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IMPASSE ON FARM SUBSIDIES SEEN BY SOME AS 'STEP BACKWARDS' IN AGRICULTURE TALKS

At a 23-25 September informal negotiating session of the Committee on Agriculture (CoA) on domestic support, no progress was made on most contentious farm subsidy issues. This included an impasse on issues such as whether the so-called Green Box should be made more flexible or be tightened - a development which trade sources evaluated as a "step backwards" in the current agriculture negotiations. Addressing negotiating blocs such as the 'Friends of Multifunctionality' and the 'Cairns Group' of agriculture-exporting countries, in his conclusion CoA special session Chair Stuart Harbinson pointed to "tendencies to monolithic positions" amongst Members. Harbinson further stated that the "lack of specificity in a number of areas" would exacerbate his attempts to come up with an overview paper on possible negotiating 'modalities' options by the end of the year. Sources reported that Harbinson called on Members to "switch their mindsets from portrayal of maximising national positions" to an "effort to compromise and bridging gaps."

"Deadlock" between Cairns and 'Multifunctionality' Group?

Following up the discussions held at the 4-5 September intersessional consultation on domestic support (see BRIDGES Weekly, 13 September 2002, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/02-09-13/story1.htm>), Members continued talks on the future of the international agricultural subsidy regime, largely categorised in the so-called Amber Box (trade distortive subsidies), Green Box (non, or at most minimally, trade-distorting support) and Blue Box (subsidies requiring production limitation). 'Ambitious' liberalisers -- primarily members of the Cairns Group -- proposed phasing out Amber Box and Blue Box subsidies as well as restricting the use of the Green Box. More 'cautious' Members in the 'Friends of Multifunctionality' group including the EC, Japan and Switzerland, however, made it clear that they were only willing and able to negotiate additional reductions in trade distortive support provided the Blue Box was maintained and more flexibility was given on the application of the Green Box.

[online](http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/02-09-13/story1.htm) and is updated every week. To subscribe to BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest, please visit the ICTSD website at <http://www.ictsd.org/subscribe>

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Criticised by Cairns for not tabling concrete numbers for subsidy reductions, the EC et al. said they needed an incentive for further liberalisation, so that they were not prepared to put forward specific proposals on domestic support unless other Members showed their willingness to negotiate additional rules on non-trade concerns (NTCs). The Friends of Multifunctionality added that this applied to NTCs in the area of agriculture itself as well as in other fields such as labelling, the precautionary principle or geographical indications. At a press conference on 23 September, Swiss Chief negotiator Luzius Wasescha warned that the Cairns Group approach to demand "total liberalisation of agriculture without giving anything in return" would "make any agreement more complicated" and would ultimately "lead to a deadlock" in the negotiations.

Green Box support

The EU, Japan, Korea, Switzerland, Norway, Iceland, and transition economies called for more flexibility, with Switzerland proposing a new paragraph 14 for Annex 2 (the Green Box) to allow for "payments compensating extra costs accruing from higher production standards" under programmes addressing "non-producer concerns" such as animal welfare imposed by consumers and voters. Further, a number of developing countries asked for more flexibility for their developmental concerns including food security and rural development.

The Cairns Group and some others, however, expressed concern that many of the proposals advocating greater leeway would add new trade-distorting subsidies to the Green Box. Instead, Cairns and some developing countries such as India demanded overall caps on Green Box spending (e.g. 5 percent of annual agricultural production), limits on specific types of programmes, or removing some income support programmes from the Box.

Amber Box

The Cairns Group, US, China, India and some others proposed to eventually eliminate the Amber Box, at least for developed countries that exceed their de minimis levels of support of 5 percent of agricultural production. Proposals ranged from elimination for developed countries in three years [China] or five years [Cairns Group and Turkey] to reduction to 5 percent of production in five years plus an agreed date for elimination to be negotiated [US].

Advocates of multifunctionality, including the Europeans, Japan, Korea et al., said the Doha mandate only envisaged "substantial reductions" in Amber Box support, and that elimination would be too drastic to allow them to continue with the reform process. Norway

reiterated its position that two different reduction rates should be established: those for products for export and those for domestic consumption. Argentina and others argued, however, that subsidised products sold on domestic markets would harm market access and therefore distort trade. In addition, the debate focused on the question of whether the present system of reduction commitments based on "total aggregate measurement of support" (AMS) should be maintained - as suggested by multifunctionality Members -- or whether new cuts should be made on a disaggregated, product-specific basis as proposed by the Cairns Group.

