



INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR
TRADE AND SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT

BRIDGES

Weekly Trade News Digest

13 March 2001

ISSN 1563-003X

Volume 5, N°9

TABLE OF CONTENTS

• Health Risks Pre-eminent As WTO Upholds French Asbestos Ban	1
• WTO Ministerial Prep Meeting Tackles New Round	3
• Trade-Environment Event Proposes Solutions to WTO Stalemates	4
• WTO Investment Body Talks GATS, FDI	6
• Backstage Update On Services Negotiating Guidelines	7
• Dispute Settlement Update: Bananas & Aircraft Subsidies	8
• EU & US Meet On Trade As US Trade Policy Takes Shape	10
• In Brief I – Africa	11
• In Brief II - Other Issues	12
• On The Move	14
• Events	14
• Resources	18

HEALTH RISKS PRE-EMINENT AS WTO UPHOLDS FRENCH ASBESTOS BAN

In a landmark verdict, the WTO's Appellate Body (AB) ruled on Monday 12 March that France was justified in banning imports of goods containing white asbestos, rejecting a Canadian request to have a September 2000 WTO panel finding overturned (see *BRIDGES* Weekly, 19 September 2000, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/story2.19-09-00.htm>). The AB upheld the panel's key finding that the French ban was justified under Article XX(b) of the 1994 General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) -- which provides a general exception to WTO rules for measures considered necessary to protect human health. Most significantly, The AB reversed the panel's conclusion that asbestos and other, less dangerous alternative fibres are "like" products as defined by Article III:4 of GATT and should in principle be accorded the same treatment on the French market.

The panel -- which issued its ruling last September -- came to the above-mentioned conclusion while it considered that it was "not appropriate" to take into account the health risks associated with white, or chrysotile, asbestos when examining the "likeness" of the product with alternatives such as polyvinyl alcohol, cellulose and glass (PCG) fibres (for more details, see the panel's report, WT/DS135/R, available on the WTO website).

By contrast, the Appellate Body report stated, "We are very much of the view that evidence related to the health risks associated with a product may be pertinent in an examination of the 'likeness' under Article III:4 of the GATT 1994." (Report of the Appellate Body, WT/DS135/AB/R, §113). The "carcinogenicity, or toxicity, constitutes, as we see it, a defining aspect of the physical properties of chrysotile asbestos fibres. The evidence indicates that PCG fibres, in contrast, do not share these properties, at least to the same extent. We do not see how this highly significant physical difference cannot be a consideration in examining the physical properties of a product as part of a determination of 'likeness' under Article III:4 of the GATT 1994." (Ibid. §114).

The AB's findings were welcomed as a "landmark" ruling by the European Commission, which defended the French ban before the WTO. " This ruling shows that the WTO is responsive to our citizens' concerns, " said EU Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy. Environmental and consumer organisations are expected to widely welcome the ruling; while the initial panel ruling represented the first time a WTO panel upheld arguments put forward by a defending party to safeguard public health, the "like product" aspect had spurred environmental groups to decry the WTO decision as 'doing the right thing for the wrong reasons' and setting a dangerous precedent for failing to distinguish between toxic and non- toxic products.

The Appellate Body did uphold a Canadian challenge to the panel's finding that the French ban did not constitute a " technical regulation " and therefore was not covered by the WTO Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT Agreement). Legal experts said the Appellate Body's finding was important as it closes a potential loophole allowing any government to declare a measure exempt from the TBT Agreement's disciplines on the grounds that the measure is deemed necessary for the protection of human health.

The case had a strong political dimension in Canada, the world's third largest producer of asbestos, because the troubled industry is centred in Quebec where separatist sentiments remain strong -- a fact that some analysts say had led the government in Ottawa to take a high-profile stance in the asbestos manufacturers' defence.

Canadian asbestos producers also warned that the ruling could have significant negative repercussions for developing countries. The ruling gave more weight to arguments of affluent countries that asbestos is dangerous, to the detriment of developing countries, where products made of asbestos-cement help to reduce mortality rates, Denis Hamel, Director of the Asbestos Institute, said on 12 March.

A coalition of non-governmental groups including Greenpeace International, World Wide Fund for Nature International, BAN Asbestos Network, International Ban Asbestos Secretariat, and the Foundation for International Environmental Law and Development (FIELD) will shortly release a statement on the Asbestos decision that will be posted at: <http://www.field.org.uk>.

"WTO Appellate Body Upholds French Ban on Asbestos Imports," BNA, 13 March 2001; "WTO upholds France's ban on asbestos," PLANET ARK, 13 March 2001; "Landmark ruling backs French ban on asbestos," FINACIAL TIMES, 12 March 2001; "WTO upholds France's ban on asbestos," REUTERS, 12 March 2001; ICTSD Internal Files.

WTO MINISTERIAL PREP MEETING TACKLES NEW ROUND

In what one WTO source described as "one of the best and most positive meetings I have attended for over a year", WTO Members convened on 8 March in an informal General Council session to address the process leading up to the next Ministerial Conference in Doha, Qatar, scheduled for 9-13 November. While most questions on the Ministerial preparations remain unanswered, Members broadly agreed to come up with an agenda and an outline of what will be addressed in Doha by July. Delegates also agreed that preparations for Doha be dealt with by the General Council rather than through any new mechanism. However, varying levels of enthusiasm for launching a new round of trade negotiations in November -- particularly between developing and developed countries -- continue to dog the process.

According to General Council Chair Stuart Harbinson (Hong Kong-China), the meeting was held not only to "focus our collective minds through an open discussion on the kind of preparatory process we would like to see for the Doha Ministerial," but also to continue to promote internal transparency and effective participation of Members. Harbinson had issued a list of six questions a week earlier (see *BRIDGES Weekly*, 6 March 2001, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/story1.06-03-01.htm>) soliciting responses on how the Ministerial process should proceed and whether the document emanating from Doha should be a formal declaration or a simple decision. While the lion's share of these questions remain unanswered, they did form the basis for discussion on 8 March.

During the meeting, several developing countries expressed their reticence to starting a new round until their concerns over implementation of the Uruguay Round agreements have been addressed. "It does not mean the start of the new round to convene the Ministerial meeting in November," said a Pakistani delegate at the General Council. Malaysia said that it cannot make any compromise to reach an agreement on the agenda on time for the November Ministerial.

For their part, the US, EU and Japan pushed for a new round to emerge from Doha, with the EU and Japan arguing forcefully that Harbinson's six questions pave the way for attaining the "critical mass" needed for launching a new round. Both countries said they supported the idea of holding informal meetings outside the WTO to build support for a comprehensive round, and plan to hold a high-level meeting on the issue on 27 March in Geneva that would include at least 20 other delegations.

