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## COUNTRIES STRUGGLE OVER HOW TO NEGOTIATE WTO DOHA MANDATE

WTO Members have been meeting frequently over the past week in informal bilateral and plurilateral sessions in an attempt to find common ground on how trade negotiations launched in Doha, Qatar in November 2001 should be structured. The specifics of how negotiating sessions will take place are to be addressed formally on 28 January at the first meeting of the Trade Negotiations Committee (TNC), which was set up in the Doha Ministerial Declaration to "establish appropriate negotiating mechanisms as required and supervise the progress of the negotiations. However, countries remain far from decided over the modalities of how negotiations will progress, in which subsidiary bodies, or even who should chair the TNC itself.

### Developing countries forward TNC considerations

Developing country and least-developed country (LDC) Members have already submitted statements outlining their priorities for how the TNC should operate ahead of the meeting. According to trade sources, they are concerned that developed country Members -- mainly the 'Quad' group of Canada, the EU, the US and Japan -- will attempt to push their own preferences on procedure in order to gain an upper hand on negotiating substance as outlined in the Doha Ministerial Declaration (see BRIDGES Weekly, 15 November 2001, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/01-11-15/story1.htm>). As a result, these developing countries and LDCs favour the General Council as a decision-making forum since it operates according to previously agreed-upon procedures, including consensus.

In a statement made to the General Council in December on behalf of the WTO's LDC Members, Ambassador Ali Mchumo of Tanzania said that all final decisions should be made by the General Council, rather than by the TNC. "All negotiating decisions should be made in the General Council which will provide the final negotiating text on the basis of Members' consensus," Mchumo said. This stance is also reflected in a 21 December submission (WT/GC/58, available at <http://docsonline.wto.org/>) by a group of developing countries informally called the Like-Minded Group (LMG), though India and Malaysia, two traditionally strong supporters of the LMG perspective, did not sign onto the submission. The LMG propose that the TNC should work in accordance with direct instructions from the General Council, and that it should report to the General Council at least once every three months.

Both the LMG and Mchumo's statements also insist that no 'green rooms', or informal, closed-door negotiating sessions, should take place, and that all informal consultations and negotiating decisions should be undertaken in open-ended sessions.

One representative from a Quad country conjectured that the positions forwarded by the LMG -- Pakistan in particular -- were an attempt to stall the negotiating process.

## Chairs up in the air

Selection of Chairs for the TNC and its negotiating, or working, groups is an area that threatens to mire WTO Members as they jockey to have their preferred representatives chair various groups. Inter alia, the LMG urges that Chairs should be selected from the membership within the General Council and that the distribution of Chairs and Vice-Chairs between developed and developing countries should proportionately reflect the current composition of the WTO. They also say that Chairs should be appointed for periods of one year, with the possibility of re-election if decided by consensus.

The LDCs also believe that Chair of the TNC should be a Geneva-based Ambassador, for reasons of continuity and in order that countries have easy access to him/her and vice versa. In addition, they argue for terms of one year to allow for rotation among regions. They are not in favour of the WTO Director-General or the Secretariat being involved in negotiations.

Under the pre-1995 General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) system, the TNC was chaired by the presiding Director-General, and negotiating group Chairs were permanent: in the last (Uruguay) round Chairs presided through 8 years of negotiations. Chairs were drawn from the capitals or Geneva-based missions of the members of the GATT's Contracting Parties, and acted under their own personal capacity. However, there is no binding precedent that these procedures need to be taken up by the WTO.

Geneva-based diplomats indicate that whatever happens, the Chair selection process is likely to be linked with the annual selection process of Chairs for all other official WTO bodies. Most observers speculate that it is unlikely that Members will decide on this issue by the time of the first TNC.

## Five negotiating groups likely

According to trade sources, five working groups are expected to be set up: Agriculture, Services, Environment, Rules, and Industrial Tariffs. For the most part, these reflect the range of issue-areas that have been mandated. However, there is little agreement yet on where outstanding implementation issues that do not fall into these categories will be negotiated. It is also unclear at this stage where negotiations on fisheries subsidies, mandated under both Rules and Environment, will take place.

Informal consultations led by General Council Chair Stuart Harbinson have been taking place continually between smaller groups of Members, including the Quad. Sources indicate that an open-ended informal session for all Members on the TNC is likely to be held sometime next week before the formal meeting.

