



ICTSD

INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR
TRADE AND SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT

BRIDGES

Weekly Trade News Digest

5 March 2002

Volume 6, Number 8

BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest is also available online and is updated every week. To subscribe to **BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest**, please visit the ICTSD website at

<http://www.ictsd.org/subscribe>

If you require any assistance setting up your **BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest** subscription, please contact Hugo Cameron, Editor, by email at: hcameron@ictsd.ch, or by telephone at: (41-22) 917-8336.

CONTENTS

WTO GROUP ON RULES DISCUSSES NEGOTIATING AGENDA, FISHERIES SUBSIDIES.....	2
CTD SESSION ON SPECIAL AND DIFFERENTIAL TREATMENT SNAGS ON PROCEDURE	3
PRELIMINARY AGREEMENT ON ENVIRONMENT NEGOTIATION STRUCTURE	4
CODEX COMMITTEE STALLS OVER EQUIVALENCE STANDARD	6
SERVICES: DOMESTIC REGULATION DISCUSSED AT OECD.....	7
In Brief.....	8
EU MEMBERS PLEDGE TO RATIFY KYOTO PROTOCOL	8
ILO LAUNCHES COMMISSION ON SOCIAL DIMENSION OF GLOBALISATION	9
CANADA TAKES US-SOFTWOOD LUMBER DISPUTE TO NAFTA TRIBUNAL.....	9
AFRICA DEVELOPMENT FORUM GETS UNDERWAY	10
SMALL NATIONS SEEK FAIRER TRADE DEALS AT COMMONWEALTH MEET.....	10
WTO In Brief.....	11
PUBLIC HEALTH, TK AND GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATIONS ON TRIPS COUNCIL AGENDA	11
BRAZIL TO CHALLENGE EC, US AGRICULTURE SUBSIDIES AT WTO.....	12
WTO JOINS WITH OTHERS ON TECHNICAL COOPERATION	12
Events & Resources	13
EVENTS	13
RESOURCES.....	17

WTO GROUP ON RULES DISCUSSES NEGOTIATING AGENDA, FISHERIES SUBSIDIES

WTO Members at an informal meeting of the newly-established Negotiating Group on Rules on 28 February set a tentative schedule for their upcoming meetings in 2002. Disagreement, however, persisted over whether the issue of fisheries subsidies should be treated as a separate agenda item or be discussed under wider talks on subsidies.

The Group agreed to hold five meetings in 2002, currently scheduled for 11 March, 13-15 May, 8-10 July, 16-18 October and 25-27 November. Members agreed that the issue of Regional Trade Agreements would be handled as a separate agenda item on par with antidumping and subsidies/countervailing measures.

However, Members failed to agree on how to deal with fisheries subsidies that are mandated to be discussed "in the context of" negotiations aimed at clarifying and improving disciplines under the Agreements on Implementation of Article VI of the GATT 1994 [anti- dumping and countervailing duties] and on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures in the Doha Declaration (para. 28).

Iceland -- supported by others including Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Peru, New Zealand, Malaysia and the US -- said that fisheries subsidies should be negotiated under a separate agenda item given that they received specific mention in the Doha Declaration. For their part, Japan and South Korea -- who had opposed references to fisheries subsidies during the Doha negotiations -- advocated discussions in the context of general subsidies. As one trade source speculated, fisheries negotiations included under general subsidies might hold up consensus on fisheries subsidies as Members are likely to bring up other sectors in the debate. Another trade source pointed out that fisheries subsidies were the only subsidy issue that had been identified as a win- win-win scenario (i.e. with economic, environmental and developmental benefits) and should therefore be treated separately.

According to one environmental source, negotiations under a separate item might raise the status of the issue by making agreement on fisheries a negotiating objective in its own right, thereby forcing Members to produce results. The source also speculated that developing countries might be more likely to accept environmental arguments in a separate discussion on fisheries subsidies rather than during negotiations on subsidies in general.

The conservation group World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) welcomed Iceland's initiative and the show of force from key 'friends of fish' during the meeting. WWF hopes that including fisheries subsidies as a distinct agenda item will broaden the scope and modalities of the discussion without separating it from the main negotiations on subsidies. In particular, it would enable a differentiation between subsidies with negative or positive impacts on conservation and sustainable development, and would allow existing norms and regulations (for example those developed at the UN Food and Agriculture Organization or the UN Conference on Trade and Development), to be taken

into account. Also, general subsidies are likely to be discussed by subsidies experts, while discussions on fisheries subsidies, WWF argues, need to include additional experts in order to address environmental and sustainable development-related aspects. Reference to negotiations on fisheries subsidies are included in the Trade and Environment section (para. 31) of the Doha Declaration.

The Chair of the Rules Negotiating Group, New Zealand's Ambassador Timothy John Groser, said he would conduct further consultations with Members on this issue.

"WTO Members set schedule to implement Doha round rules," WTO REPORTER, 1 March 2002; ICTSD Internal Files.