Special & differential treatment (S&D)

During the discussion, newly acceded Members and transition economies repeatedly argued for special and differential treatment (S&D) for developing countries. In particular, Bulgaria called for S&D to be based on "objective criteria" such as level of development and per capita income. Mauritius repeatedly stressed its argument that small vulnerable economies needed special treatment, including trade preferences and longer adjustment periods. Developing countries further stressed the need to maintain AoA Article 6.2 (so-called S&D Box) and to eventually add additional flexibilities.

The Agriculture Committee is holding a regular session on 26 September, followed by a formal special session on 27 September where the Chair will present its summary report of the 23-25 September informal special session. A mid-November meeting will provide Members with the opportunity to address so-called inter-pillar issues.

ICTSD reporting; "Swiss See Deadlock Looming In Farm Reform Talks," REUTERS, 23 September 2002; "Agriculture: Swiss Negotiator Warns Of Deadlock In WTO Agriculture Liberalisation Talks," WTO Reporter, 24 September 2002; "Agriculture: Japanese Official Sets Out Position In Farm Talks, Criticises US, Cairns Group," WTO Reporter, 25 September 2002.

STILL NO MOVEMENT IN TRIPS COUNCIL ON HEALTH OR GIS

Discussions on intellectual property rights and public health at the Council for Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs) continued to make little headway at the last session of the Council on 17-20 September. Apart from a new submission received from Switzerland, WTO Members made no progress in the debate, largely restating their positions.

Similarly, the debate on extending the higher level of protection for geographical indications to products other than wines and spirits remains deadlocked, which, as one trade source speculated, was unlikely to be broken in the TRIPs Council but would require some bargaining in the agriculture negotiations. Indeed, several countries, including the EC and Switzerland, have explicitly linked the GI discussions to the agriculture negotiations in both the TRIPs Council and the Committee on Agriculture (see BRIDGES Weekly, 13 September 2002, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/02-09-13/story1.htm>).

Positions on TRIPs & health unchanged

WTO Members' positions as stated at the June formal and July informal TRIPs Council meetings on paragraph 6 of the Doha Declaration on TRIPs and public health remained unchanged (see BRIDGES Weekly, 6 August 2002, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/02-08-06/story6.htm>). TRIPs Council Chair, Ambassador Eduardo Pérez Motta (Mexico), noted that the Council was at the same point as it had been before the summer break and that more flexibility was needed on all sides.

Switzerland put forward a proposal outlining various conditions on exports covered by paragraph 6. In particular, the Swiss proposed the introduction of quantitative restrictions, i.e. manufacturers should only be allowed to produce the quantity needed by the recipient country, all of which should be exported to that country. Also, measures should be implemented to prevent diversion away from as well within the recipient country, with the responsibility resting on the exporting and importing countries. Such measures could include clear labelling, such as colouring or shape of the packaging. Regarding eligibility for importation, Switzerland proposed a general exemption for least-developed countries, while the rest of the membership, in particular developing countries, would assess their own eligibility on a case-by-case basis using objective criteria developed by the TRIPs Council.

Paragraph 6 of the Declaration instructs Members to find an "expeditious solution" to the problem that Members with insufficient or no manufacturing capacities in the pharmaceutical sector could face in making effective use of compulsory licensing.

WSSD outcomes cited in support of moving on 27.3(b) and TK

In the Council's discussions on TRIPs Article 27.3(b) (patentability of life forms), the relationship between the TRIPs Agreement, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and traditional knowledge (TK), WTO Members addressed many of the points raised in a

"concept paper" submitted by the EC (see http://trade-info.cec.eu.int/europa/2001newround/comnr_trips.pdf). Some Members, including Brazil and Colombia on behalf of the Andean countries, cited the recent decision at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) to negotiate an international regime on benefit-sharing as reflecting the high priority that should be given to these issues.