ICTSD Internal Files.

## NEWS FROM THE REGIONS: AFRICA

### US preferential tariffs renewed

In light of "continued progress towards a market-based economy in the region," the US on 31 December announced a 12-month continuation of preferential tariff rates for goods from 35 countries in sub-Saharan Africa. The status was granted under the African Growth and Opportunity Act, which the White House said offers important opportunities in fighting poverty and fostering development. As required by the legislation, this annual determination signifies which countries are making continued progress toward a market-based economy, the rule of law, free trade, economic policies that will reduce poverty, and protection of workers' rights. Among those countries included are: Cameroon, Chad, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Namibia, Rwanda and Sierra Leone.

### COMESA makes trade advances

On 4 January, the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) issued a report saying its Free Trade Area (FTA) set up in 2000 has achieved some success, with preliminary trade figures for the first six months of 2001 and the last four months of 2000 indicating that trade has grown by more than 20 percent in the region. The Lusaka-based regional trade grouping said in a press release that if this trend was maintained and sustained, 2002 is likely to see a significant increase in volume of trade among FTA countries and between FTA countries and the rest of the member states that are preparing to join the FTA in 2002. Only nine of the 21 member states of COMESA are currently part of the FTA and several members have, however, pledged to join the FTA in 2002.

COMESA public relations officer Mweusi Karake said one significant element is that none of the original nine members has reported significant negative impacts on their economies as a result of the FTA. The current members of COMESA are: Angola, Burundi, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Namibia, Rwanda, Seychelles, Sudan, Swaziland, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

### Egypt & India discuss future trade agreement

On 12 January, Egyptian Foreign Trade Minister Youssef Boutros Ghali began talks with Indian officials on a preferential trade agreement between the two countries, including means to free up investment in the software sector. Ghali said the agreement aims at expanding bilateral trade, particularly in commodities that do not compete locally in both countries.

"President Approves Tariff Preferences," USTR, 2 January 2002; "Regional FTA achieves some success: COMESA," XINHUA, 4 January 2002; "Egypt, India start talks on preferential trade agreement," ARABIC NEWS.COM, 12 January 2002.

## NEWS FROM THE REGIONS: JAPAN, SE ASIA & S. ASIA

### Japan signs its first FTA ever; others in the pipeline

The Prime Ministers of Japan and Singapore on 13 January signed an historic bilateral free trade agreement (FTA) three months after the two countries reached a basic accord on its framework. The accord is called the 'Japan-Singapore Economic Agreement for a New Age Partnership'. "What we have signed is not a conventional free trade agreement focusing only on the liberalisation of trade in goods and services, and investment," said Singaporean leader Goh Chok Tong during the signing ceremony. "I believe it will herald a new era of economic ties between our two countries."

Noting there are many areas where Japan and Singapore can cooperate "to ensure the prosperity and stability of the region," Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi said the FTA "provides a model of economic relations between Japan and ASEAN (the Association of Southeast Asian Nations)." The FTA, the first-ever for Japan, is expected to take effect around the middle of the year, and will remove tariffs on 94 percent of Singapore's exports to Japan, up from the current level of 84 percent and covering over 3,800 items. However, tariff reductions on politically sensitive agricultural and fishery products, as well as some petrochemical and petroleum goods, will be excluded from the FTA. For its part, Singapore will do away with all its remaining tariffs on goods imported from Japan, namely on four types of alcoholic drinks.

Tokyo was able to make the pact consistent with WTO rules while at the same time avoiding sensitive sectors by including in the FTA tariffs that have already been brought to zero under WTO rules. The WTO requires Members to remove "substantially all" tariffs when concluding an FTA. Observers point out that Tokyo's insistence on maintaining tariffs on farm and fishery imports could act as a drag on Tokyo's future FTA negotiations with countries such as Mexico and South Korea.

Koizumi was on a weeklong trip to five Southeast Asian countries in a bid to boost economic ties between Japan and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. ASEAN comprises the Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia, Brunei, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

Japanese Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Takeo Hiranuma said on 11 January that Asian and Pacific nations should consider creating a Pacific economic bloc to strengthen economic ties. "Establishing a broad economic partnership in a Pacific economic bloc would not be bad for Southeast Asia, East Asia as well as Oceania," Hiranuma told reporters. "I think it's good to consider it broadly and with plenty of time - - about, say, a 10-year span," he said.