CTD SESSION ON SPECIAL AND DIFFERENTIAL TREATMENT SNAGS ON PROCEDURE

At a 5 March Special Session of the WTO Committee on Trade and Development (CTD-SS) on special and differential treatment (S&D) for developing countries, developed and developing country Members sparred over the question of whether or not the CTD-SS was a negotiating forum. Despite the fact that the CTD-SS faces a short timeline before it must report to the General Council in July, delegates did not discuss the point-by-point substance of S&D, but spent most of the meeting addressing legal aspects of what, when and how the CTD-SS should tackle its mandate.

According to section 12(i) of the Doha Decision on Implementation, the CTD must do the following three things, and then to report to the General Council with clear recommendations for a decision by July 2002. These are: (a) to identify those special and differential treatment provisions that were already mandatory in nature and those that were non-binding in character; (b) to consider the legal and practical implications for developed and developing Members of converting special and differential treatment measures into mandatory provisions; and (c) to identify those that Members consider should be made mandatory.

According to one "disappointed" developing country source, the meeting dragged on organisational issues and on questions about how Members should report to the General Council and the Trade Negotiations Committee. In particular, delegates disagreed over whether the CTD-SS was a negotiating forum or not.

Both Pakistan and the Philippines, supported by a number of developing countries, said that the Special Session should be in negotiating mode. As such, they linked this to whether observers should be allowed to attend. A number of observer organisations are authorised to attend regular sessions of the CTD on an ad-hoc basis, but would not be likely to attend if the Special Sessions were allocated as negotiating fora. However, the Quad (Canada, the EC, Japan and the US) argued that the Special Sessions were not in

negotiating mode. One Quad source, referring to a recently-formed Special Session on Trade Facilitation, said that a non-negotiating Special Session already existed, so the CTD- SS was not necessarily bound to engage in negotiations. Trade sources said that the EC further blocked the process by saying it needed to go back to its capitals in order to determine how to proceed on these questions.

Members decided to skirt the issue of whether or not the Special Sessions on S&D were negotiating forums and of observership; they will come back to these matters in a later meeting. CTD-SS Chair Amb. Ransford Smith of Jamaica told the meeting that he would conduct informal consultations in an attempt to move the process forward, and proposed five meetings to focus in particular on the three points of the mandate contained in the Doha Decision. Amb. Smith put forward the dates of 9 April, 16 May, 14 June, 2 July, and 17 July as possible meeting times.

Sources indicate that Members could use the first meeting to submit proposals on S&D provisions deemed to be mandatory. The next two could be used to address the question of effectiveness (i.e. go into detail on measures that could help least-developed countries and others take advantage of existing S&D provisions), and the final two could focus on how the CTD Special Session could report to the General Council.

Many developing country delegations were further disappointed, as the discussion did not go into a provision-by-provision assessment of S&D as they had hoped. One Quad source said they had hoped to see proposals submitted on S&D, but that none had been forthcoming.

As reflected in paragraph 44 of the Ministerial Declaration (WT/MIN(01) DEC/1), Ministers had agreed that that all S&D provisions should be reviewed with a view to strengthening them and making them more precise, effective and operational. As a starting-point for the discussions, Members are using information provided in Document WT/COMTD/W//77/Rev.1 (not yet available online). That document contains, amongst other things, a discussion of the operation of S&D, an illustrative list of questions, and also the nucleus of a distinction between provisions that were mandatory and those that were not.

ICTSD Internal Files.

PRELIMINARY AGREEMENT ON ENVIRONMENT NEGOTIATION STRUCTURE

At a 1 March informal meeting of the Committee on Trade and Environment (CTE), WTO Members reached tentative agreement on how to organise and schedule not only negotiations mandated by para. 31 of the Doha Ministerial Declaration, but also regular sessions of the CTE.

Scheduling

As previously decided at a 3 February General Council meeting, negotiations on Environment will take place in Special Sessions of the CTE (see BRIDGES Weekly, 5 February 2002, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/02-02-05/index.htm>). At the 1 March informal meeting, Members decided the following, though all decisions are preliminary and must be confirmed at a formal meeting at a later date:

- Three meetings of the regular CTE will be held.

- Meetings of the Special Sessions (SS) will be held back-to-back with regular CTE meetings, with the possibility that more could be scheduled, keeping in mind the need to keep the overall number of meetings to a minimum and to avoid overlap with the meetings of other negotiating bodies

- The bodies will meet on the following dates: CTE: 21 March, 13-14 June, and 8-9 October. CTE-SS: 22 March, 11-12 June, and 10-11 October.

- Observers would not be authorised to attend Special Sessions, as these are negotiating fora.

- An information session with secretariats from relevant multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) will be held, and will address technical assistance, capacity building, procedures for information exchange between MEAs and the WTO.

Negotiating sessions

Special Sessions would focus on the mandated negotiations outlined in para. 31, namely the relationship between existing WTO rules and specific trade obligations; procedures for information exchange between relevant WTO committees and MEA secretariats and criteria for granting of observer status; and the reduction or elimination of tariff and non-tariff barriers to environmental goods and services. The status of this point remains somewhat unclear, however, as it was also decided at the 1 March meeting that negotiations on environmental goods and services would be best addressed in the Market Access Negotiating Group.

