



ICTSD

INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR
TRADE AND SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT

BRIDGES

Weekly Trade News Digest

16 October 2001

ISSN 1563-003X

Volume 5, Number 35

BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest is also available **online** and is updated every week.
To **subscribe** to BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest, please visit the ICTSD website at

<http://www.ictsd.org/html/subscribe.htm>.

If you require any assistance setting up your BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest subscription, please contact Hugo Cameron, Editor, by email at: hcameron@ictsd.ch, or by telephone at: (41-22) 917-8336.

• Singapore 'Mini-Ministerial' Moves Doha Agenda Forward.....	1
• General Council Takes On DSU Review, Iran Accession.....	4
• LDCs Strive To Have Their Voices Heard.....	6
• Prior Informed Consent Advances Towards Full Convention Status.....	8
• GATS: Financial Services Last But Not Least In Services Week.....	9
• EU Lends Support To New African Initiative.....	11
• In Brief.....	11
• WTO In Brief.....	14
• Events	15
• Resources.....	19

Singapore 'Mini-Ministerial' Moves Doha Agenda Forward

Following up after a similar meeting in Mexico in August (see BRIDGES Weekly, 11 September 2001; <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/01-09-11/story1.htm>), trade ministers from 22 major WTO Members on 13-14 October held what US Trade Representative (USTR) Robert Zoellick called a "mini-ministerial" in Singapore to advance preparations for the Fourth WTO Ministerial Conference, currently scheduled officially for Doha, Qatar, on 9-13 November. Trade officials are still in the process of constructing language

for a draft Ministerial Declaration that would set out the scope of future negotiations in a variety of areas. Ministers in Singapore generally expressed satisfaction with progress made on all contentious issues, but sources indicate that much work remains to be done, in particular with regard to implementation. Discussions were held back somewhat by doubts about the venue for the Ministerial Conference, with Singapore and other countries offering to host the meeting if need be.

In his final remarks, Singapore's Trade Minister and chair of the meeting, George Yeo, highlighted the advances made at the meeting which he said meant that the document to be presented at the Ministerial Conference was "85-95 percent" there. Agreement was reached, *inter alia*, on dropping the reference to a 'new round' referring instead to 'the new development agenda', "in order to signal a different historical era and a different set of priorities," Yeo explained. While the general sentiment was positive, some developing countries were not entirely satisfied. As Indian Minister of Commerce and Industry Murasoli Maran pointed out, despite some convergences, the Singapore meeting "was not to our expectations". He also reminded ministers of the informal nature of meeting and the limited number of countries involved.

Implementation still on top of the agenda

With respect to implementation issues, Members still appeared divided - although these differences were more related to the perceptions of the degree of progress made. Despite this, however, there does seem to be relative agreement that some convergence was indeed achieved.

Members agreed to merge Annexes I (early decisions) and II (decisions for Doha) from the draft Decision on Implementation (see BRIDGES Weekly, 9 October 2001; <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/01-10-09/story1.htm>) into a joint list to be worked on in preparation for the upcoming Ministerial Conference. In addition, a second list of implementation issues would be created, which it is reported countries agreed "could" be negotiated on in the context of a new round (i.e. after Doha). Sources say the latter list is especially meaningful in light of the numerous complaints lodged that the original draft text omitted a number of key issues for developing country Members. Another trade analyst pointed out, however, that while this new structure does make headway, it merely refocuses the "battle ground" on what items to include in which list.

Despite reports that all delegates in attendance were in favour of moving ahead with a 'new round', responses to the implementation talks were varied. One inside source reported that both Tanzania and Jamaica held firm to their anti-new round positions stated in Zanzibar (see related LDC article, this issue). India's Maran was less enthusiastic than developed country Member ministers as he stated "[there] must be consensus, not quasi-consensus" in response to EC Trade Commissioner Lamy's comment that quasi-consensus had been achieved. Malaysia decided to voice its opposition by abstaining from attending the entire meeting. Brazil noted that the movement to consolidate the annexes was a step in the right direction and that they were happy to see a general convergence in views at the meeting. Pakistan allegedly echoed

Brazil's sentiments, which would seem to be a departure from their traditional position of siding with India on these matters. On the other end of the spectrum, the US indicated that the Harbinson draft of 26 September represented the limit of how far it was willing to bend on implementation.

Some movement on environment

Member States made some headway on the highly contentious question of how to deal with environmental concerns in future trade talks (see BRIDGES Weekly, 9 October 2001; <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/01-10-09/story2.htm>). Developing countries for the first time acknowledged the political pressures that some countries, especially the EC, felt at home on this issue. Thus, Members are likely to tackle environmental issues using a two-stage approach that would include a first study phase on the environmental issues most in need of clarification and a subsequent negotiating phase on these issues. The US toned down its previously strong opposition to discussing certain environmental concerns at the WTO when the EC weakened its insistence on a clarification of the precautionary principle.

Agriculture comes closer

Most progress was made on agriculture, with countries agreeing to use Harbinson's proposed agriculture text for further negotiations (see BRIDGES Weekly, 9 October 2001; <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/01-10-09/story2.htm>; also see <http://www.ictsd.org> for actual text). In particular, Members discussed the possibility of eliminating "blue box" subsidies (i.e. payments within production reduction programmes), grouping them instead with "green box" or "amber box" subsidies. Green box payments are permitted as they are deemed least-trade distortive, while amber box subsidies refer to trade-distorting domestic support subject to reduction commitments. However, Members will continue to work out their positions on the agriculture text until Doha. "Nobody can accept [the agriculture draft] as it is," a Japanese official said. "Everybody is trying to improve it from their standpoint, but nobody is looking for a new text."

Still no draft text on TRIPs and public health

Members also narrowed their differences over issues related to intellectual property rights (IPRs) and public health, in particular on access to medicines (see BRIDGES Weekly, 25 September 2001; <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/01-09-25/story1.htm>). "Everyone agreed there must be rules regarding intellectual property rights, and when they should be suspended", said Yeo. To this end, ministers considered establishing rules on IPRs under normal circumstances, while applying 'extraordinary rules' during public health crises. Members, however, continued to disagree on the definition of 'crisis' and how it could be declared.