In Thailand, Koizumi and his Thai counterpart, Thaksin Shinawatra, agreed in principle on 11 January to create a free trade area within one year, according to a Thai government spokesperson. The spokesperson said the cooperation, under the name 'Closer Economic

Partnership, would cover all areas of trade and investment between the two countries, and many goods would also enjoy lower tariffs and non-trade barriers.

#### Free trade area in South Asia planned

Leaders from the seven South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) countries pledged on 6 January to finalise a draft treaty for a free trade area by the end of this year. A declaration signed by the leaders of Bhutan, Bangladesh, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka said that the countries "recognised the importance of achieving a free trade area and reaffirmed that the treaty regime for creating an FTA must incorporate binding timeframes." A previously signed South Asian Preferential Trading Agreement, which is a forerunner to a regional FTA, still has yet to be implemented. Trade within the regional grouping -- which accounts for one fifth of the global population -- is only four percent of the total volume of trade between the seven countries and the rest of the world.

"Japan, Singapore sign free trade agreement," KYODO NEWS, 13 January 2002; Japanese trade minister calls for Pacific economic bloc," AFP, 11 January 2002; "Thai-Japan Free Trade Pact To Take Shape Within 1 Year," ASSOCIATED PRESS, 11 January 2002; South Asian leaders pledge to establish free trade in the region," AFP, 6 January 2002.

## IN BRIEF

### **CANADA BANS BULK WATER EXPORTS FROM BOUNDARY WATERS**

As one of its final moves of 2001, the Canadian government on 20 December enacted legislation amending the International Boundary Waters Treaty Act (IBWTA) that prohibits the bulk removal of water from Canadian boundary waters. The legislation also sets in place a licensing regime for water projects on these boundary bodies. The amendments were the last step in a three-part strategy to prohibit bulk water removal from Canadian water basins, announced in February 1999, which according to Canadian Environment Minister David Anderson, "protects the ecosystems and communities that depend on a sustainable supply of water."

"Canada Enacts Legislation Banning Bulk Water Exports From The Great Lakes"  
CANADIAN DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL  
TRADE, 20 December 2001.

## **US APPLIES PRESSURE TO REMOVE EU GMO BAN**

On 8 January 2002, officials from the both the US and the European Commission indicated that they hoped a March meeting of European Union leaders would result in expediting the removal of the EU's 1998 de facto ban on approving new genetically-modified products. Many EU member states insist that rules for traceability and labeling of GMOs be in place prior to resuming the approval process. A recent EC 'Eurobarometer' poll suggests major support for this precondition, with 94.6 percent of EU citizens wanting the right to choose over GM foods. The US cites one impediment to moving the agenda forward as the fact that "individual Member States will continue to be able to hold the approval process hostage to political concerns". Furthermore, one US official said he would like to see the EC take the members to the European Court of Justice over the biotech issue. Officials say the framing of the debate at the March meeting is focused around the concern that keeping the ban puts European companies at a competitive disadvantage.

"US, EU Officials Target March Meet For GMO Progress" REUTERS, 9 January 2002; "EU Leaders' Summit in March May Decide On Lifting of GMO Moratorium, Officials Say" INTERNATIONAL TRADE REPORTER, 10 January 2002.; "US Steps Up Pressure on EU GMO Legislation" FOEI, 16 January 2002.

## **NEW DANISH GOVERNMENT MOVES TO ALLOW CANNED DRINKS AGAIN**

The recently elected centre-right Danish government indicated on 11 January 2002 that is was ready to lift its ban on beer and soft drinks sold in cans. In a court case initiated by the EC, Denmark is facing charges for breach of the EU's packaging directives. Currently, Denmark allows beer and soft drinks in recyclable bottles. Some speculate that the removal of the ban will make it easier for foreign brewers to enter the Danish beer market, where the Carlsberg brewery currently holds a 70 percent market share.

"Denmark Lifts Ban on Canned Beer and Soft Drinks" REUTERS, 11 January 2002.

