ministerial Declaration preamble. The sub-topics now include: importance of the multilateral trading system; implementation; development dimensions of trade; sustainable development and trade; relationship between regionalism and multilateralism; accession; global economic coherence; transparency; and TRIPs and Health. According to sources, preliminary text forwarded to delegations included the premise that there will be a new round of trade negotiations. Several developing countries indicated that they do not want to discuss this text further until that aspect is removed and there is progress on implementation. The sustainable development sub- topic says that Members recognise that trade liberalisation and sustainable development are mutually supportive, and that environmental measures should not be used as a disguise for protectionist measures.

Harbinson is in the process of cobbling together Members' views and positions in an attempt to lay the groundwork for a draft Ministerial Declaration that will feed into the WTO Ministerial Conference on 9-13 November. The Ministerial Conference is the WTO's highest decision- making body, and convenes once every two years. At its last session, in December 1999 in Seattle, USA, trade ministers were unable to agree on whether or not to launch a far-reaching round of trade negotiations. Harbinson and WTO Director-General Mike Moore aim to present Members with a "reality check" report by the end of July that would outline elements of convergence and divergence across a variety of potential negotiating areas.

At the 13 July informal stocktaking session, the Chair did comment on discussions in various areas, including market access for non- agricultural products and implementation. On 14 July he also summed up an informal session on anti-dumping.

#### Market access for non-agricultural products

Chairman Harbinson was recently quoted as saying that in the event other linkages and issues are successfully addressed in Doha, there appeared to be a "broad consensus" on how Members would approach questions such as coverage, objectives, modalities, and special and differential treatment with respect to talks on liberalising trade in non-agricultural commodities. This item is regarded by most WTO Members as part of the

core business of the organisation, and according to the Chair, Members believe that it would be natural for this subject to be a part of any expanded negotiating agenda beyond agriculture and services.

Several Members -- such as the Cairns group of agriculture exporting countries -- are pushing for deeper liberalisation commitments in agriculture, for instance by requesting a fifty percent 'down-payment' in reduction of agricultural export subsidies leading to a gradual phaseout. Others, such as Japan and the EU, prefer to fold agriculture talks into a broader negotiation that would include a range of other issues, such as environment, investment, and competition.

Some of the points emerging from the Chair's consultations on market access for non-agricultural products were: that tariff and non-tariff measures should be included in the scope of the negotiation; that developing countries' interests would require the inclusion of special and differential treatment considerations, such as an absence of full reciprocity; and if Members come to the point of drafting a negotiating mandate in this area, that delegations seem to be in favour of leaving agreement on the details of modalities for after Doha.

#### Implementation

Harbinson reported on Doha preparation consultations that he and Director-General Moore had been conducting on implementation, which is generally seen as a process being pushed by developing countries seeking full implementation and re-balancing of the WTO Agreements. Harbinson indicated that he had been using as a basis a written contribution by seven delegations (Argentina, Morocco, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland, Thailand, and Uruguay) that was discussed at an informal General Council meeting of 21 June (see BRIDGES Weekly, 26 June, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/26-06-01/story2.htm>). Canada, the EC, Japan, and the US (the Quad) subsequently submitted their own implementation paper that outlined far fewer implementation concessions than the group of seven paper, and according to Harbinson, while there is a sense of "constructive engagement and...a shared desire to find solutions," significant difficulties remain.

A Special (formal) Session of the General Council on implementation issues has been scheduled for Friday, 20 July, at which point the D-G and GC Chair will brief WTO Members on their ongoing consultations on outstanding implementation-related issues and concerns. They will also be briefing non-governmental organisations on the outcome of the meeting on 23 July (see Events & Resources, this issue).

#### Anti-Dumping

At the conclusion of a 14 July informal meeting on antidumping, Harbinson indicated that disagreement persisted with respect to including these issues on the agenda for Doha.

Many developing countries, as well as Japan, are keen to strengthen WTO provisions on the application of antidumping measures within the existing Antidumping Agreement. At the meeting, over 30 Members indicated their support for including antidumping as part of a round of WTO negotiations. While the US -- which tends to resist tougher international disciplines on antidumping due in large part to domestic industrial constituencies -- did not reject outright the idea of holding talks on antidumping at the WTO, it said that work on clarifying WTO antidumping rules should continue in the ad-hoc working group on antidumping. Australia was also ambivalent towards further negotiations on antidumping rules.

Pressure on delegates to begin to move closer is now quite strong. In his closing comments on 13 July, Harbinson warned Members that they needed to be developing a sense of the necessary accommodations and tradeoffs among positions. "I am sure that none of us wants a draft for Doha that is festooned with brackets [areas where agreement is lacking] and options, and yet in the absence of further significant movement towards convergence that is exactly what we could get," he said.

Sources indicate that informal bilateral discussions on most Doha preparation issues will continue this week.

"WTO Chair sees widespread support for new talks on antidumping rules," WTO REPORTER, 17 July 2001; ICTSD Internal Files.

### **New GATS Proposals Tabled As WTO Meets For Services Week**

The endeavours of several services Working Parties in the beginning of July to move towards solutions regarding various aspects of the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) framework were followed by a Special negotiating Session from 9 to 13 July on further market access liberalisation in services trade. During the Special Session, Members addressed sensitive issues such as the movement of natural persons, credit for autonomous liberalisation, and the liberalisation of audiovisual services. The Chairpersons of the Subsidiary Working Parties to the GATS also reported on work accomplished.

#### **Meeting of the Working Party on Domestic Regulation**

Following by one day the meeting of the Working Party on GATS Rules (see BRIDGES Weekly, 3 July 2001, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/03-07-01/wtoinbrief.htm>), the Working Party on Domestic Regulation (WPDR) on 3 July engaged in what trade sources described as 'animated' talks. Discussions principally related to a US intervention on the linkages between measures falling under Article VI: 4 (domestic regulation) and those falling under Articles XVI and XVII (market access and national treatment requirements regarding specific commitments). Similar discussions on the possible overlap between

disciplines on domestic regulation and Articles XVI/XVII measures have already taken place in earlier meetings. The WPDR is mandated under GATS Article VI: 4 to develop any necessary disciplines to ensure that national measures relating to licensing requirements and procedures, technical standards and qualification requirements and procedures do not constitute 'unnecessary' barriers to trade in services. Some Members are at present concerned that once adopted, disciplines based on Article VI: 4 may inhibit Member governments' right to regulate, as the Article contains the requirement that measures affecting trade in services must not be more trade-restrictive than necessary (the so-called necessity test).

The position presented by the US was characterised by some as seeking to expand the scope of article VI: 4 -- and thereby its necessity test -- to embrace not only domestic regulation in areas where no specific commitments have been undertaken, but also to limitations listed by Members regarding Market Access and National Treatment (Articles XVI and XVII). At present, Members can list limitations to the latter obligations and apply them in whatever way they see fit.

