



INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR  
TRADE AND SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT

BRIDGES

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## Note To Subscribers

### Weekly publication schedule

In order to include coverage of the WTO's 19-20 December meeting of the General Council, BRIDGES Weekly's final edition for 2001 (Vol. 5 No. 43) will be sent on Thursday 20 December rather than on Tuesday 18 December. The first issue of 2002 will be published on 15 January.

### New ICTSD internet portal on intellectual property rights

ICTSD has launched <http://www.IPRsonline.org> - a new internet portal on intellectual property rights (IPRs) and sustainable development. The site contains a selection of relevant online documents and resources related to IPRs and sustainable development including a guide to IPRs, submissions to the WTO, discussion papers classified by topics, a calendar of IPR-related events, latest IPR news, and links to listservs and relevant institutions working on IPRs.

The portal was developed by ICTSD in collaboration with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in the framework of a capacity building project on IPRs and development. Its objective is to help trade policy makers and influencers in developing countries assess the impact of different IPRs on development; strengthen their understanding of the options for advancing their public policy objectives through the implementation or review of TRIPs; and support their informed participation in ongoing and future negotiations.

The new portal is currently available at <http://www.ictsd.org/iprsonline> and will move to its home at <http://www.iprsonline.org> shortly. Further information on the UNCTAD-ICTSD capacity building project on IPRs can be found at <http://www.ictsd.org/unctad-ictsd>.

### Latest BRIDGES Monthly now available

The latest edition of ICTSD's monthly news and analysis publication, BRIDGES Between Trade and Sustainable Development, is now available in pdf format from the ICTSD homepage at <http://www.ictsd.org>. The issue is a special post-Doha Ministerial edition, and contains analysis on the range of issue areas at the intersection between trade and sustainable development emanating from the WTO's Fourth Ministerial Conference in Doha in November.

## Agriculture: Members Discuss Environment, Food Aid And Preferences

As announced in last week's edition of BRIDGES Weekly (see <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/01-12-04/wtoinbrief.htm>), Members met in the WTO Committee on Agriculture (CoA) last week for the year's final 'agriculture week'. Inter alia, Members addressed farm support for agriculture that serves environmental purposes; food aid; and preferential market access for agricultural goods from developing countries.

Background: WTO Members have been holding 'special' agriculture sessions since early 2000 as mandated by the Agreement on Agriculture (AoA), which provides for a continuation of the "fundamental reform" programme for the liberalisation of the world's farming sector through ongoing negotiations (Article 20). While the agriculture negotiations have so far been taking place independently of other talks in the WTO in line with the 'built-in agenda', they are now part of the single undertaking launched at the Fourth WTO Ministerial Conference in November (see BRIDGES Weekly, 15 November 2001; <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/01-11-15/story1.htm>).

### Environment

The debate at the CoA on environment focused principally on whether some degree of trade distortion is legitimate in cases where states support farmers whose agricultural activities fulfil environmental purposes. Non-papers (i.e. unofficial papers) were tabled by Japan and Norway and from the Cairns Group of food exporting countries.

Norway argued that, for non-trade concerns such as biodiversity and land conservation to be addressed appropriately, a minimum degree of domestic production needed to be secured. This, however, presupposed that farming was sustainable and profitable, which in some cases required significant government support also in the form of production-related measures. To avoid high control and administration costs, Norway proposed to find a solution striking a balance between envisaging least trade distortion and its non-trade concerns -- eventually in a mechanism outside the Green Box. [The Green Box, under which environmental concerns in agriculture at the WTO are generally addressed, requires that support payments be either de-coupled from production or specifically tailored and targeted so as to create no, or at most minimal, trade distortion.]

For its part, the Cairns Group reiterated its position that agricultural trade liberalisation was the best guarantee for positive environmental development. Cairns Group Members pointed out in particular that trade and production distorting subsidies in developed countries can lead to lower agricultural profits -- and thus poverty -- in developing countries, which is, according to the Group, a major cause of environmental degradation. In addition, the Cairns Group called for a review of AoA Annex II paragraph 12 [environmental programmes], as under the terms of this paragraph some trade-distorting support may be justified as meeting environmental goals.

## Food aid

With non-papers from a group of seven developing countries, EC, Japan, Mercosur, Namibia and Norway, Members discussed how to target food aid without jeopardising both the domestic production in recipient countries as well as exports from competing suppliers. In addition, the debate included the problem of possible circumvention of export subsidy commitments via food aid programmes.

Most countries argued that aid should be provided in grant form only, with Japan and the US warning that this could lead to inflexibility.

