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TRADE, CIVIL SOCIETY DECISION-MAKERS CONVENE AT WTO SYMPOSIUM

From 29 April to 1 May, close to 700 participants from governments, parliaments, civil society, academia and the media met for a public symposium organised by the WTO Secretariat on "The Doha Development Agenda and Beyond". According to various sources, non-governmental organisation (NGO) participants generally welcomed the symposium as an appropriate venue to interact amongst themselves as well as with trade policymakers and other stakeholders.

The two and a half-day event consisted of 16 sessions, with five sessions held by the Secretariat focussing on issues related to the newly mandated negotiations under the Doha Ministerial Declaration, including market access, environment, development, as well as investment and competition. As a new feature in this symposium -- compared with previous similar gatherings convened by the WTO -- NGOs were provided the space to organise their own events. Eleven such session were held, providing participants the opportunity to participate in debate topics chosen by NGOs themselves, including issues such as dumping, services, development, and developing country approaches on trade and environment.

After the successful launching of the first public NGO symposium in July last year (see *BRIDGES Weekly*, 10 July 2002, at <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/10-07-01/story1.htm>), the Secretariat organised this second public event to "improve dialogue with the public" as well as "to promote a better public understanding of the WTO" as provided for in Article 10 of the Doha Declaration. Whereas last year's symposium had been funded by several sponsor countries, this year's event was financed through various WTO funds such as those on capacity building or the newly established Global Trust Fund for technical assistance. At the closing session of the symposium on 1 May, Mike Moore voiced his hope that, under the direction of the incoming DG Supachai Panitchpakdi, the NGO symposium would develop to an annual WTO event to be funded from the WTO main budget.

Diverging views on "new issues"

At the opening session, Mike Moore described the so-called Singapore issues -- i.e. investment, competition, transparency in government procurement, and trade facilitation - - as "development issues" part of the "Development Round" launched in Doha last year. In contrast, fellow speaker Jeremy Hobbs from Oxfam International stated that such negotiations "under WTO auspices would bring no major benefit to poor countries." Mexico's former President Ernesto Zedillo expressed his concern about a possible linkage between success in development talks and the negotiations on investment and competition. China's new Ambassador to the WTO, Mr. Sun Zhenyu, warned not to "bring in too many issues in new negotiations" in the face of the short 1 January 2005 negotiations deadline.

Related discussions continued at a 30 April working session organised by the WTO Secretariat on the "New Issues in the Trading System", where Professor V. Balasubramanyam (University of Lancaster) supported the idea of a WTO foreign direct investment (FDI) agreement, provided such an instrument could reflect developing countries' interests as well as recognise the trade-off between state sovereignty and the gains from FDI. Konrad von Moltke (International Institute for Sustainable Development), however, cautioned that overloading the WTO could impede its organisational effectiveness. On competition, Professor Frédéric Jenny, Chair of the WTO Working Group on Trade and Competition Policy, argued that a WTO agreement on competition could, for instance, help governments resist protectionist and corporatist pressures by domestic lobbies and allow them to establish a more investment-friendly legal environment.

Development through open markets or protectionism

Discussions during the 29 April WTO session on "Market Access - What is at Stake?" focused largely on tariffs, with Christopher Padilla (Eastman Kodak) calling for eliminating all tariffs in both developed and developing countries by 2020. Professor Jagdish Bhagwati (Columbia University) advocated for open markets as well, but further stressed the importance of building supply-side capacity and increasing the "penetrability of northern markets". Noreena Hertz of the University of Cambridge, however, questioned the basic assumption that trade liberalisation and economic growth would necessarily lead to poverty reduction, arguing that a significant number of successful developing economies were able to achieve higher levels of economic growth through market protection and managing trade.

The open vs. protected markets issue was the central focus at the session on "Development Opportunities from Doha" organised by the WTO on 29 April. Discussions further centred on the topics of transparency and corruption, which were seen by many participants as core factors undermining international development efforts. It should be noted, however, that no mention arose on the special and differential treatment or implementation mandate emanating from Doha, nor the various 'development' aspects of the new work programme looking at trade and debt, finance, technology transfer, least developed countries, small economies, etc. Even the issue of technical assistance and capacity building received scant attention at the session.

Animated debate around trade, globalisation and environment

Various elements of the intersection between trade and environment were addressed at the symposium, occasionally prompting heated exchanges between discussants. A 30 April session on "Trade and Environment after Doha" saw Friends of the Earth International's Tony Juniper square off with University of Aarhus' Bjorn Lomborg. The ensuing discussion focused on the effect of growth and liberalisation on the global environment, with both Juniper and a number of participants questioning Lomborg's contention that economic growth is not harmful to overall environmental quality. However, there was little talk of the WTO's new negotiating mandate on trade and environment. This topic received closer scrutiny at a session convened by the

International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development and the International Institute for Sustainable Development entitled "An Emerging Southern Agenda on Trade and Environment" on 1 May, where discussants presented the elements of an emerging agenda on environment in the Doha mandate from a developing country perspective. Many participants argued that developing countries should be pursuing a "proactive", rather than a "defensive" approach, while Brazilian delegate Antonio Patriota added that a developing country agenda should be a simple, rather than a complex one. The need for further capacity building in this area, particularly at the domestic level, was also emphasised.