Although Japan and the EU said that invitations had been sent out even to Members such as India and Egypt who were reluctant to start a new round, a number of developing countries disapproved of the idea of thrusting decisions on them arrived at in informal meetings held outside the WTO among a limited number of Members. They argued that decisions reached outside the WTO would have no "legitimacy" for the preparations of the Doha meeting. Mexico said that issues cannot be parachuted from outside, while Pakistan and India said such decisions would have to be debated all over again within the WTO and consensus reached for their adoption.

Sources indicated that the US would also be invited to attend the 27 March meeting. US Ambassador to the WTO Rita Hayes said that any draft Ministerial text leading up to November should be shorter than the 32-page document that fed into the failed Seattle Conference in 1999. She stated that the Doha text should have a preamble, a political statement for ministers, references

to the agriculture and services negotiations and implementation, and a statement on other issues Members choose to address as part of the WTO's future work programme.

Moore speaks out on internal transparency, new issues

WTO Director-General Mike Moore briefed the General Council on ongoing consultations between groups of Members on Ministerial issues, indicating that talks on 'new issues' such as environment, investment, competition, trade facilitation, transparency in government procurement, and industrial tariffs have already begun, principally with the central demandeurs (such as the EU and Japan), in what has been called a 'proponent-driven process'. Referring to informal ongoing 'friends' meetings among various Members on the range of topics to include in Doha, Moore indicated there is a good deal of activity among delegations to broaden dialogue on these issues.

In addition, Moore reported to the Council that he had met with regional groupings such as the African Group (and CARICOM leaders in Barbados) and those who share difficulties common to small and resource-constrained delegations "to promote a clearer understanding of what the delegations concerned are looking for in the WTO's future work programme and encourage a positive engagement with the wider Membership."

More recently, in a speech to the London Business School on 13 March, Moore pushed for the interests of developing countries in the context of new negotiations, saying that poorer Members' interests must be given high priority for a new round to succeed. He said this would mean re-negotiating certain past WTO agreements, liberalising manufacturing trade and discussing anti-dumping measures. In return, he said, developing countries should be prepared to discuss competition and investment in the WTO. On labour and environment, Moore ruled out the use of trade sanctions to enforce workers' and green standards. "WTO Members will never agree to use trade sanctions to enforce labour standards. It is a line in the sand that developing countries will not cross. They fear such provisions could be abused for protectionist purposes," he stated.

Many developing countries from Africa, Asia, and Latin America have repeatedly stated that discussion on trade and labour cannot be included in any formal or informal meetings in the leadup to Qatar. Pakistan's Ambassador to the WTO Munir Akram told the General Council that bringing the issue of labour to the Ministerial discussions "would be a recipe for disaster."

"Global trade talks initiative launched," UPI, 8 March 2001; "Quad members back launch of new round this year," WASHINGTON TRADE DAILY, 9 March 2001; "Developing nations resist early launch of new trade talks," KYODO NEWS, 9 March 2001; "WTO General Council begins talks on preparation for Qatar Ministerial," 9 March 2001; "Time to move beyond talks," DECCAN HERALD, 12 March 2001; "WTO chief calls for trade round," FINANCIAL TIMES, 13 MARCH 2001; ICTSD Internal Files.

TRADE-ENVIRONMENT EVENT PROPOSES SOLUTIONS TO WTO STALEMATES

Representatives from Geneva-based missions to the WTO and the UN, the WTO Secretariat, international organisations, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), businesses, academics, the press, and government officials met in Geneva from 8 to 9 March for a conference on "Trade and

Environment: Bridging the Gaps and Moving Forward", organised by the Global Environment & Trade Study (GETS) and the World Trade Institute (WTI). The purpose of the conference was to discuss proposals on how issues related to the interlinkages between trade and environment can be better integrated in WTO built-in agenda negotiations, in WTO committees, and in a prospective new multilateral round. In several panel discussions, participants covered a broad range of issues, including services, agriculture, capacity-building for developing countries, health, trade-related environmental measures (TREMs), and civil society participation in the WTO.

TREMs

Speaking on the panel on TREMs, Aaron Cosbey from the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) proposed putting to bed one of the bedrock issues in the trade and environment debates. He argued that standards based on process and production methods (PPMs) -- traditionally held to violate GATT principles of non-discrimination -- were in effect and in practice no different from standards based on product characteristics, since both force producers to change production methods and to incur higher costs in the short run, and both can be used as protectionist measures. He argued that existing tools, such as the chapeau of GATT Article XX, were just as capable of handling protectionism in PPM-based measures as in product-based measures. He also rejected the idea that PPM-based standards exported the values of the importer, arguing that forcing countries to import goods made in ways of which they disapprove was the real issue for concern. He proposed, further, that there be hard law obligations on the enactors of such standards to help developing country exporters adapt to mandated changes.

Also speaking on the panel on TREMs, former World Conservation Union - IUCN Director-General Maritta von B. Koch Weser proposed that the WTO environment agenda should be incorporated in a broader, more complementary system of global environmental governance, advocating the establishment of an 'Executive Environmental World System' at Rio +10 that could fill the current environmental governance gap by creating a joint roof for an executive body, judiciary and scientific organisation.

Agriculture

Addressing the issue of WTO agriculture negotiations, President of the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (IATP) Mark Ritchie forwarded a self-described 'radical' suggestion for reforming how agriculture is dealt with at the WTO. Arguing that agriculture was an intractable and sticky issue-area, Ritchie proposed that WTO Members cease talking about agricultural subsidies and simplify the debate to one of dumping. "We could take existing OECD figures for cost of production for agricultural commodities and apply them to exports," he said. "If the cost of export sales is less than the cost of production, then we have a conversation, and it becomes a dumping issue." Ritchie emphasised that such a system would be flexible and addresses the impacts on third parties, and would "allow us to fundamentally change the existing system".

Trade and Health

As part of the panel on "Trade and Health", Thomas Cottier from the Bern-based World Trade Institute (WTI) provided a comparison of the WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS) and the UN Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. He proposed restructuring the risk analysis provisions of the SPS Agreement, calling for the inclusion of

procedural requirements for (scientific) risk assessment and a greater emphasis on (political) risk management, which should take into account the precautionary principle and consumer preferences.

A GETS/WTI joint report of the meeting will be available shortly (online and in paper copies). For a copy, contact Monica Araya, GETS, 285 Prospect Street, New Haven, 06511 CT USA; tel: (1-203) 432-5216; email: monica.araya@yale.edu; Internet: <http://www.gets.org>.

ICTSD Internal Files.

WTO INVESTMENT BODY TALKS GATS, FDI

The WTO Working Group on the Relationship between Trade and Investment met on 7-8 March to continue its process of study and analysis, underway since 1996 (see *BRIDGES Weekly*, 28 November 2000, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/story5.28-11-00.htm>). Members discussed papers submitted by Korea, Canada and the WTO Secretariat.

