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WTO REACHES AGREEMENT ON SEQUENCING OF AGRICULTURE NEGOTIATIONS

WTO Members on 26 March agreed on how to map by the end of March next year key negotiating guidelines for the new round of farm trade talks currently underway at the WTO. The decision followed a lengthy debate on how to sequence the discussions on the so-called modalities for negotiating new commitments in the areas of market access, export subsidies and domestic support as provided for in the Doha Declaration (paras. 13 and 14).

The WTO Committee on Agriculture (CoA) reached the agreement at a special (negotiating) session on a work programme for establishing the modalities for the next stage of the agriculture negotiations by 31 March 2003. According to the new work programme, Members will address the three different 'pillars' of the Agreement on Agriculture (AoA) separately and in sequence: export subsidies, competition and restrictions on 17-20 June; market access on 2-4 September; and domestic support on 23-27 September. These informal meetings will be held back-to-back with formal ones where the Chairperson will report on the work undertaken in the informal special sessions. Following a wrap-up meeting scheduled for 18-20 November, Members envisaged having a draft overview paper ready for circulation by 18 December 2002, which would then be finalised in the follow-up process until end-March 2003.

According to the work programme, "special and differential treatment for developing countries shall be an integral part of all elements of the negotiations under this programme" and "non-trade concerns will be taken into account in these negotiations" as provided for in the Doha Declaration (para 13). As several trade sources explained, this would mean that special and differential treatment (S&D) as well as non-trade concerns would be discussed where appropriate under each of the three pillars.

According to the WTO Secretariat, the 12-month work programme agreed upon dealt with one of the most critical phases in the agriculture talks as it would set targets -- including numerical targets -- for achieving the objectives set out in the Doha Declaration. These include significant cuts in both tariffs and subsidies. Sources indicated that this 'modalities' stage would therefore set the tone of the negotiations' final outcome, as the modalities will be used by Members for making their initial offers to negotiate their specific commitments.

The practice of agreeing on modalities first, followed by the negotiation of specific commitments, was previously used during the Uruguay Round (for the 1993 modalities, see WTO document MTN.GNG/MA/W/24, searchable on the WTO website at http://docsonline.wto.org/gen_search.asp).

As a developing country delegate from the Like-Minded Group reported, there had been a great deal of discussion on the dates and the number of meetings as well as on their sequencing, with the EC in particular pushing for discussing market access first, whereas

developing country groups such as the Friends of the Development Box proposed moving market access discussions until after August. Most developing countries, said the source, would not have the capacity in Geneva or in the capitals to assess all the modalities options regarding market access put forward at a June meeting. Therefore, in order to provide for adequate participation in the market access negotiations, domestic support and export subsidies should be addressed first with no more than three meetings held before the end of this year, the source explained. In the end, Members agreed on the compromise formula put forward by the Chair of the special sessions of the CoA, Stuart Harbinson. Harbinson's compromise used the sequence of export subsidies, market access, and domestic support, and scheduled four meetings for 2002.

However, as some Members were of the view that it would be difficult to discuss the three pillars in a segregated way, the agreed work programme provides that "Special Sessions will be complemented by informal consultations, including consultations between Members and consultations under the direction of the Chairperson" in which the raised issues "will not necessarily follow the order set out above in the programme of meetings". The Like-Minded Group source commented that this would only take place in the form of technical considerations so as to keep the agreed sequencing in place. It was further noted that Members would have the chance to discuss again all the issues at the three 2003 meetings so that the first three pillar-based meetings scheduled for June and September this year should simply help to establish an overview about the various options for modalities which had been tabled since the start of the agriculture negotiations in early 2000.