Back in Geneva, the draft text on IPRs and public health is rapidly becoming one of the more difficult subjects in the lead-up to Doha, with Members continuing to disagree over details of a compromise text. Discussions are set to continue in small informal

consultations. Some officials have expressed concern that this issue could stall efforts to launch a new trade round at Qatar.

Ministerial venue still being debated

WTO Director-General Mike Moore and the WTO Secretariat continue to insist that preparations for the next Ministerial Conference are going ahead as planned, but Members are publicly expressing doubts regarding the venue and date. On Sunday, Singapore signalled its readiness to host the meeting on a "scaled-down" basis.

"Singapore and a number of other countries have been sounded out in an informal way whether we could host [the meeting] in an emergency," Yeo said. 'Others countries' are believed to include Mexico and Switzerland. While Lamy and Zoellick said they would press ahead with next month's meeting, Zoellick is also reported to have expressed hesitation about holding the meeting in the middle-eastern state of Qatar. Some diplomats said on Monday they expected a switch of venues on Wednesday after a meeting of the Qatari cabinet. "I would say it's a 90 per cent certainty that we will have to go elsewhere, given the growing tensions affecting the Middle East region over the past few days," said one Member country official.

A revised second version of the draft Ministerial Declaration is likely to be released to Members at the end of this week. General Council Chair Stuart Harbinson said he intends to hold a General Council in early November and to send the draft text to capitals for final study before the Ministerial.

Countries present at the Singapore meeting included Australia, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Egypt, the EC, Gabon, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Jamaica, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, Pakistan, Qatar, Singapore, South Africa, Switzerland, Tanzania and the US.

"U.S. hesitant to see WTO meeting take place in Doha," KYODO NEWS, 15 October 2001; "WTO draft text on TRIPS, public health stalls as positions harden on easing rules," WTO REPORTER, 15 October 2001; "Reconciliation in Singapore on new round of world trade talks," AFP, 14 October; "Singapore says it can host WTO meeting," FT, 14 October 2001; "Trade officials narrow gaps on some issues at WTO mini- ministerial meeting in Singapore," ITR, 15 October 2001; GENEVA WATCH, 15 October 2001; ICTSD Internal Files.

General Council Takes On DSU Review, Iran Accession

At a time when feverish preparations for the 4th Ministerial Conference keep WTO Members' delegates busy, the WTO General Council met on 10 October to address, inter alia, review of the Dispute Settlement Understanding, attendance of observers from intergovernmental organisations at the Ministerial Conference, and Iran's accession process.

Dispute Settlement review

Despite a commitment to review the Dispute Settlement Understanding (DSU) by the end of 1999, discussions on this topic have been drifting since the last Ministerial Conference in Seattle in December 1999. Last week, Thailand and the Philippines submitted to the General Council two documents with the intent of jump-starting the debate. However, due to time constraints, the discussion did not develop further. The issue is scheduled back on the agenda for the forthcoming 23 October General Council.

The first text (WT/MIN(01)/W/3) is signed by both countries and is set to be submitted to the forthcoming Ministerial Conference. It proposes amendments to Article 22.7 of the DSU in order to ensure that any sanction authorised by the WTO is equivalent, "in law and in practice, to the level of the nullification or impairment of the complaining party in a given case". The two countries argued that such modification would assure fairness and credibility of the WTO dispute settlement system.

According to the proposal, in order to assess the appropriate level of retaliation, the arbitrator should first "determine the level of nullification or impairment of the benefits accruing to the complaining party under the WTO Agreements". Thereafter, the complaining party, which "shall provide sufficient trade information and data to enable the arbitrator to determine such level", should submit a detailed proposal containing a list of the concessions or other obligations it intends to suspend consistent with the level of nullification or impairment. The arbitrator can reject such a list if not found appropriate. The text points out that the complaining country "shall not suspend concessions or other obligations other than those contained in the list of concessions or other obligations". The proposal would effectively prevent countries such as the US from imposing any 'carousel-style' retaliation, such as that which took place in the US-EU banana case (see BRIDGES Weekly, 25 July 2001, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/story4.25-07-00.htm>). In fact the list can be modified only under prior consensus of both the complaining parties.

Thailand presented a separate proposal (WT/MIN(01)/W/2) on increasing the number of WTO Appellate Body members in order to speed up the appeal system. Recent practice suggests that in at least five cases, delays in appeal proceedings resulted in the report being circulated more than 90 days after the date of the notice of appeal. The Appellate Body membership is currently made up of seven individuals (see BRIDGES Weekly, 2 October 2001, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/01-10-02/inbrief.htm>). So far, three members of the court have been mandated to serve on each case, making the court capable of dealing with barely two cases at a time. Thailand proposes to increment membership up to 9-11 judges in order to re-distribute the increasing workload of the court.

A new version of a proposal for DSU reform previously circulated in October 2000 by Japan and backed by Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Korea, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Switzerland and Venezuela (WT/GC/W/410) is expected to be circulated shortly. Diplomats said the text would maintain the key provisions of the earlier draft,

including a proposal to resolve the "sequencing" dispute which also erupted during the US-EU dispute over banana imports (see BRIDGES Weekly, 17 October 2000, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/story1.17-10-00.htm>).

Dispute settlement reform is also mentioned in the Draft Ministerial Declaration. The preliminary text issued by General Council Chair Stuart Harbinson calls upon Members to negotiate possible amendments to the DSU no later than May 2003. Thus, such amendments might enter into force well before any other issue of discussion under the "future work programme" which would instead constitute a "single undertaking" at the end of the negotiation.

The Arab League not welcomed in Doha

Concerning point 5 of the GC agenda on "attendance of observers" at the Ministerial, the Chair communicated that two objections to the participation of the Arab League have been raised. "Everybody knows who they are," a trade source said, pointing to continued US and Israeli opposition. Conversely, a previous objection to OPEC attendance was rescinded, clearing the way for the oil cartel to be present at the forthcoming Ministerial.

The GC did clear the way for other organisations that have recently sought accreditation, among them the UN Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), the Inter-Parliamentary Union, and the Economic Community of West African States.