In its paper, the EC signalled its willingness to discuss the inclusion of disclosure requirements in patent applications, as repeatedly called for by a number of developing countries (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 11 July 2002, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/02-07-11/story1.htm>) and most recently reiterated in the report of the UK Commission on Intellectual Property Rights (see BRIDGES Weekly, 18 September 2002, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/02-09-18/story1.htm>). To this end, the EC proposed the inclusion of a "self-standing" requirement to include information on the geographic origin of genetic resources and traditional knowledge. Such a requirement, however, should not constitute an additional formal or substantial patentability criterion. Thus, failure to disclose should lie outside the patent law, but should, for instance, be regulated by civil or administrative law.

The next regular session of the TRIPs Council session will be held on 25-27 November. Issues related to paragraph 6 are scheduled to be addressed at an informal meeting on 17 October as well as in informal consultations in an effort to reach a final decision by the November TRIPs Council meeting. An informal meeting has also been scheduled for 10 November to discuss GI extensions.

ICTSD reporting.

OTHER NEWS

IMPLEMENTATION TAKES STEP FORWARD WITH DRAFT DECISION ON DEVELOPING COUNTRY SUBSIDIES

At a special (negotiating) session of the WTO Committee on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures (SCM) on 19 September, industrialised countries said in a draft decision that they were prepared to approve an "early harvest" list of 19 developing countries that could qualify for an extension to maintain their export subsidy programmes under Article 27.4 of the SCM Agreement. The draft decision from the Quad (the US, the EC, Canada and Japan) plus Switzerland and Australia --

could be approved at the next formal special SCM meeting. It was for the most part welcomed by developing countries, though some expressed concern that it did not go far enough in covering other areas of export subsidies. A WTO source said that the announcement represented a significant step forward in that it meant that the Committee could do much of its work months before its deadline of 15 December 2002. (WTO Members agreed in Doha last November to grant extensions to qualified programmes for certain developing countries by 15 December this year).

Background

Talks in the Committee have been focused on the mandate outlined in para. 10.6 of the Doha Decision on Implementation (WT/MIN(01)/W/10). This refers to SCM Agreement Article 27.4, which provides that certain developing countries have eight years to phase out export subsidies but may request an extension of this period.

Under the existing rules of SCM Article 27.4, certain Members (least-developed countries and those with less than USD 1,000 per capita GNP) can seek an extension to the export subsidy phase-out deadline (1 January 2003), provided the request is submitted one year prior to the expiration date. This extension is then eligible for renewal based on annual consultations with the SCM Committee, taking into account "all relevant economic, financial and development needs" of the requesting Member. The new procedures adopted at Doha (see document G/SCM/W/471 at <http://docsonline.wto.org>) allow for an extension mechanism that could run through to the end of 2007. Under these terms, the annual review process would still occur; however, it would be in the form of further notifications submitted by the requesting Member to ensure that certain transparency requirements are met (see BRIDGES Weekly, 19 March 2002, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/02-03-19/story5.htm>).

The "early harvest" lists 19 Members, out of 29 who have submitted extension requests.

At the meeting...

At the 19 September session, feedback from those Members that had requested extensions was generally supportive of the Quad-plus announcement, though there were some reservations raised. The Dominican Republic said the proposal was "a positive contribution," but suggested that the draft Decision clarify that the transition period for the subsidies be extended annually until 2007. This was supported by El Salvador, Jordan, Mauritius, Panama and Uruguay.

Brazil -- supported by Thailand, Chile and Turkey -- said that while the developed country proposal was a positive move, it should not be seen as creating a precedent for future cases or as creating a special category of developing countries, adding that it would be looking at the inclusion of agricultural products under the qualifying subsidy programmes. Ecuador said that the proposal gave momentum to the work of the Committee, but noted that questions remained on some of the export subsidy programmes. Malaysia expressed concern about the non-inclusion of other programmes and countries from the list.

The countries included in the "early harvest" list are: Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Jamaica, Jordan, Mauritius, Panama, Papua New Guinea, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent & Grenadines, and Uruguay.