Commenting on the tight 12-month timeline for the establishment of the modalities, one African developing country Member said that many developing countries would not like to be rushed by the fast pace of the modalities talks. Nevertheless, some Members did not expect modalities with concrete figures by end-March next year anyway, as WTO Members were not likely to be able to agree on the fundamentals of the new commitments at that early stage, he added. While some African countries expressed a desire for an "early harvest" in the agriculture negotiations so as to "not immediately lose what they have just gained at Doha," other sources from both developed and developing country Members cautioned that the agriculture negotiations might not be the right place to expect gains for developing countries prior to the conclusion of the new trade round.

According to the Doha Declaration agreed by trade ministers at the Fourth WTO Ministerial Conference last November at Doha, modalities for agriculture negotiations are to be established by end-March 2003. Farm trade talks, together with the other Doha mandated negotiations comprising the single undertaking, are to be concluded by 1 January 2005.

For further details, information and other agriculture-related links see the WTO Press Release at http://www.wto.org/english/news_e/pres02_e/pr282_e.htm.

"WTO Members Set Schedule To Meet 12-Month 'Modalities' Deadline," WTO PRESS RELEASE, 27 March 2002. ICTSD Internal Files.

WSSD PREPCOMM III DELEGATES DEFER TO WTO DOHA MANDATE

The UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) is holding its third preparatory session in New York from 25 March to 5 April for the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), which will be held on 26 August - 4 September in Johannesburg, South Africa. Delegates are spending the second week discussing the revised Chair's paper released on Saturday. Many participants expressed discontent with the 100-page Chair's text as being not sufficiently action-oriented. While trade-related discussions took place under a few areas, most deferred to ongoing work at the WTO and to the mandate agreed upon by WTO Members in Doha, Qatar in November 2001.

The two-week PrepComm session aims to produce the first draft of a 'review' document as well as elements of the CSD's future work programme. Delegates are focusing their activities around three working groups. Working Group I is addressing poverty eradication; changing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production; and protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development. Working Group II: sustainable development in a globalising world; health and sustainable development; sustainable development of Small Island Developing States; sustainable initiatives for Africa; and means of implementation. Working Group III: sustainable development governance at the international, regional and national levels.

Under talks on agricultural and rural development in the context of 'poverty eradication', the EU and Korea said subsidy issues should be considered under 'globalisation'. Japan, which has traditionally defended its various domestic support programs as well as the concept of multifunctionality in agriculture, pushed for the deletion of 'trade-distorting subsidy' references, arguing that this language went beyond the WTO's Doha mandate. Japan also called for deletion of a reference to market access for developing country products under this heading; the EU, Korea and the US suggested that it could be moved to the section on 'means of implementation'.

In discussions under the heading 'changing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production', a number of countries requested that ecolabelling be made voluntary, but should not be used as a hidden barrier to trade. The G-77 / China, together with New Zealand, objected to a proposal from Switzerland and the EU to provide consumer information throughout the production chain. The US, supported by Korea, suggested text on using economic instruments and market incentives to internalise external costs, and Norway proposed keeping existing text on market access for developing countries. The US -- in line with its position at the WTO on trade-environment 'win-win' scenarios -- also proposed language on gradually reducing and eliminating environmentally-harmful and trade-distorting subsidies that inhibit sustainable production and consumption patterns. Norway suggested deleting "trade-distorting" in this context.

Under the 'health and sustainable development' heading, the US, the EU and Japan opposed a G-77 / China proposal for "flexible" implementation of the WTO Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs). Industrialised

countries favour strong intellectual property rights regimes in general, and in the pharmaceuticals sector in particular. Norway stressed the need to maintain a policy statement reflecting successful efforts aimed at promoting access to drugs and healthcare. Working Group II Co-Chair Richard Ballhorn proposed using language contained in the WTO's Doha Declaration on TRIPs and Public Health on this point (see <http://www.ictsd.org/ministerial/doha/relevantdoc.htm#TRIPs>).