## **'HEMP IS NOT POT' SAYS CANADIAN FIRM AS LATEST NAFTA CH. 11 SUIT LAUNCHED**

In a flare-up of a 1999 US-Canada trade dispute, Canadian agricultural firm Kenex Ltd. filed a notice of intent to bring an investor-state (North American Free Trade Agreement - NAFTA Chapter 11) suit against the US government. On 9 October 2001, the US Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) issued an interpretive rule immediately making hemp foods having any trace of THC (the psychoactive ingredient in marijuana) illegal under the 1971 Controlled Substances Act. In response to the DEA's new rule, the Canadian government stated last month that, "there is no evidence that the effective ban...is based on any risk assessment." The US (and Canada) are currently using the risk assessment

argument against the EC over Europe's refusal to import genetically modified agricultural products from North America. Sterilised hemp seed are recognised as an exceptional source of protein, essential fatty acids, and vitamin E. The US is the only major industrialised country to prohibit the growing and processing of hemp.

"Canadian Company Will Sue to Prove Hemp is Not Pot" ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS SERVICE, 14 January 2002.

## WTO IN BRIEF

### ACP OPENS NEW GENEVA OFFICE ON WTO NEGOTIATIONS

On 16 January, a new office to improve the representation of the interests of the 77 African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries at the WTO was opened in Geneva, Switzerland. The office, financed by an EU grant of €1.45 million, will help ACP countries "co-ordinate their views and strengthen their position in WTO negotiations". In addition, it will deliver technical assistance to individual ACP country representations in Geneva. According to EC Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy, who inaugurated the office, "development issues must be at the heart of multilateral trade negotiations and we have to help ACP countries to put their views forward. In Doha, we promised to provide substantial trade-related technical assistance. Today we take a big step in this direction."

For further information on this topic, visit the EC website at:  
<http://europa.eu.int/comm/trade/bilateral/acp/acp.htm>;  
[http://europa.eu.int/comm/trade/miti/devel/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/trade/miti/devel/index_en.htm);  
[http://europa.eu.int/comm/development/politique\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/development/politique_en.htm).

"EU backs launch of Geneva-based office to help African, Caribbean and Pacific countries boost World Trade Organisation presence," EU PRESS RELEASE, 16 January 2002.

### APPELLATE BODY RULES AGAINST US FSC TAX BREAKS

On 14 January, the WTO's Appellate Body upheld the 20 August 2001 compliance panel that ruled the US 'Foreign Sales Corporation' FSC Repeal and Extraterritorial Income Exclusion Act of 2000 (ETI Act) to be inconsistent with WTO rules. The decision, expected by many in the trade community, now clears the way for the EC to resume its controversial request for the right to impose countermeasures in the amount of \$US 4.043 billion per year on a list of US products (see BRIDGES Weekly, 21 November 2000, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/story1.21-11.00.htm>). US Trade Representative Robert Zoellick told reporters the US would respect its WTO obligations and would continue to seek cooperation with the EU to resolve the dispute. A source close to USTR added that



the process could last between three to four years, as it will affect billions of dollars in trade and taxes plus millions of jobs. EC Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy declared, "we now have a definitive legal ruling on the FSC case [...] Now it is up to the US to comply with the WTO's findings to settle this matter once and for all". The Appellate Body Report is available at: [http://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/dispu\\_e/108abrw\\_e.pdf](http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/dispu_e/108abrw_e.pdf).

"EU welcomes WTO definitive confirmation that US export subsidies (Foreign Sales Corporations) are illegal, and calls on US to comply with WTO findings", Press release, Brussels, 14 January 2002; "U.S. Resolved to Comply With WTO, Protect Multinational Corporations," WTO Reporter, 14 January 2002.

### **ANNUAL REPORTS FOR WTO COMMITTEES NOW AVAILABLE**

Annual reports from the following WTO Committees are now available online...

Committee on Antidumping, Subsidies and Safeguards:

[http://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/adp\\_e/adp\\_e.htm#annualreports](http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/adp_e/adp_e.htm#annualreports)

Committee on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures:

[http://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/scm\\_e/scm\\_e.htm#annualreports](http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/scm_e/scm_e.htm#annualreports)

Committee on Safeguards:

[http://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/safeg\\_e/safeg\\_e.htm#work](http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/safeg_e/safeg_e.htm#work)

Committee on Trade & Development:

[http://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/devel\\_e/d3ctte\\_e.htm](http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/devel_e/d3ctte_e.htm)

Committee on Textiles & Clothing:

[http://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/texti\\_e/texti\\_e.htm#work](http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/texti_e/texti_e.htm#work)