Many developing countries called for making donor countries' commitments binding and predictable; to increase food aid volumes in times of high world market prices; to provide aid on a demand-driven basis; to provide technical and financial assistance to help countries to improve agricultural productivity and related infrastructure instead of becoming dependant on food aid; and to make food aid more transparent through notifications to the CoA. Some developed countries, including Norway, also endorsed several of these points.

## Trade preferences

Non-papers were tabled from the African Group, EC, Namibia, Paraguay and Switzerland.

Most developed and developing countries agreed that preferential market access schemes are crucial for poorer countries, but they acknowledged that progressive agricultural trade liberalisation through general tariff reductions would lead to an erosion of trade preferences, so that countries benefiting from preferential treatment may need help in adjusting their economies.

Some small island developing countries (SIDCs) argued that they might need long-term preferential treatment due to their significant lack of competitiveness, and that because of their negligible share in world farm trade, other countries would not be harmed by preferences remaining in place.

Some Members, such as Australia, questioned the effectiveness of preferences, arguing they would prevent diversification in the preferentially treated countries and would hinder other countries from supplying those products falling under the preferential scheme. As such, Australia commented, market liberalisation accompanied by subsidy elimination was a far better recipe.

## Animal welfare & labelling

The EC and Switzerland reiterated that labelling could be an option to address some non-trade concerns without distorting trade, as it would enable consumers to freely choose products that comply with their expectations in areas such as animal welfare and organic

farming. In addition, labelled products could improve market access by increasing consumer confidence, they said.

Switzerland further agreed with the point made by the EU in its non- paper submitted in the September special session, that the Green Box should be re-examined in order to enable states to compensate their farmers for additional costs that occur due to higher national animal welfare standards.

The next negotiating session will be held from 4-8 February 2002 with a 4-6 December special informal session covering the subjects of development box, single commodity producers, special and differential treatment, small island developing countries and "other issues".

The formal special session on 7 February will conclude the current phase two of the ongoing negotiations in line with AoA Article 20. As indicated by trade sources, Members will also determine the future of the built-in agenda (Article 20) taking into account the new agriculture negotiation mandate provided by the Ministerial Decision recently adopted at the Fourth WTO Ministerial Conference held in Doha from 9-14 November.

"Trade Policy: EU, MERCOSUR Group Issue Call For WTO Rules on Use of Food Aid," WTO REPORTER, 5 December 2001. ICTSD Internal Files.

### Services Week: Members Rehash Old Stances

With new communications tabled on so-called 'horizontal issues', Members on 6 December concluded the year's final 'services week' (see *BRIDGES Weekly*, 4 December 2001, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/01-12-04/story1.htm>), which most of them characterised as 'repetitive' with little new developments on the sectoral front.

Substantively, discussions focused on assessment, autonomous liberalisation and the organisation of future work in relation to new trade talks as mandated by the Doha Ministerial Decision (available on the ICTSD website at <http://www.ictsd.ch>).

#### Horizontal issues

A group of developing countries -- namely Cuba, Senegal, Tanzania, Uganda, Zimbabwe and Zambia -- issued a comprehensive paper on assessment (S/CSS/W/132, available at the WTO website, <http://www.wto.org/>) building on an earlier communication tabled at the October special session (S/ CSS/W/114). While the new submission, introduced orally, was received rather 'coolly', a heated debate emerged on points raised in the October paper, which several developed countries, in particular Switzerland, severely criticised as being incoherent and contradictory. The EC, the US and Switzerland in

particular questioned an allegation of the October paper that the GATS had negative impacts on developing countries, since the group, at the same time, contended that an assessment was a prerequisite to obtaining the information necessary to make such an assertion. "How can they know that liberalisation of services trade hurts their interest, if they don't possess that kind of information?", one trade source said.

Continuing what one developing country trade official called "spraying a fly with a machine gun", some developed countries further criticised the paper for basing arguments on outdated information.

The new 6 December communication on assessment points to some outstanding problems developing countries are facing, such as the large discrepancies between developed and developing countries' export capacities, the difficulties in competing with multinational corporations, as well as other evidence of negative experiences with services liberalisation. The paper concludes with a series of recommendations to be taken into account when conducting the assessment, including the involvement of other bodies such as the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and other relevant fora.

In this context it should be noted that the Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF) and the Centre for International Environmental Law (CIEL) have recently issued a "Call for Capacity Building & Technical Assistance for Services Trade Assessment" (downloadable at: <http://www.panda.org/resources/programmes/trade/publi.htm>), which advocates a cost-benefit analysis to be conducted prior to the next phase of market access negotiations.

Members further agreed to hold a symposium on assessment in March 2002.