Chair Emil Salim (Indonesia) mentioned two types of outcomes expected >from the Johannesburg Summit. Type I outcomes will include a concrete and realistic implementation plan, while Type II outcomes will consist of partnerships, which would not be negotiated in the PrepComm but would be agreed by partners involved. Some delegates expressed concern that they were not receiving sufficient guidance on how these partnerships would be achieved and what is expected of governments in support of such partnerships. Others also expressed concern about including all stakeholders in the partnerships. The Third World Network, for instance, claimed that in that case, those who have the money would drive the process, while the Women's Caucus refused to enter into partnerships with multinational companies and criticised the concept for being unclear and not containing any criteria.

For its part, Friends of the Earth International (FoEI) issued a statement on 25 March arguing that the new WTO agenda is seriously flawed on social and environmental grounds, and called on governments to launch an assessment of the social and environmental impacts of trade liberalisation. Friends of the Earth International also calls on the WSSD to establish the principle that Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) always take precedence over trade rules. The official website of PrepComm III is at: <http://www.johannesburgsummit.org/html/documents/prepcom3.html>. As BRIDGES Weekly went to press, the revised Chair's paper had not yet been made available online. Daily coverage of the event can be found at: <http://www.iisd.ca/linkages/2002/pc3/>.

The Fourth Summit Preparatory Committee (PrepComm 4) will be a ministerial level meeting, and is scheduled to take place from 27 May - 7 June in Bali, Indonesia. It will draw upon the agreed text from PrepComm 3 to prepare a document that will aim to: (a) emphasise the need for a global partnership to achieve the objectives of sustainable development; (b) reconfirm the need for an integrated and strategically focused approach to the implementation of Agenda 21, and (c) address the main challenges and opportunities faced by the international community in this regard. The outcome of PrepComm 4 will be submitted for further consideration and adoption at the August-September Summit meeting.

Earth Negotiations Bulletin Daily Reports, PrepComm III. IISD; ICTSD Internal Files.

UPCOMING ACP-EU NEGOTIATIONS OUTLINED AT 4TH JOINT PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

On 18-22 March, the 4th African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP)-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly (JPA) met in Cape Town, South Africa to prepare for forthcoming negotiations on the ACP-EU Cotonou arrangement in September 2002. Inter alia, the JPA adopted the Cape Town Trade Declaration and various other resolutions -- including one on the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), and another on negotiations between the EU and the ACP states on trade, rules of origin and sanitary and phytosanitary measures.

The ACP-EU JPA meets twice a year and is one of three bodies that formally steers cooperation between the ACP and EU under the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement. The Agreement was signed in June 2000 in Cotonou, Benin -- and is often referred to as the Cotonou Agreement (see BRIDGES Weekly, 27 June 2000, <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/story1.27-06-00.htm>).

Preparing for negotiations

With negotiations on the new arrangements under the Cotonou set to begin this September, a great deal of preparatory work is currently underway, particularly with regard to ratification. The current state of ratification -- with only 4 of 15 EU Members and 41 of 77 ACP Members having ratified the Agreement -- prompted new co-president of the JPA, MEP Glenys Kinnock (UK), to note in her introductory speech to the Assembly that she was "saddened and deeply embarrassed" by this fact.

JPA adopts Cape Town Trade Declaration

In gearing up for the negotiations, the Joint Parliamentary Assembly unanimously adopted the Cape Town Trade Declaration (ACP-EU 3382/02/fin; see below for web addresses). The Declaration seeks to establish development benchmarks against which to assess future ACP-EU negotiations. With another key innovation of Cotonou being the inclusion of non-state actors in the process, it also recognises the need to engage all those bodies in the ACP and EU concerned with promoting sustainable development. The Declaration goes on to consider the main objectives of the negotiations, the principles to inform the negotiations, the major issues to be addressed, and the approach to be adopted. Finally, it reaffirms its support for the open and transparent conduct of negotiations.

Non-state actor involvement

The JPA agenda also involved discussions on the participation of non-state actors. The presence at the JPA of civil society actors outside the regular non-state representatives (unions, businesses, farmer interests, as well as the EU's Economic and Social Committee) was looked upon as indicative of the growing participation of civil society in the Cotonou process. However, despite this increased participation, one ACP-EU Civil

Society Forum member attending the Assembly pointed out that many official actors are not yet committed to supporting civil society participation in this process.