Committee on Trade-Related Investment Measures (TRIMs):

[http://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/invest\\_e/invest\\_e.htm#trims](http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/invest_e/invest_e.htm#trims)

Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT):

[http://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/tbt\\_e/tbt\\_e.htm#work](http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/tbt_e/tbt_e.htm#work)

### **TAIWAN BECOMES WTO'S 144TH MEMBER**

On 1 January, Chinese Taipei became the 144th Member of the WTO, 30 days after it had notified the WTO that it had completed domestic ratification of its accession package. The accession marks the end of an attempt to enter the WTO that dates back to 1990, and raises hopes for better ties with its giant neighbour China. WTO Membership will mean mostly cheaper prices for Taiwanese consumers, though agriculture and labour-intensive industries are expected to suffer, causing already record-high

unemployment levels to rise even further. But Finance Minister Yen Ching-chang said any initial shock would be a price worth paying. "Under pressure from mainland China, we are unable to join the political United Nations," Yen told a forum on Taiwan's WTO accession. "Joining the economic United Nations, the WTO, is definitely positive for raising our international status." Many hope that the entry of both Taiwan and China to the WTO will bring about an era of reconciliation between them and help ease bitter political differences.

For further technical information visit the WTO website at:  
[http://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news\\_e.htm#mem](http://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news_e.htm#mem).

"Chinese Taipei Becomes 144th WTO Member," WTO, 1 January 2002; "Taiwan Enters WTO After Long Quest," REUTERS, 1 January 2002.

## ON THE MOVE

### LORD PETER MELCHETT

Lord Peter Melchett, former executive director of Greenpeace UK, will be joining a public relations firm -- Burson-Marsteller -- which includes controversial genetically modified foods giant Monsanto Co. among its clients. Melchett was arrested for destroying genetically modified crops in 1999, though he and 28 other protesters were later cleared of the charges. He retired as Greenpeace executive director in 2000 after more than 10 years as head of the environmental non-governmental organisation. Under pressure from Greenpeace's board due to his new post, Melchett resigned from the Greenpeace board on 11 January. In his new role he is expected to head a committee advising businesses on how to deal with controversial issues such as GM food, toxic waste and child labour in developing countries. He has defended his decision to work for Burson-Marsteller, which has also handled the PR for companies in trouble over environmental incidents.

"Ex-Greenpeace boss joins Monsanto PR firm," REUTERS, 9 January 2002; "Melchett forced off Greenpeace board," BBC, 12 January 2002.

## IN MEMORIAM

### ANIL AGARWAL

On 2 January, Anil Agarwal, 54, Chairperson of the New Delhi based Centre for Science and Environment, and Editor of Down To Earth, India's premier science and environment

magazine, passed away after a prolonged illness. Agarwal began his journalistic career as a science correspondent for the Hindustan Times in 1973. He has written for several international publications including the London-based journals Earthscan and New Scientist. He has written and edited more than 20 books on science and environment in India. In 1980, Agarwal founded CSE, one of the world's most dynamic NGOs. From 1983 to 1987, Agarwal chaired the world's largest network of environmental NGOs, the Nairobi-based Environment Liasion Centre. In 1987, the United Nations Environment Programme elected him to its Global 500 Honor Roll for his work in the national and international arena. The Indian Government has also honored him with Padma Shri and Padma Bushan for his work in environment and development.

"Environmentalism Anil Agarwal Passes Away," CSE India, 3 January, 2002.

## EVENTS AND 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

14-27 January, New York, US: 4TH SESSION OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE OF THE UN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT. Convening for the Committee's final meeting, delegates will negotiate over two weeks the text of the facilitator's draft Outcome Document and attempt to carry a finalised version to Monterrey in 18-22 March (see below). The Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr Kofi Annan, will open the meeting along with Mr Michel Camdessus, former Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund, and Mr Trevor Manuel, Minister of Trade for South Africa. Also participating will be ministers from various countries, government delegates to the PrepCom, representatives of intergovernmental organisations such as the World Bank, IMF and WTO, as well as members speaking for civil society both from NGOs and the business sector. For further information visit: <http://www.un.org/esa/ffd>.

16-17 January, New York, NY, USA: PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE WORLD SUMMIT ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: INFORMAL BRAINSTORMING SESSION. For further information visit: <http://www.johannesburgsummit.org/>.