#### Autonomous liberalisation

A group mainly consisting of Latin American and Asian Members put forward a paper on autonomous liberalisation (S/CSS/W/130) that fed into the ongoing debate on the subject. According to trade sources, discussions on granting credit for services liberalisation outside the negotiating process had revealed a new flexibility to overcome the present impasse as to whether credit should only be given to developing countries, or also, to a certain extent, to developed country Members. Commenting on developments in the session, a developing country delegate said he felt that "Members agreed to stop acting as if they were at university, and start working on coming up with something useful." Members requested the Secretariat a new paper on the issue.

Moreover, Pakistan et al. orally introduced a paper on the implementation of GATS Article IV [increased participation of developing countries in services trade], which underscored the importance of the provision as an integral part of special and differential treatment (S&D) for developing countries. Notably, the communication concludes that although the GATS contains several S&D tools, Members were to be held responsible for the lack of their implementation due to "the disregard shown by some" of them.

### Other developments

Although Members also had the opportunity to further elaborate on their sectoral proposals tabled so far, the related discussions had reportedly been qualified as mainly a repetition of well-known positions and involving no new developments.

Members also devoted, as predicted, a large amount of time to the organisation of future work, which was the subject of intense consultations amongst delegates so as to avoid mushrooming of negotiating groups in relation to the new round of trade talks recently agreed in Doha, Qatar. It was agreed, however, to postpone a decision on the future work programme until March 2002, when Members are scheduled to hold a stocktaking exercise on the results of the GATS negotiations.

Members will now focus on preparing their initial requests, which, as provided by the Doha Ministerial Decision, must be tabled by June 2002.

ICTSD Internal Files.

### WTO To Establish New Technical Assistance Trust Fund

At an 11 December meeting of the WTO's Committee on Budget, Finance and Administration, Members reached near-agreement on the establishment of a Trust Fund of at least 15 million Swiss Francs (CHF) - approximately 9.1 million US dollars. This proposed amount would serve for the implementation of next year's commitments on technical assistance as mandated by the Doha Ministerial Declaration agreed last month at the Fourth WTO Ministerial Conference. According to trade officials, the so-called 'Doha Development Agenda Trust Fund' has been set up to build in predictability in funding for technical assistance activities -- such as training for less-advantaged Members -- at the WTO.

While some Members have been pushing to have technical assistance funds allocated as part of the organisation's regular budget, this has been difficult to achieve. Sources say one reason for this is the burden it may have on least-developed countries, which would thus paradoxically have to contribute more as part of their annual dues to the WTO. Also, certain developed countries, namely the US and Germany, have little room for manoeuvre with regards to committing more money in a formal manner. As such, contributions to the Trust Fund are expected to be kept voluntary. Funding has been forthcoming mostly from developed country Members, but these contributors are also "strongly encouraging wider participation from the larger developing countries," said one developed country source.

Some technical assistance initiatives, however, are accounted for in the regular budget, meaning they are not dependent on ad hoc voluntary contributions. These include support

for a WTO Training Institute for developing country trade officials, an annual WTO-NGO symposium, and 'Geneva Week' sessions for Members without permanent representation to the WTO in Geneva. The latter two items have only CHF 276,000 allocated between them, however, prompting one WTO official to say that this sum is unlikely to be sufficient to run these programs. "Geneva Week on its own costs CHF 7-800,000 to run, and the NGO Symposium costs from 4 to 500,000 francs," the source said. Extra funding will therefore be necessary to convene these events.

Questions remain over what form the technical assistance funded by the Trust Fund will take. The amount pledged is to be based on a plan put together by the WTO Secretariat and endorsed by the Committee on Trade and Development (CTD). However, due to the tight timeline imposed in Doha, Members have not agreed on what parts of a global technical assistance package the WTO can deliver on. Sources indicate that this will occur early in the new year at a meeting of the CTD.

The Doha Declaration contains a host of technical assistance provisions, and emphasises coordination with other agencies and donors. "What has been promised at Doha is infinitely larger than what the WTO alone can deliver," one country source said. A full program of technical assistance, particularly on capacity building and supply side issues, they said, must involve other agencies such as the World Bank and the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

The Trust Fund, along with the 2002 budget, must still be formally adopted at a General Council meeting scheduled for 19-20 December. Both Germany and Pakistan have yet to give a thumbs up on the budget; they are reportedly still seeking approval from their capitals.

ICTSD Internal Files.

### New GSP Adopted by European Union

On 10 December, European Union foreign ministers adopted a redefinition of their preferential tariff scheme, known as the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP), to facilitate entry of imports from developing countries while at the same time strengthening incentives for compliance with core labour and environment standards.