Members agreed that there should be separate phases for the negotiations; most likely a study phase, in which Members could submit and debate proposals, and a negotiations phase, in which Members could negotiate the final outcome. However, trade sources said that there was disagreement over when countries should be able to submit proposals. The EC, for instance, said at the informal meeting that there should be a flexible structure for negotiations, and that Members should not be precluded from submitting proposals at any stage in the negotiating process. Other Members want clearly-defined phases for submission of negotiating proposals.

Regular sessions

There seemed to be agreement on adopting the traditional 'thematic cluster' approach, whereby Members address items on the CTE's agenda under either the 'market access' or 'linkages between the multilateral environmental and trade agendas' clusters. In addition to this, Members will assign priority on the CTE agendas to those areas that appear in para. 32 of the Doha Declaration, namely the effect of environmental measures on market access; the relevant provisions of the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs); and labelling requirements for environmental purposes, with work on these three areas to include the identification of any need to clarify relevant WTO rules.

Further, paragraphs 33 and 51 from the Doha Declaration are to be included as regular standing items on the CTE agenda. Para. 33 refers to technical assistance and capacity building in the field of trade and environment for developing countries, and the sharing of expertise and experience among Members on environmental reviews at the national level. Para. 51 mandates the CTE (along with the Committee on Trade and Development) to act as a forum to identify and debate environmental and developmental aspects of the negotiations, in order to help achieve the objective of having sustainable development appropriately reflected.

ICTSD will report further on the outcome of the 21-22 March regular and Special Session of the CTE.

ICTSD Internal Files.

CODEX COMMITTEE STALLS OVER EQUIVALENCE STANDARD

Delegates at the Codex Committee On Food Import And Export Inspection And Certification Systems (meeting from 25 February to 1 March in Brisbane, Australia) failed to significantly move forward in their discussions on the Draft Guidelines on judging equivalence of sanitary measures in food inspection and certification systems. The Committee will now establish a Working Group to look into this issue. Efforts to draw up such a standard for the equivalence of technical regulations were abandoned altogether.

Some progress was made in the discussion on whether equivalence judgements should be made on a product-by-product basis (as proposed by Argentina in the WTO Committee for the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS) last year; see BRIDGES Weekly, 17 July 2001; <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/17-07-01/story3.htm>) or on a system-wide basis, with delegates agreeing to accept both approaches. A small victory could also be claimed by the International Association Of Consumer Food Organizations (IACFO) when delegates agreed to include references to

consumer health in addition to trade facilitation as an objective in the Preamble. IACFO has repeatedly expressed concern that the Committee might be subjugated to the pursuit of trade facilitation while neglecting food safety concerns.

Equivalence (i.e. mutual acceptance of another Member's risk-minimising measures that may differ in process but have an equivalent effect under Article 4 of the WTO SPS Agreement) will also be discussed at an informal meeting preceding the upcoming SPS Committee meeting on 20-21 March. Documents of the Codex Committee meeting are available at: http://www.codexalimentarius.net/ccfics10/fc02_01e.htm.

ICTSD Internal Files.

SERVICES: DOMESTIC REGULATION DISCUSSED AT OECD

Convening for a 4-5 March Services Experts Meeting jointly organised by the Trade Directorate of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the World Bank, OECD Members as well as some selected developing country WTO Members addressed the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) work programme on domestic regulation (GATS Article VI.4). Inter alia, participating countries convened to create intellectual input designed to feed into the current GATS negotiations at the WTO and to build bridges between trade negotiators, domestic regulators, national parliaments and civil society. While there was consensus among the participants that a great deal of attention needed to be paid to the developmental dimension of designing disciplines on domestic regulation, views on other subjects such as necessity, transparency and the choice of a generally horizontal approach remained diverse. This Experts Meeting was the third of its kind held as part of ongoing OECD work on trade in services.

With presentations from academia as well as the OECD, World Bank, WTO and UNCTAD secretariats, the discussions revolved around a number of horizontal rule-making issues prominently featured in the GATS Article VI.4 work programme, such as strengthening disciplines on transparency, international standardisation efforts, challenges arising from e-commerce, lessons learned from other WTO agreements, and the use of 'necessity' tests in domestic regulation. In the second part of the expert meeting, participants took a sectoral look at the interface between domestic regulation and services trade, notably in the areas of telecommunications, transport, financial services, accountancy, energy, and health services.

Despite their appreciation for the comprehensive analyses conducted by the presenters, some WTO Members remarked that academia needed a 'reality check' as the services talks at the WTO were far behind the state of analysis given in the presentations. The contributions had been "intellectually stimulating, but mostly too ambitious," an OECD member commented. Referring to paragraph 7 of the negotiation 'guidelines' requiring

WTO Members to conclude negotiations on domestic regulation prior to the scheduled end of the new round of trade talks (1 January 2005), a developing country WTO delegate cautioned that, "within the remaining 33 months, [WTO Members] need to focus on what is feasible, desirable and realistic."

Addressing the composition of the participants invited to the experts meeting, another attendee commented that "in order to really address the concerns of all relevant stakeholders -- including civil society groups -- it would be positive if the OECD in its search for experts and participants could outreach to a more diverse set of constituencies."