In its submission, Korea outlined the implications of the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) on a potential investment agreement, suggesting that the GATS model could be used as a "starting point" when formulating multilateral investment rules (WT/WGTI/W/96). In particular, Korea believes that the GATS represents a "bottom-up" approach with extensive exceptions and flexibility, which covers most of the investment-related rules and principles that could be applied to non-services sectors. Korea also acknowledged the drawbacks of the GATS model, stating that "building investment rules at GATS level might not satisfy investor expectations and may be conducive to stricter bilateral or plurilateral agreements." A multilateral framework on investment should therefore, according to Korea, also address issues not included in the GATS such as expropriation, compensation, dispute settlement and disciplines on performance requirements.

Malaysia expressed concern that a "building-block" approach would lead to ongoing pressure on Members to make further commitments. It also stressed that the Working Group's mandate was to study, not to negotiate on the subject. India and Brazil also voiced concerns. The EU, Hungary, Chile and Japan commended Korea's submission. The EU referred to a previous paper in which it had pointed out that international investment rules and flexibility of domestic policy-making need not be incompatible. The EU also reiterated its view that an investment agreement should be negotiated in the WTO.

As part of its study of potential "negative" effects of foreign direct investment (FDI) for the development and economic growth of host countries, the Secretariat presented a background note on the effects of FDI on a host country's balance-of payments (BOP) (WT/WGTI/W/95; available online). Based on submissions by the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the Secretariat noted that effects on a country's BOP were country specific and sensitive to the type of investment made and its age structure, and that it would therefore be difficult to draw general conclusions. According to recent studies cited by UNCTAD and OECD, FDI was found to initially worsen the current account balance in the examined cases, but to improve both the trade and the current account balance in the long run.

A third paper was presented by Canada, outlining a survey of "foreign investment barriers" conducted by the Canadian Chamber of Commerce (WT/WGTI/W/98; available online). The study was based on questionnaire responses from 71 member companies that had provided the Canadian government with an inventory of more than 110 specific restrictions that have been faced by these companies when investing abroad. Based on these results, the Chamber of Commerce concluded that "for Canada, with an internationally-oriented economy, the creation of a commercial environment based on rules, transparency, openness and predictability is critical for future economic prosperity" (for the full report, see <http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/SSG/bi18496e.html>).

The Working Group's mandate is confined to the study and analysis of the relationship between trade and investment, while discussions on whether investment should be part of a new round of multilateral trade talks are mandated to take place in the General Council. The EU -- supported by Japan, Korea, Chile, Switzerland, Norway and others -- is the main proponent of negotiating a WTO Agreement on Investment as part of a new round, arguing that a WTO agreement on this subject would promote investment flows around the world (see *BRIDGES Weekly*, 27 February 2001, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/story1.27-02-01.htm>). In contrast, India and other developing countries -- including Malaysia, Pakistan and Egypt -- argue that current bilateral investment treaties are sufficient to ensure investment protection and oppose undertaking more obligations in the WTO. Korea's proposal of using the GATS as a model is seen as part of the efforts by the EU and others to assure developing countries that they would not lose flexibility in making domestic investment policies under a WTO agreement.

The next meeting of the Working Group is scheduled for 13-14 June 2001.

ICTSD Internal Files.

BACKSTAGE UPDATE ON SERVICES NEGOTIATING GUIDELINES

While the Quad group (US, European Union, Canada and Japan) met in Washington on 8-9 March to seek ways to bridge differences with developing countries on the latest version of draft services negotiation guidelines (see *BRIDGES Weekly*, 6 March 2001, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/wtoinbrief.06-03-01.htm>), developing countries in turn have been meeting intensely over the last three weeks on services issues.

According to one developing country trade source, the Chair of the Services Council Sergio Marchi yesterday called for consultations with approximately 20 delegations in order to obtain a better idea on how to proceed. The trade source said that the Quad group and other developed countries had hinted during the last weeks that they were ready to show more flexibility.

One informal proposal for the continuation of discussions on the draft guidelines currently circulating suggests resuming talks on the basis of both the first and the second set of draft guidelines. However, a developing country representative rejected this approach. "We (the group of 24 developing countries (G-24) and the group of African countries) don't want it. We have prepared elements for new discussions, on the basis of which the Chair could draw up a new set of guidelines," the source said.

However, he emphasised the fact that most developing countries would prefer discussions based on the first set of guidelines. Said the trade source, "it seems to me the first draft was the most advanced towards reaching an agreement on guidelines and procedures for services negotiations. At the 7 and 20 February meetings, it was never rejected by anyone." According to the source, the original draft was very similar to a proposal submitted by the G-24 in December 2000, but it also reflected developed countries' concerns such as the stand-still commitment and the disposition on technical review. In the second set of draft guidelines, language favouring developing country concerns had either been diluted or extracted. "We did not want to enter discussions on why we refused to discuss the second draft because we didn't want to find ourselves having to justify our positions," he said.

At the latest Council for Trade in Services (CTS) informal meeting on 20 February, discussions stalled over the extent to which the guidelines should address developing countries' right to special and differential treatment (see *BRIDGES Weekly*, 20 February 2001, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/story3.06-02-01.htm>). The meeting was adjourned and no further meeting was scheduled. Instead, Members requested the Chair of the special session to undertake consultations.

A new CTS informal meeting on services guidelines is expected to take place at an as-yet unannounced time this week.

ICTSD Internal Files.

DISPUTE SETTLEMENT UPDATE: BANANAS & AIRCRAFT SUBSIDIES

At the 12 March meeting of the WTO Dispute Settlement Body (DSB), Members dealt with new developments in two longstanding disputes: the EC-US banana dispute and the Canada-Brazil row over aircraft subsidies. As to the former, Brussels has conceded to postpone implementation of its contentious banana import regime after the EU and US agreed to resume negotiations in the dispute

EC-US Banana Dispute

At the DSB meeting, the European Communities (EC) presented a status report on the implementation of recommendations adopted by the DSB concerning the EC regime for the importation, sale and distribution of bananas. According to the report, the legal instrument modifying the EC banana trade regime (Council Regulation No. 216/2001) was formally adopted on 29 January 2001, thus implementing the controversial "first come-first served" (FCFS) trade system, which the EC deems WTO-compatible (see *BRIDGES Weekly*, 6 February 2001, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/story3.06-02-01.htm>).

The modifications made in the Council Regulation provide for three tariff quotas open to all imports irrespective of their origin, whereas imports from the EU's former colonies in the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) group will enter the EC market duty-free during a phase-out period lasting until 2006 (for more details, see WT/DS27/51/Add.16, available at the WTO website). Anthony Gooch, spokesman for the European Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy, last week said the

new import system was in line with WTO rules as it offered former colonies a trade preference with regard to bananas, but not exclusive access.