Services liberalisation vs. deregulation

Discussants at a 1 May session on "Services at the WTO: Unpacking the new GATS negotiations" organised by a group of NGOs pointed at possible shortcomings in the General Agreement on Trade In Services (GATS) and its current renegotiation. Some of the key points discussed included the need to limit both scope and depth of the GATS, to conduct a qualitative and quantitative assessment of the impacts of services trade liberalisation on developing countries, to support developing countries' negotiating capacity and to overcome both democratic and transparency deficits in the negotiations. A number of NGO participants further argued that GATS would undermine Members' rights to regulate, especially in the field of public services. One WTO Member delegation countered that Members' current commitments on services would reflect less than the status quo of the actual level of liberalisation.

For viewing the full programme of the symposium, the participants and the documentation of the WTO event, see

http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/dda_e/symp_devagenda_prog_02_e.htm.

Additional resources: "Trade Round: Former Mexican President Warns Of Doha Round 'Implosion' Over Investment," WTO REPORTER, 30 April 2002, at <http://pubs.bna.com/ip/BNA/WTO.NSF/MainView?OpenView>.

ICTSD Internal Files.

OBSERVERSHIP, MARKET ACCESS STALL AT TNC

WTO Members meeting at a 24 April session of the WTO's Trade Negotiations Committee (TNC) were unable to solve an impasse over the thorny question of who can qualify as an observer in the WTO's negotiating bodies. Ongoing political disagreements centre around whether or not the Arab League can gain observer status at the trade body. Members were also unable to agree on a deadline to determine modalities on negotiations in non-agricultural market access.

The TNC, chaired by WTO Director-General Mike Moore, is the body mandated in the Doha Ministerial Declaration to supervise the overall conduct of the negotiations, under the authority of the General Council.

Speaking at the TNC meeting, Director-General Moore informed delegations that his informal consultations had been unsuccessful in brokering a consensus among Members on the observership question, and urged them to reach a solution by the next TNC, scheduled for 18-19 July. The problem is linked to the ongoing Arab-Israeli conflict: requests by Egypt to have the Arab League qualify as a Member have been rejected by the US and Israel because the League's charter calls for a trade boycott on Israel. As a result, Egypt is withholding its consent to allow various intergovernmental organisations observer status to negotiating sessions of different WTO committees. According to one delegate sympathetic to Egypt's position, "it's a means of exerting pressure."

One developing country source said that Egypt was pushing for the Arab League to have observer status because the organisation could provide technical assistance to the 22 Arab states it represents. For example, many of the farmers in these countries spoke neither French nor English, so having Arab League representatives who understood and could explain in Arabic the details of negotiations would be valuable. Member state delegations were already overextended in their attempts to provide these necessary services, the source said.

According to Moore's statement at the TNC, the importance of observer status in the negotiating bodies for certain intergovernmental organisations has been stressed by a number of delegations. This is because of the significance of some of these organisations in delivering technical cooperation and capacity building. Among the groups which have been mentioned in this connection, according to Moore, are the UN Conference on Trade and Development, the International Trade Centre, the World Bank, and the International Monetary Fund. Moore said that being present at the meetings and having access to the documentation can only facilitate the technical assistance efforts of these organisations.

The observership question presents the special (negotiating) session of the Committee on Trade and Environment (CTE) with particular challenges. Trade sources from both developed and developing countries have expressed frustration over the fact that both relevant multilateral environmental agreement (MEA) secretariats and the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) are technically barred from attending CTE negotiating sessions. One source commented this week that it seems "very strange" to discuss various aspects of its negotiating mandate, such as procedures for regular information exchange between MEA Secretariats and the WTO, without the active participation of the relevant MEA Secretariats.

Market access

In addition to the observership issue, WTO Members disagreed over market access negotiating timelines. At the TNC, Japan made a short intervention to say that they were unhappy with the lack of progress in the special session on non-agricultural market access. Talks in the Negotiating Group on non-agricultural market access are currently

blocked due to disagreement between developed countries and a group of developing countries -- including India, Kenya, and China -- over when the group should agree on its negotiating modalities (see BRIDGES Weekly, 16 April 2002, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/02-04-16/story1.htm>). An Indian proposal introduced two days before the TNC suggesting a 31 July 2003 deadline for negotiations modalities was rejected by developed countries, who prefer a 31 March 2003 deadline, in line with similar timelines for agriculture and services talks.

Chairs reports

As part of the TNC agenda, Chairpersons from the various negotiating committees submitted their reports. These are available online under their respective codes at: http://docsonline.wto.org/gen_search.asp. Special Session of the Committee on Agriculture: TN/AG/1; Special Session of the Council for Trade in Services: TN/S/1; Negotiating Group on Market Access: TN/MA/1; Special Session of the Council for TRIPS: TN/IP/1; Negotiating Group on Rules: TN/RL/1; Special Session of the Dispute Settlement Body: TN/DS/1; Special Session of the Committee on Trade and Environment: TN/TE/1; Special Session of the Committee on Trade and Development: TN/CTD/1.

"TNC fails to bridge two major problems in WTO negotiations," INSIDE US TRADE, 26 April 2002; ICTSD Internal Files.

COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT MEETS WITH AMBITIOUS AGENDA

Convening near the end of 'Geneva Week' -- whereby Members and observers without permanent missions in Geneva attend a series of WTO meetings (see related WTO In Brief, this issue) -- the WTO Committee on Trade and Development met for its second session of the year on 25 April 2002. Delegates faced a demanding agenda, looking at a number of technical assistance-related items, including the WTO's annual technical assistance plan, the organisation's March 2002 pledging conference, and an audit on technical cooperation in 2001. Further agenda items included a discussion on the review of Art. XVIII of GATT 1994 (concerning the need for additional flexibilities for developing countries), paragraph 51 of the Doha mandate (dealing with developmental and environmental aspects of the negotiations), and the election of the chair for the Sub-Committee for Least Developed Countries (LDCs).

Technical assistance plan revisited

At the 25 April session, Deputy Director-General Paul-Henri Ravier provided a brief update on the 2002 technical assistance plan -- covering the 11 March pledging conference, implementation of the technical assistance plan to date, monitoring of

technical assistance activities, the new training session for negotiators, upcoming meetings with regional development banks, and Geneva Week.

In order to commence with the implementation of the technical assistance plan (WT/COMTD/W/95/Rev.3), Members had agreed at an informal meeting in early March to take note of the plan as it stood in revision three. Thus while not having been formally adopted per se, Members continued to view it as a "work in progress" and it will be "subject to regular reviews" (see BRIDGES Weekly, 12 March, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/02-03-12/story1.htm>).

The plan's third revision established two new levels of action, including the creation of a WTO trade-related technical assistance database and a focus on strategic partnerships with regional banks, institutions, and commissions. Following strong comments made by developing country delegates, environment and the 'Singapore' issues (investment, competition, transparency in government procurement, and trade facilitation) have been integrated into the overall framework as opposed to being in separate Annexes (for in depth treatment of the technical assistance plan, see BRIDGES Monthly, March/April 2002, <http://www.ictsd.org/monthly/bridges/BRIDGES6-3.pdf>).

Pledging conference report

The report from the Chair of the Budget Committee on the WTO's 11 March pledging conference (where 30 million Swiss francs were pledged for a trust fund to finance technical assistance; see BRIDGES Weekly, 12 March, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/02-03-12/story1.htm>) was dealt with quickly. At the time of the meeting, however, only 8.4 of the 30 million Swiss francs had in fact been received.

Technical cooperation audit for 2001

The first annual technical cooperation audit was also presented at the CTD meeting. The 11-page document outlines a review of activities from 1 February 2001 until 31 December 2001 -- and takes note especially of the changing environment it faced relative to the role of technical assistance throughout 2001. The report goes on to look at methodology, organisation and planning, conduct, and concludes with some "lessons learned". At time of press, the document (WT/COMTD/W/97) was not as yet de-restricted.

Article XVIII of GATT 1994

Discussions on Article XVIII did not progress far since consensus did not prevail as to whether the CTD has a mandate to engage on this matter. Article XVIII deals with the need for additional flexibility with regard to GATT obligations for developing country Members. The Decision on Implementation-Related Issues agreed at the WTO's Fourth Ministerial Conference in Doha last November reaffirms, inter alia, that Art. XVIII is a special and differential treatment provision. Furthermore, tiret 3 of the Compilation Text on Outstanding Implementation Items (JOB(01)/152/Rev.1) proposes a "complete review" of the article with a view to ensuring that it "suberves the original objective of

facilitating the progressive development of economies in developing countries [...]".Canada and the US intervened at the CTD to indicate that a discussion on the complete review would be acceptable, without prejudging which was the appropriate body to address issues under Art. XVIII. India followed with a request that the Secretariat clarify this matter before moving ahead. As such, the chair suspended the item for further consultations.

Reflecting sustainable development

Paragraph 51 of the Doha mandate instructs both the CTD and the Committee on Trade and Environment (CTE) to "act as a forum to identify and debate developmental and environmental aspects of the negotiations, in order to help achieve the objective of having sustainable development appropriately reflected." This session of the CTD saw the first discussion of that mandate surface. The EC suggested that the Secretariat issue regular updates on development-related work progress in all areas of the negotiations. Canada also made mention of a proposal it put forward in the CTE, whereby a joint CTE-CTD session could be convened. With most Members wanting more time to contemplate the options, the Chair will hold consultations on how to proceed on this matter and report at the next session.

New LDC chair elected

The session ended with the election of Ambassador Johan Molander of Sweden as new Chair for the Sub-Committee on LDCs. Amb. Molander takes over from former chair, Amb. Fuller (UK)

The regular session was followed by a dedicated session on small economies (see related WTO In Brief, this issue)

The CTD has two more sessions for 2002, taking place on 1 July and 8 October.

ICTSD Internal Files.

MEMBERS FOCUS ON TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AT WTO COMPETITION POLICY TALKS

At the first substantive post-Doha session of the WTO's Working Group on the Interaction Between Trade and Competition Policy on 23-24 April, delegates focused primarily on technical assistance and capacity building issues. According to trade sources, some Members emphasised the importance of knowing what form such assistance might take as well as a need to focus on the implications of closer multilateral cooperation for their development policies and objectives as laid out in paragraph 24 of the Doha Ministerial Declaration.

Inter alia, the negotiating mandate on competition agreed in Doha last November provides for "enhanced technical assistance and capacity building" (para. 23) including "policy analysis and development" (para 24) and "support for progressive reinforcement of competition institutions in developing countries"(para 25). As in ongoing talks in the Working Group on Investment, explicit consensus on the structure, or 'modalities' of negotiations will be required at the Fifth session of the Ministerial Conference in 2003 before negotiations can begin.