Third stop to Iranian accession

Iranian accession, under discussion at the General Council for the third time this year, was quickly sidelined at the 10 October meeting due to US objections around to engaging in negotiations with the Persian Gulf state.

US diplomatic sources said the US was not at this stage in a position to consider the establishment of a Working Party that would open the process for Iran to join the WTO. However, he assured that a review underway in the US might solve the issue in the near future.

Tehran filed its Membership request in September 1996 (WT/ACC/IRN/1).

"WTO Members Gear Up for Talks On Dispute Settlement Rules Reform," WTO, REPORTER, 11 October 2001; "Iran's bid for WTO membership again stopped in tracks by US," AFP, 10 October 2001; ICTSD Internal Files.

LDCs Strive To Have Their Voices Heard

The 26th session of the WTO Sub-Committee on Least-Developed Countries (LDCs) met on 15 October for their final meeting before the Fourth Ministerial Conference on 9-13 November, currently scheduled for Qatar.

The agenda for the meeting encompassed a number of follow-ups and tabling of declarations from other LDC meetings. It covered the High Level Meeting on LDCs, the tabling of the report and declaration of the Third UN Conference on LDCs, and the LDC preparations for the upcoming Ministerial. In addition, Chiedu Osakwe, Head of the Secretariat Working Group on Integrated Framework (IF) and LDC Issues, presented a report on the status of the reorganisation of WTO technical cooperation (which is currently a restricted document). Finally, the draft work programme for 2002 was discussed.

Unfortunately, due to the ministerial gathering in Singapore over the weekend (see related article, this issue), combined with the hectic preparations going into the upcoming Ministerial Conference, the meeting did not enjoy its regular attendance level. It was described by one Member country delegate as "mainly factual" and "having little contention".

Follow-up on high-level meeting (HLM) on LDCs

An advance copy of the "Report by the Director-General on Follow-up to the [HLM]" (WT/COMTD/LDC/W/22) was also circulated. While some delegates wanted to make comments on the content of the document, sources say discussion was not allowed and that the document was for review only (as the document had already received endorsement by the IF Steering Committee). One unnamed LDC delegate questioned why such an important document was circulated after being endorsed and noted frustration in that if they cannot make comments in their own committee, how could they expect their voice to be heard in any other?

As part of efforts to increase market access to LDCs, the European Community (EC) submitted notification of their 'Everything But Arms' (EBA) Initiative (see BRIDGES Weekly, 27 February 2001, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/story1.27-02-01.htm>). As the latest Member to join the LDCs, Senegal spoke on this matter to ensure that its representation was included in the Initiative. A final comment came from a group of LDCs who made specific mention that such preferential schemes must be "meaningful" and "universal".

Preparing for the fourth Ministerial Conference

The LDCs' Coordinator tabled the 'Zanzibar Declaration', which came out of the LDC Trade Ministers' Meeting in Zanzibar, 22-24 July 2000 (WT/L/409) (see BRIDGES Weekly, 31 July 2001, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/31-07-01/story3.htm>). Numerous LDC delegates voiced their support for the Declaration and one Quad delegate voiced appreciation for the receipt of a report collecting the perspectives of the LDCs with respect to many issues. One LDC Member went as far as suggesting the Declaration itself make up the future work programme for the Sub-Committee. This suggestion was noted and sources say several items contained in the Declaration are to be considered in formulating the Sub-Committee's agenda for 2002.

On the logistics side of the discussions, it was confirmed that three delegates per LDC Member would be financed by the WTO to attend the upcoming Ministerial Conference.

Agenda 2002

In addition to the issues from the Zanzibar Declaration to be considered, the draft work programme for the following year was discussed but was not finalised as such - but rather accepted as a starting point, subject to revision. It included seminars on Trade Policy Reviews and Technical Assistance, TRIPs, trade policy courses, and a joint seminar on the Integrated Framework.

The 27th Session of the Sub-Committee on LDCs is scheduled for 28 February 2002.

"Twenty-sixth session of the sub-committee on LDCs," WTO (WTO/AIR/1631) 21 September 2001; "Report by the director-general on follow-up to the high-level meeting," WTO (WT/COMTD/LDC/W/22) 15 October 2001; ICTSD Internal Files.

Prior Informed Consent Advances Towards Full Convention Status

From 8-12 October, delegates from over 110 countries gathered at the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation in Rome to continue negotiating the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade (PIC). According to observers, the PIC Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (PIC-INC-8) worked diligently throughout the week putting to rest several outstanding issues while bringing the Convention one step closer to full ratification. PIC is intended to regulate the trade of chemicals and pesticides by providing information on the regulatory status of certain hazardous substances, notably to developing countries often lacking the infrastructural capacity to ascertain the level of risk associated with these substances.

Given that PIC is not yet legally binding it has the status of a voluntary agreement and operates according to an interim procedure. As such, much of PIC-INC-8 was spent fine-tuning the rules that will govern its transition from a voluntary agreement to a fully binding convention under international law. Negotiators also focused their attention on the rules governing conflicts of interest which may arise within the PIC Chemical Review Committee (CRC), a sub-committee of chemicals experts mandated to oversee the inclusion of chemicals subject to the PIC Convention.

For their part, both the US and Canada asserted that CRC experts should be permitted to maintain industry affiliations while serving on the committee, while the EC argued that experts should function independently of such interests. The issue went unresolved at PIC INC-8 and will likely be taken up at PIC INC-9, scheduled for 30 September-4 October 2002 in Bonn, Germany.

While developing country participation in the PIC negotiation is quite strong, many developing country representatives felt that more could still be done to encourage their participation in the implementation of the Convention. To this end, the PIC Secretariat underscored its efforts to provide more sub-regional implementation workshops for developing countries and economies in transition. However, funding for such workshops and technical and infrastructural capacity building remains limited. According to some observers, funding for such activities is minimal since development assistance so strongly emphasises the objective of poverty reduction while the economic benefits of a strong PIC remain relatively obscure and difficult to ascertain.