However, following a meeting on 9 March between new US Trade Representative Robert Zoellick and Pascal Lamy (see related story, this issue), the EU conceded to temporarily hold off implementation and resume negotiations with the US on the matter. New negotiations would address both possible adjustments to the EU FCFS system and an alternative pushed by the US, which wants import licenses allocated on a historical reference period. "We agreed...that we take some more time in order to look at how we can resolve this dispute," Lamy said in a joint briefing with Zoellick. But Lamy specified that Brussels' flexibility on extra time could not exceed the 1 July deadline specified in the EU legislation. The FCFS licensing system "must come into force by July 1" unless some agreement is reached, Lamy said.

The US, with its multinationals Dole and Chiquita locating the majority of their banana production in Latin American countries, is fiercely opposed to the EC's new FCFS regime, which it contends would still unfairly discriminate against US companies and hence continue to violate WTO rules. The EU-US agreement to take another stab at resolving the dispute was reached following an escalation of tension early last week when Zoellick warned that if Brussels proceeded with implementation of its new banana import regime, he would "see no recourse" but to begin rotating the list of products hit with US sanctions. However, Zoellick acknowledged that in doing so, the US would risk provoking the EU to impose sanctions on \$US4 billion worth of US goods in retaliation for export tax breaks given out to US companies under the Foreign Sales Corporation (FSC) tax programme (see *BRIDGES Weekly*, 6 February 2001, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/story1.21-11-00.htm>).

There was no indication immediately after the meeting when the new banana talks would start or who would conduct them for the US.

Brazilian request for WTO panel granted in Canada-Brazil aircraft dispute

Brazil's request on 1 March for the establishment of yet another panel in its longstanding dispute with Canada over aircraft subsidies was granted Monday by the DSB (see *BRIDGES Weekly*, 6 February 2001, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/story3.06-02-01.htm>). The case falls under Article 4.4 of the WTO Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures, which requires the immediate establishment of a panel if and when requested. As such, the demand was automatically adopted by the DSB. Normally -- under disputes brought under the rules of the Dispute Settlement Understanding -- a Member's first request for a panel can be blocked by the opposing party.

A local Brazilian newspaper on 9 March said the Brazilian government wanted to examine parts of Canada's subsidy programme for its domestic aircraft manufacturer Bombardier and whether the North American country had implemented former WTO panel ruling recommendations.

The move comes more than two weeks after the WTO approved a Canadian request to set up a panel to look into Brazil's latest WTO-induced modifications in its own aircraft subsidy programme, called Proex-3.

"EU set for banana talks with US," *FINANCIAL TIMES*, 9 March 2001; "Zoellick and Lamy agree to new talks on banana dispute," *INSIDE US TRADE*, 12 March 2001; "EU to delay banana import

rule implementation," REUTERS, 9 March 2001; "Lamy calls for review of US-European trade relations," TRADE COMPASS, 9 March 2001; "USTR Zoellick: New Banana Regime May Provoke 'Carousel'," DOW JONES, 7 March 2001; "US says could target new EU goods in banana dispute," REUTERS, 7 March 2001; "EU, Washington in new clash over bananas," REUTERS, 8 March 2001; "Brazil Wants WTO Panel To Probe Canada Subsidies - Report," DOW JONES, 2 March 2001; WT/DS222/2.

EU & US MEET ON TRADE AS US TRADE POLICY TAKES SHAPE

On 8-9 March, US Trade Representative (USTR) Bob Zoellick met with EC Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy for a two-day discussion to address transatlantic trade relations under the new US Administration. A day earlier, Zoellick -- in his first formal appearance before US Congress since taking office one month ago -- presented a sketch of the Bush Administration's trade agenda before the Committee on Ways and Means. At the meetings, Zoellick outlined key US trade priorities that point to where the US will be pushing in its trade policy.

Zoellick and Lamy met in Washington to canvass the range of issues facing US-EU trade relations and in Lamy's own words, "put our trade relationship in the frame of our basic interests." On substance, both trade leaders emphasised their mutual interest in working together to resolve their outstanding disputes. On 9 March, the EU agreed to delay the implementation of its 'first come, first served' banana import regime and will instead attempt a negotiated settlement with the US before the system takes effect on 1 July 2001 (see related article, this issue).

Yet despite the amicable approach to the banana import regime, the EU's acceptance of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) remains an outstanding issue between the trade partners. In a speech before the US Chamber of Commerce on 8 March, Lamy reminded US agriculture producers that the ability of US farmers to export GMOs to the EU was contingent on the inclusion of traceability and labelling requirements of GMO products. Several US agriculture groups have expressed concern that these requirements will restrict their soy and corn exports to the EU, and the issue still threatens to reach the level of a WTO dispute.

Sour US-EU trade relations that have developed in recent years present an daunting task for Zoellick. Speaking earlier to the US Ways and Means Committee, Zoellick warned Congress that neglecting the transatlantic trade flow -- valued at \$US557 billion in 1999 -- would be irresponsible.

USTR to push for Fast-Track

The central message Zoellick brought to Congress was the need to secure 'fast-track' trade negotiating authority for the Bush Administration. In his appeal, Zoellick warned that the US risked losing its position as the world trading superpower if it did not gain fast-track authority that would prevent Congress from amending negotiated trade agreements. He argued that while the US' trading partners continue to pursue these sorts of trade arrangements amongst themselves, the US may be left out of the fold.

But unconditional fast-track authority -- which Bush has renamed "trade promotion authority" -- will likely not be an easy sell for Bush and Zoellick. In the rigidly divided Congress, there continues to be a strong push from the Democrats to include environment and labour provisions --

such as those found in the US-Jordan Free Trade Agreement (FTA) -- in any future trade deals involving the US. In contrast, the Republican Congressional delegation has traditionally been opposed to including these types of considerations in trade arrangements. Publicly, Zoellick has denounced the environmental and labour dimensions of the Jordan FTA as they are written, but has said that Bush is willing to include such provisions in future on the condition they do not impede trade. Obtaining consensus on trade promotion authority, in light of this divide, will be Zoellick's first critical task as USTR.

Zoellick's appeal to the Committee on Ways and Means also re-emphasised the Bush Administration's willingness to negotiate both regional and bilateral trade deals and its interest in a new round of multilateral negotiations at the WTO. Prioritising the US' regional interests, Zoellick iterated Bush's hope for a successful result for the proposed Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA). He also announced Bush's intention to resume bilateral trade negotiations with Singapore and Chile and urged Congress to pass the US trade deal with Vietnam negotiated by the Clinton Administration.