According to trade sources, the US proposal was opposed by a large majority of Members, mainly developing countries, who pointed to the fact that the US had already tried, but failed, to have this approach adopted in the Disciplines on Domestic Regulation in the Accountancy Sector (S/L/64).

In relation to this issue, the US recently released a paper pushing for enhanced transparency in domestic regulations (S/CSS/W/102, available at: <http://docsonline.wto.org/>).

#### Council for Trade in Services Special (negotiating) Session

Following the work sessions on 'unfinished business' from the Uruguay Round, Members met from 9-13 July to continue market access negotiations in accordance with the mandate of Article XIX of GATS, which requires that Members achieve progressively higher levels of liberalisation in services trade.

Members discussed negotiating proposals in the areas of, inter alia, movement of natural persons (mode 4) and communication services, as well as some cross-cutting issues such as technical review of the GATS and credit for autonomous liberalisation.

#### Movement of natural persons (mode 4)

First on the Special Session agenda was a discussion on the movement of natural persons (mode 4), which is considered vital to many developing countries and an area in which there has been little progress to date. Discussion centred around an Indian proposal, released on 24 November 2000 (S/CSS/W/12), which is the most detailed communication to date on the issue.

The Indian proposal notes that enhanced liberalisation in mode 4 would be an important step towards operationalising GATS Article IV regarding the increased participation of developing countries in services trade. However, the paper remarks that movement of natural persons suffers from many kinds of limitations. India cites, in particular, the fact that Members have liberalised the mode mainly regarding intra-corporate transferees (thus related to mode 3, commercial presence). India also points out in its proposal that when liberalised per se, individual service suppliers are confronted with unpredictable requirements, in particular the Economic Needs Test (ENTs) for which no uniform criteria exists.

A supplement from Japan to its previous proposal concerning the "temporary movement of service suppliers" was also discussed during the meeting (S/CSS/W/42/Suppl.2). As highlighted by several developing country delegates, the supplementary proposal only advocated further liberalisation in the mode 4 when linked to commercial presence, i.e. intra-corporate transferees.

#### Autonomous liberalisation

Brazil, Mexico and Uruguay during the Special Session raised the question of the universal character of credit for autonomous liberalisation. According to these and some other developing countries, credit for autonomous liberalisation should only be given to developing countries, and not to industrialised Members. "Developed countries account for 75 percent of international trade in services," one developing country trade source said, adding that, "it would be very unfair to require that developing countries pay for liberalisation made by industrialised countries, since the major beneficiaries of such liberalisation are developed countries."

#### Technical review of the GATS

Normally discussed in the Council for Trade in Services' (CTS) Regular Session, the sensitive question of reviewing certain provisions of the GATS considered legally unclear was raised by Japan, the EU, Hong Kong, China, New Zealand and Norway at the Special Session. At the end of discussions on the subject, several points still remained contentious.

#### Several Sectoral Proposals Tabled

During the three-day Special Session, several sectoral negotiating proposals were tabled: one by Mercosur on computer and related services (S/CSS/W/95), one by Brazil on audiovisual services (S/CSS/W/99), and several by New Zealand on sectors such as education services (S/CSS/W/93).

Computer services and audiovisual services are generally seen as important sectors for certain developing countries because of their comparative advantages in these areas. However, some countries, such as members of the EU, maintain restrictive policies in the audiovisual sector, considered as inappropriate to liberalise due to cultural reasons.

Regarding the fact that two of these proposals came from developing country Members, a trade source noted that "the only way for developing countries to see article IV on increased participation of developing countries in services trade operationalised, is to assume a proactive role and table their own proposals." If we sit around and wait for developed countries to implement it for us, nothing will be done," he added.

According to trade sources, the Mercosur and Brazilian proposals received rather positive reactions, in particular from developing country Members. New Zealand tabled its proposals, but no discussions took place regarding its communications.

Members will hold another Special Session in October.

ICTSD Internal Files.

### **SPS Committee Debates Equivalency; Foot-and-Mouth Revisited**

Convening from 10-11 July, the WTO Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS) met to discuss, inter alia, recent developments regarding the issue of equivalence and foot and mouth disease. According to observers, little was accomplished at the meeting other than agreement to convene further discussion on the topic of equivalence at either the end of July or in September. Equivalence refers to the mutual acceptance of another Member's risk-minimising measures that may differ in process but have an equivalent effect (as set out in Article 4 of the WTO's SPS Agreement).

Equivalency discussion continues

Responding to a General Council request that the SPS Committee examine more closely the issue of SPS-related equivalency, Argentina tabled a proposal, and the WTO Secretariat put forward a background document on the topic.

For its part, Argentina argued that when considering equivalency recognition, priority should be given to low-risk products, or more specifically on products for which equivalency recognition is most likely to occur. Argentina's paper also proposed that 'fast-track' equivalency recognition be granted product lines with historical trade significance. On the question of analysing equivalence, Argentina suggested that this be based on a disaggregated, product-by-product methodology, as opposed to examining the equivalence of national-level control systems.

Responding to Argentina's position paper, the US said that equivalence was only one tool for obtaining market access. Other Members noted that technical assistance from SPS-recognised international standard setting bodies -- the FAO Codex Alimentarius Commission and the International Plant Protection Convention -- would also expedite the granting of equivalence and improve market access. It was furthermore encouraged that the international standard-setting bodies continue to actively inform the WTO equivalence debates and that countries articulate their concrete experiences with equivalency recognition.

In its paper, the WTO Secretariat suggested a list of five SPS and equivalency-related issue areas in order to help structure future debate on the topic. Included in the list are: (i) consideration of whether a measure required in an exporting country has to be the same as is used in the importing country; (ii) administrative burdens arising from agreements recognising equivalence; (iii) the "appropriate level of protection"; (iv) international harmonisation; and (v) transparency and confidence.

On the question of transparency and equivalency agreements -- most often negotiated bilaterally -- it is expected that at the next SPS Committee meeting it will be recommended that Members notify these agreements to the entire WTO Membership. This recommendation (G/SPS/7, see <http://docsonline.wto.org/>) was originally articulated by the SPS Committee in 1996 and was revised in 1999. Transparency requirements are specified in both Article 7 and Annex B of the SPS Agreement.

#### EU calls Foot-and-Mouth emergency measures "unjustified"

While fully acknowledging the importance of implementing emergency measures to safeguard domestic livestock from contracting foot-and-mouth disease, the EU urged Members to impose these measures only on products from regions where the disease persists. The EU stressed that the incidence of the disease in formerly high-risk regions had declined -- notably in England, Ireland and France. As such, the EU urged the SPS Committee not to tolerate "unjustified" measures.