Touted as "the most generous GSP package they've ever put forward," EU Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy pointed to this scheme as "further evidence that the interests of developing countries are at the top of [the EU's] agenda." However, illustrating some of the tensions in adopting the scheme, Sweden pointed out that a changed GSP would contradict "the spirit and letter of commitments to developing countries". (see below)

Restructuring the GSP



The updated GSP regulation, which was tabled in June 2001, will come into force on 1 January 2002 and continue until the end of 2004 (see BRIDGES Weekly, 19 June, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/19-06-01/story4.htm>). According to the EC, the main thrust of the redefinition is to: 1) restore preferential margins which have been eroded by ongoing reduction of MFN duty rates; 2) enhance the effectiveness of GSP as a tool of sustainable development; and 3) simplify the management of the scheme, harmonise procedures, clarify rules and enhance predictability.

Regarding the third aim listed above, product categories have been reduced from four, leaving only 'sensitive' and 'non-sensitive'; with non-sensitive items receiving duty free access, and sensitive items (making up the bulk of key exports vis-à-vis developing countries) receiving a uniform flat rate tariff reduction of 3.5 percentage points.

However, there is some controversy over whether such a revised scheme actually undermines another preferential scheme, the Everything-But- Arms (EBA) initiative -- aimed at providing tariff free access to the EU for least-developed countries (LDCs) on a variety of products over time (see BRIDGES Weekly Digest 27 February 2001, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/story1.27-02-01.htm>). Some observers speculate that providing similar duty free access to a much larger spectrum of developing countries erodes the effective duty concession provided to LDCs under the EBA scheme. Thus in line with Sweden's comment above, one source noted, "[this] effectively contradicts the first aim of the redefining the programme." (i.e. restoring preferential margins which have been eroded by ongoing reduction of MFN duty rates)

#### Incentives for environment and labour standards

Another controversial element of the redefined GSP scheme is the increased significance of special incentives for the protection of the environment and labour rights - "meant to foster sustainable development". Countries would now be eligible for an additional five percentage point tariff reduction (on top of the 3.5 percent reduction stemming from the general arrangement) should they apply strict environmental norms, or meet eight core conditions developed by the International Labour Organisation (ILO). To date, most countries have been unwilling to apply for the additional tariff reductions, as they are suspicious of linking these sensitive issues.

Preferences coming under the EBA initiative and special arrangements to combat drug production and trafficking continue to apply without change.

#### Pakistan gains greater access for its fight against drugs

The EU also on 11 December announced the admittance of Pakistan into the aforementioned programme that grants tariff concessions to countries fighting the illegal drug trade - reportedly in some manner as a reward for its cooperation on the international coalition against terrorism. As such, starting January 2002, Pakistan will benefit from greater market access to the EU in a programme that was originally targeted at Central

American countries. The programme's intention is to help states move away from drug production by offering a five percent tariff cut in addition to the 3.5 percent cut under the revised GSP program.

The guide to the tariff preference programme can be found at: [http://europa.eu.int/comm/trade/pdf/guide\\_tariffpref.pdf](http://europa.eu.int/comm/trade/pdf/guide_tariffpref.pdf).

"Lamy welcomes adoption of new scheme of tariff preferences for developing countries" EU PRESS RELEASE, 10 December 2001; "Pakistan rewarded by better access to markets" FT, 11 December 2001; ICTSD Internal Files.

## US House Narrowly Passes Fast Track Bill

By a margin of just one vote (215-214), the US House of Representatives on 6 December passed the Bush Administration's trade promotion authority (TPA) bill -- formerly known as 'fast-track' -- which would allow the US President to negotiate trade agreements that Congress can only accept or reject, but not amend. Conservation and labour groups expressed concern with the legislation, which they fear will undermine efforts to promote environmental and labour standards in international trade.

### Labour and environment provisions in the spotlight

US President George W. Bush welcomed the passing of the bill. "I commend the House of Representatives for passing legislation that will restore our nation's authority to negotiate trade agreements," he said. Supporters of the bill argue that TPA is crucial for US participation in multilateral trade negotiations, which aim to open foreign markets to US exporters. Most Democrats, in contrast, opposed the bill on the grounds that the language on labour and environment was not strong enough.

To gain crucial support among Democrats, the TPA bill as introduced in the House contained several environment- and labour-related amendments to the original bill passed by the House Ways and Means Committee (WMC) in October this year (see BRIDGES, 16 October 2001, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/01-10-16/inbrief.htm>). In particular, the bill now contains a provision that disallows sanctions if a country decides not to allocate resources for enforcing labour and environmental standards, and asserts a country's right to set its own labour and environmental standards. According to WMC Chairperson Republican Bill Thomas, who had drafted the original bill, this provision adds "no new rights and obligations", but rather reasserts previously existing language.

The bill was strongly criticised by conservation groups, many of whom expressed concern that TPA could undermine efforts to include environmental, health and labour provisions in future trade agreements. "We shouldn't rush through important trade deals without making sure that all Americans' needs are addressed - including protections for

the environment and workers. But that's by definition what 'fast-track' does," said Carl Pope of the Sierra Club. His sentiments were echoed by Marty Hayden of Earthjustice, who described TPA as "a real threat to American democratic and environmental values."