17-19 January, Hyderabad, India: TRAINING SEMINAR ON THE WTO: FOCUS ON THE TEXTILES AND CLOTHING SECTOR. The event is being organised by CUTS-Centre for International Trade, Economics & Environment (CUTS-CITEE) in

collaboration with the Administrative Staff College of India. The training seminar is targeted at representatives and trade specialists from industry, industry associations, business chambers, financial institutions, export promotion agencies, media and non-government organisations. The objectives of the training seminar are to develop analytical capacities to comprehend WTO issues, especially those pertaining to the textiles and clothing sector. For further information contact: Bipul Chatterjee/ Sanjay Varma; tel: (91-141) 207-482; fax: 207-486; email: [cuts@cuts.org](mailto:cuts@cuts.org).

21-22 January, Muscat, Oman: INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE: OUR IDENTITY, OUR FUTURE. Organised by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) in cooperation with the Government of the Sultanate of Oman. The objective of the International Forum is to provide policy makers and senior government officials with the opportunity to exchange views and share experiences, at the highest level, on the social, cultural and economic dimensions of the protection of traditional knowledge. Participation will be at the ministerial level, namely the Ministers responsible for culture and/or intellectual property matters. For further information, contact WIPO, tel: (41-22) 338-9111; fax: 733-5428; Internet: [http://www.wipo.org/arab/en/meetings/2002/muscat\\_forum\\_ip/index.html](http://www.wipo.org/arab/en/meetings/2002/muscat_forum_ip/index.html).

January, Helsinki, Finland: AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON THE INTERLINKAGES BETWEEN BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE. For more information contact: CBD Secretariat, Montreal, Canada: tel: (1-514) 288-2220; fax: 288-6588; email: [secretariat@biodiv.org](mailto:secretariat@biodiv.org); Internet: <http://www.biodiv.org>. From IISD Linkages, <http://www.iisd.ca/linkages/>.

#### WTO Events

An updated list of forthcoming WTO meetings is posted at: [http://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/meets.doc](http://www.wto.org/english/news_e/meets.doc). Please bear in mind that dates and times of WTO meetings are often changed, and that the WTO does not always announce the important informal meetings of the different bodies. Unless otherwise indicated, all WTO meetings are held at the WTO, Centre William Rappard, rue de Lausanne 154, 1211 Geneva, Switzerland. For further information on WTO events contact: WTO Information and Media Relations Division, Geneva; tel: (41-22) 739- 5007; fax: 739-5458; email: [enquiries@wto.org](mailto:enquiries@wto.org).

16 & 18 January, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO TRADE POLICY REVIEW BODY - GUATEMALA.

17 January, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO COMMITTEE ON MARKET ACCESS.

22-23 January, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO TEXTILES MONITORING BODY.

23-24 January, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO WORKING PARTY ON THE ACCESSION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION.

23 & 25 January 2002, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO TRADE POLICY REVIEW BODY - PAKISTAN.

28 January 2002, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO TRADE NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE.

30 January 2002, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO COUNCIL FOR TRADE IN GOODS.

#### Other Forthcoming Events

4-8 February, Geneva, Switzerland: 6TH SESSION OF UNCTAD COMMISSION ON TRADE IN GOODS AND SERVICES, AND COMMODITIES. The main agenda items of the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) meeting 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" and Item 6. "Progress report on the implementation of agreed conclusions and recommendations of the Commission." For further information visit the UNCTAD website at <http://www.unctad.org>.

11-13 March, Geneva, Switzerland: 28TH EXECUTIVE SESSION OF UNCTAD TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD. For further information visit the UNCTAD website at <http://www.unctad.org>.

14-15 March, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil: UNEP FINANCE INITIATIVES: ANNUAL GLOBAL ROUNDTABLE MEETING ON FINANCE AND SUSTAINABILITY: "FINANCING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE: STRATEGIES, PARTNERSHIPS, AND OPPORTUNITIES ON THE WAY TO JOHANNESBURG 2002". Co-hosted by Banco Nacional de Desenvolvimento Economico e Social (BNDES) and Corporacion Andina de Fomento (CAF), the roundtable is a critical stepping stone in UNEP FI's work towards the World Summit for Sustainable Development (Johannesburg - September 2002). Keynote speakers, plenary sessions, and workshops will balance global, regional, and national perspectives. Highlighting new challenges and opportunities, the Roundtable will introduce innovative tools and techniques for the finance and insurance sectors. For further information contact: Mareike Hussels; email: [mareike.hussels@unep.ch](mailto:mareike.hussels@unep.ch). Internet. <http://unepfi.net>.