"Statement of Robert Zoellick, USTR, Before the Committee on Ways and Means of the US House of Representatives," 7 March 2001; "The View From Washington," WORLD TRADE AGENDA, 12 March 2001; "Zoellick: Problems With Environment, Labor in US-Jordan FTA," INSIDE US TRADE, 9 March

2001; "US-Singapore Free Trade Talks To Resume AT The End Of May," INSIDE US TRADE, 9 March 2001; "Lamy Sees EU Biotech Regime With Strict Rules Opposed By US," INSIDE US TRADE, 9 March 2001; "US, EU Agree On Importance of Settling Bananaa," WASHINGTON TRADE DAILY, 12 March 2001; "EU To Delay Banana Import Rule Implementation," REUTERS, 9 March 2001.

IN BRIEF I - AFRICA

COMMONWEALTH ADDRESSES CHALLENGES FOR AFRICAN PARTICIPATION IN THE WTO. At a meeting to be held in Nairobi from 26-27 March, the Commonwealth Business Council (CBC) will discuss various approaches that could be used to enhance the participation of African countries in the WTO process. The aims of the Commonwealth Trade Congress -- from which the CBC takes its lead -- are to: (i) enhance government-private sector dialogue on trade policy issues as they affect Africa; (ii) develop consensus towards a new round of trade negotiations where Africa can participate actively; and (iii) discuss the need and urgency for the African private sector to participate in the world trade debate. While the CBC's meeting will address capacity building for enhanced participation in trade negotiations, it is likely that CBC's principal focus will be on strengthening the private sector response to trade reforms and ensuring that the benefits of trade reform -- new job creation; productivity and wage enhancing technological change; and institutionalised access to new jobs -- are widely shared throughout Africa. ICTSD Internal Files.

4-NATION NORTH AFRICAN TRADE ZONE PROPOSED. At a recent Egyptian-Jordanian investment conference in Amman, Wassef Ayar, Jordanian Trade and Industry Minister, announced a proposal by Egypt to build a four-way free trade zone in North Africa. He said, "we have received an invitation from Egypt to form a free trade zone between Jordan, Egypt, Tunisia and Morocco". He added that the scheme would promote each country's economic position and increase investment between them as well as strengthen their ties with the European Union, noting that Egypt, Jordan,

Tunisia and Morocco are presently already bound by a partnership agreement with Europe. The conference was intended to help business representatives to explore areas for joint ventures in the technology and pharmaceuticals sectors. "Egypt Invites Jordan To Set Up Four-Way North African Free Trade Zone," AFP, 11 March 2001.

PRIVATE FIRM TO ASSIST NIGERIA IN TRADE POLICY FORMATION. Washington D.C.-based Manchester Trade Ltd. -- a trade consulting firm -- has been hired by the Federal Ministry of Commerce (FMC) of the Government of Nigeria over the next two years to develop and assist in the implementation of an Export Development & Trade Policy Strategy for Nigeria. According to a press release from the company, the policy strategy will focus initially on eligible duty-free exports into the US under the Africa Growth & Opportunity Act of 2000 (AGOA), to include apparel, textiles, and other goods, as well as assist in Nigeria's export initiatives in other markets in Africa, Asia, and Europe. The company assists other firms and governments to "position their products and services to gain maximum advantage from free and fair trade." "Manchester Trade Business Announcements," MANCHESTER TRADE LTD. March 2001.

IN BRIEF II - OTHER ISSUES

SUIT FILED AGAINST USTR. On 7 March, American environmental organisation Earthjustice filed a lawsuit with the US District Court in Washington alleging that the US Trade Representative (USTR) failed to make public written negotiating proposals submitted to the Free Trade Area of the Americas negotiations process. Stephen Porter, attorney for the group said, "the USTR is willing to give these documents to 33 foreign nations, but not the American public". Previous attempts by the Centre for International Environmental Law to get the government to release the documents were denied by the trade agency. "To hide what it is doing from concerned citizens is shameful for a government that considers itself the world's model for democracy," said Stephen Porter, senior attorney with the Centre for International Environmental Law. Environmental organisations have been closely following the negotiations surrounding the hemispheric trade agreement. They worry that the accord -- a trade deal integrating 34 countries in North and South America -- will include provisions similar to those found in the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), which have permitted corporations to sue governments over environmental and health regulations that restrict trade. The suit was filed after the USTR refused a request to put the document at the public's disposal. "U.S. Green Group Sues USTR For Trade Talk Papers." REUTERS, 7 March 2001.

INDIA-COLOMBIA SET TO SIGN TRADE PACT ON PREFERENTIAL TRADE AGREEMENTS. At a seminar on India-Colombia trade relations in New Delhi, a top official of the Indian Commerce Ministry announced that India is ready to sign a Preferential Trade Agreement with Colombia. The pact is to boost trade and commerce, said the Indian official. Junior Indian Minister for Commerce Omar Abdullah said, "we have agreed in principle to have a PTA with Colombia to strengthen our bilateral trade." The two governments are to complete formalities and have the agreement ready within three months. India and Colombia will set up a joint business council to promote trade and increase business contacts and identify goods and services that could serve as key export growth areas. Colombia is ready to share India's expertise in information technology, biotechnology and pharmaceuticals. "India, Colombia To Enter Pact To Boost Trade," TIMES OF INDIA, 7 March 2001.

IPCC RELEASES REPORT ON CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION. Government delegates from approximately 100 countries adopted the third and final assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) -- entitled "Climate Change 2001: Mitigation" -- at a meeting in Accra, Ghana, last week. The 1,000-page report reviews the technologies and policies that are available for reducing or limiting greenhouse gas emissions in order to minimise future climate change. It concludes that "known technological options" could stabilise CO₂ concentrations in the atmosphere at 550 ppmv, 450 ppmv or below over the next 100 years or more, but "implementation would require associated socio-economic and institutional changes". Some, including senior scientists within the IPCC, have criticised the authors of the report for being "vague and evasive" in their recommendations, and have called for a firm "ceiling" for atmospheric CO₂ levels. The three IPCC Working Groups will complete a "synthesis" report on their work in September. A summary of the latest report is available at <http://www.ipcc.ch>. "Shattering the greenhouse," NEW SCIENTIST, 10 March 2001.

BIODIVERSITY AND GOVERNANCE. A research workshop, entitled: "Biodiversity from collective action to governance" was held at the Graduate Institute of Development Studies (IUED) in Geneva on March 5-7. It gathered approximately twenty junior and senior researchers from AGRO Montpellier (ENSAM); the Graduate Institute of Development Studies (IUED); the Centre for International Cooperation in Agronomy Research for Development (CIRAD FORÊTS); and the University of Montreal Observatoire de l'Écopolitique Internationale (OEI). The workshop addressed current international research conducted on the multi-level governance of biodiversity and addressed the theoretical and conceptual tools enabling analysis of these governance phenomena. It also aimed at establishing a francophone researcher network. The discussions shed light on the importance of the multidisciplinary perspective based on an analysis of the social logic of the biodiversity field. Subsequent workshops will be held in coming months. ICTSD Internal Files.