Under the Doha Decision, the following export subsidy programmes are eligible:

Programmes eligible for extension pursuant to these procedures, and for which Members shall therefore grant extensions for calendar year 2003 as referred to in 1(c), are export subsidy programmes (i) in the form of full or partial exemptions from import duties and internal taxes, (ii) which were in existence not later than 1 September 2001, and (iii) which are provided by developing country Members (iv) whose share of world merchandise export trade was not greater than 0.10 per cent, (v) whose total Gross National Income ("GNI") for the year 2000 as published by the World Bank was at or below US \$ 20 billion, (vi) and who are otherwise eligible to request an extension pursuant to Article 27.4, and (vii) in respect of which these procedures are followed.

SCM special session Chair Amb. Milan Hovorka of the Czech Republic said he would begin informal consultations on the draft decision.

ICTSD reporting.

MEETING ON SPECIAL AND DIFFERENTIAL TREATMENT AGREES ON HOW TO PROCEED

Delegates convened on 23 September for an informal meeting of the WTO Committee on Trade and Development (CTD) to deal with the procedural matter of how to move forward with the work programme on special and differential treatment (S&D) agreed upon by Members in a report (TN/CTD/3) issued in late July

(see BRIDGES Weekly, 8 August 2002, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/02-08-06/story2.htm>). The process that was eventually agreed upon held very closely to a draft plan circulated to delegates on 20 September by Ambassador Ransford Smith (Jamaica) - the Chair of the CTD special session (the body tasked to handle the S&D mandate). As well, two recent papers dealing with procedural matters, submitted by Switzerland and Paraguay respectively, were briefly discussed at the meeting (see TN/CTD/W/14 & TN/CTD/W/15, searchable at <http://docsonline.wto.org>).

Leading up to July

The report agreed upon on 26 July took months of wrangling and numerous formal and informal meetings to hammer out (see BRIDGES Weekly, 8 August 2002, link above). Paragraph 12.1 of the Ministerial Decision on Implementation-related Issues (WT/MIN(01)/W/10) outlined a number of tasks related to making S&D more effective and operational (including making certain provisions, where appropriate, mandatory). Members spent five months debating different interpretations of the Decision (i.e. the mandate) as well as different visions of the future of S&D. By the end of July, when a "report with clear recommendations for a decision" was due, they were able only to agree on one out of nearly 90 proposals submitted and were forced to extend the deadline from 31 July to 31 December 2002. The 'agreement' reflected in the report, however, left many questions unanswered, of which the most fundamental was which of the two tracks of proposals submitted (agreement-specific or cross-cutting/institutional) would take priority.

Comments on the work programme

While Members did agree to the work programme as presented (see Finding a way to December, below), a number of concerns were raised during the informal meeting. Developing country delegates were reported to have been especially averse to the fact that four of the five meetings were scheduled to take place from 6pm to 9pm. In comments, one developing country delegate cited that after being in meetings all day, he would not be in the state of mind to confront an issue as complex as S&D. Chair Smith responded by saying that an effort would be made to find alternative time slots. Additionally, a number of delegates were reportedly opposed to the high concentration of key items in the two short informal sessions, as well as the fact that they do not actually occur back-to-back with the expert bodies (as mandated in the 26 July report). With regards to the clustering of the agreement-specific issues, a number of Members (including Canada and India) noted the complexity of the groupings, while the Africa Group said that they would need to look at the

clustering structure critically to assess whether it met their expectations.

Two new submissions

The new submissions from Switzerland and Paraguay saw minimal discussion outside of their being briefly presented by the respective Members. However, one developed country delegate in attendance noted the support by the larger trading powers (the US, EC, Canada, Japan, Australia) on the Swiss provision that advocated taking 35 of the proposals out of the hands (and timeline) of the CTD special sessions and put in those of the relevant negotiating groups. Speaking on the Swiss presentation, one developing country delegate said it "simply will not fly". Similar sentiments were expressed on the proposal from Paraguay. Both proposals are to be discussed in more detail at the 7 October meeting.

Finding the proposals

For those wishing to review the various submissions and reports submitted to the WTO in the Special Sessions of the Committee on Trade and Development, virtually all are available from <http://docsonline.wto.org>, under the TN/CTD heading.

Finding a way to December

In addition to agreeing on the work programme (as offered by the Chair) leading up to 31 December, Members also accepted the need for "flexibility", taking into account needs and developments as appropriate. Currently, three formal and two informal meetings are envisaged -- with the key question surrounding which 'track' of proposals would take priority at each of the different meetings.