On 14-15 March, the OECD Trade Committee Working Party will meet in order to organise the follow-up of the third Services Experts Meeting. This will include issuing a joint OECD-World Bank publication based on the meeting as well as identifying areas in which further analysis should be conducted. The publication by the OECD and the World Bank will be available to the public.

Developing country WTO Members attending the meeting were: Argentina, Barbados, Brazil, Chile, Columbia, Costa Rica, Egypt, Indonesia, Kenya, Malaysia, Peru, the Philippines, Thailand, Venezuela and Uruguay. Other international organisations present at the meeting included the WHO and the IMF.

The WTO convenes later this week for its 'Services Week' meetings, including the Committee on Specific Commitments and the Working Party on Domestic Regulation (see BRIDGES Weekly, 26 February 2002, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/02-02-26/story4.htm>).

ICTSD Internal Files.

In Brief

EU MEMBERS PLEDGE TO RATIFY KYOTO PROTOCOL

At a 4 March meeting of the Council of the European Union, the 15 EU Environment Ministers committed their countries to ratifying the Kyoto Protocol -- the international agreement designed to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 5.2 percent from 1990 levels by 2012 -- by the end of May 2002. "The scientific evidence on climate change is stronger than ever", said Environment Commissioner Margo Wallström. "All countries have to act, but the industrialised countries have to take the lead." Wallström also welcomed signs that Japan, New Zealand and Norway and the EU candidate countries were preparing for ratification. As a whole, the EU has committed itself to cut emissions by 8 percent, which the European Commission estimates to cost just 0.06 percent of projected 2010 GDP. To date, 48 signatories have ratified the Protocol, but to enter into force 55

ratifications are required accounting for 55 percent of global emissions. Given that the US (which accounts for a third of emissions) has withdrawn from the Protocol, almost all developed country signatories will need to ratify the agreement.

"Europe Decides to Ratify Kyoto Climate Protocol," ENS, 4 March 2002.

ILO LAUNCHES COMMISSION ON SOCIAL DIMENSION OF GLOBALISATION

The International Labour Organization (ILO) on 27 February formally launched the high-level World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalization, which aims to "examine ways in which all international organisations can contribute to a more inclusive globalisation process that is acceptable and fair to all," according to ILO Director-General Juan Somavia. The 21-member Commission -- which includes politicians, economists, workers' leaders and academics from around the world and will be chaired by the Finnish President Tarja Halonen and Tanzania's President Benjamin Mkapa -- is expected to submit its report to the ILO Director-General in 2003, setting out concrete actions to guide and shape the process of globalisation. While the Commission's mandate does not explicitly refer to trade and labour, many believe that the ILO's decision last June to establish the Commission took the pressure off the WTO to tackle these issues. A debate on labour standards at the WTO has long been opposed by developing countries who fear that industrialised countries might use such standards as protectionist measures (see BRIDGES Weekly, 26 June 2001; <http://www.ictsd.org/html/weekly/26-06-01/story5.htm>). Consequently, the Doha Ministerial Declaration simply reaffirms the declaration made at the 1996 Ministerial Conference in Singapore that the ILO is the appropriate body to deal with core labour standards. The first meeting of the Commission will be held on 25 March. For further information, see <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/wcsdg/index.htm>.

"ILO tackles social consequences of globalization," ILO PRESS RELEASE, 27 February 2002.

CANADA TAKES US-SOFTWOOD LUMBER DISPUTE TO NAFTA TRIBUNAL

After a failure to reach a negotiated settlement last week after months of discussion, Canadian Trade Minister Pierre Pettigrew on 26 February said the government formally asked for the establishment of a North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) panel to review US punitive duties on Canadian softwood lumber exports. Canada has already complained to the WTO about the 19.3 percent countervailing duty and 12 percent anti-dumping duty on Canadian lumber announced last year and scheduled to be reimposed on 21 March if an agreement is not reached. A WTO panel was established on 5 December to rule in the case. Sources believe that US ambassador to Canada, Paul Cellucci, may suspend the lumber duties if progress is made in negotiations before the US takes a decision on whether the new tariff will become permanent. The dispute involves a US

contention that Canada's system of charging lower fees to lumber producers who harvest wood from government-owned land amounts to subsidies for the industry, while Canada accuses the US lumber industry of seeking unfair duties to compensate for its lack of competitiveness (see BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest, 6 November 2001, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/01-11-06/story4.htm>)

"Canada Calls for NAFTA to review U.S. Softwood Penalties," CANADIAN PRESS, 26 February 2002. "Canada Braces for Battle, US Preaches Caution Optimism as Talks to Resume on Softwood Lumber Dispute," ASSOCIATED PRESS, 27 February 2002. "Canada's Chretien, US's Bush Want Trade Spats Over 'Quickly,'" BLOOMBERG, 26 February 2002.