GREEN GROUPS LAUD BLAIR'S PLEDGE. Several environmental organisations recently applauded a pledge by British Prime Minister Tony Blair to put Britain on track for a 'green industrial revolution', and to take a lead in global environmental and agricultural issues. According to Blair, "the (European) Common Agriculture Policy (CAP) is seriously outmoded. It distorts global agricultural markets and promotes forms of agriculture that damage the environment." Blair also criticised the developed world for impeding market access opportunities for those goods and services produced in developing countries, arguing that doing so has exacerbated poverty in those regions. Despite criticism from his political opponents as being an election gimmick, Blair's statement has been welcomed by both industry and green groups. Charles Secrett, executive director of Friends of the Earth, said, "this is the strongest environment speech Tony Blair has yet made. We hope his commitment to sustainable farming will lead to a clear policy statement on how that shift can be achieved." Other ministers in Blair's government reiterated the need for environmental reforms. Nick Brown, UK Agricultural Minister, said the outbreaks of both the BSE and foot-and-mouth diseases represent the dire need for reforms to the CAP. And Clare Short, International Development Secretary, said environmental degradation and poverty were deeply intertwined and called for improved trade access for developing countries and the removal of agricultural subsidies that are harmful to poorer nations. "Britain 'To Lead World' In Protecting Environment And Agriculture." THE GUARDIAN, 7 March 2001.

ON THE MOVE

Oscar Haro, one of ICTSD's founding staff members, will be moving on to new professional challenges. Oscar has played an integral part in ICTSD's development since its inception in 1996, and his presence will be greatly missed by all those who have had the opportunity to meet and work with him. Oscar will bring his vigour and experience to his new position at the International Air Transport Association. ICTSD wishes him all the best in his new endeavours and would like to thank him for all his years of dedication.

EVENTS

ICTSD Event

Monday, 19 March, 09:00 - 11:00, Geneva, Switzerland: INFORMAL CAFÉ & CROISSANTS DIALOGUE ON "THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC'S PROPOSAL ON TOURISM SERVICES AND THE VIEWS OF THE LIKE-MINDED COUNTRIES ON AGRICULTURE AND IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES AT THE WTO". H.E. Mr. Federico Cuello Camilo, Ambassador of the Dominican Republic to the United Nations Office at Geneva, will give a brief 15-20 minute presentation on the subject matter, after which the floor will be given to the participants for an informal and open discussion from a sustainable development perspective. The meeting will take place at the International Environment House, 13, Ch. des Anémones, 1219 Chatelaine, Geneva, Rooms 2 & 5. Given that there is limited seating, please RSVP your intention to participate by email to ictsd@ictsd.ch or by fax at: (41-22) 917-8093.

Coming Up This Week

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

12-15 March, Trinidad and Tobago: TRADE AND INVESTMENT CONVENTION 2001. TIC 2001 is a business forum bringing together Exporters, Buyers, Distributors and Investors, creating opportunities for expansion of sales to markets of more than 30 million customers. It will assist in the establishment of new business partnerships through Joint Ventures. Seminars and Conferences are planned for educating participants on doing business in foreign territories, trade and investment incentives, as well as on strategic marketing. This Convention will afford interested persons the opportunity to develop trade links with companies from South America, Central America, CARICOM, North America and Europe. For further information contact: Keri Yee, Co-ordinator TIC 2001, Trinidad & Tobago; tel: (868) 623-1029/30, 625-8862; fax: 623-1031; email: ttmagm@opus.co.tt.

12-16 March, Montreal Canada: SIXTH MEETING OF THE CONVENTION ON BIODIVERSITY'S SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE (SBSTTA-6). For information contact: the CBD Secretariat, Montreal, Canada; tel: (1-514) 288-2220; fax: 288-6588; email: secretariat@biodiv.org; Internet: <http://www.biodiv.org>. From IISD Linkages, <http://www.iisd.ca/linkages/journal/>.

15 March, Swiss Press Club, Geneva, Switzerland: MEETING BETWEEN HEADS OF WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM AND PORTO ALEGRE FORUM: Guy Mettan, President of the EMA Foundation, will receive at the Swiss Press Club Mr. Claude Smadja, General Manager of the World Economic Forum and Mr. Bernard Cassen, initiator of the Porto Alegre Forum, for the first time in a face to face debate. For further information contact: The EMA Foundation, 7, route de Drize, PO Box 731, CH 1211 Geneva 4; tel: (41-22) 348-3701; fax: 827-2310; Internet: <http://www.emainvest.com/uk/index.html>.

15 March, Fort Garry Hotel, Winnipeg, Manitoba: NACEC'S TRINATIONAL AIR QUALITY IMPROVEMENT INITIATIVE WORKSHOP. The North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation (NACEC) is inviting the public to participate with its Joint Public Advisory Committee (JPAC) in a workshop bringing attention to the need for including environmental considerations at the earliest planning stages of trade and transportation corridors and begin to focus national and trinational attention on the need for coordinating corridor development. On 16 March, the public is also invited to participate in a plenary discussion with JPAC members. Registration is free and on a first-come, first-served basis. The agendas for the JPAC session and a registration form may be found on the JPAC web page at <http://www.cec.org/jpac>. To confirm your attendance at these meetings, please return the registration form to Jocelyne Morin. Once participants have registered, they will receive any documents relevant to these meetings. For further information contact: Jocelyne Morin, email: jmorin@ccemtl.org; tel: (514) 350-4366; fax: (514) 350-4314.

20-22 March, Berlin, Germany: UNEP MINISTERIAL MEETING ON ENVIRONMENT, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT & TRADE. For further information visit: <http://www.unep.ch/etu/etp/events/upcming/berlin.htm>.

16-17 March 2001, Canberra, Australia: CHINA & THE WTO. Hosted by the Faculty of Law of the Australian National University, Canberra, Australia with support from the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Law Department of the London School of Economics. Two-day conference with presentations on the Chinese WTO accession negotiations, and on trade in goods, trade in services and IP and other issues from trade negotiators, academics and legal practitioners. Keynote speaker: Prof. John H Jackson. Brochure, conference programme, and registration form are available at: <http://law.anu.edu.au/china-wto/index.html>. For further information contact: Dr. Brett Williams, China & the WTO Project, Faculty of Law, Australian National University; email: china-wto@anu.edu.au or williamsbg@law.anu.edu.au.

19-22 March, Montreal, Canada: CONVENTION ON BIODIVERSITY PANEL OF EXPERTS ON ACCESS AND BENEFIT-SHARING. For information contact: the CBD Secretariat, Montreal, Canada; tel: (1-514) 288-2220; fax: 288-6588; email: secretariat@biodiv.org; Internet: <http://www.biodiv.org>. From IISD Linkages, <http://www.iisd.ca/linkages/journal/>.