Considerable discussion was also given to PIC's relationship with the UNEP international environmental governance process, a process many feel will strengthen global environmental governance by integrating similar MEAs in the so-called chemicals cluster, notably the Stockholm (persistent organic pollutants) and Basel (hazardous wastes) Conventions. Talk of integrating the MEAs is topical as international environmental governance receives increasing attention in the lead-up to both the WTO Ministerial scheduled for November and the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) scheduled to take place in Johannesburg, South Africa in September 2002.

Thus far, of the 73 countries and regional economic integration organisations that have signed the Rotterdam Convention, 16 have ratified it. The Convention requires 50 ratifications before becoming a legally binding body of law. While it is the ambitious hope of many optimists to have the Rotterdam Convention fully ratified by the WSSD, several observers close to the process are of the view that its full ratification will likely not happen for least another two years.

"Report of the Eighth Session of the INC for an International Legal Binding Instrument for the Application of the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade: 8-12 October 2001," EARTH NEGOTIATIONS BULLETIN, 15 October 2001; ICTSD Internal Files.

GATS: Financial Services Last But Not Least In Services Week

WTO Members concluded the 2-12 October services cluster, or Services Week, with several meetings on financial services. During the third and final day of the Council for Trade in Services' (CTS) negotiating sessions (see BRIDGES Weekly, 31 October 2001, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/01-10-31/story3.htm>), delegates discussed aspects of negotiating proposals on financial services. Also, the Committee on Trade in Financial Services (CTFS), one of the subsidiary bodies to the CTS, convened on 11 October to review the status of acceptance of the Fifth Protocol to the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) containing Members' modified schedules of commitments in the financial sector. Furthermore, the CTFS on 10 October organised an informal seminar where Members and intergovernmental organisations with observer status at the WTO,

such as the World Bank and IMF, were briefed by three international standard-setting organisations.

Special Session on Financial Services

Discussions on negotiating proposals regarding financial services and, to a lesser extent, recreational services, were among the last items on the October Services Week's agenda. Members focused in particular on a US negotiating proposal on financial services (S/CSS/W/27), the scope of which many developing countries found too broad, though they nevertheless agreed that the sector should be on the negotiating table. Specifically, criticism was directed towards a US call for far-reaching transparency in national legislation relating to trade in financial services. In the view of several Members, this requirement would be premature because of the ongoing work within the Working Party on Domestic Regulation on the elaboration of disciplines pertaining to domestic legislation (GATS Art. VI:4).

According to trade sources, discussions on the financial services sector "were not really substantive"; this despite the fact that financial services are among the 'top-ten' sectors where both the EC and the US are seeking far-reaching further liberalisation.

Other meetings during Services Week

During an informal half-day seminar, and as a contribution to the CTFS' mandate to identify issues for future discussions, Members and organisations with observer status were briefed by the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision, the International Organization of Securities Commissions, and the International Association of Insurance Supervisors on financial standard-setting worldwide. Inter alia, presentations and discussions addressed the question of whether the particular situation of developing countries was reflected in the objectives, implementation and reported problems of international standards.

On 11 October, the CTFS addressed only one of the issues on its agenda: the status of acceptance by Members of the Fifth Protocol to the GATS Embodying the Results of the Financial Services Negotiations. The Protocol, which contains Members' modified commitments in financial services resulting from negotiations held in late 1997, has still to be accepted by seven Members, including Bolivia, Brazil, the Dominican Republic and Poland. During the meeting, the Dominican Republic informed the Committee that all necessary steps had been finalised on the national level to enable its acceptance of the Protocol; as a result, the Committee will demand the CTS to temporarily reopen the Protocol for ratification.

The next services week will take place in December 2001.

"Briefing note on NGO/EC Liaison meeting, 25th September, Brussels," CUTS, 26 September 2001; ICTSD Internal Files.

EU Lends Support To New African Initiative

Several African leaders met in Brussels on 10 October to hold talks with European Union (EU) officials on an economic recovery programme for the continent entitled the 'New Africa Initiative' (NAI). The one- day meeting resulted in support from the EU, which has committed to establish a common group on infrastructure in the framework of the next European development fund programme to help the NAI grow.

According to a joint communiqué, the EU has agreed to take the initiative further through both human resources and financial support. The communiqué further indicates resolve from both sides to set up links between the NAI and EU institutional frameworks and announces the development in 2002 of a regular dialogue on the NAI as it further takes shape. The meeting was attended among others by presidents Thabo Mbeki of South Africa, Olusegun Obasanjo of Nigeria, Hosni Mubarak of Egypt, Abdelaziz Bouteflika of Algeria, and Frederick Chiluba of Zambia. On the European side, European Commission President Romano Prodi, External Affairs Commissioner Chris Patten and EU Foreign Policy Chief Javier Solana were also present.

The NAI, representing a merger between the Millennium Partnership for the African Recovery Programme and the OMEGA Plan, is an economic programme that was unanimously adopted by the Lusaka Summit on 11 July 2001. It is a pledge by African leaders to create conditions conducive for investment, growth and development as well as initiatives to raise resources to address underdevelopment in critical sectors that are highlighted in the Programme, such as infrastructure, education, health, agriculture and information communication technology.

The NAI will be presented at the September 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development and the Financing of Development Conference in Mexico in 2002, amongst other events and bilateral interactions.

"EU to Support New African Initiative," XINHUA NEWS AGENCA, 10 October 2001; ICTSD Internal Files.

In Brief

EU TOP AG OFFICIAL QUESTIONS NEW US FARM BILL. Last week, EU Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries, Franz Fischler criticised the US for its new farm policy, reacting to the adoption of a new farm bill by the US House of Representatives on 5 October, which provides for a major expansion of federal agricultural support. "I am surprised by the text [...], because it doesn't seem to fit with what the US has been saying in the agricultural negotiations in Geneva," the Commissioner stated. Referring to the 'green' plan recently tabled by US Department of Agriculture chief Anne Veneman and defeated by the US Congress on 4 October (see BRIDGES Weekly, 9 October 2001, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/01-10-09/inbrief.htm>),

Fischler said that, "the US House of Representatives now seems to want the opposite. It wants to push up price-based support and to strengthen 'counter'- cyclical policies." The EU further takes the view that the US' attitude puts it in the ambiguous position of defending one line in Geneva while another line is supported by Congress. The new ten-year, \$US 170 billion House bill would increase commodity programs by 63 percent, with most of it going to grain, cotton and soybean producers. The bill will replace -- pending the Senate's approval -- the 1996 Freedom to Farm Act, which expires in September 2002. "EU Ag Chief Criticises US Over Price-Linked Farm Support," Dow Jones, 10 October 2001; "House Approves \$170 Billion Farm Bill," NEW YORK TIMES, 5 October 2001; "Fischler Questions Farm Bill Adopted by US House Of Representatives," EU PRESS RELEASE, 10 October 2001. ICTSD Internal Files.