Members urge country-based capacity building

According to a paper submitted by the US (WT/WGTCP/W/185; searchable at http://dosonline.wto.org/gen_search.asp, the drafting of anti-trust laws is only the first step for developing countries, and technical assistance would be needed for institution building and enforcement. The US paper pointed out that the US' technical assistance programme centred on the development of sound competition principles and institutions taking account of distinct national conditions, as there was no single model suitable for all circumstances. A Japanese paper (WT/WGTCP/W/186) reported on the experiences of Japan and the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation forum (APEC) in technical assistance activities, also pointing to different approaches and steps towards meeting individual needs. This point was further stressed by an Egyptian submission (WT/WGTCP/W/187), which called for technical assistance to be granted on a country-by-country basis to ensure that it met the real needs of individual countries. The EC (WT/WGTCP/W/184) said that an eventual WTO agreement on competition would encourage international cooperation in this field as well as on technical assistance.

At the meeting, India laid greater stress on the importance of technical assistance with regard to Paragraph 24 of the Doha Declaration that recognises the needs of "developing and least- developed countries for enhanced support for technical assistance and capacity building...including policy analysis and development so that they may better evaluate the implications of closer multilateral cooperation for their development policies and objectives, and human and institutional development." India called for studies to be undertaken that might "quantify the benefits of multilateral cooperation" for developing countries in the area of interaction between trade and competition policy. India has long been sceptical of the need for a framework on competition policy within the WTO.

Canada (WT/WGTCP/W/183) proposed two principles regarding technical assistance: the concept of economic efficiency and the protection of competition and the competitive process, not competitors. The Canadian paper pointed out that the concept of economic efficiency supports development objectives as it encourages each jurisdiction to put its resources to their most socially-desirable uses. It also said that competition policy promotes competition, thereby enabling firms to become efficient and to offer a greater choice of products and services at competitive prices. The Canadian paper dwelt on industrial policy in the broad and narrow sense: the former referring to the full range of measures that governments employ to promote an efficient industrial structure, and the latter to a subset of economic measures designed to provide special advantages or assistance to particular industries and firms. The Canadian paper further argued that competition policy could be a key constituent of industrial policy, as -- applied in its

broader sense -- it can strengthen incentives for continual innovation and the systemic upgrading of products and production processes.

Members that submitted national experience papers at the Working Group were Romania (W/181), Thailand (W/188) and Korea (W/189).

Discussions on technical assistance will continue at the next meeting of the Working Group, scheduled for 1-2 July. Members will then proceed to two subjects mentioned in the Doha Declaration namely, "provisions on hard-core cartels" and "modalities for voluntary cooperation".

Background

Chaired by Professor Frédéric Jenny (France), the Working Group's mandate until the Fifth Ministerial is to focus work on "the clarification of core principles, including transparency, non-discrimination and procedural fairness, and provisions for hardcore cartels; modalities for voluntary cooperation; and support for progressive reinforcements for competition in developing countries through capacity building" (para 25).

See also related In Brief on Competition and Investment, this issue.

ICTSD Internal Files.

In Brief

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FIGURES IN NGO SEMINAR ON TRADE, INVESTMENT AND COMPETITION

A two-day seminar on Trade, Investment and Competition, organised by the Trade Information Project, a joint effort of the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (IATP), Friends of the Earth International (FOEI) and the Centre for International Environmental Law (CIEL), was held in Geneva on 25-26 April. The seminar brought together speakers and participants from civil society, academia, country delegations, and intergovernmental organisations, including the WTO. A wide range of views was expressed on the topics including the desirability of negotiating agreements on investment and competition policy within the WTO. Discussions covered issues such as scope and transparency, definition, non-discrimination, development provisions and regulatory flexibility, technical assistance and negotiating strategies (including possible adoption of an approach similar to that used in the WTO's General Agreement on Trade in Services). The implications of these issues for developing countries were perceived to be complex and unclear. While a multilateral approach seemed preferable to bilateral agreements in safeguarding developing country interests, most speakers and discussants emphasised the need for regulatory space and flexibility in order to meet legitimate goals,

including sustainable development. Questions were raised on whether certain provisions of a multilateral framework, notably non-discrimination, might impede the effective realisation of these goals. In the words of an Indian delegate attending the session, "it is a 'case-for' and not a 'need for' a multilateral framework that is spelt out in the Doha mandate." Many participants agreed that there is a need to further study the implications of these issues for developing countries, despite the fast-approaching deadline of the next WTO Ministerial in 2003 to reach an explicit consensus on "modalities of negotiations".

ICTSD Internal Files.

US SIGNS TRADE PACT WITH WEST AFRICAN COUNTRIES

On 24 April, the US signed a trade agreement with eight West African nations -- including Benin, Burkina Faso, Guinea-Bissau, Ivory Coast, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Togo -- which calls for reducing trade and investment barriers in an effort to enhance investment and economic reforms in the region. The agreement establishes a council on trade and investment that is mandated to look for ways to reduce trade barriers and negotiate specific agreements. Two-way trade between the US and the eight African countries is estimated to total approximately \$US760 million. The US mainly exports machinery, vehicles and fertilisers and plastics to the region while importing cocoa, forest products, chemicals and seafood.

"U.S., West African nations sign trade agreement," REUTERS, 24 April 2002.