19-23 March, Rome, Italy: INTERIM CHEMICAL REVIEW COMMITTEE FOR THE ROTTERDAM CONVENTION ON THE APPLICATION OF THE PRIOR INFORMED CONSENT PROCEDURE FOR CERTAIN HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS AND PESTICIDES IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE. Organised by FAO and UNEP Chemicals, the Conference's second session will review candidate chemicals for the Rotterdam Convention on PIC. For further information contact: Gerold Wyrwal, FAO; tel: (39 06) 5705-2753; fax: 5705-6347; email: gerold.wyrwal@fao.org.

20 March, Brussels, Belgium: EU-US RELATIONS AT THE DAWN OF A NEW ERA: BRIDGING THE TRANSATLANTIC BUSINESS DIVIDE. Hosted by European Voice in association with APCO Europe and Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer. This conference will explore relations from the business community's perspective, focusing on three key issues: competition, EU-US trade relationships and corporate communications in the evolving transatlantic divide. It will provide business leaders with a platform for discussion with their peers on these issues as well as the opportunity to put questions to EU and US decision-makers. For further information contact: Adrian Scally, tel: (32-02) 540-9077; fax: 540-9070; email: adrianscally@economist.com; Internet: <http://www.european-voice.com/euus>.

20-21 March, Berlin, Germany: MINISTERIAL MEETING ON ENVIRONMENT, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND TRADE. Co-organised by UNEP and the German Ministry for the Environment, this meeting will provide a platform for environment ministers and senior officials from developed and developing countries, and other stakeholders to discuss areas of mutual concern in the environment, development and trade debate. It will also serve to review and provide guidance to UNEP country projects on integrated assessment of trade policies. For further information contact: Sophie Forster, tel: (41-22) 917-8620; email: sophie.forster@unep.ch; Internet: <http://www.unep.ch/etu/etp/events/upcming/berlin.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.

12-14 March, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO TEXTILES MONITORING BODY. For further information contact: Luis Ople, WTO Information and Media Relations Division; tel: (41-22) 739-5374.

14 March, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO COUNCIL FOR TRADE IN GOODS. Members will discuss, inter alia: waiver request on Customs Valuation by Cameroon; request by Egypt for extension of transition period for TRIMs; TRIMs review; request for a waiver on new ACP-EC partnership agreement (Cotonou); transparency of new restrictions on textiles; and election of chairperson for CTG. For further information contact: Keith Rockwell, Director, WTO Information and Media Relations Division; tel: (41-22) 739-5007.

14-15 March, Geneva, Switzerland: TWENTIETH REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE ON SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES. On the agenda, inter alia: election of Chairperson; the SPS Agreement and Developing Countries-implementation of the provisions for special and differential treatment and equivalence; identification of technical assistance needs; and monitoring of the use of international standards. There will also be an informal meeting on 13 March on the issue of equivalence and developing countries and on criteria for the acceptance of observer organizations. For further information contact: Peter Ungphakorn, WTO Information and Media Relations Division, tel: (41-22) 739-5412.

16 March, Geneva, Switzerland: INFORMAL WTO GENERAL COUNCIL ON IMPLEMENTATION. For further information contact: Lucie Giraud, WTO Information and Media Relations Division; tel: (41-22) 739-5075.

19 & 21 March, Geneva, Switzerland: TRADE POLICY REVIEW BODY - MACAU, CHINA. For further information contact: Lucie Giraud, WTO Information and Media Relations Division; tel: (41-22) 739-5075.

20 March, Geneva, Switzerland: DISPUTE SETTLEMENT BODY. The DSB will discuss India's complaint against Turkey's restrictions on imports of textiles and clothing products. For further information contact: Lucie Giraud, WTO Information and Media Relations Division; tel: (41-22) 739-5075.

20 March, Geneva, Switzerland: COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES. For further information contact: Hans-Peter Werner, WTO Information and Media Relations Division; tel: (41-22) 739-5286.

22-23 March, Geneva, Switzerland: SIXTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE WTO COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE. For further information contact: Peter Ungphakorn, Information and Media Relations; tel: (41-22) 739-5412.

26-28 March, Geneva, Switzerland: SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE WTO COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE (NEGOTIATIONS STOCK-TAKING EXERCISE). For further information contact: Peter Ungphakorn, Information and Media Relations; tel: (41-22) 739-5412.

29-30 March, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE. For further information contact: Peter Ungphakorn, Information and Media Relations; tel: (41-22) 739-5412.

Other Forthcoming Events

26-27 March, Portland, Oregon, US: PRIVATE SECTOR FORUM - APEC 21ST CENTURY RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE. Hosted by the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum. For further information contact: Cary N. Bloyd, Executive Director, APEC Sustainable Development Network One World Trade Centre, 121 SW Salmon, Suite 210, Portland, Oregon, USA 97204; tel: (1-503) 279-9565; fax: 279-9381, email cbloyd@apecnw.org; Internet: <http://www.apecnw.org/> (Click on the APEC 21st Century Initiative link).

28-30 March, Montreal Convention Centre, Québec, Canada: FOURTH BIENNIAL CONFERENCE OF THE PAN-AMERICAN ENVIRONMENTAL TRADE SHOW AND CONFERENCE. Organised by Enviro Access and sponsored by Réseau Environnement, these sessions match Canadian environmental exporters with potential buyers and/or partners from targeted international markets. Cost of participating is \$CDN750, or \$CDN300 for companies that are exhibiting at Americana. For further information contact: Normand Gadoury, Chargé de projets, Enviro-Access, 225, avenue Président Kennedy, bureau 2152, Montréal, Québec, Canada H2X 3Y8; tel: (1-514) 284-5794, poste 25; fax: 284-6034; email: ngadoury@enviroaccess.ca; Internet: <http://www.americana.org/>.

22 April: EARTH DAY. For further information on Earth Day events, visit: <http://www.earthday.net/>.

2-7 July, VIU Campus, Venice, Italy: 2001 EUROPEAN SUMMER SCHOOL IN RESOURCE AND ENVIRONMENTAL ECONOMICS. Organised by the European Association of Environmental and Resource Economists (EAERE), the Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei (FEEM) and the Venice International University (VIU). Economic Valuation Methods will be the theme of this year. In the six days of intensive lectures and seminars, experienced researchers will give survey lectures focussed on topics such as non-market valuation; contingent valuation; choice experiments; travel cost and other indirect methods; valuation and the policy process. The deadline for applications is 30 March 2001. For further information contact: Monica Eberle, The Summer School Secretariat, Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei, Castello 5252, I-30122 Venice, Italy; tel: (39-041) 2711458; fax: 2711461; email: eberle@feem.it; Internet: <http://www.feem.it/ess/>.