VENEMAN: CHALLENGING EU GMO RULES AT WTO AN OPTION. On 10 October, US Agriculture Secretary Anne Veneman said that an EU draft labelling regime for genetically modified organisms (GMOs) could not be regarded as non-trade distortive and declared that if no compromise could be found on the GMO regulations, a US challenge before the WTO would be a possibility. In 1998, the EU suspended approval of new biotech products prior to the enactment of European Community legislation addressing traceability and labelling of products containing, or deriving from, GMOs. The GMO proposal released by the European Commission in July this year requires labelling of GMOs from the farm to the supermarket (see BRIDGES Weekly, 31 July 2001, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/31-07-01/story5.htm>). According to Veneman, this need to record every level in the food-making process is considered inexecutable by the US farm industry, which fears it may lose billions because of the new EU regulations. However, according to EU Health Commissioner David Byrne, both he and Veneman had taken the view that lifting the three-year EU moratorium on new GMO crops would be a major step in finding a compromise between the US and the EU. "US Sees EU GMO Labelling Rules As Impeding Trade," WORLD ENVIRONMENT NEWS, 11 October 2001. ICTSD Internal Files.

COMMITTEE APPROVES FAST TRACK. On 9 October, the US House Ways and Means Committee approved legislation that would grant the US President with Trade Promotion Authority (TPA) -- or so-called 'fast track' -- by a vote of 27 to 13. The bill, jointly drafted by Ways and Means Chair Bill Thomas, R-Calif., and three Democrats, emphasises labour and environmental issues as main objectives for future trade talks, while allowing for unspecified penalties for violations and providing Congress with a more consultative role. Several Democrats had previously rejected the Republican bill as not going far enough with respect to labour standards and environmental protection and tabled an alternative text which was defeated in the Republican-dominated Committee by 26 to 12. Under US law, Ways and Means has responsibility over legislation relating to tariffs, import trade, and trade negotiations. The bill now has to pass the US House of Representatives, where it would likely need some 40 Democratic supporters, as some conservative Republicans disapprove of the legislation. Congress has not granted fast track since 1994. "Committee Oks Fast Track Authority," AP, 10 October 2001; "Ways And Means Approves TPA," WASHINGTON TRADE DAILY, 10 October 2001;

"Factbox – Highlights Of US House Panel Trade Pact Bill," WORLD ENVIRONMENT NEWS, 11 October 2001.

COSTA RICAN PRESIDENT SUGGESTS MOVE FROM COFFEE TO SUGAR FOR CANADIAN MARKET. On 10 October, Costa Rican President Miguel Angel Rodriguez proposed that his country's coffee producers, which have recently been suffering from low world prices for their crop, should shift to sugar in order to serve the Canadian market. "We managed to open a gigantic door with the free trade treaty with Canada which will permit Costa Rica to export up to 20,000 metric tons of sugar," he told a local newspaper. He added that according to the agreement with Canada signed in April 2001, his country's quota could even be expanded to 40,000 tons within seven years. Rodriguez announced his recommendations despite the fact that world sugar prices have also recently been very low by historical standards. "Costa Rica Urges Shift From Coffee To Sugar," AP, 10 October 2001.

13 INVESTMENT TREATIES INVOLVING LDCs CONCLUDED IN BONN. Hosted by the Deutsche Stiftung fuer Entwicklung and organised by the UN Conference for Trade and Development (UNCTAD), a round of talks has resulted in the conclusion of 11 bilateral investment treaties (BITs) between Least- Developed Countries (LDCs) and developed countries. The 11 states concerned were Belgium-Luxembourg, Cambodia, Eritrea, France, Malawi, Mozambique, Netherlands, Sudan, Sweden, Uganda, and Zambia. Furthermore, five other agreements were negotiated, and negotiations between Malawi and Germany were envisaged for the future. By entering into BITs, according to UNCTAD, developing countries commit themselves to rules-based investment policy aimed at encouraging foreign direct investment (FDI) to flow into non-industrialised states. "Negotiations On Bilateral Investment Treaties Conclude In Bonn," UNCTAD PRESS RELEASE, 8 October 2001.

GLOBAL BAN ON TOXIC SHIP PAINT AGREED. On 5 October, representatives of the 159 Member States of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) agreed to the International Convention on the Control of Harmful Anti- Fouling Systems on Ships. The new convention calls for a restriction on ship paint that contains the harmful compounds organotins as of 1 January 2003, with a complete ban five years later. One of the most effective anti-fouling paints developed in the 1960s contains the organotin tributyltin (TBT), which has been proven to cause deformations in oysters and sex changes in whelks. Greenpeace campaigner Martin Besieux said, "Today's decision is a victory for the marine environment that is being severely damaged by toxic ship paints. It illustrates a growing awareness that there's no place for hazardous products in today's world." The efforts of the IMO will now focus on ensuring that the convention is brought into force as soon as possible, said IMO Secretary-General William O'Neil. The agreement will enter into force 12 months after the 25 countries representing 25 percent of the world's merchant shipping tonnage have ratified it. "Global Ban on Toxic Ship Paint Agreed," ENS, 8 October 2001.