US CONGRESS COMMITTEE APPROVES SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN FARM SUBSIDIES

On 2 May, the US House of Representatives passed a \$US45.1 billion farm bill on that would raise crop and dairy subsidies by 62 percent, despite protests that it would allow massive payments to corporate agricultural giants and may violate world trade rules. The six-year farm legislation sets US policy on a range of areas from soybean loan rates to food stamps for immigrants to farmland conservation. Approved on a 280-141 vote in the House of Representatives, the election-year bill now proceeds to the Senate where sources indicate it should have an easy passage. The EU, Australia, Canada and Brazil have denounced the bill, and the EU and Australia have said they would consider pursuing measures under the WTO regarding facets of the US bill that did not comply with trade rules. EU spokesperson Gregor Kreuzhuber said on 2 May that there was a "surprising gap" between Washington's commitment to help developing nations boost exports, and its policies to help support prices for US farmers. "The US is increasing trade-distorting support for [its] farmers that will harm developing countries. This is what we're fiercely opposed to," he said. "We will take a very close look to see if [the US] are overshooting their commitments under the WTO rules. Obviously if this would be the case...we would have to take action." Domestic US Conservation groups were also critical, warning that the bill represented a major loss for taxpayers and the environment in the US.

"EU Again Blasts Planned US Farm Subsidy Hikes," ASSOCIATED PRESS, 2 May 2002. "U.S. House passes farm bill despite protests," REUTERS, 2 May; "US farm bill loses support of two of its writers," REUTERS, 1 May 2002; "Australia prepared to challenge US farm bill in WTO," DOW JONES, 29 April 2002; "Conference Committee approves massive farm subsidies," ENS, 29 April 2002.

EU AND CHILE CLINCH FREE TRADE DEAL

Following almost three years of negotiations, the EU and Chile on 26 April reached a free trade agreement that aims to gradually reduce duties on the majority of the EUR eight billion in trade between the two partners, including Chilean wine and fish. Under the terms of the deal, the EU has pledged to abolish import duties on all but a handful of Chilean industrial products within three years and agricultural goods within a decade. For its part, Chile has agreed to phase out tariffs on EU industrial imports within seven years and on agricultural goods within 10 years. The use of well-known European geographical brands such as cognac and champagne by Chile will gradually be banned -- five years for international use and 12 on the Chilean market. Chilean Foreign Minister Soledad Alvear said the pact would give Santiago "free access to the biggest trade market in the world" and help create growth and employment in the country. European Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy told reporters that the trade deal is part of a wider commerce and political pact with Chile, which the EU calls an association agreement. Lamy said the way was now open for the head of the European Commission Romano Prodi and Chilean President Ricardo Lagos to agree on the whole deal at an EU-Latin American summit in Madrid later this month provided EU countries are in agreement. The deal will be formally signed a few months later. The pact is expected to boost bilateral trade, which involved five billion euros of Chilean products exported to the EU in 2000 and 3.5 billion euros of EU exports to Chile. Both are under one percent of the EU total, but the deal comes as the EU is negotiating with other South American states via trade bloc Mercosur, which includes Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay and Paraguay. Europe is also the Chile's largest trading partner.

"EU reaches Chile trade deal in Latam drive," REUTERS, 26 April 2002; "EU, Chile Sign Free-Trade Pact," UPI, 26 April 2002.

SPAIN SAID TO STALL PLANS TO REFORM EUROPEAN FISHERIES POLICY

Plans to reform the European Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) have again been delayed, following concerns raised by Spain. The proposed reforms, inter alia, include an end to subsidies which increase the capacity of the EU fishing fleet with the aim of preventing continued decline in fish stocks. Spain, which receives by far the largest share of the EUR 1.1 billion in public subsidies, is part of a group of countries -- 'Friends of Fishing' made up of France, Spain, Italy, Portugal, Greece and Ireland -- that has so far been unwilling to make any radical changes to the CFP. The environmental non-governmental group World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) condemned Spain's move, accusing the European

Commission of giving in to "behind-closed-doors pressure" and describing as "absurd" the current system, which pays money simultaneously for scrapping boats and building new ones. Proposals for a revised CFP are unlikely to be released before the end of May.

"EU fisheries plan delayed after Spanish lobbying," ENS, 24 April 2002; "No end in sight to fishy EU subsidies," IPS, 29 April 2002.

NEW EU RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS HEALTH THREATS OF HORMONE-TREATED BEEF

Based on conclusions drawn by the EU's Scientific Committee on Veterinary Measures after reviewing 17 studies and other recent scientific data, the European Commission on 23 April reported that beef treated with growth hormones could cause cancer. The findings appear to justify a European ban on US hormone-treated beef which the EU continues to impose despite a WTO ruling that the import restrictions were illegal and that the US was allowed to impose approximately \$US124 million in sanctions a year in retaliation. The US continues to contest the EU findings, claiming the hormone-treated beef is safe for human consumption. Recent efforts on behalf of the EU to resolve the dispute by offering to lower tariffs or raising import quotas on US hormone-free beef exports have failed, and talks are reported to have stalled.

"EU research says US beef hormones could damage health," DOW JONES, 24 April 2002.