Fast-track authority has been granted to every president since 1974, but expired in 1994 when Congress failed to approve a renewal request by former US President Bill Clinton due to discontent among members of Congress regarding environmental and labour provisions in the North American Free Trade Agreement. The new bill, which would grant TPA until 2007 (unless Congress disapproved the authority in 2005), is now being debated in the Senate's Finance Committee and is likely to be taken up by the Senate early next year.

"House passes fast-track by one vote on largely GOP support," INSDIE US TRADE, 7 December 2001; "U.S. House passes fast track authority," ENS, 7 December 2001; "Trade bill passes House in victory for Bush," REUTERS, 7 December 2001; "House passes trade negotiation authority bill 215-214," WASHINGTON FILE, 6 December 2001.

## **In Brief**

### **European Comission Calls For 'Dramatic Quota Cuts' On Fishing**

Following an alarming depletion of fishery stocks in EU waters, the European Commission on 4 December issued a proposal which would reduce the volume of fish caught by 14 percent next year. "If we want to avoid the complete extinction of some fish stocks, which would spell the end for our fishermen, decisive action is the only way forward", said EU Fisheries Commissioner Franz Fischler. The proposal, based on independent scientific assessments, has stirred anger among fishermen leaders, who will seek to water down quota cuts as EU Ministers meet in Brussels on 17 December.

"Brussels warns of need for dramatic fish quotas cut," FINANCIAL TIMES, 5 December 2001.

### **EU Set To Increase Recycling**

The European Commission last week issued new proposals on the recycling of packaging materials, which would force EU members to recycle 55 - 70 percent of all such materials by 2006, in comparison to the current minimum of between 25 and 45 percent. The rules, now up for approval by EU member states and the European Parliament, would also increase targets for recycling specific materials from the current 15 percent to 60 percent for glass, 55 percent for paper and board, 50 for metals and 20 percent for plastics. For

consumers, the proposals are likely to increase costs, but the Commission believes its approach will prove cheaper in the long run than other forms of waste management.

"EU recycling plan will impose tougher targets," FINANCIAL TIMES, 9 December 2001: "EU set to double packaging recycling targets," PLANET ARK, 10 December 2001.

### **UNCTAD & UNEP Launch Workshops On Trade, Environment And Development**

Reacting to the key role of environmental issues at the November WTO Ministerial Conference in Doha, Qatar, the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) are launching a series of workshops this month on trade, environment and development. These workshops for government delegates, which will take place in Hanoi and Havana, are the first to be delivered within the framework of the UNCTAD-UNEP Capacity-building Task Force for Trade, Environment and Development (CBTF). The aims of the workshops are, among others, to identify trade and environment issues of particular national or regional concern and enhance the effective participation of developing countries in relevant international negotiations. The Havana workshop, hosted jointly by the Ministries of Environment and Trade of Cuba, will take place on 10-14 December, while the Hanoi event, hosted by the Vietnamese export promotion agency, is scheduled for 17-19 December.

"UNCTAD, UNEP launch trade, environment and development training workshops," UNCTAD PRESS RELEASE, 10 December 2001.

### **US-Vietnam Trade Agreement Goes Into Effect**

As of 10 December, the bilateral trade agreement between the US and Vietnam signed in July last year (see BRIDGES Weekly, 23 October 2001, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/01-10-23/inbrief.htm>) became legally effective with USTR Robert Zoellick and Vietnam's Trade Minister Vu Khoan, in Washington this Monday, exchanging documents implementing the deal. Through the trade pact, Vietnam was granted normal trade relations status with the US. According to the World Bank, the agreement will increase Vietnam's exports by US\$ 1 billion within four years.

"Historic US-Vietnam Trade Pact Takes Effect," REUTERS, 11 December 2001.

## WTO In Brief

### **China Accession Completed, Taiwan To Join In New Year**

After 15 years of difficult negotiations, China on 11 December formally became the 143rd Member of the WTO. To comply with its WTO obligations, China will need to weaken its control on trade and markets in areas such as foreign investment and corporate privatisation. China's reformers are anticipating reduced operating costs, less red tape and more foreign capital, with the WTO seen as providing political cover for much-needed reforms. Major trading partners, such as the US and Japan, are hoping for greater trading and investment opportunities with the world's most populous nation. "There is nothing in Silicon Valley as interesting as China is now," said Warren Christopher, former US Secretary of State. Market opening is furthermore expected to increase China's gross domestic product by 0.5 percent on average annually over the next 10 years, according to one estimate. Some, however, also point to negative effects that WTO membership is likely to have and the inevitable adverse impact on some industries and products. Taiwan is set to become the 144th WTO Member on 1 January 2002.