Resolutions

Of the 18 resolutions passed by the Assembly, one was entitled, "On Sustainable Development and Rio + 10" (ACP-EU 3394/02/fin). This item looked at issues of governance for sustainable development, financing for development and preparations for the UN WSSD scheduled for August- September 2002. It also discussed the communication from the EC entitled "Towards a global partnership for sustainable development" -- which sets out the EU's contribution to global sustainable development.

Another resolution entitled, "On negotiations between the EU and the ACP States on trade, rules of origin and sanitary and phytosanitary measures" called for, inter alia, efforts at poverty alleviation that tackle structural causes to ACP countries' impoverishment -- further calling for "[...] an end to export subsidies that disrupt local markets, cancellation of the debt that absorbs over 40 percent of the Least-developed countries' (LDCs) GNP, [and] reform of the current WTO rules and their revision by fair rules that take account of the southern countries' concerns".

Background

The Cotonou Agreement foresees the negotiation of new reciprocal and WTO-compatible trading arrangements between the EU and the ACP. Such agreements would build on regional integration processes in the ACP. The precise configuration of ACP countries that will enter into agreements with the EU is not yet defined -- nor is the role of LDCs who are part of these regional groupings but are allowed under WTO rules to retain preferential arrangements. The Agreement lasts for twenty years, with opportunities for revision every five years. Its central objective is to reduce and eventually eradicate poverty while contributing to sustainable development and to the gradual integration of ACP countries into the world economy.

The current stage of the Cotonou Agreement provides until 2008 to negotiate the new reciprocal EPA's. As such, much of the work currently underway is preparing for these negotiations, which are to commence on 27 September of this year.

All documents from the 4th JPA can be found online at http://www.europarl.eu.int/intcoop/acp/south_africa_2002/default_en.htm. For further information on the Cotonou Agreement, visit the European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM) at <http://www.ecdpm.org/en/cotonou/index.htm>.

"4th ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly, 18-22 March 2002, Cape Town," EUROSTEP PAF #265, 29 March 2002; "Cotonou Infokit," ECDPM, January 2001.

In Brief

EUROPE TO TIGHTEN CONTROL ON MAHOGANY TRADE

The European Commission has told EU member states not to accept shipments of the mahogany species *Swietenia Macrophylla* "without first obtaining from the Brazilian authorities a statement that those specimens were legally acquired," according to a 26 March memo addressed to member states. The Commission is concerned that the permits accompanying the shipments were issued illegally in contravention of the Convention on Trade in Endangered Species of Flora and Fauna (CITES) under which mahogany is listed to prevent unsustainable or illegal exploitation. The request follows a ban by Brazil on the transport, processing and commercialisation of mahogany in October last year and on mahogany logging in three Amazon states in December. According to the Commission, the Brazilian government said that export permits had only been granted under pressure from local Brazilian courts. The environmental group Greenpeace welcomed the Commission's initiative, and called on the US -- as the most important market for Amazonian wood -- to follow the European example.

"EU queries legality of Amazonian mahogany imports," REUTERS, 2 April 2002;
"Europe to reject Brazilian mahogany imports," GREENPEACE, 29 March 2002.

CEC POSTS ACTION PLAN ON ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND ASSESSMENT FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

On 25 March, the North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) -- an intergovernmental body charged with overseeing the environmental effects of trade liberalisation in the region -- announced the release of its draft North American Regional Action Plan on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment for a 45-day public comment period. The comment period ends 8 May 2002 at 17:00 hr EST. According to a press release, comments, which will be made publicly available via the CEC website, should be supplied in writing to the Commission. Comments should be sent in writing, by electronic mail or fax to: Mr. José Carlos Tenorio Program Manager Sound Management of Chemicals Initiative Commission for Environmental Cooperation 393 Saint-Jacques West, Suite 200, Montreal, Quebec, Canada H2Y 1N9; fax: (1-514) 350- 4314; email: jctenorio@ccemtl.org.