#### EU informs SPS committee of mad cow disease regulations

The EU used the meeting as an opportunity to inform the Committee of its new BSE (mad cow disease) regulations. Among these, the EU maintains import restrictions on fishmeal, often used to feed ruminants. Yet according to Peru, Chile and the US, such restrictions are unjustified since fishmeal is not known to transmit BSE. In the meeting, Chile indicated that its fishmeal is derived from wild fish. Peru was concerned that the EU restrictions on fishmeal are generating unemployment.

For its part, the EU said that while precaution on fishmeal is necessary, it was trying to maintain the least trade-distorting fishmeal regime possible.



"EU Complains At WTO About Broad 'Foot and Mouth' Bans," REUTERS, 12 July 2001; ICTSD Internal Files.

### **EU Cosies Up To South America On Trade**

During a 9-11 July visit to Brazil, EU Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy campaigned for a new round of multilateral trade negotiations at the WTO. In the course of the bilateral trade talks, Lamy and Brazilian Foreign Minister Celso Lafer also resolved a WTO dispute between Brazil and the Union on soluble coffee.

While in Brazil, Lamy emphasised that the multilateral trade system had thus far failed to close the development gap between industrialised and developing countries, agreeing with his Brazilian counterpart that deepened EU-Brazilian cooperation would be the driving force for constructive trade negotiations in the November Doha Ministerial. According to Lamy, "Our discussions have shown that the narrowest point is the relationship between the EU and Brazil. Engineering shows that it is important to build the bridge at the narrowest point."

#### **EU and US compete for Mercosur**

In an effort to enhance trade cooperation with South America, EU officials submitted to Mercosur -- the world's third biggest free trade bloc comprising Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay -- a commercial integration bid by which duties on agricultural, industrial and fish imports valued at US\$5 billion would be phased out over the next five years. Many consider this an attempt by Brussels to pre-empt the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) currently being negotiated by 34 North, Central and South American and Caribbean states. Yet, according to Lamy, "negotiations between the EU and Mercosur are at least a year ahead of talks between Mercosur and the FTAA...and are much broader than the discussions with the FTAA," emphasising that the EU-Mercosur talks encompass technological and political considerations as well.

Lamy also pointed out that, "the FTAA, or indeed any bilateral project, should not undermine Mercosur's fledgling unity."

The Mercosur countries must reply to the EU offer before the end of October. "We expect Mercosur will live up to the proposed schedule, otherwise negotiations on free trade will have to wait," Lamy told the press.

#### **Dispute resolved over soluble coffee**

On 11 July, Lamy and Lafer announced that they had resolved their disagreement over soluble coffee, a dispute that has been in the pre- panel consultation phase of the WTO dispute settlement process since October 2000. Accordingly, the EU will reduce its

current 9 percent tariffs on soluble coffee to zero. This tariff will be replaced with a three-year tariff rate quota, which specifies that in year one, 10,000 tonnes of soluble coffee from Brazil can enter the EU tariff free. The quota will then be increased to 12,000 tonnes the following year and to 14,000 the year after. At the end of the three-year period, the regime will be subject to review.

Despite this success, other outstanding trade differences remain between the countries, notably over EU antidumping duties placed on Brazilian tube and pipe fittings. Brazil's panel request (WT/DS219/2, see <http://docsonline.wto.org/>) on the compatibility of these duties with the WTO is on the agenda of the next Dispute Settlement Body meeting on 24 July.

#### EU and Chile enter final stage of free trade talks

Complementing EU efforts at economic integration with South America, the EU and Chile began on 9 July a fifth round of trade talks in Santiago, Chile. The meeting marked the beginning of the final stage in negotiating a political and economic alliance between Chile and the EU. It is expected that the deal will be comprised of a list of specific export items subject to zero tariffs. Zero-tariff access will subsequently be extended to a list of remaining export items both 5 and 10 years after the deal has been finalised.

Chile maintains associate member status with Mercosur.

"EU Ahead of US In Race For S. American Consumer Markets," KYODO VIA COMTEX, 10 July 2001; "EU, Brazil Hold Key To Global Trade Talks," REUTERS, 11 July 2001; "EU And Brazil Solve Dispute Over Soluble Coffee," EU PRESS RELEASE, 11 July 2001; "Chile, EU Open Fifth Round Of Free Trade Negotiations," XINHUA VIA COMTEX, 9 July 2001; ICTSD Internal Files.

### **Africa In Brief**

#### FDI flows to Africa decline

Preliminary estimates released by the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) on 13 July reported that foreign direct investment (FDI) into Africa declined by more than 13 percent in 2000. The overall slump reflected a 50 percent drop in FDI into Angola, Morocco and South Africa, Africa's main recipient countries of FDI, while flows to other African countries remained more or less stable. In the sub-Saharan region, which includes the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC), FDI dropped by almost 19 percent while FDI in North Africa rose. Although African countries' efforts to improve the investment climate on the continent led to more FDI in 2000 compared to FDI level in the 1990s, the UNCTAD report says that the small share in world FDI that declined to less than 1 percent in 2000 calls for further efforts to attract FDI into Africa.

UNCTAD has held two meetings to address the issue: a round table on promoting Asian investment in Africa in South Africa on 10-11 July, and the Africa Forum for investment promotion on 16 July in Geneva. UNCTAD will release the "World Investment Report 2001" on 18 September with further analyses of the estimates and details at country, regional and international levels.

#### **Nigerian President criticises WTO classification policy**

The current distinction of Least-developed Countries (LDCs) and developing countries within the WTO was criticised as a hindrance of "the creation of synergy and effective utilisation of the region's vast resources" by Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo at the opening ceremony of the Regional Conference on Trade in West Africa on 10 July in Abuja. Obasanjo argued that the sub-division caused by the classification policy conflicted with the overall objective of an integrated production system being pursued in Africa, and stressed the need to "reshape trade relations within it [Africa]" to enhance the trade and investment potential of the continent. He called for the effective implementation of special and differential treatment provisions in favour of developing countries and LDCs that regard the provisions as more than best endeavour clauses. In addition, he recommended that developing countries should not be required to agree to a specific list of WTO concessions and obligations that may prejudice the "flexibility and caution" required by a "highly unpredictable" development process.

"FDI flows to Africa decline," UNCTAD PRESS RELEASE, 13 July 2001; "Obasanjo criticises WTO Classification Policy," ALL.AFRICA.COM, 11 July 2001.