AFRICA DEVELOPMENT FORUM GETS UNDERWAY

This year's Africa Development Forum, which opened on 4 March in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, will focus on defining priorities for the economic and political integration of the continent. During the four-day meeting, delegates will discuss issues related to monetary, fiscal and trade policies necessary to accelerate regional integration, resulting in a consensus document to be released on Friday. The Forum was preceded by a one-day symposium on the African Union (AU), where representatives of government and civil society met to discuss the status, process and objectives of the AU. Formally adopted at the summit of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in July last year, the AU -- which is scheduled to replace the OAU this year -- will be based loosely on the EU with a pan-African parliament, a monetary fund, an investment bank and a court of justice. Financial constraints, however, have so far prevented the establishment of these institutions, leading some African diplomats to suggest that the launch should be postponed by one year. For further information on the Forum, see <http://www.uneca.org/adfiii/>.

"Conference on African Economic Integration opens in Ethiopia," AP, 4 March 2002; Meetings of AU symposium, transport experts," ECA PRESS RELEASE, 4 March 2002.

SMALL NATIONS SEEK FAIRER TRADE DEALS AT COMMONWEALTH MEET

Directly preceding the 2-5 March Commonwealth leaders' summit in Australia, some of the world's smallest and economically weakest nations on 1 March declared themselves to be missing out on the benefits of free trade, and demanded a better deal from future trade negotiations. Concerned that they do not have the clout or capacity to negotiate and then exploit opportunities in trade talks, many small states, primarily in the Pacific and the Caribbean, resisted the idea of a new WTO round of trade negotiations. According to Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer, chair of the Commonwealth's small states group, small nations are also concerned that they are being discriminated against in the latest efforts of the Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) to crack down on states engaged in harmful tax competition. Some Pacific countries, such

as Vanuatu and Nauru, insist that the OECD eradicate signs of discrimination by first cracking down on developed countries like Luxembourg and Switzerland.

"Small nations call for fairer trade deals," REUTERS, 4 March 2002.

WTO In Brief

PUBLIC HEALTH, TK AND GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATIONS ON TRIPS COUNCIL AGENDA

WTO Members will convene for the first formal session of the Council for Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs) after Doha on 5-7 March to discuss, inter alia, the Doha Declaration on TRIPs and Public Health, focusing in particular on para. 6 (compulsory licensing in countries with no or limited manufacturing capacity of pharmaceuticals) and 7 (extension of the transition periods for least- developed countries) of the Declaration. As instructed in the Doha Ministerial Declaration, the TRIPs Council will furthermore continue discussions on the review of TRIPs Article 27.3(b) (exclusions from patentability) and implementation under Article 71.1. Following agreement at an informal session prior to the meeting, Members will discuss traditional knowledge and folklore, and the relationship between the TRIPs Agreement and the Convention on Biological Diversity - - both of which are explicitly referred to in the Doha Declaration as issues for discussion in the TRIPs Council -- as separate agenda items rather than under the 27.3(b) or 71.1 reviews as some Members have previously called for.

Also on the agenda of the formal session are discussions on the extension of geographical indications (GI) to products other than wines and spirits. Disagreement persists on whether formal negotiations on this issue were launched at Doha (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 6 December 2001; <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/01-12-06/story1.htm>). While some countries, including Bulgaria, the EU and India among others, insist that the Doha Declaration contains a clear mandate for negotiations, others, such as Argentina, dispute this interpretation. Following the formal session, Members will meet for a special session of the TRIPs Council on 8 March to start negotiations on a multilateral system of notification and registration of GIs for wines and spirits which is mandated to be finalised by the Fifth WTO Ministerial Conference in 2003.

ICTSD Internal Files.

ICTSD will report further on the outcome of the Rules Negotiation Group in next week's issue.

ICTSD Internal Files.

BRAZIL TO CHALLENGE EC, US AGRICULTURE SUBSIDIES AT WTO

At a news conference on 26 February, Brazil's Agriculture Minister Marcus Pratini de Moraes announced that his government would ask the WTO to rule on whether both the EC and the US were providing excessive support to some of their farm sectors. The minister stated Brazil would file a complaint against the EC for subsidies to its sugar producers and against the US for its support to soybean and cotton growers. Brazil is a major exporter of these three commodities. Referring to the "scandalous" European farm subsidies, Brazil's President Fernando Cardoso said that, "these subsidies are not to keep Brazil out of Europe, but to keep Brazil out of other markets." The Brazilian government indicated that it would refer to the WTO findings in the Canada-Dairy case (WT/DS/103 and 113) for backing its claim that the EC, the world's largest producer of refined sugar, was exporting sugar below the average costs of production. Furthermore, farm minister de Moraes explained that "the United States today subsidises the soybean price by 20 to 25 percent of its value and this hampers the possibilities of Brazilian exports." According to the Brazilian agriculture ministry, Brazil's farm production could be doubled or tripled if there were no farm subsidies in the EC and the US.

"Brazil To Contest US, EU Farm Subsidies At WTO," KYODO NEWS, 27 February 2002; "Brazil Brings EU and US Before WTO Over Farm Subsidies," EFE, 26 February 2002; "Brazil Contests EU Sugar Export Subsidies at WTO," REUTERS, 21 February 2002.