The draft action plan is available in English, French and Spanish and may be downloaded from the CEC's web site at:

http://www.cec.org/programs_projects/pollutants_health/321/index.cfm?varlan=English.

"Public consultation announcement: Draft North American Regional Action Plan on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment," CEC PRESS RELEASE, 25 March 2002.

AFRICAN COMMENTATORS SCEPTICAL OF WTO BENEFITS

At a capacity-building seminar organised last week by the US Agency for International Development (USAID) in Senegal designed to assist Senegalese negotiators prepare for WTO negotiations, Senegalese speakers criticised the WTO for marginalizing developing countries while serving developed country interests. The event was attended by approximately 50 participants from government, academia, nongovernmental organisations and the private sector. "The WTO was not created for countries like ours. What works in the WTO is the regulation of relations between the US and the Europeans," economics professor Ely Madiodo Fall said. One lawyer representing two Senegalese business leaders' groups, took a slightly different view. "We must take on the WTO at its own game by proposing rules that give us the advantage," he said. At another regional seminar on the new WTO negotiations in Zambia, George Lipimile, executive director of the country's Competition Commission, said that most developing countries are sceptical of a proposed new multilateral agreement on competition. He said the policy is being pushed by developed countries led by the European Union that wish to secure a free hand for their companies in the developing world, possibly to the detriment of poor countries. He added that uniform standards on competition could hinder developing countries' efforts to draw up their own policies.

LUSAKA POST/ALLAFRICA.COM, 27 March; "WTO: Skepticism On WTO Expressed At Senegal, Zambia Meetings," UN WIRE, 29 March 2002.

WTO In Brief

MEXICO FLOATS IDEA OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE 'MINI-MINISTERIAL'

According to trade sources, Mexico has informally suggested holding a 'mini-Ministerial' with a select group of Members on the issues of technical assistance (TA) and capacity-building (CB) for developing country WTO Members. One goal of such a meeting of trade ministers would be to discuss what yardsticks could be used to measure whether the TA and CB commitments outlined in the Doha Ministerial Declaration are being met. Least-developed countries (LDCs) have not received an invitation to attend such a meeting. In the lead-up to Doha, mini-Ministerials were held to move forward on particularly contentious issues. One controversial area in TA/CB involves the so-called 'Singapore' issues of investment, competition, transparency in government procurement, and trade facilitation. Negotiations on these areas are slated to begin "after" the Fifth Session of the Ministerial Conference (scheduled for mid-2003 in Mexico). Many developing countries say that before they can sign on to such talks, however, they need to build sufficient negotiating capacity through TA and CB. Developed countries are concerned that regardless of how much TA they grant, it will not be enough to satisfy some developing countries. No date was specified as of press time.

"Mexico proposes WTO Mini-Ministerial on Technical Assistance," INSIDE US TRADE, 22 March 2002.

NEXT STAGE OF EC ASSESSMENT LOOKS TO SD EFFECTS OF DOHA TALKS

The Institute for Development Policy and Management (IDPM), University of Manchester, was selected by the European Commission in March to undertake further work in developing a Sustainability Impact Assessment (SIA) methodology for use during subsequent stages of WTO negotiations. Phases One and Two of the SIA have already been completed and are available on the EC website at <http://europa.eu.int/comm/trade/miti/envir/sia.htm>. The main objectives of the first two phases of the study were to develop a methodology for carrying out a sustainable impact assessment and to use the methodology to make a broad qualitative assessment of the impact upon sustainability of new trade negotiations. The main objectives of the current study contract are (a) to refine and develop the existing SIA methodology to enable the continuation of an SIA during subsequent stages of the WTO trade negotiations; (b) to participate in the dialogue, concerning the SIA, with interested stakeholders; and (c) to continue the development of a credible international network of SIA experts and participate in the policy debate on SIA with experts in other countries and within other international organisations.