#### **In Brief**

UNECE BEGINS PREPARING FOR RIO + 10. Convening from 12-13 July in Geneva, the UN Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) began formulating its joint Ministerial statement intended for the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD, or Rio + 10) scheduled for September 2002. Still engaged in a pre-summit preparatory process, it is expected that the ECE will have a draft statement prepared in time for early September. During last week's meeting, a number of countries called for increasing the focus on achievements from the last ten years and on actions for the future, as well as for an examination of the specific Rio conventions and how these could be built upon within the regions. Globalisation and trade-related issues were also highlighted by several countries. For its part, Switzerland said that when considering trade, the needs of developing countries should be taken into account. The Swiss also indicated that trade liberalisation and issues relating to environmental degradation required more effective balancing. The US addressed the trade linkage in the context of good governance. Russia felt there was insufficient reference to trade, environmental education, and production/consumption within the initial draft Ministerial statement, and also expressed a desire to tackle issues relating to genetically modified organisms and food safety. In the end, it was agreed that

a so-called "Friends of the Chair" committee, consisting of eight different country representatives, one non-governmental representative and one business representative, would be established to formulate the summit statement in the interim. The ECE will convene again in Geneva on 27 July. The ECE, established in 1947, is a UN body set up to mediate economic cooperation in the European region. All UN regional groupings are in the process of preparing their input into the WSSD. ICTSD Internal Files.

**RESUMED CLIMATE CHANGE NEGOTIATIONS UNDERWAY IN BONN.** Part 2 of the Sixth Session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) got underway in Bonn, Germany, on Monday, 16 July. Over the next two weeks, delegates will discuss implementation arrangements for the Kyoto Protocol -- the international treaty designed to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 5.2 percent by 2012 -- in an effort to resolve the differences that led to the failure of the last round of talks in November 2000, including the use of carbon sinks (such as forests) to meet greenhouse gas emissions targets; supplementarity (i.e. to what extent countries can reach their emissions targets using the Kyoto mechanisms); compliance; and funding (see BRIDGES Weekly, 29 November 2001; <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/story2.28-11-00.htm>). European Environment Commissioner Margot Wallström urged countries -- Japan in particular -- to join the EU in its efforts to push the negotiations ahead despite continued US opposition to the Protocol (see BRIDGES Weekly, 27 March 2001; <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/27-03-01/story3.htm>). For further information, see the UNFCCC website at: [http://www.unfccc.de/cop6\\_2/index.html](http://www.unfccc.de/cop6_2/index.html). BRIDGES Weekly will report on the climate change negotiations in a forthcoming issue. "EU's Wallström fears US may wreck climate talks," REUTERS, 13 July 2001.

**US FIRMS OBJECT TO EC ECO-LABELLING PROPOSAL.** The EU Committee of the American Chamber of Commerce issued a paper objecting a European Commission proposal for an integrated product policy that includes various plans to encourage environmentally-friendly products by influencing public purchasing decisions. In particular, the US Committee rejected the proposal of introducing sales tax breaks on eco-labelled products, and criticised the proposal as "lack[ing] in sustainable development thinking" by "putting too much emphasis on the environmental side" while "not taking into account the international [trade] consequences". The sales tax break did not receive outright support at the European Council meeting of environment ministers in June, however. The members of the EU Committee are 140 of the largest American companies that are major investors in Europe with employees in almost every EU member state. "US Firms Reject European Tax Breaks for Green Products," ENS, 11 July 2001.

**CAMPAIGNS LAUNCHED ON GLOBALISATION PROTESTS.** Friends of the Earth Europe (FoEE) launched a campaign on 13 July aimed at preventing violence at major international summits and meetings of world financial and trade bodies. FoEE called for governments to listen to citizens' concerns about globalisation and to facilitate peaceful protests while calling for the media to report more on the concerns rather than incidents

of violence and condemning violent behaviour. In the run-up to the G-8 summit in Genoa, Italy, French Foreign Minister Hubert Vedrine said on 10 July that he would propose a system of dialogue with anti-globalisation organisations, which "will not replace the normal democratic mechanisms" to dissuade them from disturbing the G-8 summit. In the meantime, a Canadian non-governmental network called 'Common Front on the WTO' (CFWTO) has recently been formed, bringing together over 50 national organisations and regional networks in Canada. The group has designated 9 November as the Day of Protest and November 9-13 the Week of Action, and launched plans to prepare for the Doha Ministerial Session. The CFWTO Campaign Plan includes a "Quebec to Qatar" cross-country caravan visit to raise awareness about the WTO, pledge for signatures and demand that no new round of trade negotiations is launched. "Protest is right - violence is wrong!" FoEE PRESS RELEASE, 13 July 2001; "French FM Suggests Dialogue with Anti- Globalisation Activists," XINHUA, 10 July 2001; ICTSD Internal Files.

**BIOTECH CONFERENCE CALLS FOR MORE TRANSPARENCY AND FUNDING.** Delegates at a conference on "New Biotechnology Food and Crops: Science, Safety and Society", held in Bangkok on 10-12 July, called on all stakeholders to commit to greater transparency on genetically modified organisms (GMOs), and on governments to increase financial support for independent and publicly funded scientific research on GM crops and food. While some non-governmental organisations (NGOs), including Bio Thai and the People's Network to GMOs, had decided to boycott the event, several leading environmental and consumer groups took part. The NGOs represented at the conference commended the organisers -- the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development in cooperation with the FAO, WHO and UNEP -- "for providing the opportunity to widen the debate", but also stressed that GM food should not be seen as a "panacea" to solving problems of hunger and malnutrition in developing countries, and called on countries to see problems of hunger "in all their complex ramifications". The conclusions of the conference will be forwarded to the G-8 Summit of Head of State and Government on 20-22 July in Genoa, Italy. For further information, see the OECD website at: <http://www.oecd.org/bangkok/>. "Genetically modified foods face opposition," UPI, 10 July 2001; ICTSD Internal Files.

**US, JAPAN FAIL TO RESOLVE WHALING DISPUTE.** US and Japanese officials at a meeting last week failed to reach agreement over Japan's controversial whaling practices. "We agreed that we hold different views on whaling issues," said a Japanese Embassy official, following a day of meetings between Japan's Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Minister Tsutomu Takebe and US officials, including Commerce Secretary Don Evans, Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman and US Trade Representative Robert Zoellick. The US and Japan will try and resolve their dispute before the meeting of the International Whaling Committee in London on 23-27 July, the Embassy official added. The US is still considering the use of trade sanctions against Japan following Tokyo's decision to expand whale hunting for research purposes to include Bryce's and sperm whales (see BRIDGES Weekly, 16 January 2000; <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/story3.16-01-01.htm>). In a

recent report entitled "Wanted Alive! Whales in the Wild", global environmental group WWF criticised Japan for the continued whaling, pointing out that the country "has killed over 5,620 minke whales for so-called scientific purposes, mainly in the Southern Ocean Whale Sanctuary" (see: <http://www.panda.org/resources/publications/species/whales/index.html>). "Whales: many species remain endangered, WWF report says," UN WIRE, 12 July 2001; "US, Japan aides reach no deal in whaling dispute," REUTERS, 11 July 2001.