WTO In Brief

NATIVE CANADIAN GROUP TO BE HEARD IN LUMBER DISPUTE

A WTO panel currently considering a Canadian complaint against US duties on softwood lumber agreed on 30 April to receive a submission campaigning for recognition of land rights by the Interior Alliance, a grouping of Canadian First Nations peoples. "This is a groundbreaking victory for indigenous peoples around the world and for British Colombia Indians in particular" said Chief Arthur Manuel of the Neskonalith Indian Band. The Interior Alliance claims that the Canadian province of British Colombia does not take into account native title rights -- protected under British Colombia law and in the Canadian constitution -- in the administration of its forests and therefore the Alliance supports the US position that Canadian companies are effectively subsidised by being charged less than the market rate when they log on Canadian public land. Canada submitted a complaint to the WTO after the US had imposed import tariffs of up to 29 percent on softwood lumber from Canada, following claims by US producers that they would lose around \$US1.2 billion per year. The US announcement that it would impose tariffs noted that native title rights should be taken into consideration. The dispute panel was set up in December 2001 and is expected to report after one year. If they deem it

appropriate, panels investigating WTO disputes have the right to consider submissions made by parties other than the governments involved in the dispute. The Interior Alliance represents Canadian native groups from the south-central interior of British Columbia. In a 4-0 decision, the US International Trade Commission (ITC) ruled on 2 May that provincial governments unfairly subsidise Canada's lumber industry by charging low fees to cut timber on public land.

BRIDGES Weekly will report further on the softwood lumber dispute in its next issue.

"WTO to hear Canadian Indians' complaint over lumber trade," AP, 30 April 2002.

PHILIPPINES, THAILAND CRITICAL OF EUROPEAN AND US TUNA IMPORT POLICIES

The Philippines and Thailand on 23 April jointly requested WTO mediation after five months of talks with the EU failed to resolve disagreement over greater market access to European markets for canned tuna products from the two countries. The Philippines and Thailand have asked the EU, which provides tax-free access for tuna imports from its former colonies in Africa, to lower its tariffs for canned tuna from 24 to 5 percent. The tuna dispute had already threatened to derail the launch of a new round of trade talks at the Fourth WTO Ministerial Conference in Qatar last year. The mediations process is expected to begin later this month. In related news, the Philippines and Thailand have called on the US to delete provisions in the US Andean Trade Preferences Act that would give tariff-free access for canned tuna from the Andean countries to the US market. The Pact, which expired in December 2001 and is now up for renewal, aims to offer low tariffs for selected products from Colombia, Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru as an incentive for them to combat drug trafficking. The Philippines argue that the preferential measures on canned tuna imports would hamper the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)'s efforts to eradicate poverty and combat terrorism. A Thai official said that the country is considering the possibility of challenging the measure at the WTO if passed by the US administration.

"Philippines, Thailand, seeking WTO help in EU tuna dispute," KYODO NEWS, 23 April 2002; "ASEAN ambassadors concerned about US canned tuna imports," 25 April 2002.

CTD MEETS FOR FIRST DEDICATED SESSION ON SMALL ECONOMIES

As mandated at the 1 March meeting of the WTO General Council, the first dedicated session on small economies was held immediately following the 25 April regular session of the Committee on Trade and Development (CTD) (see related article, this issue; also see BRIDGES Weekly, 26 February, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/02-02-26/story5.htm>). Paragraph 35 of the Doha Ministerial Declaration established a work programme on small economies in order to "frame responses to the trade-related issues identified for the fuller integration of small, vulnerable economies into the multilateral trading system." At

the dedicated session, the group of small economies submitted a draft work programme (WT/COMTD/SE/W/1) that identifies trade-related issues of vital concern to small economies. The proposal also includes a description and criteria of what constitutes a small economy. One source in attendance said that there were several interventions made by other Members, many of whom, the source noted, were non-residents of Geneva. While most Members welcomed the submission, some questioned the criteria and whether any preferential treatment was deserved based on what they perceived as similarities with other 'non-small economies'. As such, the proposal will be developed into a "road map" that will feed into a work programme for the issue. The Chair will consult as necessary on how to proceed.

The group of small economies includes Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Fiji, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mauritius, Nicaragua, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, and Trinidad and Tobago.

Dedicated session will immediately follow the two remaining CTD session for 2002 -- taking place on 1 July and 8 October.

ICTSD Internal Files.

GENEVA WEEK CONVENES NON-RESIDENT WTO MEMBERS

24 WTO Members and 11 observers without permanent representation in Geneva attended last week's 'Geneva Week' from 21-28 April. Geneva Week is designed to enhance the participation of these non-resident countries in the global trade system. To that effect, attendees were briefed on ongoing WTO work and attended various meetings, including the Trade Negotiations Committee on 24 April and the Committee on Trade and Development on 25 April (see related stories, this issue). Geneva Week -- which was launched in 1999 and has taken place three times already -- was for the first time funded directly from the WTO's core budget; it is scheduled to take place again in October this year.

"The WTO Holds Its Fourth Geneva Week," WTO 18 April 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: 2-8 May

2 May, Washington, DC: EU-US SUMMIT. The principal European participants meeting with President Bush will be Spanish Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar, representing the EU Council presidency, and Commission President Romano Prodi. Trade and economics is one of three topic areas to be covered at the summit, and will include trade disputes and development financing. For further information visit: <http://www.useu.be/>.