According to sources, the 7 October (full-day) formal meeting is set to put a cluster of agreement-specific proposals first on the agenda (dealing generally with market access and some policy space issues). This is scheduled to be followed by discussions around a Monitoring Mechanism, which is the only proposal of the nearly 90 that received outright support in the 26 July report. After these two items, Members will address the core cross-cutting issues of principles & objectives; the debate over a single- or multi-tiered structure of rights & obligations; issues related to graduation; trade preferences & related issues, including the Enabling Clause; and utilisation.

The second formal meeting, a three-hour session scheduled for 25 November, is to begin with the cross-cutting issues of coherence, benchmarks, technical assistance & capacity building; and transition periods. This is to be followed by a second cluster of agreement-

specific proposals, relating to transition periods, technical assistance, items concerning the least developed countries (LDCs) not covered elsewhere, and approximately 10 others that don't fit into the other groupings. Looking at how S&D can be incorporated into the architecture of WTO rules is to be the final items dealt with at this short session.

Between these two formal sessions, two informal sessions will be held, which attempt to place CTD special session meetings near those of relevant technical bodies. The two three-hour sessions, scheduled for 23 October and 13 November respectively, aspire to tackle proposals relating to technical and health standards, anti-dumping, services, safeguards, subsidies & countervailing duties, dispute settlement and agriculture.

A final formal meeting is scheduled for either 2 or 3 December to consider the report that is to be presented to the General Council (which is scheduled to meet on 10 & 11 December).

ICTSD reporting.

IN BRIEF

ASEM AGREES TO IMPROVE TRADE RELATIONS

Economic ministers from the 15 EU member states, China, Japan and eight other Asian nations -- meeting for the fourth Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) in Copenhagen, Denmark, on 22 - 24 September -- agreed on new goals to reduce trade barriers between the two continents and to increase consultations on multilateral trade negotiations. To this end, ministers decided to set up a special task force of ten experts to work on improving cooperation between the EU and Asia in the areas of trade, investment and finance. They furthermore arranged a series of meetings to look at these issues, including a symposium of politicians, officials and business leaders to be held in Japan in the spring of 2003, as well as meetings in China and France to discuss WTO-related issues in the lead-up to the Fifth WTO Ministerial Conference in Cancun, Mexico, in September 2003. Ministers also welcomed the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) as a "successful global pact" which like the WTO trade round showed that trade liberalisation when linked with development-oriented

trade rules can help to fight poverty and lead to a more sustainable use of resources.

"ASEM agrees new goals and increased WTO discussion, KYODO NEWS, 19 September 2002; "EU, Asia leaders vow to back trade liberalisation," REUTERS, 24 September 2002.

ACP-EU NEGOTIATIONS TO BEGIN ON 27 SEPTEMBER

Negotiations on new Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) between the EU and African, Pacific and Caribbean (ACP) countries under the Cotonou Agreement will be formally launched on 27 September. The reciprocal EPAs are slotted to replace the current non-reciprocal preferential trade arrangements, which have formed the cornerstone of ACP-EU cooperation under the Lomé Conventions. The negotiations are set to be concluded by the end of 2007. Many civil society groups have expressed concerns that these negotiations could be detrimental to poverty eradication -- the overall aim of the EU-ACP cooperation. Eurostep, a network of European NGOs, has called for the negotiations to be based on development objectives and on trade that effectively addresses poverty eradication, while advancing sustainable development in the ACP.

"Launch of ACP-EU trade negotiations on 27 September," EUROSTEP, 20 September 2002.

10 MILLION BRAZILIANS OPPOSED TO FTAA

According to the results of an unofficial referendum organised by more than 60 organisations, 98 percent of approx. 10.1 million Brazilians were opposed to Brazil signing the Free Trade Agreement of the Americas (FTAA). Almost as many respondents (96 percent) believed that Brazil should no longer continue its participation in the negotiations, which are set to be finalised by 2005. While the survey was primarily targeted at opponents of the FTAA and might therefore not reflect a cross-section of Brazil's population, enthusiasm in the larger political arena for the Agreement has also been limited. The governing coalition's presidential candidate, social democrat José Serra, has stated that Brazil should not take part in the FTAA if it negatively affects the country's trade capacity. Similarly, Brazil's Agriculture Minister Marcus

Pratini de Moraes has repeatedly stressed that Brazil is not interested in hemisphere-wide trade integration if the US is not prepared to open its agricultural markets and reduce farm subsidies. The textiles industry has been one of the few sectors to support the FTAA, in the hope of seizing a large portion of the US and Latin American markets.