WTO JOINS WITH OTHERS ON TECHNICAL COOPERATION

Heads and representatives of six international agencies -- the International Trade Center, the International Monetary Fund, the UN Conference on Trade and Development, the UN Development Program, the World Bank and the WTO -- on 26 February adopted a joint communiqu  aimed at enhancing cooperation to provide support for developing and least-developed countries in their efforts to participate in current trade negotiations and benefit from the international trade regime. The agencies highlighted in particular the importance of effectively implementing the Integrated Framework -- which aims to provide trade-related technical assistance to LDCs -- as an important contribution to the realisation of the so-called "Doha Development Agenda". In related news, the WTO and the Inter-American Development Bank on 27 February signed a memorandum of understanding committing the themselves to deepen cooperation on technical assistance for trade negotiations and capacity building to countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. To this end, they will establish joint programs to support, inter alia, regional and sub-regional workshops and meetings, training courses and tool kits for trade negotiators, distance learning courses and analysis of trade policy and multilateral negotiation issues.

The joint communiqu  is available at:

http://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news02_e/ifjointcom_washington_feb02_e.htm.

"Heads of international agencies agree to work together to implement the WTO's Doha Development Agenda," WTO News, 26 February 2002; "WTO, Inter-American Development Bank to cooperate on technical assistance for Latin America," WTO NEWS, 27 February 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

4-5 March, Ottawa, Canada: FIRST JOINT MEETING OF THE HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT MINISTERS OF THE AMERICAS. The meeting will serve as a follow-up to last year's Environment Ministers meeting. For further information contact: Environment Canada; tel: (1-819) 956-5212; fax: (1-819) 956-5964; email: enviroinfo@ec.gc.ca; Internet: <http://www.ec.gc.ca/>. From IISD Linkages: <http://www.iisd.ca/linkages/journal/>.

4-8 March, Yokohama, Japan: 3RD SESSION OF THE CODEX AD HOC INTERGOVERNMENTAL TASK FORCE ON FOODS DERIVED FROM BIOTECHNOLOGY. Organised by the joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme. The intergovernmental task force will, amongst others: evaluate the safety and nutrition aspects of foods derived from biotechnology and consider the Draft Principles for the Risk Analysis of Foods derived from Modern Biotechnology. For further information, contact Secretariat of the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme, FAO; tel: (39 06) 5705 1; fax: 5705 4593; email: codex@fao.org; Internet: http://www.codexalimentarius.net/ccfbt3/bt02_01e.htm.

4-9 March, Nairobi, Kenya: BIOTECHNOLOGY, GENOMICS AND PUBLIC HEALTH IN AFRICA. Organised by the African Centre for Technology Studies (ACTS) and University of Toronto. This is the first of a series of one-week executive courses in biotechnology and genomics health policy. The course will focus on the nature of public policies and institutional arrangements to reduce disparities in global health. Lectures and discussions will be on the potential contributions of genomics and biotechnology in improving public health in Africa. For further information contact: Marion Motari, Biopolicy Programme, ACTS, tel: (254 2) 524712; email: M.Motari@cgiar.org; Internet: <http://www.acts.or.ke/GenomicsCourse.htm>.

4-15 March, San José, Costa Rica: SECOND MEETING OF THE UNITED NATIONS FORUM ON FORESTS (UNFF2). Organised by UN Forum on Forests. For further information contact: Ms. Tiina Vähänen; UN Forum on Forests, Department of Social

and Economic Affairs, tel: (1 212) 963 3262; fax: 963 4260; email: vahanen@un.org; Internet: <http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/forests.htm>.

5 March, London, UK: ASSIGNMENT OF RECEIVABLES IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE: THE NEW UN CONVENTION. £30 Members and £50 Non-members. For further information contact: The British Institute of International and Comparative Law; Charles Clore House, 17 Russell Square, London WC1B 5JP, United Kingdom; tel: (44-0-207) 862-5151; fax: 862-5152; email: info@biicl.org; Internet: <http://www.biicl.org/>.

6 March, London, UK: THE ALTERNATIVE FOOD ECONOMY: MYTHS, REALITIES AND POTENTIAL. The conference will seek to present developments in rural and food geography to a wider audience, and critically examine the claims made with regard to the AFE. In particular, it will seek to examine how new consumer concerns are being dealt with in food retailing, examine the size and characteristics of the AFE in western societies, explore the potential for further growth of the AFE and explore the implications of the AFE for future patterns of retailing. For further information contact: Alison Glazebrook, Head of Programmes, Royal Geographical Society, 1 Kensington Gore, London SW7 2AR; tel: (020-7) 591-3006; fax: 591-3059; email: a.glazebrook@rgs.org; Internet: <http://www.rgs.org/>.

6-9 March, Sousse, Tunisia: 7th BIENNIAL CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR ECOLOGICAL ECONOMICS. For further information visit: <http://www.ecoleconeurope.org/ISEEtunisia2002.html>.

8 March, 13:00-15:00, Room C, WTO, Geneva, Switzerland: INFORMAL NGO PRESENTATION ON ASSESSMENT OF SERVICES LIBERALISATION. Non-governmental groups CIEL, OMCT, WDM and WWF will present and discuss case study experiences on the impacts of services liberalisation in the tourism sector and on cross-sectoral issues such as developmental and human rights concerns. For further information contact: Bernie Kuiten, External Relations, WTO; tel: (41-22) 739-5676; email: bernard.kuiten@wto.org.