4-5 May, Montreal, Canada: CANADA AND AFRICA: A NEW PARTNERSHIP. The event will bring together the Canadian International Development Agency's (CIDA) partners, both African and Canadian, to discuss and raise awareness about the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), a plan developed by African leaders to lift the continent out of poverty. The meeting will feature African speakers and presenters on topics related to key issues, including: governance; health and education; gender equality, peace and security; and, economic growth. For further information contact: Hilary Humphrey, Office of the Minister for International Cooperation; tel: (1-819) 953-6238;

Internet: http://www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/cida_ind.nsf/vLUAllDocByIDEn/AE3DDDA5D7D6B3D985256B9500542FAC?OpenDocument.

6-8 May, Geneva, Switzerland: WEBFORCE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 2002: DIGITAL DIVIDE TO DIGITAL BRIDGE SOLUTION. The Conference aims to construct a strategy in order to bridge the digital divide in technology, to help the developing country communication in all its aspects, and to open the world to information technologies. For further information contact: World Secretariat, 2 Eccles Avenue, 11100Narbonne, France; tel: (33-0-46) 832-4797; fax: 832-4736.

6-10 May, Canada: CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY WEEK 2002: BETTER BUSINESSES, BETTER WORLD. CSR Week 2002 is dedicated to highlighting good corporate citizenship, sustainable economic development, community investment, environmental stewardship and more-all in the context of corporate social responsibility. The aim of CSR Week 2002 is to raise awareness and understanding of CSR with Canadians. For further information contact: email: beaufort@conferenceboard.ca; Internet: http://www.conferenceboard.ca/ccbc/CSR_week/default.htm.

8-11 May, Austin, Texas, US: 2002 ALL THINGS ORGANIC CONFERENCE AND TRADE SHOW. Organised by the Organic Trade Association (OTA), the event will reflect the global face of the organic industry while focusing on North American opportunities and challenge. An international pavilion featuring buyers and suppliers of organic products and services from around the world will be an integral part of the trade show portion. Among topics to be discussed at the conference portion of this event are the implications of full implementation of national organic standards, organic labelling and organic fibre use. For further information contact: Holly Givens; tel: (1-413) 774-7511; Internet: <http://www.ota.com/tradeshow/>.

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.

29 April - 19 July, Geneva, Switzerland: 20TH WTO TRADE POLICY COURSE. With government officials from 27 Spanish-speaking countries. For further information visit: http://www.wto.org/english/news_e/pres02_e/pr291_e.htm.

2-3 May, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO COMMITTEE ON SUBSIDIES AND COUNTERVAILING MEASURES.

2-3 May, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO COUNCIL FOR TRADE IN GOODS.

3 May, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO TRADE AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE (INFORMAL SPECIAL SESSION). On the agenda: number of meetings, organisation of upcoming meeting (in mid-June), phases of work, and observer status.

3 May, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO COMMITTEE ON SUBSIDIES AND COUNTERVAILING MEASURES.

6-8 May, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO NEGOTIATING GROUP ON RULES.

13-15 May, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO GENERAL COUNCIL.

Other Forthcoming Events

12-14 June, Geneva, Switzerland: UNCTAD EXPERT MEETING ON EXPERIENCES WITH BILATERAL AND REGIONAL APPROACHES TO MULTILATERAL COOPERATION IN THE AREA OF LONG-TERM CROSS-BORDER INVESTMENT, PARTICULARLY FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT. All communications concerning representation at the Meeting should be sent to the UNCTAD secretariat, Intergovernmental Support Service, Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10; fax: (41-22) 9170-056; email: correspondence@unctad.org.

26-28 June, Geneva, Switzerland: UNCTAD EXPERT MEETING ON THE DIVERSIFICATION OF PRODUCTION AND EXPORTS IN COMMODITY-DEPENDENT DEVELOPING COUNTRIES - including single-commodity exporters, for industrialisation and development, taking into account the special needs of LDCs. Convened by the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). Specialised agencies and intergovernmental bodies wishing to participate in the session, as well as

NGOs in the General Category and those in the Special Category wishing to participate as observers, are requested to inform the UNCTAD secretariat of the names of their representatives by 27 May 2002. For further information contact the UNCTAD secretariat, Intergovernmental Support Service, Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10; fax: (41-22) 9170-056; email: correspondence@unctad.org.

14-19 July, Geneva, Switzerland: WORLD CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM. The Forum will seek to facilitate and strengthen cooperation among civil society as well as with the UN and other international organisations. Includes a thematic working group on Environment, Trade and Sustainable Development. Training sessions and other activities will be organised before and after the Forum. Those dates will enable the Forum to contribute directly to the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg 2002 / Rio +10) and to the preparation of the World Summit on the Information Society. For further information visit: <http://www.worldcivilsociety.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. Submissions of publications to ICTSDs documentation centre would also be welcome (contact Matteo Rizzolli, mrizzolli@ictsd.ch).

TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT REPORT 2002. By the United Nations Conference On Trade And Development (UNCTAD), April 2002. The Report questions the conventional wisdom that export growth and foreign direct investment (FDI) automatically generate commensurate income gains. Why is it that developing countries are trading more, but earning relatively less? UNCTAD thinks they are competing among themselves to export similar labour-intensive manufacturing products to the same markets. It suggests that countries should move into higher-value exports by upgrading technology and improving productivity. The Report is available online at: <http://www.unctad.org>. For further information or for a copy of the Report, contact Alessandra Vellucci, Information Officer, UNCTAD; tel.: (41-22) 907-4641/1646, fax: 907-0043; email: press@unctad.org; or Erica Meltzer, Press Officer, in Bangkok from 25 April to 7 May 2002; tel. +66 2 288 1866/1861/1862, email: erica.meltzer@unctad.org.