As part of this work, IDPM website for this work is <http://idpm.man.ac.uk/sia-trade> and contains background information and progress reports.

IDPM PRESS RELEASE, 20 March 2002.

WTO DEVELOPING ARAB REGION STRATEGY

According to a 26 March speech by WTO Director-General Mike Moore in Doha, Qatar, the WTO is adopting a strategy to further engage the Arab region in the multilateral trading system. Among the proposals Moore cited was increased technical assistance for Arab countries and the exploration of ways to improve the flow of communications and WTO- related information to Arab countries. As a first step, the WTO has been working with the Arab based Talal Abu-Ghazaleh & Co. (TAGI) foundation to establish an unofficial Arabic language website on the WTO. The site, which can be reached at <http://www.wtoarab.org/>, will make available both background information and current and breaking news related to the WTO and the Arab speaking world. Moore also said the accession of Arab countries was being made a priority as part of the Arab strategy.

"New Arabic Language WTO Website Launched," AGIP BULLETIN, November 2001.
"Democracy, Development and the WTO," WTO NEWS, 26 March 2002.

Events & Resources

EVENTS

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

Coming up this week, 2-10 April

4-6 April, Coral Gables, Florida: EUROPEAN-LATIN AMERICAN RELATIONS AND COMPARATIVE REGIONAL INTEGRATION IN THE AMERICAS. Co-sponsored by the Miami European Union Center and the University of Miami North-South Center, this symposium will include academics from both Europe and Latin America as well as EU officials and members of the European Parliament who will discuss issues of comparative regional integration in the Americas. Attendance by invitation only. For further information contact: Dr. Joaquin Roy; tel: (1-305) 284-3266; email: jroy@Miami.edu.

5 April, Geneva, Switzerland: UN ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME WORKSHOP ON INTEGRATED ASSESSMENT OF THE WTO AGREEMENT ON AGRICULTURE IN THE RICE SECTOR. The meeting is intended to highlight the main research issues to be addressed as well as key national institutions and governmental bodies to be involved in this work. Nine developing countries' research institutions and experts from intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations as well as academic institutions will take part in the meeting. For further information contact: UNEP Economics and Trade Unit Geneva, Switzerland; tel: (41.22) 917.8243; email: etu@unep.ch; Internet: http://www.unep.ch/etu/etp/events/Agriculture/05April_agri.htm.

7-26 April, The Hague, the Netherlands: SIXTH CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON BIODIVERSITY/CARTAGENA PROTOCOL MOP-1. The meeting is expected to serve as the First Meeting of the Parties (MOP-1) to the Cartagena Protocol. For further information contact: CBD Secretariat, Montreal, Canada; tel: (1-514) 288-2220; email: secretariat@biodiv.org; Internet: <http://www.biodiv.org>. From IISD Linkages: <http://www.iisd.ca/linkages/journal>.

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. Internet: <http://www.erpenvironment.org>.

8-26 April, The Hague, Netherlands: SIXTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES (COP-6) & FIRST MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE CARTAGENA PROTOCOL ON BIOSAFETY (MOP1). For further information contact: CBD Secretariat, Montreal, Canada; tel: (1-514) 288-2220; fax: 288-6588; email: secretariat@biodiv.org; Internet: <http://www.biodiv.org>.

9-17 April, The Hague, Netherlands: RESISTANCE IS FERTILE CAMPAIGN. Under the motto "Biodiversity is not for sale, is not for free, it is priceless," activities of the coalition include information meetings, a bike-demonstration, and a discussion weekend on European Agricultural Policy. The coalition demands recognition of the universal right of autonomy on natural resources, food security, and food safety. For further information contact: email: Rif@gn.apc.org; Internet: <http://www.resistanceisfertile.org/>.