11-12 March, Vancouver, BC, Canada: FORUM ON THE SOUND MANAGEMENT OF POPs. The forum is designed to examine current themes and management issues for persistent organic pollutants. The overall objectives of the Forum are to: provide an overview of POPs and the Stockholm Convention; discuss financing for implementing the Convention; and highlight opportunities for governments and industry. The Forum is designed to assist senior policy makers, corporate industry executives, and international agency representatives gain a better understanding of POPs and the Stockholm Convention. The Forum also seeks to identify opportunities for both the public and private sector. For further information contact: Candice Ford, Forum Coordinator; tel: (1-613) 253- 4343 ext.230; email: cford@rfigroup.com.

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

WTO Events

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

5 March, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE - SPECIAL SESSION ON SPECIAL & DIFFERENTIAL TREATMENT.

5-7 March, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO COUNCIL FOR TRADE-RELATED ASPECTS OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS (see WTO In Brief, this issue).

6 March, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE - TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PLAN.

6 March, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER WORKING GROUP.

8 March, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO DISPUTE SETTLEMENT BODY.

8 March, Geneva, Switzerland: INTEGRATED FRAMEWORK STEERING COMMITTEE - LAUNCHING ASSISTANCE FOR CAMBODIA, MADAGASCAR AND MAURITANIA.

8 March, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO COUNCIL FOR TRADE-RELATED ASPECTS OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS-SPECIAL SESSION: negotiations on a multilateral system of notification and registration of GIs for wines and spirits.

11 March, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO PLEDGING CONFERENCE FOR THE DOHA DEVELOPMENT AGENDA GLOBAL TRUST FUND.

11 March, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO COMMITTEE ON SPECIFIC COMMITMENTS (SERVICES).

12 March, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO WORKING PARTY ON DOMESTIC REGULATION (SERVICES).

Other Forthcoming Events

28 March, Geneva, Switzerland: TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE: HOW TO GET IT RIGHT. MSF, CPT, OXFAM and HAI will hold a conference on the implementation of the Doha Declaration on TRIPS and the Public health. The meeting, which will include

representatives from developing and developed countries, representatives from international organisations, academia and NGOs, will analyse progress made so far and discuss recommendations on how to make the Doha Declaration work for people. To register for the conference send a message to: trips_health_conference@paris.msf.org.

28 March, Ottawa, Canada: WSSD, GLOBALIZATION AND THE INTERNATIONAL GOVERNANCE AGENDA. The purpose of the workshop is to provide an informal setting for brainstorming and to gather input from Canadian stakeholders on what Canada might be doing to push progress on issues of international governance in advance of the WSSD. In particular, the focus will be on advancing the relationship of the regimes of international environmental and those for international economic governance, with an emphasis on the area of trade and investment. For further information contact: Mr. Isaak Pageot-LeBel; email: workshop@globetrotter.net.

12-14 April, Banff, Alberta Province, Canada: G-8 ENVIRONMENT MINISTERS MEETING. Inter alia, the summit will address the leadup to the World Summit on Sustainable Development scheduled for August-September 2002. For further information contact: Environment Canada; tel: (1-819) 956- 5212; fax: (1-819) 956-5964; email: enviroinfo@ec.gc.ca; Internet: <http://www.canada2002earthsummit.gc.ca/>. From IISD Linkages: <http://www.iisd.ca/linkages/journal/>.

17 April, Brussels, Belgium: FROM RIO VIA DOHA TO JOHANNESBURG: COUNTERBALANCING THE WTO WITH STRONG ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RULES. Organised by Friends of the Earth Europe. The public hearing will address the two specific cross-cutting issues of Environmental Governance and Alternatives to Trade and Investment Liberalisation. For further information contact: email: alexandra.wandel@foeeurope.org; Internet: <http://www.foeeurope.org/>.

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.

22-25 May, Montreal, Canada: SUSTAINABLE JUSTICE 2002-IMPLEMENTING INTERNATIONAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT LAW. Cosponsored by UNEP, the conference will assemble over 200 of the world's top legal experts to address key international issues of our day: the environment, the economy, social justice, human rights, health, and the inter-linkages among them. Conference panels and workshops will focus on a range of issues, such as: new legal mechanisms and instruments for implementing international law in the field of sustainable development, innovative measures for financing development that is both environmentally and socially sustainable, and promoting an attitude of compliance with international agreements. For further information contact: Centre for International Sustainable Development Law, 3661 Peel St., Montreal, Quebec H3A 1X1, Canada; tel: (1-514) 581-4984 or (1-514) 398-8918; email: conference@cisd.org; Internet: <http://www.cisd.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 ICTSD's documentation centre would also be welcome (contact Matteo Rizzolli, mrizzolli@ictsd.ch).

OECD DECLASSIFIED MAI DOCUMENTS. The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) has declassified a number of documents relating to its failed attempt to negotiate a Multilateral Agreement on Investment (MAI). Talks on the MAI were launched in 1995 in an effort to "provide a broad multilateral framework for international investment, with high standards for the liberalization of investment regimes and investment protection and with effective dispute settlement procedures". Following massive protests from consumer organisations, environmental groups and the labour movement, negotiations on the MAI were abandoned in late-1998. The OECD documents are available online at: <http://www1.oecd.org/daf/mai/>.