"WTO Drives Economic Change in China," WALL STREET JOURNAL, 11 December 2001; ICTSD Internal Files.

### **DSB Takes Up Investigation Of US Duties On Canadian Lumber**

On 5 December, the WTO Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) launched an investigation into allegedly illegal US countervailing duties on Canadian softwood lumber. The panel now formally comes into existence after this second request from Canada, with the first being blocked by the US at a 5 November DSB meeting (see BRIDGES Weekly, 6 November 2001, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/01-11-06/story4.htm>). The investigation will address a 9 August US imposition of a 19.31 percent countervailing duty on Canadian softwood lumber. US WTO Ambassador Linnet Deily insisted again that the request for a panel was "premature" due to the "preliminary" nature of the duties imposed - which combined, effectively tally 32 percent. This panel is one of a number of actions currently underway to resolve the dispute - including intensive bilateral negotiations, as well as a \$250-million lawsuit against the US government by Canadian logging company, Canfor Corp., under the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). Future DSB meetings take place on 18 and 21 December.

"WTO Sets Up Dispute Panel to Rule On U.S. Softwood Lumber CV Duties" WTO REPORTER, 6 December 2001; ICTSD Internal Files.

## 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/cal/index.htm>.

#### Coming Up This Week

10-13 December, New York, US: UNITAR/WTO WORKSHOP ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS. Jointly organised by the UN Institute for Training and Research and the WTO as part of their International Trade Series, the workshop will focus on a debriefing of the Fourth Ministerial Conference held in Doha from 9-14 November. Intended for Permanent Mission Representatives in NYC. For further information contact: Cecelia Coleman, New York; tel: (1-212) 963-9196/9196.

10-14 December, Geneva, Switzerland: WIPO SECOND SESSION OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND GENETIC RESOURCES, TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE AND FOLKLORE. The following are on the agenda for this meeting: "Accreditation of certain Non-Governmental Organisations," "Operational Principles for Contractual Agreements Concerning Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit-Sharing," "Traditional Knowledge" which includes a review of current IPR protection, Folklore, and Future Work. For further information contact: WIPO Secretariat, tel: (41-22) 338-9428; email: [francis.gurry@wipo.int](mailto:francis.gurry@wipo.int);  
Internet: [http://www.wipo.int/eng/meetings/2001/igc/index\\_2.htm](http://www.wipo.int/eng/meetings/2001/igc/index_2.htm).

12 December, Brussels, Belgium: EU ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL. The Council will address inter alia: the outcomes and follow-up of the November– December UNFCCC COP7 held in Marrakesh; the adoption of the conclusions on the implementation of the first phase of the European Climate Change Programme and the further elaboration of common co-ordinated policies and measures to combat climate change; the Commission's proposed directive from October 2001 establishing a scheme for greenhouse gas emission allowance trading within the Community; the state-of-play of the work regarding the ratification of the Kyoto Protocol by the EC. For further information visit: <http://ue.eu.int/en/summ.htm>.

13-14 December, Jaipur, India: LAUNCH MEETING OF THE 'INVESTMENT FOR DEVELOPMENT' PROJECT'. The event is being organised by CUTS Centre for International Trade, Economics & Environment, India. The project is on awareness and capacity building on investment regimes and international investment issues in selected developing and transition economies. The Project is implemented with the support from the Department for International Development, UK. For further information contact: Olivia Jensen/Sanjay Varma; tel: 91-14120-7482; fax: 7486; email: [cuts@cuts.org](mailto:cuts@cuts.org).

14 December, 15:15-16:30, Brussels, Belgium: EC TRADE COMMISSIONER - CIVIL SOCIETY CONSULTATION. EU Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy will speak with representatives from civil society and business on: "After the launch of the Doha Development Agenda: What next? Update of the European Community's next steps"; and "How will the dialogue between the Commission and civil society organisations evolve in the light of a new round of negotiations?". For further information contact: Haitze Siemers, EC, Brussels; tel: +32-2-299.01.85; fax: 296.93.09; email: [haitze.siemers@cec.eu.int](mailto:haitze.siemers@cec.eu.int); Internet: <http://europa.eu.int/comm/trade/csc/dcs00.htm>.

14 December 2001, London, UK: TRADE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AT DOHA. Organised by the Energy and Environment Programme of the Royal Institute of International Affairs, this meeting is designed to examine what was agreed at Doha, what will be its implications for policies for environmentally sustainable development, and what is likely to - and what should - happen now. A panel of speakers from a variety of backgrounds will give their perspectives, followed by questions and discussion. For registration, please email Ruth Tatton-Kelly at [ruth@riia.org](mailto:ruth@riia.org) or telephone (44-20) 7957-5711 to register. For further information please contact: Duncan Brack, UK; tel: (44-20) 7957-5751; email: [Dbrack@riia.org](mailto:Dbrack@riia.org).