"10 Million Brazilian Votes against Hemisphere's FTAA," INTERPRESS SERVICE, 18 September 2002.

EUROPEAN GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT RULING COULD IMPACT EC'S WTO POSITION

In what many described as a "landmark judgement", the European Court of Justice ruled that secondary criteria (e.g. environmental or social) could be taken into account when awarding government procurement contracts. Observers noted that the judgement was of particular importance as it supported a more flexible approach to public procurement than previous Commission interpretations. The Commission had in the past insisted that each award criterion not only had to link to the subject matter of the contract, but also had to bring an economic advantage directly benefiting the public authority. It remains to be seen to what extent the judgment will impact on the EU position on government procurement in the WTO context, where the EU has also advocated that the awarding of contracts should be guided by economic considerations. Also of relevance are possible concerns that the consideration of secondary criteria might hinder third country suppliers' access to the European market that might be less capable to address such criteria than European suppliers.

ICTSD reporting.

WTO IN BRIEF

SUPACHAI HEARS LEAST-DEVELOPED COUNTRIES' CONCERNS

On 24 September, WTO Director-General Supachai Panitchpakdi met with representatives of least-developed country (LDC) Members to discuss their concerns at the WTO, including the need to streamline accession procedures for LDCs and the significance of

technical cooperation and capacity building. WTO LDC Chair H.E. Ambassador M. B. Bowa of Zambia raised these issues alongside the need for more effort by the WTO Secretariat to target assistance for LDCs and to enhance coherence in international economic policy-making. The Director-General informed the group that their concerns were in line with his own priorities, but that the WTO Membership deals with accession issues on a case-by-case basis. He highlighted the commitment of the Members in the Doha Ministerial Declaration to accelerate the accession of least-developed countries. Supachai also declared his interest in ensuring that technical assistance efforts would be effective, targeted and focussed.

"WTO Director-General meets LDC's Consultative Group," WTO Press Release, 24 September 2002.

SUPACHAI IDENTIFIES FOUR 'PILLARS' TO HELP CONCLUDE NEGOTIATIONS

On 20 September, WTO Director-General Supachai Panitchpakdi spoke in Basel, Switzerland regarding his interest in concluding the current round of trade negotiations in a timely manner. The Director-General explained that he was aiming to accomplish this by focussing on four 'pillars'. According to Supachai, the first pillar is the legal framework that "binds the multilateral trading system together". The second, assistance to developing and least developed countries, is supported through technical assistance and capacity building. The third pillar deals with the promotion of coherence in international economic policy-making. The final pillar, said Supachai, is his commitment to "strengthening the WTO as an institution."

WTO NEWS: Speech by Director-General SUPACHAI PANITCHPAKDI, WTO News, Basel, Switzerland, 20 September 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>. If you would like to submit an event, please email events@ictsd.ch.

Coming Up This Week: 24 September - 1 October

25-27 September, Yaoundé, Cameroon: 6th UNCTAD AFRICAN OIL & GAS TRADE AND FINANCE CONFERENCE. The conference is being jointly organised by the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the London-based ITE Group Plc and SNH. This event, the largest in the African energy industry, focuses on the interface between energy and finance issues. On the agenda: opportunities in Africa's upstream and downstream sectors; the impact of global oil market structure changes; and how countries can retain a larger share of the value added from their hydrocarbons production. <http://www.ite-exhibitions.com/og/africa6>. For further information visit: <http://www.unctad.org>.

26-29 September, Cairo, Egypt: AGRO-ENVIRON 2002 3RD INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON SUSTAINABLE AGRO-ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEMS. The Symposium covers a wide range of topics addressing key environmental and agricultural issues through applying new technologies that aim at sustaining agricultural systems, monitoring environment and conserving natural resources. Some of the topics include; Agricultural waste management, Biotechnology, Desertification and land degradation, and Environmental biodiversity. For further information visit: <http://www.agro.narss.org/>.