REGIONAL TRADE AGREEMENTS IN THE GATT/WTO: ARTICLE XXIV AND THE INTERNAL TRADE REQUIREMENT. By James Mathis, TMC Asser Press, 2002. The book treats legal and historical aspects of GATT Article XXIV, para. 8 provisions from the inter-war period through the WTO Appellate Body practice. Contents and Forward available at: <http://www.asserpress.nl/cata/Mathis/fra.htm>.

SUSTAINABLE FINANCE AND BANKING - THE FINANCIAL SECTOR AND THE FUTURE OF THE PLANET. By Marcel Jeucken, Earthscan Publications, October 2001. This book answers two broad questions: why is the financial sector crucial to achieving sustainability and why does sustainability pose threats and opportunities to banks? From a systematic assessment of major banks around the world, the book presents a comprehensive account of current best practice, an analysis of the differences in approach and performance, and recommendations of actions and policies for improved performance that will contribute to sustainable development. For further information visit: <http://www.sustainability-in-finance.com/>.

PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT WHILE OPENING MARKETS IN THE AMERICAS. By William Krist, published by North-South Center Press, January 2002. Negotiations to establish a Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) are scheduled to conclude in 2005. The Market Access Negotiations are a major element of this effort, and they would remove all tariff and nontariff barriers to trade among the 34 participating countries on all nonagricultural products, including forest and mining products, fish, and manufactured goods. This study considers the economic and environmental implications of the Market Access Negotiations, explaining how this agreement would promote economic growth in the Americas. For further information or the full paper, visit <http://www.miami.edu/nsc/pages/pubset.html>.

BIODIVERSITY AND TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE: EQUITABLE PARTNERSHIPS IN PRACTICE. Edited by Sarah A Laird. This book offers guidance

on how to arrive at equitable biodiversity research and prospecting partnerships. Drawing on experience and lessons learned from around the world, it provides case studies, analysis and recommendations. For further information, visit

http://www.earthscan.co.uk/new_titles.htm. Read a sample chapter:
<http://www.earthscan.co.uk/samplechapters/1853836982Foreword.htm>.

Electronic Resources

WTO AGRICULTURE NEGOTIATIONS: THE ISSUES, AND WHERE WE ARE NOW. By the WTO Secretariat. The backgrounder on agriculture negotiations at the WTO has been updated to cover the end of phase 2 of the ongoing negotiations. It also looks forward to the next tasks under the Doha mandate. The 1 March update, for the time being in English only, can be browsed or downloaded at

http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/agric_e/negs_bkgrnd00_contents_e.htm POVERTY RESEARCH: A RESEARCH PROGRAM ON POVERTY AND INEQUALITY. This is a live research program at <http://econ.worldbank.org/projects/subpage.php?sp=2473>. It aims to: (1) improve current data and methods of poverty and inequality analysis, including greater standardisation of household survey data, and making the data more accessible to users, and (2) use the improved data and existing data sources to better understand what makes “pro-poor growth.” The site describes ongoing and planned activities, as well as providing documentation on completed work, and links to closely related activities at the World Bank. For further information, contact Martin Ravallion (Research Manager): c/o research@worldbank.org.

Call For Papers

The North-South Center Press at the University of Miami is soliciting scholarly, policy-relevant manuscripts for publication as books, monographs, and North-South Agenda Papers. The Dante B. Fascell North- South Center is a research and public policy studies centre dedicated to providing informed analysis and finding practical responses to policy challenges facing the nations of Latin America and the Caribbean. Send your paper, prospectus, or book manuscript with a cover letter to Kathleen Hamman, Editorial Director, North-South Center Press, 1500 Monza Avenue, Coral Gables, FL 33146. Inquiries may be addressed to khamman@miami.edu. For further information, visit <http://www.miami.edu/nsc/pages/pubset.html>.

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

BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest© is published by the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD), <http://www.ictsd.org>. Electronic distribution is carried out by the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (IATP).

Contributors to this issue are Alison Banks, Heike Baumuller, David Primack, Alex Werth, and Melissa Wilcox. This edition of BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest was edited by Hugo Cameron, hcameron@ictsd.ch. Managing Editor is Andrew Crosby. The Director is Ricardo Meléndez-Ortiz, rmelendez@ictsd.ch. ICTSD is an independent, not-for-profit organisation based at: 13, ch. des Anémones, 1219 Geneva, Switzerland, tel: (41-22) 917-8492; fax: 917-8093. Excerpts >from BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest© may be used in other publications with appropriate citation. Comments and suggestions are welcomed and should be directed to the Editor or the Director.

BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest is made possible in 2001 - 2002 through the generous support of the Government of the United Kingdom (DFID). Additional support is provided by ICTSD's core donors: the Governments of Finland, Denmark, the Netherlands and Sweden; Christian Aid (UK), MISEREOR, NOVIB (NL), Oxfam (UK) and the Swiss Coalition of Development Organisations (Switzerland). The Weekly also benefits from support for the BRIDGES series of publications including: the Rockefeller Foundation, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation and Swiss Development Cooperation.

ISSN 1563-003X