#### 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).

10-12 December, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO TEXTILES MONITORING BODY.

12 December, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO COMMITTEE ON BALANCE OF PAYMENTS – BANGLADESH.

18 December, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO DISPUTE SETTLEMENT BODY.

19-20 December, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO GENERAL COUNCIL. Inter alia, Members will discuss the report of the Committee on Budget, Finance and Administration (including on technical assistance for 2002); Document de-restriction; and a communication from Mexico on venue of the Fifth Session of the Ministerial Conference.



## Other Forthcoming Events

24-25 December 2001, Jaipur, India: SEMINAR ON COMPETITION REGULATION AND INVESTMENT: ROLE IN ECONOMIC GROWTH. The event is organised by the CUTS Centre for International, Trade, Economics & Environment. Representatives of all the stakeholders, viz. policy makers, sectoral regulators (focusing on energy and telecoms sectors), experts on investment and competition issues, media and civil society will deliberate on the interface between investment policy, competition policy and regulatory design. For further information contact: Anjali Bansal/ Sanjay Varma; tel: 91-14120-7482; fax: 7486; email: [cuts@cuts.org](mailto:cuts@cuts.org)

14-22 January, New York, USA: FINAL PREPARATORY SESSION ON FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT. The FfD Conference is scheduled for 18-22 March 2002. For further information contact: Financing for Development Coordinating Secretariat, 2 UN Plaza (DC2-2386), New York, N.Y. 10017; tel: (1-212) 963-2587; fax: 963-0443; email: [ffd@un.org](mailto:ffd@un.org); Internet: [www.un.org/esa/ffd/0501PC-bcpapers.htm](http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/0501PC-bcpapers.htm).

28-29 January, Nairobi, Kenya: REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON PUBLIC PERCEPTIONS OF BIOTECHNOLOGY IN AFRICA. For further information contact Anna Ogalo or Harrison Maganga, African Centre for Technology Studies, Nairobi, Kenya; tel: (254-2) 524-700/6; fax: 524701; email: [acts@cgiar.org](mailto:acts@cgiar.org) or [a.ogalo@cgiar.org](mailto:a.ogalo@cgiar.org); Internet: <http://www.acts.or.ke>. From IISD Linkages, <http://www.iisd.ca>.

28-29 January 2002, Midrand, South Africa: UNEP FINANCE INITIATIVE REGIONAL OUTREACH EVENT FOR AFRICA. The conference will seek to address the role of the African financial sector in sustainable development. For more information contact: Niamh O'Sullivan; tel: (41-22) 917-8178; email: [niamh.o.sullivan@unep.ch](mailto:niamh.o.sullivan@unep.ch). From IISD Linkages, <http://www.iisd.ca>.

4-8 February, Geneva, Switzerland: 6TH SESSION OF THE UNCTAD COMMISSION ON TRADE IN GOODS AND SERVICES, AND COMMODITIES. The main agenda items are: Item 3. "The sustainable use of biological resources: 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)"; Item 4. "Analysis of ways to enhance the contribution of specific services sectors to the development perspectives of developing countries: Energy services in international trade: development implications"; Item 5. "Analysis of market access issues facing developing countries: Consumer interests, competitiveness, competition and development". For further information contact: UNCTAD, Geneva; tel: (41-22) 917-5637; Internet: <http://www.unctad.org>.

21-22 February 2002, London, UK: CONFERENCE: HOW INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS COULD WORK BETTER FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND POOR PEOPLE. Organised by the Commission on Intellectual Property Rights, the Conference is designed to discuss how intellectual property rights could work better to promote development in developing countries and reduce poverty. In particular, the



Commission will be seeking the views of participants on the progress of its work to date and on whether they have properly identified the right issues in the intellectual property field relevant to poor people and developing countries. For registration contact: Carol Oliver, Secretariat; email: [c.oliver@iprcommission.org](mailto:c.oliver@iprcommission.org). For further information on the Commission visit: <http://www.iprcommission.org>

21-23 February 2002, Lyon, France: EARTH DIALOGUES - GLOBALISATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT - IS ETHICS THE MISSING LINK? Organised by Green Cross International, Earth Dialogues will provide a forum for constructive debate on the world's most acute problems. Participants will share their views on how to forge the essential links between globalisation, sustainable development and ethics. For further information contact: Earth Dialogues Secretariat; tel: (41-22) 789- 1662; email: [secretariat@gci.ch](mailto:secretariat@gci.ch); Internet: [http://www.greencrossinternational.net/pdf/Earth\\_Dialogue.pdf](http://www.greencrossinternational.net/pdf/Earth_Dialogue.pdf). From IISD Linkages, <http://www.iisd.ca>.