## **WTO In Brief**

**JAPAN REASSERTS POSITION ON FOOD SECURITY.** In a non-paper submitted to the WTO on 16 July, Japan elaborated its position on food security. Although presented in its proposal to the WTO agriculture negotiations, Japan submitted the non-paper in anticipation of a forthcoming negotiating session to be held at the WTO from 23-27 July. The paper specifies Japan's position that domestic food security can be ensured, in part, by stockpiling food, which could in turn be used during food shortages or natural disasters. Japan's proposal to the WTO agriculture negotiations remains one of the most contentious thus far submitted, advocating in favour of state supports in order to maintain the multifunctionality agriculture -- i.e. agriculture's capacity to generate both commodities and public goods. "Japan Proposes International Stockpile Of Farm Produce To Meet Shortage," KYODO NEWS, 16 July 2001; ICTSD Internal Files.

**EU, OTHERS SUBMIT REQUEST FOR WTO PANEL AGAINST US BYRD AMENDMENT.** On 12 July, the EU pronounced its decision to join the request for the establishment of a WTO panel against the US, challenging the US' Continued Dumping and Offset Act of 2000 (or Byrd amendment) which requires US customs authorities to distribute duties obtained by a countervailing duty or anti-dumping measures to the injured producers for their "qualifying expenses" (see also BRIDGES Weekly, 22 May, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/06-06-01/story6.htm>). The EU submitted the request together with Australia, Brazil, Chile, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, and Thailand. In their view, the Byrd amendment gives industries "double protection" by compensating affected producers who are already protected by duties charged at the border. The request is expected to be brought up again at the subsequent 25 September DSB meeting. The US' two NAFTA partners Canada and Mexico initiated a separate procedure challenging the Byrd amendment by requesting consultations with the US on 21 May. If no settlement is reached within the 60-day consultation period, Canada and Mexico could join the proceedings of the other nine WTO Members in the September DSB meeting. "Dumping: Countries To File Joint Request For Panel Against Byrd Amendment On Dumping Duties," WTO Reporter, 12 July 2001; "EU Joins WTO Partners In Request For a Panel Against The US Byrd Amendment," EU Press Release, 12 July 2001; ICTSD Internal Files.

**DEADLOCK IN EU COTONOU WAIVER REQUEST.** An EC application for a waiver for its preferential market access arrangement with African, Caribbean, and Pacific (ACP) countries (the Cotonou Partnership Agreement) was denied once again at a 5 July meeting of the WTO Council for Trade in Goods (see BRIDGES Weekly, 20 March 2001, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/20-03-01/story5.htm>). Panama, Honduras, Guatemala and Nicaragua maintained that the EC's information on its new banana regime was incomplete due to the lack of clarity of the new rules, and blocked the commencement of the waiver review process (see BRIDGES Weekly, 8 May 2001, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/08-05-01/story6.htm>). Ecuador, while not objecting to the commencement of a review process, requested that the waiver to be made with more specifics, such as the coverage for countries and products, volume, and duration of the waiver. The US, together with all Central and South American banana-producing countries, supported Ecuador's amendment proposals. ICTSD Internal Files; "Bananas and WTO Waiver," RNM UPDATE, 13 July 2001.

### **Correction**

In the story entitled "Like Minded Group Sets Out Positions Before Doha" in last week's issue of BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest, Pakistan was mistakenly omitted from the list of members of the Like Minded Group. To clarify, members of the Like-Minded Group are Cuba, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Honduras, Indonesia, India, Kenya, Malaysia, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Uganda, Zimbabwe and Jamaica.

### **Events & Resources**

#### **EVENTS**

For a more comprehensive list of events in trade and sustainable development, please refer to ICTSD's web calendar at: <http://www.ictsd.org/html/calendar.htm>.

#### **ICTSD Events**

18 July, 10:00 - 12:00, rm. 417, 4th Floor, International Environment House, Geneva, Switzerland: ICTSD CAFÉ & CROISSANTS ON "ESTABLISHING AN EMERGENCY SAFEGUARD MECHANISM (ESM) UNDER THE GATS: PROS AND CONS IN VIEW OF THE NEGOTIATIONS ON FURTHER LIBERALISATION IN SERVICES TRADE". The overall aim of this informal dialogue is to exchange views in relation to the ongoing discussions in the Working Party on GATS Rules where Members strive to find consensus on the question of an ESM. Discussions will focus on the desirability and feasibility of an ESM under the GATS, in particular in relation to a draft proposal submitted by the ASEAN group, and to a 'non-paper' recently issued by Chile, Costa-Rica and Switzerland. Thierry Buchs, first Secretary of the Swiss Mission to

the WTO, Virachai Plasai from the Permanent Mission of Thailand to the WTO, and Sergio Dos Santos from Brazil's Permanent Mission, will each give a 15-minute presentation, after which the floor will be given to the participants for an informal and open discussion. Given that there is limited seating, please RSVP to us your intention to participate to: Caroline Wiman, Geneva; fax: (41-22) 917- 8093; email: cwiman@ictsd.ch.

18 July, 9:30 - 13:00, Room B, World Meteorological Organization, Geneva, Switzerland: ICTSD ROUNDTABLE ON THE COMPATIBILITY OF TRIPS WITH THE CBD: WHAT LANGUAGE TO TAKE TO DOHA?. Calestous Juma, Director of the Science, Technology and Innovation Programme at Harvard University, Atul Kaushik, Deputy Secretary of the Cabinet Secretariat in India, and Francisco Cannabrava from the Permanent Mission of Brazil will give a brief presentation each on the compatibility of the WTO Agreement on Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), after which the floor will be given to the participants for an informal and open discussion. We welcome any material specific on this topic, which we will distribute at the meeting. Given that there is limited seating, please RSVP to us your intention to participate to: Christophe Bellmann, Geneva; fax: (41-22) 917-8093; email: cbellmann@ictsd.ch.

#### Coming Up This Week

16-18 July, Geneva, Switzerland: UN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL HIGH - LEVEL SEGMENT. Topic: ROLE OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM IN SUPPORTING THE EFFORTS OF AFRICAN COUNTRIES TO ACHIEVE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. This theme provides an excellent opportunity to harness the capacities of the United Nations system to address an issue central to international development co-operation: the socio-economic development of Africa. It is especially suitable for strengthening the dialogue between governments, international organisations and civil society and for engaging the business community in support of the objectives of the United Nations system. For further information visit: [http://www.un.org/esa/coordination/ecosoc/dev\\_afr/index.htm](http://www.un.org/esa/coordination/ecosoc/dev_afr/index.htm).