WTO ANNUAL REPORT 2001. May 2002. According to the WTO, world exports dipped 1.5 percent in volume in 2001 and contracted 4 percent in value to \$US 6 trillion, according to the WTO's latest report on international trade. For 2002, the WTO's economists predict a moderate recovery of around 1.5 percent. For further information and to download Chapter 2 of the report, visit http://www.wto.org/english/news_e/pres02_e/pr288_e.htm.

ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE MERCOSUR. By Gerardo Honty, published by CLAES (Centro Latino Americano de Ecología Social in Montevideo, Uruguay) program on integration, development and democracy, 2002, 210

pp. An analysis of the energy sector in the Common Market of the Southern Cone (Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay), including country reviews and current social and environmental impacts. Also includes the current energy integration among countries, and then prospective analysis to the year 2025. The book ends with sustainability proposals, after current alternative experiences in several countries, showing that under a strong integration process the Southern Cone countries could be self sufficient on energy, under strong environmental conditionalities. To place an order, contact: claes@adinet.com.uy.

THE CARTAGENA PROTOCOL ON BIOSAFETY: RECONCILING TRADE IN BIOTECHNOLOGY WITH ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT? Christoph Bail, Robert Falkner and Helen Marquard (eds.), April 2002. This volume is a comprehensive review of the Cartagena Protocol and includes over 40 contributions from many of the key stakeholders, negotiators and analysts of the biosafety talks. It presents the scientific and commercial background and analyses the interests at stake, the operations and implications of the Protocol and the prospects for the future. Paperback price: £19.95. To order this title, contact: email: sustainable-development@riia.org; tel: (44-20) 7957-5711; Internet: <http://www.riia.org/>.

THE EMERGING INTERNATIONAL GREENHOUSE GAS MARKET. By Richard Rosenzweig, Matthew Varilek, Ben Feldman, Radha Kuppalli, published by the Pew Center on Global Climate Change, March 2002. At least 55 million tons of greenhouse gas emissions have since 1996 been traded by companies and countries in an effort to limit global warming, but the world's largest emitter -- the US -- continues to isolate itself from the growing market. The report describes the characteristics of the market to date and key features of early trades. In the absence of a ratified international agreement, the report's authors conclude that the new market is evolving in a fragmented way. The report also evaluates the potential evolution of the greenhouse gas market, particularly in light of recent developments in climate change policy in the US and internationally. For further information visit: <http://www.pewclimate.org/projects/trading.cfm>.

TOWARD REBUILDING AMERICA'S MARINE FISHERIES: ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS ON THE STATUS OF US FISHERIES - 2001. By US Dept. of Commerce National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration National Marine Fisheries Service Office of Sustainable Fisheries. To download the report, visit: http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/reg_svcs/Status02.pdf.

ABCDE CONFERENCE PAPERS. The Annual World Bank Conference on Development Economics (ABCDE) is a series of conferences for the presentation and discussion of new knowledge about development. Among the topics covered at this year's 14th ABCDE are: Trade and Poverty; Africa's Future: Rural or Industrial Development; Education and Empowerment; and Investment Climate and Productivity. Copies of the conference papers are now available at: <http://econ.worldbank.org/abcde/index.php?confid=2579>.

LIBERALIZING TRADE IN AGRICULTURE: DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN ASIA AND THE POST-DOHA AGENDA. By John S. Wilson, published by the Trade,

Development Research Group, 21 March 2002. An overview and data relevant to the interests of developing countries as they engage in continuing agricultural trade negotiations set forth in the WTO Ministerial held in Doha, Qatar in November 2001. The paper examines country performance in agricultural trade, income levels, and population characteristics, with a focus on developing country members of the Asian Development Bank. For the full text, visit <http://econ.worldbank.org/view.php?type=5&id=13165>. The author may be contacted at jswilson@worldbank.org.

POSITION VACANCIES

Regional Policy Co-ordinator, Trade and Investment (Kampala, Ref: RPC - T&I) and Regional Policy Co-ordinator, Food Security and Trade (Addis Ababa, Ref: RPC - FS&T). As part of Oxfam's 'Make Trade Fair' campaign, Oxfam-GB is looking for people to work in the Horn, East and Central Africa Region. The positions will require leadership on the development of Oxfam's work on trade, food security and livelihood issues. The selected candidates will build the capacity of staff and partners across the region, co-ordinate research and programme development and build relationships with external stakeholders. Qualifications: sound understanding of micro and macro economic policy issues with respect to international trade and investment; and food security and international trade. Proven experience and understanding of international development, the role of global financial institutions and economic development and poverty in the HECA region; plus excellent communication skills in English and working knowledge of French.

Both posts offer a two year contract, with a generous benefits package including medical and insurance cover, and a pension scheme. Plus housing and education for relocated staff. Salary in the range of the equivalent of £18,000 to £25,000 per annum gross. Application date: 17 May 2002. Include a CV, a letter explaining how you feel your experience makes you the candidate for this job and details of where and when you and two referees can be contacted, to hecajobs@oxfam.org.uk or send your application to: Regional HR, RMC - HECA, PO Box 40680, Nairobi, Kenya. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted. Internet: <http://www.oxfam.org.uk>.

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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