14-15 March 2002, Rio de Janeiro, Brasil: UNEP FINANCE INITIATIVES ANNUAL GLOBAL ROUNDTABLE MEETING ON FINANCE AND SUSTAINABILITY. Hosted by Banco Nacional de Desenvolvimento Economico e Social (BNDES) with assistance from Corporacion Andina de Fomento (CAF), this outreach event will build new partnerships for sustainability within the finance and insurance industries in Latin America and globally. For further information visit: <http://unepfi.net/rio>.

## 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)).

EATING OIL: FOOD SUPPLY IN A CHANGING CLIMATE. Written by Andy Jones. Published by Sustain and Elm Farm Research Centre, December 2001. The report takes a comprehensive look at how far our food travels and our dependency on imports and on fossil fuels to produce, process, package and distribute food and highlights that the food system has become almost completely dependent on crude oil. The report also contains a comprehensive set of examples, diagrams, data and includes recommendations for action. Further information is available online at: <http://www.sustainweb.org/>.

AUSTRALIA AND THE GLOBAL TRADE SYSTEM - FROM HAVANNA TO SEATTLE. By Ann Capling, 2001. The book aims to further understanding of Australia's trade policies, its commercial diplomacy and its role and position in the global political economy. It also provides a non-hegemonic perspective to international debates about the

capacity of small nations to be agents as well as subjects. For further information, visit: <http://uk.cambridge.org/politics/catalogue/0521780543/>.

GLOBALIZATION, GROWTH AND POVERTY: BUILDING AN INCLUSIVE WORLD ECONOMY. Published by the World Bank, December 2001. The report argues that globalisation has helped reduce poverty in a large number of developing countries but it must be harnessed better to help the world's poorest, most marginalised countries that in fact have integrated successfully into the global economy. The study puts forth a seven-point plan to help all developing countries better take advantage of the benefits of globalisation. The Report is available at:

[http://econ.worldbank.org/prr/structured\\_doc.php?sp=2477&st=&sd=2857](http://econ.worldbank.org/prr/structured_doc.php?sp=2477&st=&sd=2857).

MEXICO AND EMERGING CARBON MARKETS: INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZE COMPANIES AND THE GLOBAL CLIMATE AGENDA. Published by the North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation (NACEC), November 2001. Using empirical studies, the report suggests that a dichotomy between either a strong economy or a strong level of environmental protection is not valid. In fact companies that are adopting different kinds of environmental targets and benchmarks within their operations do so because of very sound business reasons. This is particularly true for the financial services sector. The report is available at: [http://www.cec.org/files/PDF/ECONOMY/CarbonMarkets-EN\\_EN.pdf](http://www.cec.org/files/PDF/ECONOMY/CarbonMarkets-EN_EN.pdf).

IS NACEC A MODEL TRADE AND ENVIRONMENT INSTITUTION? LESSONS FROM MEXICAN INDUSTRY. By Kevin Gallagher, published by Global Development And Environment Institute (G- DAE), October 2001. The North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation (NACEC) was set up by NAFTA to address environmental issues associated with trade-led growth. With particular attention to the problem of industrial pollution in Mexico, this paper evaluates NACEC's effectiveness. While noting that NACEC's mandate and budget are far too constrained to have a significant impact on the magnitude of Mexico's environmental problems, the author argues that NACEC displays many useful features, which in a more powerful institution could facilitate the balance of economic growth and environmental protection. An outline is provided regarding how these elements could be developed in the context of other trade agreements such as the proposed Free Trade Area of the Americas. <http://ase.tufts.edu/gdae/downloads/WorkingPapers/nacec.pdf>.

GOVERNING FOOD, SCIENCE, SAFETY AND TRADE. By Peter W.B. Phillips and Robert Wolfe, Published by McGill-Queen's University Press, 2001. The collection of essays, written by distinguished public officials, academics, and industry and civil society commentators, addresses the international challenges posed by food safety and governance of the food system. In particular it examines the three pillars of food safety - science, regulation, and industry - to highlight the pressures on government. A survey of the report is available at: <http://www.mqup.mcgill.ca/2001/q-philli.htm>. More details on how to order the report are available at: <http://www.mqup.mcgill.ca/ordinfo.htm#uk>.

## Electronic Resources

Business and Sustainable Development - A Global Guide Created through a partnership between the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) and the Foundation for Global Responsibility, the website explains the strategies and tools that companies can draw on to translate an aspiration of sustainability into practical, effective solutions. Case studies from around the world are provided as an example of each measure. The website is available at: <http://www.bsdglobal.com>.

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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