16-18 July, Geneva, Switzerland: UNCTAD EXPERT MEETING ON "WAYS TO ENHANCE THE PRODUCTION AND EXPORT CAPACITIES OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PRODUCTS, INCLUDING NICHE PRODUCTS, SUCH AS ENVIRONMENTALLY PREFERABLE PRODUCTS (EPPS)". Experts from around the world will discuss: (i) trends in production of and trade in food and agricultural products; (ii) measures to enhance production and export opportunities for developing countries; (iii) role of fairtrade organizations; (ix) impact of quality and organic standards, and (x) improving market access for developing country food exports. For further information visit the UNCTAD website at: <http://www.unctad.org/en/special/c1em15no.htm>, or contact Dr. Sophia Twarog, Trade,



Environment and Development Section, UNCTAD/DITC; tel: (41-22) 907-5082, fax: 917-0047; email: [sophia.twarog@unctad.org](mailto:sophia.twarog@unctad.org).

16-20 July, London, UK: CONFERENCE ON DETECTING ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE - SCIENCE AND SOCIETY. The conference will focus on applications involving the detection and understanding of long-term changes in natural and disturbed environmental systems, and will review methods of environmental change detection across different disciplines by bringing together scientists and stakeholders concerned with monitoring of terrestrial, freshwater, marine, hydrological, atmospheric, and social systems. For further information contact: Catherine E. Stickley, Environmental Change Research Centre, Department of Geography, University College, London; tel: (44-20) 7679-5562; email: [c.stickley@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:c.stickley@ucl.ac.uk); Internet: <http://www.nmw.ac.uk/change2001/>. From IISD Linkages, <http://www.iisd.ca/linkages/journal/>.

16-27 July, Bonn, Germany: RESUMED COP-6/14 SESSIONS OF THE UNFCCC SUBSIDIARY BODIES. Key issues that must still be resolved at the resumed talks include a package of financial support and technology transfer to help developing countries contribute to global action on climate change, including measures for adapting to climate change impacts; the establishment of an international emissions trading system and a "clean development mechanism"; the extent to which targets should be achieved through domestic action (vs. emissions trading and CDM); the rules for counting emissions reductions from carbon "sinks" such as forests and farmland; and a compliance regime. For more information, contact: UNFCCC Secretariat, Bonn; tel: (49-228) 815-1000; fax: 815- 1999; email: [secretariat@unfccc.int](mailto:secretariat@unfccc.int); Internet: <http://www.unfccc.int/>. From IISD Linkages, <http://www.iisd.ca/linkages/journal/>.

17-19 July, Margarita Island, Venezuela: ANDEAN COMMUNITY 4TH REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON ACCESS TO GENETIC RESOURCES, TRADITIONAL KNOW-HOW AND PRACTICES, AND DISTRIBUTION OF BENEFITS. For further information contact: the CAN secretariat; email: [contacto@comunidadandina.org](mailto:contacto@comunidadandina.org). Internet: <http://www.comunidadandina.org/english.htm>.

18 July 2001, International Environment House, 15, chemin des Anémones, 1219 Chatelaine, Room 3, Geneva, Switzerland: NGO BRIEFING ON "PREPARATIONS ARE INTENSIFYING AS THE JOHANNESBURG 2002 WORLD SUMMIT FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (WSSD) DRAWS CLOSER". Organised by the Geneva Environment Network in cooperation with the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, New York (UN/DESA) and the UN Non- Governmental Liaison Service (NGLS). The meeting will include a briefing by the Bureau of the Preparatory Committee for the World Summit for Sustainable Development, from 13h00-15h00. This will be followed by a presentation on the regional preparatory process in the Europe and North America region, by the UN Economic Commission for Europe and UNEP's Regional Office for Europe, from 15h00-16h00. Given that there is limited seating, if you should wish to participate, it is essential that you register your interest by sending your name,

organisation, and contact information to: Aniket Ghai, IEH; fax: (41- 22) 797-3464; email: [aniket.ghai@unep.ch](mailto:aniket.ghai@unep.ch); Internet: <http://www.environmenthouse.ch/howtogetto.htm>. Seats will be allocated on a first-come-first-served basis.

18 July, Miami, Florida: NEGOTIATING THE US-CHILE FREE TRADE AGREEMENT AND BEYOND. North-South Centre Speaker Series, featuring the Honourable John O'Leary, United States Ambassador to Chile. Location: University of Miami Faculty Club, 1550 Brescia Avenue, Coral Gables, Miami, Florida. For further information contact: Conchita Ramos; tel: (1-305) 284-6868; email: [cramos@miami.edu](mailto:cramos@miami.edu).

18-20 July, Geneva, Switzerland: PREPARATORY MEETING OF THE WORLD CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM. The World Civil Society Forum seeks to strengthen international cooperation between civil society organisations as well as with international organisations. The Forum will consist of thematic working groups, working areas, and information and discussion sections. The preparatory meeting intends to bring together organisations that wish to participate in preparing for the Forum, organising the thematic working groups or sections, and establishing the steering committee for 2002. For further information contact: [sziegler@mandint.org](mailto:sziegler@mandint.org); Internet: <http://www.mandint.org/forum>.

20-22 July, Genoa, Italy: G-8 SUMMIT 2001. Leaders from the Group of Eight industrialised countries will meet for their annual summit. For further information visit: <http://www.genoa-g8.it/>.

22-27 July, Seoul, South Korea: NINTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON TRANSPORT RESEARCH. The conference aims to convene managers, policy makers and academics in a single forum to exchange views on the practice and theory of transport research, with an emphasis on the interface between research results and policy-making. For further information contact: WCTR Secretariat, Korea; tel: (82-31) 910-3100; email: [secretariat@wctr2001.org](mailto:secretariat@wctr2001.org); Internet: <http://www.wctr2001.org/>. From IISD Linkages, <http://www.iisd.ca/linkages/journal/>.

23 July, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO NGO BRIEFING ON THE ONGOING PREPARATORY WORK FOR THE DOHA MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE. The briefing will start at 9.30am in the WTO-building, Room A (ground floor). For further information contact: Bernard Kuiten, WTO External Relations Division, Geneva; tel: (41-22) 739-5676; fax: 739-5777; email: [Bernard.Kuiten@wto.org](mailto:Bernard.Kuiten@wto.org).

23-24 July, Brussels, Belgium: EU AGRICULTURE COUNCIL MEETING. For further information visit: <http://www.eu2001.be/Main/Frameset.asp?reference=01-01&lang=en&sess=86382502&>.

23-24 July, Washington, USA: WORLD BANK CONFERENCE 'LEVERAGING TRADE, GLOBAL MARKET INTEGRATION, AND THE NEW WTO NEGOTIATIONS FOR DEVELOPMENT'. The symposium held in 4 sessions will focus

on: (i) Utilising Lessons from the Uruguay Round for the Future; (ii) Leveraging Trade, Global Market Integration, and the WTO for Poverty Reduction; (iii) WTO and New Trade: Implications for Developing Countries and Rural Development; and (iv) New Trade Issues and Challenges: The Way Forward. For further information contact: World Bank Secretariat, Washington; fax: (1-202) 522-1142; email: [schao1@worldbank.org](mailto:schao1@worldbank.org).