18-22 March, Monterrey, Mexico: INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT. The UN International Conference on Financing for Development will bring together high-level representatives from governments, the UN, and other leading international trade, finance and development-related organizations. For more information contact: Harris Gleckman, Coordinating Secretariat; tel: (1-212)

963-4690; email: [gleckman@un.org](mailto:gleckman@un.org) or Federica Pietracci, tel: (1-212) 963-8497; e-mail: [pietracci@un.org](mailto:pietracci@un.org); Internet: <http://www.un.org/esa/ffd>.

8-9 April, Manchester, UK: INTERNATIONAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH CONFERENCE. Organised by ERP Environment, the meeting will address issues such as corporate social responsibility, natural resource management, public participation, and globalisation. For further information contact: Elaine White, UK; tel: (44-1274) 530-408; fax: 530-409; email: [elaine@erpenvironment.co.uk](mailto:elaine@erpenvironment.co.uk). Internet: <http://www.erpenvironment.org>.

13-14 May, London, UK: INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE NEW ROUND: TRADE, INVESTMENT AND ENVIRONMENT AFTER DOHA AFFAIRS. Organised by the Royal Institute of International Affairs, the forth Chatham House conference will discuss the major issues arising from the Doha Declaration and look at what the new round will bring to the debate regarding multilateral environmental agreements, dispute settlement, institutional changes, investment and services, agriculture and fisheries, and the role and position of developing countries. The following speakers are expected to give keynote addresses at the meeting: Pacal Lamy, EU Trade Commissioner; Supachai Panitchpakdi, WTO Director-General Designate; Rubens Ricupero, UNCTAD Secretary-General; Baroness Symons, Minister of State for Trade and Investment, UK; and Klaus Toepfer, UNEP Executive Director. For further information contact: Chatham House, London; tel: (44-20) 7957- 5700; fax: 7957-5710. Internet: <http://www.riia.org>.

## 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 Matteo Rizzolli, [mrizzolli@ictsd.ch](mailto:mrizzolli@ictsd.ch)).

STATE OF THE WORLD 2002: THE ROAD TO JOHANNESBURG. Published by the Worldwatch Institute, January 11, 2001 - "The world needs a global war on poverty and environmental degradation that is as aggressive and well funded as the war on terrorism," recommends the Worldwatch Institute in its annual State of the World report released Thursday. The 19th annual edition of the institute's review of the health of the planet and its people finds that "Steps in the 1990s toward a more just and ecologically resilient world were too small, too slow, or too poorly rooted." For full text and graphics visit: <http://ens-news.com/ens/jan2002/2002L-01-11-03.html>.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: THE CONTINUED ILLEGAL TRADE IN OZONE-DEPLETING SUBSTANCES AND THE THREAT POSED TO THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL PHASE-OUT. Published by Environmental Investigation Agency, October 2001. The papers point at the failure of the Montreal Protocol in reacting in a coherent



manner to the problem of enforcement and the continued threat of illegal trade in ODS. While large scale smuggling activities into the US and EU have largely been curbed, illegal trade is already of a serious magnitude, is growing, and is prevalent in many developing countries throughout the world. The report is available at: <http://www.eia-international.org/Campaigns/Ozone/Reports/unfinished/index.html>.

"Contradictions between WTO and sustainable development? the case of environmental dumping," by Solveig Lothe in SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT 9, Winter 2001. This paper discusses how the WTO Agreements deal with the environmental and competitiveness concerns linked to trade and environmental policies. As the use of traditional export subsidies and other protectionist trade policies are now strongly restricted in the WTO, many countries will try to find other ways to increase competitiveness. One way of doing this is to use lax environmental taxation or regulation as indirect subsidies (i.e. environmental dumping). Environmental countervailing tariffs have been suggested as a way of reducing incentives for environmental dumping. The WTO rules are examined in order to analyse the feasibility of the uses of environmental countervailing tariffs in the current and future framework of WTO, and the incentives and welfare consequences are analysed under different market scenarios.