WTO Events

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

5 April, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO DISPUTE SETTLEMENT BODY.

8 April, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO COMMITTEE ON BALANCE OF PAYMENTS.

9 April, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO SPECIAL SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT.

9-11 April, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO TEXTILES MONITORING BODY.

10-11 April, Geneva, Switzerland: NEGOTIATING GROUP ON MARKET ACCESS.

11-12 April, Geneva, Switzerland: SYMPOSIUM ON MODE 4 (SERVICES).

29 April - 1 May 2002, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO SYMPOSIUM "THE DOHA DEVELOPMENT AGENDA AND BEYOND." WTO symposium for governmental and non- governmental actors on major issues of concern around the WTO's new negotiating agenda. For further information contact: Bernard Kuiten, WTO External Relations Division; tel: (41-22) 739-5676 or 739-5254, email: bernard.kuiten@wto.org. Internet: http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/dda_e/symp_devagenda_02_e.htm.

Other Forthcoming Events

22-26 April, The Hague, Netherlands: ICCP-3. This will be the third meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the CBD. For further information contact: CBD Secretariat, Montreal, Canada; tel: (1-514) 288-2220; email: secretariat@biodiv.org; Internet: <http://www.biodiv.org/meetings/cop-06.asp>. From IISD Linkages: <http://www.iisd.ca/linkages/journal/>.

1 May, Geneva, Switzerland: THE RIGHTS TOOLS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: HOW TO USE HUMAN RIGHTS STRATEGIES AND MECHANISMS TO SUPPORT DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT OBJECTIVES IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE. The workshop will provide an opportunity for trade, development and environment NGOs to gain a deeper insight into the practical and effective use of international human rights rules and mechanisms. The workshop will consist of (1) an introduction to the international human rights system, its rules and the procedures for implementing these rules; (2) case studies and facilitated problem-solving group work, in order to clearly demonstrate the connections between trade, development and environment policy issues and human rights, whilst at the same time developing expertise in the practical use of human rights instruments and mechanisms; and (3) an exchange of ideas and information on future work in this area. For further information contact: Caroline Dommen, Director, 3D Associates, 43 rue de Neuchâtel, Geneva, Switzerland; tel: (41-22) 738-7207.

21-22 June, Maastricht, Netherlands: THE WTO IN 2002: A NEW START?. This seminar, hosted by the Amsterdam-Maastricht Summer University, will focus on transparency and democracy in WTO decision-making, the further liberalisation of trade in services, the relationship between trade and investment and the participation of developing country Members in the WTO system. For further information contact: Mr. Ruggero Lala, The Amsterdam-Maastricht Summer University; tel: (31-0-20) 620- 0225; fax: (31-0-20) 624-9368; email: ruggero.lala@amsu.edu; Internet: <http://www.amsu.edu/courses/law>.

22-26 June, Kanaskis, Canada: G-8 SUMMIT. The summit will focus on strengthening global economic growth, building a new partnership for Africa's development and fighting terrorism. In addition, leaders will review progress since their last meeting in areas related to global poverty reduction and Millennium Development Goals. For further information contact: John Klassen, Summit Management Team; tel: (1-613) 957-5555; fax: (1-613) 941-6900; email: pm@pm.gc.ca; Internet: <http://www.g8.gc.ca/>.

30 June-5 July, Rome, Italy: 25TH SESSION OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION. For further information contact: Secretariat of the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme; fax: (39-065) 705-4593; email: codex@fao.org. From IISD Linkages: <http://www.iisd.ca/linkages/journal/>.

30 September-4 October, Bonn, Germany: Prior Informed Consent (PIC) INC- 9. This meeting will mark the ninth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for an International Legally Binding Instrument for the Application of the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade. For further information contact: Niek van der Graaff, Interim Secretariat, FAO; tel: (39-65) 705-3441; fax: 705-6347; email: Niek.VanderGraaff@fao.org or Jim Willis, UNEP Chemicals; tel: (41-22) 917-8111; email: chemicals@unep.ch; Internet: <http://www.pic.int/>.