RESOURCES

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

Agriculture

"UK consumer attitudes concerning environmental issues impacting the agrifood industry," K. Walley, P. Custance and S. Parsons in *BUSINESS STRATEGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT*, 9 (6, 2000): 355-366. This paper presents the findings of a consumer attitude study concerning environmental issues relating to the agrifood industry. The data is subjected to a cluster analysis in order to segment the respondents and make the findings more meaningful. The paper concludes that there are four groups of consumers and that while a number of subjects constitute issues for consumers the one that unites most consumers, and which will probably have the greatest impact on the environment, is genetic modification. Consumer resistance to genetic modification is found to be high and it is suggested that as a result farmers will continue to employ traditional farming practices in the future.

"Small holding up," John Zarb in: *ECOLOGIST* 30 (9, 2000): 40-44. Modern agriculture is in crisis and the alternative is clear - a move towards sustainable farming. But is this any more than a pipe dream? Definitely, says the author, because across the world, it is already happening.

Biodiversity

TRANSGENIC CROPS: AN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT. Prepared by a team of researchers from the Wallace Centre, Michigan State University, and Portland State University, November 2000. The report includes a broad review and assessment of science and policy literature that leads to identification of important gaps in research and regulation. The authors recommend a cautious approach to the use of transgenic crops, one designed to build scientific evidence on possible environmental effects and to reform the regulatory system so that it makes full use of the new scientific data. In addition to greater public research on the environmental aspects of transgenic crops, the report urges a change in priorities that will give greater attention to transgenic plant traits

that are of potential long-term environmental benefit to the public. Examples include crops with greater tolerance of pest damage rather than tolerance to pesticides, and crops with lower water and irrigation needs. It is available on the Internet at: <http://www.winrock.org/transgenic.pdf>, and will be available in printed form in February 2001. For further information contact the Wallace Centre at Winrock International, 1621 N. Kent Street, Ste. 1200, Arlington, VA, USA 22209; tel: (1-703) 525-9430 ext. 675; email: wallacecenter@winrock.org.

"Globalization, the bioscience industry and local environmental responses," by D. Gibbs in *GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE*, 10 (4, 2000): 245-257. Recent controversy over the introduction of genetically modified crops and their subsequent incorporation into foods has led to major popular debate and discussion. Despite this, there has been relatively little academic discussion of the background to these developments. In this paper it is argued that such developments need to be seen in the context of restructuring activity within the new 'biosciences industry' and closely linked to the globalisation of such corporate activity and the drive for the liberalisation of trade. By contrast, the reaction to genetically modified foods and seed has typically been national or local in scope, and limited in its effectiveness.

"The 2000 Cartagena protocol on biosafety: legal and political dimensions," P. Newell and R. Mackenzie in *GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE*, 10 (4, 2000): 313-317. This article highlights some of the key issues at the heart of the negotiations, the divisions between the negotiators of the agreement and the outcome of their deliberations in the form of the Cartagena Protocol.

Trade

"A grand trade bargain", by David E. Sanger, in *FOREIGN AFFAIRS*, 80 (1, 2001): 65-75. The author sees Washington as facing two enormous tasks in forming economic policy: it must preserve US economic supremacy while defusing the bitter resentment that America's clout provokes abroad. A grand bargain with developing countries is badly needed. For starters, Sanger feels that America could slash its trade barriers in agriculture and textiles in return for a global accord on intellectual-property rights.

NORTH AMERICAN TRADE AND TRANSPORTATION CORRIDORS: ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION STRATEGIES: By the North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation. Focussing on five major international transportation corridors in the NAFTA jurisdiction, the case study documents that since coming into effect in 1994, NAFTA has contributed to increased traffic flows and traffic-related pollution outputs in these corridors. The study projects that 2020 trade-related emissions of CO₂ will increase by two to four times. For further information contact: North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation, 393 rue Saint-Jaques Ouest, Bureau 200, Montreal, PQ, Canada H2Y 1N9; tel: (1-514) 350-4300; Internet: <http://www.cec.org>.

Technical Cooperation

COOPERATION SOUTH, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), 2000. This bi-annual journal by the UNDP which focuses on "Development Policies and Performance", and "World Issues and World Conferences", identifies South-South co-operation as being an essential and valuable resource for developing countries. Co-operation accelerates the rate at which key

development goals can be achieved. Therefore, this journal presents two sets of articles, one examining key global issues, while the other explores experiences in development policy and performance that can benefit development as well as aid programs. To order a copy, contact: Special Unit for TDCD, United Nations Development Programme, One United Nations Plaza, New York, NY 10017; fax: (1-212) 906-6352; email: cosmas.gitta@undp.org.

ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

THE US-JORDAN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT: <http://www.ustr.gov/regions/eu-med/middleeast/US-JordanFTA.shtml> .

SIERRA CLUB, THE ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE FUND, NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL, THE WORLD RESOURCES INSTITUTE, and WORLD WILDLIFE FUND - EARTH MAP ON GLOBAL WARMING EFFECTS. These environmental groups have combined their resources to set up a website map of the earth detailing global warming impacts in various regions. In addition to the map where you can click on any of the regions, you can click on one of two types of impacts, one called "Harbingers" the other called, "Fingerprints". Harbingers include items such as "coral reef bleaching, flooding and storms, droughts and fires, and disease spreading. The Fingerprints include heat waves, sea level risings, and glacier meltings. You can see the map at <http://www.climatehotmap.org/> .

CALL FOR PAPERS

The International Water Association (IWA) World Water Congress. The conference, to be held 1-12 April, Melbourne, Australia, will focus on water quantity and quality, dealing with issues of access and new technologies that will allow clean drinking water to be provided to people around the world. It will focus on some of the major drinking water and clean water issues in Southeast Asia, China, Australia and India. The last conference was held in Berlin, Germany, which focused on water issues in Europe and Russia. To present a paper or to register go to the website <http://www.iwa-2002.com/iwa2002.html> , or visit the IWA website at: <http://www.iwahq.org.uk/> .

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 Jordana Fish, Kojo Frempong, Christine Fox, Caroline Wiman and Heike Baumuller. 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: (41-22) 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.

To subscribe to *BRIDGES* Weekly Trade News Digest©, send an email to: listserv@iatp.org Leave the subject line blank. In the body of the message type: subscribe bridges To unsubscribe, please send an email to listserv@iatp.org. In the body of the message type: unsubscribe bridges. *BRIDGES* Weekly Trade News Digest© can also be found at the ICTSD web page: <http://www.ictsd.org/html/newsdigest.htm> and at the IATP web page: <http://www.newsbulletin.org>

ICTSD would like to thank the funders that have made the *BRIDGES* series of Publications possible in 2000: Christian Aid (UK); The Government of Denmark (DANIDA); IUCN The World Conservation Union (Switzerland); The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation (US); The Government of the Netherlands (DGIS); Oxfam (UK); The Government of Switzerland (SECO); and the Swiss Coalition of Development Organisations (Switzerland).

ISSN 1563-003X