WTO In Brief**CI SAYS GATS AND AOA NOT PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.**

On 16 October, Consumers International (CI), a global pact of more than 260 consumer organisations in some 120 countries, published the findings of its study on liberalisation of agriculture and services trade, concluding that the WTO's Agreements on agriculture (AoA) and services (GATS) are counterproductive to consumers, especially in developing and transitional economies. Regarding trade in services, the research states that consumers could potentially benefit from liberalisation, but the current provisions on the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) were hindering states from regulating consumers' access to basic services such as water and telecommunications. Regarding agriculture, limited market access to developed countries' markets together with subsidised imports are both seen to impede poor farmers' competitiveness as well as to reduce consumers' access to food due to their limited financial resources. According to CI's Director General Julian Edwards, "this means making consumer welfare a part of national, regional and global policy-making." Furthermore, "trade negotiations must be directed towards sustainable development and openly take into account [...] the input from international non-governmental organisations," he added. CI is convening in Geneva during 15-19 October with WTO Members and officials. "Impact Assessments By Consumer International Show Trade Liberalisation Is Not Benefiting Consumers," CI PRESS RELEASE, 15 October 2001.

US TO CHALLENGE FSC PANEL RULING. The US announced on 10 October, that it would appeal the WTO panel's findings in the ongoing dispute between the EC and the US on tax cuts granted to US off-shore companies ("Foreign Sales Corporations", FSC). In its 20 August 2001 ruling, a compliance panel concluded that the US had failed to comply with the 24 February 2000 recommendations by the WTO Appellate Body, which regarded the tax cuts as subsidies infringing WTO rules. "We have decided to appeal because we believe the decision was an error," US Trade Representative Robert Zoellick said in a statement. US business representatives were in favour of this decision as it provides the US with at least 60 more days before the EC can finally start proceedings under the Dispute Settlement Mechanism to impose sanctions of up to \$US 4 billion (see BRIDGES Weekly, 21 November 2000, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/story1.21-11-00.htm>). "US Appeal WTO Ruling Over Export Tax Breaks," REUTERS, 10 October 2001. ICTSD Internal Files.

CHINA EXPECTED TO ACCEDE EARLY DECEMBER. According to unidentified sources, China is likely to become a full WTO Member in early December, followed by Taiwan the following day. It was reported that China will try to establish consensus on its accession -- which is regarded to be a mere formality -- on the first day of the five-day Ministerial round currently scheduled to be held in Doha, Qatar, on 9-13 November. As no voting is required given China's lack of a parliament, the ratified terms would then be returned to Geneva where the WTO Secretariat would lodge them before they become legally effective after a 30-day period. Sources said Taiwan's accession would follow China's one day later. "China To Become Full WTO Member On December 10: Report," AFP, 12 October 2001.

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/cal/index.htm>.

Coming Up This Week

15-17 October, Alexandria, Egypt: **BIOTECHNOLOGY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: VOICES OF THE SOUTH AND THE NORTH**. An international conference on biotech and sustainable development co-sponsored by the Government of Egypt and FAO, UNESCO, WORLD BANK, OECD, CGIAR, ICARDA, AGERI, AAS&T, NAS and TWAS. The conference will discuss sustainable development while considering social, ethical, economic, environmental and legal ramifications of new biotechnologies. The conference's primary objectives are to educate and inform the public and develop a responsible framework for decision-making for biotechnology. For further information contact: Dr. Ismail Serageldin, Program Committee Chair; tel: (203) 487-6024 or 487-6052; fax: 487-6001; email: egybio2001@hotmail.com; Internet: <http://www.egyptbiotech2001.com/>.

15-18 October, Nairobi, Kenya: **2002 WORLD SUMMIT ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AFRICAN PREPARATORY MEETING**. For further information contact: Hiroko Morita-Lou, UN-DESA, New York; tel: (1-212) 963-8813; fax: 963-4260; email: morita-lou@un.org; Internet: http://www.johannesburgsummit.org/web_pages/africa.htm.

15-19 October, New York, US: **THIRD SUBSTANTIVE SESSION OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT**. Preparatory Committee for the International Conference on Financing for Development, which will be held on 18-22 March 2002. The March 2002 event will bring together high-level representatives from governments, the UN, and other international trade, finance and development-related organisations. For further information contact: Harris Gleckman; tel: (1-212) 963-4690; email: gleckman@un.org. Or contact Federica Pietracci; tel: (212) 963-8497; email: pietracci@un.org; Internet: <http://www.un.org/esa/ffd>. From IISD Linkages, <http://www.iisd.ca/linkages/journal>.

16-19 October, Colombo, Sri Lanka: **13TH MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL**. This meeting seeks to help developing countries comply with agreed phase-out schedules for ozone depleting substances. An additional meeting will be held on 17 October for countries having difficulty implementing the CFC freeze. For further information contact: email: ozoneinfo@unep.org; Internet: <http://www.unep.ch/ozone/montreal/>. From IISD Linkages, <http://www.iisd.ca/linkages/journal>.

17 October, Paris, France: **OECD FIRST GLOBAL FORUM ON COMPETITION**. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) will host high-level officials from transition and developing countries aiming to develop a framework that

encourages efficient competition and deters abuses. For further information contact: Nicholas Bray, OECD Media Relations Division; tel: (33-14) 524-8090; email: nicholas.bray@oecd.org; Internet: <http://www.oecd.org/oecd/pages/home/displaygeneral/0,3380,EN-document-0-nodirectorate-no-12-18881-0,FF.html>.

17-18 October, Shanghai, China: 13th ASIA-PACIFIC ECONOMIC COOPERATION (APEC) MINISTERIAL MEETING. US and Chinese trade ministers are expected to discuss China's laws on genetically-modified organisms. For further information visit: <http://www.apec-china.org.cn/>.

19 October, Washington, DC: SYMPOSIA ON LINKAGES: HOW DO WE BRIDGE THE GAP? A symposium jointly organised by CUTS-CITEE and the Brookings Institution. This symposium will discuss issues relating to links between trade and environment and labour standards, which are expected to come up at the forthcoming WTO Ministerial Meeting. For further information contact: Sandeep Singh or K.S. Sajeew; linkages_cuts@rediffmail.com, cutsjpr@sancharnet.in; Internet: <http://cuts.org/forthcoming-events.htm>; tel: (91-141) 207-482; fax: 207- 486.