27 September, Brussels, Belgium: LAUNCHING OF ACP-EU NEGOTIATIONS FOR NEW ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS. Negotiations between the ACP and the EU are set to begin under the auspices of the Cotonou Agreement. These negotiations, which are to finish by December 2007, are aimed at negotiating reciprocal, WTO-compliant trading arrangements between the two groupings of countries. For further information, visit <http://www.acpsec.org>.

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/>.

30 September & 1 October, Berlin, Germany: GOVERNANCE AND SUSTAINABILITY - NEW CHALLENGES FOR STATE, COMPANIES AND CIVIL SOCIETY. Following the motto "New challenges for state, business and civil society" speakers and guests will meet in order to discuss ways towards a society, prepared for the future. Members of NGOs will get a chance to speak as well as academics and decision-makers of business and politics. For further information on this conference visit: <http://www.ioew.de/governance>.

1 & 2 October, Dubai, United Arab Emirates: ANNUAL MEETING OF THE IMF/WORLD BANK GROUP. For further information visit: <http://www.imf.org/external/am/index.htm>.

WTO Events

An updated list of forthcoming WTO meetings is posted at: http://www.wto.org/english/news_e/meets.pdf. 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.

26 September, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE. Meeting will deal with a number of issues including; tariff and other quota commitments, imports under tariffs, domestic support commitments, and export subsidy commitments.

26-27 September, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO WORKING GROUP ON THE INTERACTION BETWEEN TRADE AND COMPETITION POLICY. The meetings will focus on further discussion of paragraph 25 of the Doha Ministerial, as well as technical assistance and capacity building, as called for in paragraph 24 of the Doha Declaration.

27 September, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO SPECIAL SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE.

30 September, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO WORKING GROUP ON TRADE, DEBT AND FINANCE.

1 October, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO COUNCIL FOR TRADE IN GOODS.

Other Forthcoming Events

17 October, London, England: THE FIFTH JOHN C WHITEHEAD LECTURE ON ANGLO-AMERICAN RELATIONS - DOHA DEVELOPMENT AGENDA: ENLIGHTENED EU/US LEADERSHIP OR RUTHLESS PURSUIT OF NARROW SELF-INTEREST? The Lecture will be followed by an open reception. For further information contact the Royal Institute for International Affairs (RIIA), London, UK; fax: +44 (0) 20 7957 5745; email: meetings@riia.org.

21-23 October, Aalborg, Denmark: EURO ENVIRONMENT 2002. The conference will explore how business can seek solutions and be the engine of change towards a sustainable society. The theme this year is 'Can business be a driving agent of global governance and hold the keys to the goals of global sustainability?' Goals that will be explored that encompass sustainable technological and organisational solutions for the external environment, supply-chain management, corporate social responsibility, ethical values and stakeholder relations, occupational health, green marketing, and business branding. For further information visit: <http://www.akkc.dk/index.asp?arrangement=327&kategori=kongresser&sprog=eng>.

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 resources@ictsd.ch. Submissions of publications to ICTSD's documentation centre would also be welcome (see mailing address below).

GREENING THE AMERICAS: NAFTA'S LESSONS FOR HEMISPHERIC TRADE. Edited by Carolyn L. Deere and Daniel C. Esty. Forward by José María Figueres- Olsen. September 2002. The various chapters in the Deere-Esty volume review the history of the environmental negotiations of the NAFTA, explore the treaty's economic and environmental impacts, and draw lessons that can be applied to the ongoing Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) negotiations. GREENING THE AMERICAS analyses in detail NAFTA's environmental elements, highlighting those provisions that should be included in future agreements and those that should be amended or dropped. Available from MIT Press, ISBN 0-262-04212-6, 452 pp; Internet: visit <http://www-mitpress.mit.edu>.