3-15 November, Santiago, Chile: CITES COP-12. For further information contact: CITES Secretariat; tel: (41-22) 917-8139; email: cites@unep.ch; Internet: <http://www.cites.org/eng/news/calendar.shtml>. From IISD Linkages: <http://www.iisd.ca/linkages/journal>.

9-13 December, Geneva, Switzerland: BASEL CONVENTION COP-6. For further information contact: Secretariat of the Basel Convention; tel: (41-22) 979-8218; fax: (41-22) 797-3454; email: sbc@unep.ch; Internet: <http://www.basel.int/>. From IISD Linkages: <http://www.iisd.ca/linkages/journal>.

RESOURCES

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

THE IMPASSE OF MODERNITY - DEBATING THE FUTURE OF THE GLOBAL MARKET ECONOMY. By Christian Comeliau, Zed Books, 2002. Comeliau critiques the dominant position of market economics in the West's social system and examines four contemporary phenomena: indefinite economic growth as the basis of development, the intensification of social inequality and the future of work, difficulties caused by globalisation and international trade, and the uncertain future role of the state. For information on your nearest stockist or to order a copy of this title by post, contact: Mohammed Umar, Zed Books, 7 Cynthia Street, London N1 9JF, Tel: (44 20) 7837 4014, Fax: 7833 3960; email: sales@zedbooks.demon.co.uk. Ordering details and order forms at <http://www.zedbooks.demon.co.uk>.

"How environmental concern influences the investment decision: an application of capital theory." By Stefan Baumgartner, Malte Faber, and John Proops, in ECOLOGICAL ECONOMICS, 2002. The authors develop a conceptual analysis of long-run decisions about the economy and the environment. They conclude that fully taking into account dynamic aspects of environmental pollution considerably increases the complexity of economic valuation and the need for environmental precaution when making an investment decision.

"Proximate causes and underlying driving forces of tropical deforestation." By Helmut J. Geist and Eric F. Lambin, in BIOSCIENCE, 2 February 2002. The authors analyse the frequency of proximate causes and the underlying driving forces of deforestation, including their interactions, as reported in 152 sub-national case studies. They show that tropical deforestation is driven by identifiable regional patterns of causal factor synergies, of which the most prominent are economic factors, institutions, national policies, and remote influences (at the underlying level) driving agricultural expansion, wood extraction, and infrastructure extension (at the proximate level).

"Business incentives for sustainability: a property rights approach." By Pontus Cerin and Lennart Karlson, in *ECOLOGICAL ECONOMICS*, 2002. The authors propose a concept for trading of product life cycle (PLC) emission rights, based on property rights and transaction cost theories considering the problem with asymmetric information over the value chain. The initial financial impacts from such PLC instruments are shown to be significant for the system provider, since emissions and resource use become production costs. This provides economic incentives to take an increased responsibility for information flow as well as initiatives for product innovations.

Electronic Resources

US TRADE REPRESENTATIVE 2002 NATIONAL TRADE ESTIMATE REPORT ON FOREIGN TRADE BARRIERS. In an annual report on foreign trade policies, the Office of the USTR has published its 2002 inventory of the most important foreign barriers affecting US exports of goods and services, foreign direct investment by US persons, and protection of intellectual property rights. The report provides, where feasible, quantitative estimates of the impact of these foreign practices on the value of US exports. Information is also included on actions being taken to eliminate any act, policy, or practice identified in the report. To view the report, visit: <http://www.ustr.gov/reports/nte/2002/index.htm>.

SURVEY: YOUR VIEWS ON THE WTO WEBSITE. This survey, compiled by the WTO Secretariat, aims to gather information from users of the WTO website. The information you provide will be used to prioritise improvements to the site. The results of the survey will be posted on the WTO website once they have been compiled. To access the survey visit: http://forms.wto.org/survey_e.htm.

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

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