19 October, Paris, France: INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON IMPROVEMENT OF TRANSPARENCY AND WTO REFORM. Organised by French NGO Solagral, this meeting will confront criticisms that have arisen since the WTO Ministerial Conference in Seattle in 1999. The conference plans to make recommendations on ways to improve the WTO taking into account interests of both developing countries and civil society. For further information or to register, contact: Stéphan Guéneau; email: s.gueneau@solagral.asso.fr; tel: (33-4) 9923-2286; fax: 9923-2460; Internet: <http://www.solagral.org>.

19-20 October, Beijing: CHINA AND THE WTO. Sponsored by the Dutch Ministry of Education, Culture and Science and organised by CPB Netherlands Bureau for Economic Policy Analysis and the Institute of Quantitative and Technical Economics of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. The meeting will overview current analyses on China's accession to the WTO with a focus on research conducted in China. Researchers outside China are invited to participate as well. Topics include: the impact on China and the world economy, the sectoral impact of China's access to the WTO, and the implications of accession to the WTO on China's economy. For further information contact: Arjan Lejour; email: aml@cpb.nl; Internet: <http://www.cpb.nl/eng/general/org/afdelingen/iea/wto/>.

22-23 October, Paris, France: WORKSHOP ON THE ENVIRONMENT FOR UNEP FINANCE INITIATIVE MEMBERS, REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT BANKS AND EXPORT CREDIT AGENCIES (ECAs). The workshop is organised by UNEP Division of Technology, Industry and Economics (DTIE), and hosted and co-sponsored by the French Export Credit Agency, Coface. The workshop targets operational staff from the respective organisations including loan officers, underwriters and environmental experts. For further information contact: Mark Sanctuary or Martina Otto; Internet:

<http://unepfi.net/mtgs/ecafiws>; email: mark.sanctuary@unep.ch or martina.otto@unep.fr; tel: (41-22) 917-8178; fax: 796-9240.

22-26 October, Bonn, Germany: FIRST SESSION OF THE AD HOC OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP ON ACCESS AND BENEFIT-SHARING. For further information contact: CBD Secretariat, Montreal, Canada; tel: (1 514) 288-2220; fax: 288-6588; e-mail: secretariat@biodiv.org; Internet: <http://www.biodiv.org/programmes/socio-eco/benefit/ab-wg-01.asp>. From IISD Linkages Journal: <http://www.iisd.ca/linkages/journal/>.

23-24 October, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil: 2002 WORLD SUMMIT ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN PREPARATORY MEETING. For further information contact: Hiroko Morita-Lou, UN-DESA, New York; tel: (212) 963-8813; fax: 963-4260; email: morita-lou@un.org; Internet: http://www.johannesburgsummit.org/web_pages/latin_america_and_caribbean.htm.

WTO Events

An updated list of forthcoming WTO meetings is posted at: http://www.wto.org/english/news_e/meets.doc. Please bear in mind that dates and times of WTO meetings are often changed, and that the WTO does not always announce the important informal meetings of 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.

15-17 October, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO TEXTILES MONITORING BODY.

17 October, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO COUNCIL FOR TRADE IN GOODS.

17 & 19 October, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO CZECH REPUBLIC TRADE POLICY REVIEW.

22-23 October, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO COMMITTEE ON ANTI-DUMPING PRACTICES - AD HOC GROUP ON IMPLEMENTATION.

Other Forthcoming Events

24-25 October, Cairo, Egypt: WORLD SUMMIT ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT WEST ASIA PREPARATORY MEETING. For further information contact: Hiroko Morita-Lou, UN-DESA, New York; tel: (212) 963-8813; fax: 963-4260; email: ; Internet: http://www.johannesburgsummit.org/web_pages/western_asia.htm.

29 October - 9 November, Marrakech, Morocco: SEVENTH CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE UN FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE. For further information contact: UNFCCC Secretariat, Germany; tel: (49-228) 815- 1000; email: secretariat@unfccc.int; Internet: <http://www.unfccc.int/>. From IISD Linkages, <http://www.iisd.ca/linkages/journal/>.

30 October - 2 November, Washington DC, US: CONSULTATIVE GROUP ON INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH (CGIAR) ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2001. For further information contact: tel: (202) 473-8951; fax: 473- 8110; email: ; Internet: <http://www.worldbank.org/html/cgiar/publications/agm2001/agm2001.html>. From Linkages: <http://www.iisd.ca/linkages/journal/>.

1-2 November, Boston, USA: AGRICULTURAL BIOTECHNOLOGY: THE ROAD TO IMPROVED NUTRITION AND INCREASED PRODUCTION? Organised by the Tufts University School of Nutrition Science and Policy. This conference is designed to provide an open dialogue and discussion with the international nutritional science and policy community. For further information, contact David Hastings, Conference Manager, tel: (1-617) 627-279; fax: 627-3688, email: nutritionconference@tufts.edu; Internet: http://nutrition.tufts.edu/conted/agri_biotech/.

27-29 November, Phnom Penh, Cambodia: WORLD SUMMIT ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ASIA PACIFIC PREPARATORY MEETING. For further information contact: Hiroko Morita-Lou, UN-DESA, New York; tel: (212) 963-8813; fax: 963-4260; email: ; Internet: http://www.johannesburgsummit.org/web_pages/asia_pacific.htm.

7-9 November, Accra, Ghana: INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON NATIONAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES. The meeting is in preparation for the World Summit on Sustainable Development and organised in collaboration with the Government of Ghana, DFID/UK, the Danish Government and UNDP/Capacity 21. For further information contact: email: ; Internet: http://www.johannesburgsummit.org/web_pages/ghana_experts_meeting.htm. From IISD Linkages, <http://www.iisd.ca/linkages/journal/>.