"The Winnipeg Principles, WTO and sustainable development: proposed policies for reconciling trade and the environment," by Clem Tisdell. in SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT 9 Winter 2001. Following the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, the International Institute for Sustainable Development was established to advocate policies to support sustainable development within Canada and globally. In 1994, it proposed the Winnipeg Principles as a means for reconciling international trade and development so as to achieve sustainable development (IISD, 1994a,b). These seven principles are outlined in this article and assessed. Although the International Institute for Sustainable Development had hoped through these principles to influence the work programme of the Environment and Trade Committee of WTO, it seems to have little effect.

THE ANATOMY OF THE EU-US WTO BANANA TRADE DISPUTE. By Robert Read, published in The Estey Centre Journal of International Law and Trade Policy, 2001. This paper provides an overview of the banana dispute between the EU and the United States at the WTO which was finally resolved in July 2001. The paper outlines the origins of the dispute in the EU's legal obligations to its preferred suppliers, primarily former colonies, and the subsequent evolution of the EU banana trade regime. The Single European Act and subsequent complaints to the GATT and the WTO have necessitated successive reforms of the EU banana regime, culminating in a landmark WTO Panel decision in 1997. These successive regimes are summarised, along with the GATT and WTO complaints and the WTO Panel findings. The resolution of the trade policy issues concerning bananas opens the way for the serious competition issues to be more readily addressed. Available at: [http://128.233.58.173/estey/j\\_pdfs/read2-2.pdf](http://128.233.58.173/estey/j_pdfs/read2-2.pdf).

DICTIONARY OF TRADE POLICY TERMS. Compiled by Walter Goode. Published by the Centre for International Economic Studies (CIES), November 2001. The new

edition has been released to coincide with the launch at the WTO Trade Ministerial in Doha. The book has been translated into numerous languages and used throughout the world in WTO training courses. To order a copy of the dictionary, visit <http://www.adelaide.edu.au/cies/orderform.htm>.

THE NEXT WTO ROUND: NORTH-SOUTH STAKES IN MARKET ACCESS NEGOTIATIONS, by Joe Francois. Published by the Centre for International Economic Studies, This study explores the distributional consequences within (e.g. between unskilled and skilled workers) and between countries of a 20 - 50 percent cut in the tariffs that will remain after the Uruguay Round is fully implemented by 2004. It takes explicit account of the fact that many (especially developing) countries have bound their tariffs on imports at well above the actual rates currently applied, so that a commitment to cut bound rates leads to less trade liberalisation than previous studies have suggested. But this study also factors in the realities of imperfect competition in many markets, and the potential for gains from reforms in the services sectors. Among the results to emerge is the finding that developing countries could expect to gain more from the next round than they gain from all the official development assistance they currently receive – a gain comparable in value to their current inflows of foreign direct investment. Summary available at: <http://www.adelaide.edu.au/cies/francois.pdf>. Copies of the book can be ordered at: <http://www.adelaide.edu.au/cies/orderform.htm>.

## E-RESOURCES

International Cooperation for Development and Solidarity (CIDSE) has prepared an assessment of the Fourth WTO Ministerial Meeting in Doha, Qatar. The assessment focuses specifically on agriculture and TRIPS. It also includes an analysis of the negotiating process. The assessment is also available online at: <http://www.cidse.org/en/tg1/AssDoha.htm>.

## VACANCIES

RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS. The Overseas Development Institute, a British independent think-tank on international development and humanitarian issues, offers a Research Fellowship that combines research and policy advice with public affairs, and is meant to help the organisation in building its programmes in the following areas Tropical Forest Management and Forest Policy; Humanitarian Aid Politics, Policies and Principles; Trade, Investment and Industrial Development; Aid and Aid Policy; Public Policy for Poverty Reduction; Non-Farm Rural Enterprise/Rural-Urban Relations; Tourism and Poverty Reduction; Rural Development Planning. ODI requires a post-graduate degree, a strong research record, good international experience (3-5 years minimum), and outstanding writing and communication skills. Further details and an application form (Ref: RF0102) can be obtained from: Personnel Officer, Overseas Development Institute, 111 Westminster Bridge Road, London SE1 7JD; fax: (+44-20) (7922-0399) email: [recruitment@odi.org.uk](mailto:recruitment@odi.org.uk); Internet: <http://www.odi.org.uk>. Closing date: 15 February 2002.



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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