WTO: EARLY DECISIONS ARE VITAL TO PROGRESS IN ONGOING NEGOTIATIONS. A US General Accounting Office (GAO) Report to Congressional Requesters, September 2002. In this

report, the GAO (1) analyses the factors that contributed to the Doha Ministerial Conference's successful launch of new negotiations, (2) analyses the key interim deadlines for the most sensitive issues from the present time through the next Ministerial Conference in 2003, and (3) evaluates the most significant challenges facing the WTO in the overall negotiations. Appendix I contains a brief synopsis of remaining issues on the Doha negotiating agenda. Serial number GAO-02-879. For a copy of the report, visit: <http://www.gao.gov/>

REPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT. March 2002. A United Nations Publication. 50 Heads of State as well as over 200 ministers from different nations met in Monterrey, N.L., Mexico during March 2002 to discuss financing development worldwide, particularly in developing countries. The goal of the conference was to move towards eliminating poverty, attain sustaining economic growth and promote sustainable development throughout the world. This report provides a detailed account of the conference as well as the resolutions that were agreed upon. To obtain a copy of this report, visit <http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/>.

AN INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT ON CULTURAL DIVERSITY: A MODEL FOR DISCUSSION. September 2002. Prepared by the Cultural Industries Sectoral Advisory Group on International Trade (SAGIT). The discussion paper is a further step towards the development of a New International Instrument on Cultural Diversity (NIICD) aimed at establishing clear rules to enable Canada, and other countries, to maintain policies that promote their culture while respecting the rules of the international trading system and ensuring markets for cultural exports. This report constitutes a further Canadian contribution to the ongoing development of an international approach to support the objectives of cultural diversity worldwide. To obtain a copy of this report, visit http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/tna-nac/diversity_culture-e.asp.

WALKING THE TALK: THE BUSINESS CASE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. August 2002. By Charles O. Holliday Jr, Chairman and CEO of DuPont, Stephan Schmidheiny, Chairman, Anova Holdings and Philip Watts, Chairman of Shell. As planetary anxieties about globalisation, poverty and climate change grow, where does the international business community stand? Are they a barrier to change or an engine for it? In "Walking the Talk", international business leaders argue that business can be an agent of positive change - positive for the environment and the world's poor. Leading industrialists argue that not only is sustainable development good for business, the solving of environmental and social problems is essential for future growth. To obtain a copy of this publication, visit

<http://www.greenleaf-publishing.com/catalogue/walk.htm>.

WORLD DEVELOPMENT REPORT 2003 – SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN A DYNAMIC WORLD

August
2002.

Prepared
by
The
World
Bank.

This
publication
is
the
World
Bank's

contribution
to
an
ongoing
international
dialogue
on
sustainable
development.

To
make
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report
as
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prehensive as possible, the WDR 2003 team sought the views of a wide range of key stakeholders: government, civil society, academia, and the private sector world wide. To obtain a copy, visit http://publications.worldbank.org/ecommerce/catalog/product?item_id=1017492.

WORLD INVESTMENT REPORT 2002: TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS AND EXPORT COMPETITIVENESS. August 2002. Prepared by the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). The report discusses the importance of FDI by transnational corporations in order for countries to develop and sustain growth in today's globalising economy. In the last two years, some developing countries -- including Brazil and Argentina -- have shown a dramatic loss in FDI due to the reluctance of TNCs to increase investments into their countries. Mexico, on the other hand, doubled its investments to USD 25 billion to become the largest FDI recipient in Latin America for the first time since 1995. For further information, or to obtain a copy of this report, visit <http://www.unctad.org/wir/>.

WTO Resources

GUIDE TO DISPUTE SETTLEMENT: THE ONLY WTO-APPROVED GUIDE ON THE WTO MECHANISM FOR RESOLVING TRADE DISPUTES. September 2002. This practical guide explains the dispute settlement process and summarises the WTO experience in settling disputes since 1995. For further information visit: <http://www.wto.org>.

UNITED STATES - TAX TREATMENT FOR "FOREIGN SALES CORPORATIONS" WT/DS108/ARB. 30 August 2002. Report concerning the decision of the arbitrator in the case against the US brought before the WTO by the European Community. The arbitrator concluded that the tax breaks the US offers producers was harming EU trade in the amount of USD 4.043 million, and allowed the EU to impose sanctions as it sees fit. To view a copy of this decision, visit http://docsonline.wto.org/gen_browseDetail.asp?prog=2#Decisions+of+Arbitrator.