12-16 November, Caracas, Venezuela: WORKSHOP ON RISK MONITORING AND PUBLIC PERCEPTION OF BIOTECHNOLOGY. Organised by: Efrain G. Salazar Yamarte (Centro Nacional de Investigaciones Agropecuarias/CENIAP, Maracay, Venezuela) and Rafael Rangel Aldao (Centro Tecnológico Polar, Caracas, Venezuela). This workshop is entitled: "Advanced Issues on Biosafety: Risk Monitoring and Public Perception of Biotechnology." For further information contact: Dr. Efrain G. Salazar Yamarte; tel: (58- 43) 471066; fax: 471066, 831421; email: efra63@hotmail.com; Internet: <http://www.icgeb.trieste.it/TRAINING/CRS01/crsps01.htm>. From IISD Linkages: <http://www.iisd.ca/linkages/journal/>.

12-16 November, Montreal, Canada: SEVENTH MEETING OF THE CBD SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE. For further information contact: tel: (514) 288-2220; fax: 288-6588; email: secretariat@biodiv.org; Internet: <http://www.biodiv.org/meetings/sbstta-07.asp>.

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. Submissions of publications to ICTSD's documentation centre would also be welcome (contact Marc Galvin, mgalvin@ictsd.ch).

ICTSD Publication

The September edition of BRIDGES Between Trade and Sustainable Development, ICTSD's monthly news and analysis publication, is now available online. In addition to WTO news, it includes articles on TRIPs and Public Health, Developing Country Participation in Multilateral Trade Negotiations, Sustainable Development Angles to the Swordfish Dispute, and regional news from Mercosur and the Andean Community. To access in pdf format visit: <http://www.ictsd.org/monthly/index.htm>.

Other Publications

THE STATE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE 2001. Published by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, September 2001. The report confirms that improved nutrition affects economic growth directly through its impact on labour productivity and indirectly through improvements in life expectancy. The report is available online at: <http://www.fao.org/DOCREP/003/X9800E/X9800E00.HTM>.

INTERNATIONALLY-RECOGNISED CORE LABOUR STANDARDS IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC. Published by the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU), October 2001. The report was published to coincide with the WTO's Trade Policy Review of the Czech Republic on 17 and 19 October 2001. For further information contact Collin Harker: Economist Employment and International Labour Standards, ICFTU, 5 Boulevard du Roi Albert II, 1210 Brussels, Belgium; tel: (+322) 224-0329; fax: 201- 5815 or 203-0756; Internet: <http://www.icftu.org>; email: collin.harker@icftu.org.

"Harnessing Biotechnology For The Poor: Challenges Ahead For Capacity, Safety and Public Investment." By Joel I. Cohen. Published in the JOURNAL OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT no.2, February 2001, pp.239-263. The paper addresses whether the benefits from biotechnology will reach those in need, and if not, what additional steps are required. For further information contact Lorna Cameron, email: lcameron@iisd.ca.

"Applicable Law In WTO Dispute Settlement Proceedings." By Lorand Bartels. Published in the JOURNAL OF WORLD TRADE no.35(3), 2001, pp.499- 519. The article considers the extent to which Panels and the Appellate Body may apply rules of international law deriving from sources other than the WTO covered agreements. For further information contact Lorand Bartels, Department of Law, European University Institute, via Boccaccio 121, I-50133 Florence, Italy; tel: +39 (0)349 752-1247; fax: +1 (0)603 676-4756; email: lorandbartels@hotmail.com.

WILL NEW TRADE GAINS MAKE US RICH? AN ASSESSMENT OF THE PROSPECTIVE GAINS FROM NEW TRADE AGREEMENTS. By Dean Baker and Mark Weisbrot. Published by the Center for Economic and Policy Research (CEPR), 3 October 2001. The research paper argues that for about three-quarters of the American labour force, the losses due to redistribution of income outweigh even the most inflated estimates of the gains from trade. The paper is available online at: http://www.cepr.net/will_new_trade_gains_make_us_ric.htm.

OVERHAULING THE WTO: OPPORTUNITY AT DOHA AND BEYOND. Policy Brief no.6. By John Audley and Ann M. Florini. Published by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, 2001. The policy brief argues that if the global trading system is to overcome its current gridlock on key sensitive issues and earn worldwide respect, Members of the WTO must focus on institutional reform, not a new round of trade negotiations. The policy brief is available at: <http://www.ceip.org/files/publications/policybrief6.asp>.

ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

ICFTU STATEMENT FOR THE WTO'S 4TH MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE. In its published statement, the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU) forwards a number of demands for decisions that should be taken on the occasion of the WTO's forthcoming Ministerial Conference. The statement is available at: <http://www.icftu.org/displaydocument.asp?Index=991213933&Language=EN>.

DOCUMENTS ON FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT. The Danish United Nations Association has introduced a portal that contains more than 200 documents from NGOs worldwide, multinational organisations and from both the research, science and business communities. The web address is: <http://www.una.dk/ffd>.

WORLD BANK RESEARCH DOCUMENTS BY E-MAIL. World Bank research documents are available by email, without accessing the Internet. To obtain documents send an email to: mailback@econ.worldbank.org with a blank subject line and the URL of the document you would like in the text of the body.

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=)

BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest© is published by the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD), <http://www.ictsd.org>, with technical support from the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (IATP). Contributors to this issue are Andrew Baldwin, Heike Baumuller, Jennifer Ngai, Matteo Rizzolli, Alex Werth and Caroline Wiman. This edition of BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest was edited by Hugo Cameron, hcameron@ictsd.ch. Managing Editor is Andrew Crosby, acrosby@ictsd.ch. The Director is Ricardo Meléndez-Ortiz, rmelendez@ictsd.ch. ICTSD is an independent, not-for-profit organisation based at: 13, ch. des Anémones, 1219 Geneva, Switzerland, tel: (41-22) 917-8492; fax: 917-8093. Excerpts from BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest© may be used in other publications with appropriate citation. Comments and suggestions are welcomed and should be directed to the Editor or the Director.

BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest is possible in 2000-2001 through the generous support of: the Governments of Switzerland (SECO) and the United Kingdom (DFID) and the Rockefeller Foundation. It also benefits from ICTSD's core funders: the Governments of Finland, Denmark, the Netherlands and Sweden; Christian Aid (UK), IUCN The World Conservation Union, MISEREOR, NOVIB (NL), Oxfam (UK) and the Swiss Coalition of Development Organisations (Switzerland).

ISSN 1563-003X