23-24 July, Washington, USA: SEMINAR "LEVERAGING TRADE AND GLOBAL MARKET INTEGRATION FOR POVERTY REDUCTION" ON AGRICULTURAL TRADE FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. The Agricultural Trade Project for WTO Capacity Building for Developing Countries will be holding a seminar bringing together a wide audience of practitioners, academics, government representatives, and international organisations to discuss the issues related to developing countries and the next round of agricultural negotiations in the WTO. For further information contact: Ms. Sanda L. Chao; tel: (202) 458-7399; fax: 522-1142; email: [schao1@worldbank.org](mailto:schao1@worldbank.org); Internet: <http://www.worldbank.org/agtrade>.

23-25 July, Geneva, Switzerland: UNCTAD EXPERT MEETING ON ENERGY SERVICES IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE": DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS. The discussions will be aimed at assisting UNCTAD member States to have a better understanding of trade in energy services and its impact on development. The Expert Meeting will consider the topic under two dimensions: (i) the development dimension, by analysing how the strengthening of the energy services sector can contribute to better and larger access to energy in developing countries; (ii) the trade dimension, by focusing on how to increase developing country participation in the globalising international markets for energy services. For further information contact: Ms. Simonetta Zarrilli, UNCTAD, Geneva, Switzerland; tel: (41-22) 907-5622 or 907-5870; fax: 907-0044; email: [Simonetta.Zarrilli@unctad.org](mailto:Simonetta.Zarrilli@unctad.org).

24-25 July, Zanzibar, Tanzania: LDC TRADE MINISTERS' MEETING. Trade Ministers from about 30 Least-developed Countries (LDCs) will meet to work out a common position for the forthcoming WTO Ministerial in Doha, Qatar. For further information contact: the Permanent Mission of Tanzania to the UN, Geneva, Switzerland; tel: (41-22) 731-8920; fax: 732-8255.

#### WTO Events

An updated list of forthcoming WTO meetings is posted at: [http://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/meets.doc](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. For further information on WTO events contact: WTO Information and Media Relations Division, Geneva; tel: (41-22) 739- 5007; fax: 739-5458; email: [enquiries@wto.org](mailto:enquiries@wto.org).

16-20 July, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO TEXTILES MONITORING BODY.

16-20 July, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO WORKING PARTY ON CHINESE ACCESSION.

18 July, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO GENERAL COUNCIL. On the agenda are, inter alia, accession of Iran, the Bahamas and Tajikistan; the work programme on electronic commerce; attendance of International Intergovernmental Organisations at the Doha Ministerial; election of Vice-Chairpersons of the 4th Ministerial Conference; review of procedures for circulation and derestriction of WTO documents; proposal to amend certain provisions of the Dispute Settlement Understanding; report by the Director-General on the reorganisation of WTO technical cooperation; several reports on implementation-related issues; and reports of the special sessions of the Agriculture and Services Committees.

20 July, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO MEETING OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL -- SPECIAL SESSION ON IMPLEMENTATION. The WTO Director-General and the Chairman of the General Council will brief WTO Members on their ongoing consultations on the outstanding implementation-related issues and concerns. The meeting will also discuss organisation of future work.

20 July, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO SUB-COMMITTEE ON LEAST-DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. On the agenda are, inter alia, recent improvements in market access for least-developed countries; and a status report of the Secretariat on the reorganisation of WTO technical assistance.

23 July, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO NGO BRIEFING ON THE ONGOING PREPARATORY WORK FOR THE DOHA MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE. The briefing will start at 9:30am in the WTO building, Room A (ground floor). For further information contact: Bernard Kuiten, WTO External Relations Division, Geneva; tel: (41-22) 739-5676; fax: 739-5777; email: [Bernard.Kuiten@wto.org](mailto:Bernard.Kuiten@wto.org).

23-27 July, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO INFORMAL MEETING OF THE SPECIAL SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE. On the discussion agenda are technical aspects related to: export subsidies, export credits, state trading enterprises, export restrictions, food security and food safety.

24 July, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO DISPUTE SETTLEMENT BODY. On this meeting's agenda is inter alia: status report by the EC on the implementation of the banana regime; request for the establishment of a dispute settlement panel by India on US anti-dumping and countervailing measures on steel plate; request for the establishment of a panel by Peru in EC - Trade Description of Sardines; request by Australia, Brazil, Chile, the EC, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea and Thailand to set up a panel on the US

Continued Dumping and Subsidy Offset Act 2000 ("Byrd amendment"); and report of the compliance panel in US - Import Prohibition of Certain Shrimp and Shrimp Products.

27 July, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO COUNCIL FOR TRADE IN GOODS: SESSION ON TRADE-RELATED INVESTMENT MEASURES (TRIMs).

PLEASE NOTE: AS OF PRESS TIME (17 JULY) THERE ARE NO REGULAR WTO MEETINGS SCHEDULED BETWEEN 27 JULY AND 9 SEPTEMBER.

#### Other Forthcoming Events

30 July - 3 August, Hanoi, Viet Nam: 17TH MEETING OF THE CITES ANIMALS COMMITTEE. For further information visit the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species website at: <http://www.cites.org/eng/news/AC17.shtml>.

17 August, Anaheim, California: PEW FOUNDATION CONFERENCE ON GLOBALIZATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT: PROSPECTS AND PERILS". Presentations will include: Rethinking Environmental Internationalism and the Anti-Trade Movement; The Internationalisation of Environmental Protest: Understanding the Role of Social Movement Organizations in an Increasingly Globalised World; and Transnational Influences on the 'Greening' of Industry in Asia. For further information contact: Paul K. Gellert, Cornell University, 337 Warren Hall, Ithaca, New York 14853; tel: (1-607) 255-6237; fax: 254-2896; email: [pkg1@cornell.edu](mailto:pkg1@cornell.edu). Internet: <http://soc.ucdavis.edu/~sporiain/globalenv/>.

20 August, Kampala, Uganda: REGIONAL GATHERING OF LEADERS OF THE SOUTHERN AFRICA INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUE. For further information contact: Permanent Mission of South Africa to the UN, Geneva; tel: (41- 22) 849-5454; 849-5400; email: [geneva.ecosa@ties.itu.ch](mailto:geneva.ecosa@ties.itu.ch).

17-18 September, London, UK: LSE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY AND THE COSTS OF COMPLIANCE WORKSHOP. The London School of Economics will hold this workshop to understand the significance of the various methodologies that can be applied to assess the costs of compliance and the influence that different assessments have had on the policy process, by examining the perspectives and experiences of the range of different groups with an interest in this issue. Opportunities for discussion and debate will be built into the programme throughout the workshop. For further information contact: Elaine White, ERP Environment, Shipley, UK; tel: (44-1274) 530-408; fax: 530-409; email: [elaine@erpenviron.demon.co.uk](mailto:elaine@erpenviron.demon.co.uk); Internet: <http://www.erpenvironment.org>.

1-2 October, London, UK: IMPLEMENTING KYOTO: COULD EUROPE DO IT? The Royal Institute of International Affairs is organising this meeting to discuss Europe's chances to fight climate change. For further information contact: RIIA, London; tel: (44-20) 7957-5700; fax: 7321- 2045.

15-16 November, Vienna, Austria: CONFERENCE ON "THE ROLE OF PRECAUTION IN CHEMICALS POLICY". The symposium, organised by the Austrian Federal Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management will analyse the status of the principle of precaution which is considered to be one of the most important principles of environmental law for anticipating and avoiding environmental damage before it occurs. For further information contact: Cornelia Mader, Vienna; tel: (43-1) 51522-2337; fax: 51522-7334; email: Cornelia.Mader@bmu.gv.at.

## 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 Hugo Cameron, [hcameron@ictsd.ch](mailto:hcameron@ictsd.ch). Submissions of publications to ICTSD's documentation centre would also be welcome (contact Marc Galvin, [mgalvin@ictsd.ch](mailto:mgalvin@ictsd.ch)).

GATS AND DEMOCRACY, published by the Seattle to Brussels Network, July 2001. This collection of articles from members of the Seattle to Brussels Network focuses on the relation between democracy and GATS. The underlying argument is that there should be no further expansion of GATS without a full, public and independent assessment of the impact of further services liberalisation on democracy and people's rights. The paper is meant to call on the WTO Council on Trade in Services, meeting in Geneva from 9 to 18 July 2001, to initiate such an assessment. Copies are downloadable from: <http://www.wdm.org.uk/cambriefs/gatsdem.htm>.

"TRADING HEALTH CARE AWAY?: GATS, PUBLIC SERVICES AND PRIVATISATION, published by The Corner House, 2001. This briefing outlines the growth in services in recent years, the main provisions of GATS, the proposed revisions to the Agreement, and some key corporate aims in extending it. It points out the fact that public services may be included in the GATS and explores the implications for public health care. It also speculates on what may happen to publicly-provided and -funded health care services if private companies capture their most profitable components and associated public subsidies. The paper is available at: <http://cornerhouse.icaap.org/briefings/23.html>.

PROPOSAL FOR A 'DEVELOPMENT BOX' IN THE WTO AGREEMENT ON AGRICULTURE, by Duncan Green, CAFOD and Shishir Priyadarshi, South Centre, June 2001. The paper makes the case for introducing a package of changes to the WTO Agreement on Agriculture (AoA) to provide enhanced Special and Differential Treatment (S&D) measures in the Agreement, in order to enable developing countries to better address their food security concerns and to preserve and improve rural livelihoods. It concentrates on the changes to the rules required for developing countries and especially poor communities within them to benefit fully from agricultural trade. This set of

proposals has been termed a 'Development Box'. It is initially intended as a contribution to developing countries wishing to address food security concerns in phase II of the Agreement on Agriculture negotiations in Geneva (food security is scheduled for discussion in late July). The paper is downloadable from <http://www.cafod.org.uk/policy/devbox.htm>. Hard copies can be requested by email from: [mgriffith@cafod.org.uk](mailto:mgriffith@cafod.org.uk).

WHITHER MEAS? THE ROLE OF INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT IN THE TRADE AND ENVIRONMENT AGENDA, by Konrad von Moltke, published by the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) with the support of Environment Canada, July 2001. The paper is meant to represent influence the debates in the lead up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development, and the UNEP process on International Environmental Governance in particular. The paper surveys the current system of MEAs, probing for opportunities to strengthen it. The author considers and rejects the idea of a World Environment Organization, and proposes two other options, better fitted to the nature of environmental issues: a "clustering" of MEAs into groups that share common problem structures, and a joint approach to the various institutions used in common by most MEAs, among them science assessment and implementation review. The paper is available at: [http://www.iisd.org/pdf/trade\\_whither\\_meas.pdf](http://www.iisd.org/pdf/trade_whither_meas.pdf). To request a hard copy of this paper, contact: [info@iisd.ca](mailto:info@iisd.ca).

INTERNATIONAL TRADE LAW AND CLIMATE CHANGE - A POSITIVE WAY FORWARD, by Matthias Buck and Roda Verheyen, University of Hamburg, Research Unit Environmental Law, in collaboration with the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, Germany, 2001. In time for the resumed sixth conference of the Parties to the UN FCCC, the paper seeks to clarify the relationship between climate protection, and international trade law. It argues that climate change policies are mostly compatible with international trade law and that ratifying the Kyoto Protocol will close existing gaps or uncertainties for the benefit of participating Parties. It also suggests several ways in which international cooperation can serve both climate protection aims and reduce potential trade conflicts. For the next three weeks the study is available at: <http://www.fes.de/indexaktuelles.html>. Thereafter, it can be downloaded from: <http://library.fes.de/pdf-files/stabsabteilung/01052.pdf>.

SPECIAL REPORT NO 3/2001 CONCERNING THE COMMISSION'S MANAGEMENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES AGREEMENTS TOGETHER WITH THE COMMISSION'S REPLIES. By the European Communities Court of Auditors, June 2001. In this paper, the Court examines the Commission's management of the international fisheries agreements, particularly the extent to which their objectives were clearly defined and ultimately achieved. The Court concludes that the Commission still needs to establish both a system enabling an ongoing monitoring and a detailed cost-benefit analysis to be made of the international fisheries agreements. The Court finds a lack of consistency and poor coordination between these international

agreements and the structural aspect of the Common Fisheries Policy. It also identifies shortcomings in the implementation and monitoring of the checks made by the Commission and the Member States. The Commission replies in the second part of the paper. A copy is available at: [http://www.eca.eu.int/EN/RS/2001/rs03\\_01en.pdf](http://www.eca.eu.int/EN/RS/2001/rs03_01en.pdf).

#### Electronic Resources

FTAA - FREE TRADE AREA OF THE AMERICAS, DRAFT AGREEMENT.  
Available at: [http://www.ftaa-alca.org/FTAADraft/Eng/draft\\_e.doc](http://www.ftaa-alca.org/FTAADraft/Eng/draft_e.doc).

*A searchable archive of BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest© can be accessed at: [http://www.newsbulletin.org/bulletins/WhichBulletin.cfm? Bulletin\\_ID=14&SID=](http://www.newsbulletin.org/bulletins/WhichBulletin.cfm?Bulletin_ID=14&SID=)*

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