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## Agriculture

### EUROPEAN COMMISSION'S AG REFORM PROPOSALS MEET WITH RESISTANCE

The European Commission's proposals for the reform of the EU's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) came under strong criticism by a number of member states at the Council meeting of Agriculture and Fisheries Ministers on 27-28 January. Members' criticism was mainly directed at the Commission's efforts to further de-couple financial support paid to farmers from production. For their part, civil society groups rejected the proposed package, describing it as a "major climb-down" from the Commission's earlier suggestions.

In related news, the EU member states on 27 January finally adopted a new EU proposal for the WTO agriculture negotiations, after France and Ireland dropped their objections to the draft proposal as put forward by the European Commission in December last year.

### Controversy over CAP reform

The new proposals put forward by the Commission on 22 January on reforming the CAP met with severe resistance, primarily from France, Spain, Italy, Portugal, Greece and Belgium. These countries oppose EU Agriculture Commissioner Franz Fischler's plans to further de-couple CAP support paid to EU farmers from production requirements (see below for further information on 'decoupling'). In contrast, Britain, Sweden, the Netherlands and Germany are demanding more change, which they regard as a crucial element of the EU's participation in the current round of agriculture talks in the WTO.

Fischler stressed that the proposals would not involve decoupling in all sectors. Decoupling would not apply to crops facing genuine risk of production dropping to unacceptable levels, such as durum wheat, potato starch, rice and feed proteins. He added that the proposals would strengthen the EU's negotiating position in

the current round of trade talks, in particular vis-à-vis the US. As noted in the Commission's 10 July communication, de-coupling would "provide a major advantage within the WTO, since the Green Box [de-coupled and at most minimally distorting farm subsidies exempted from reduction commitments] compatibility of the scheme will help secure these payments in an international context." The new proposals are based on the 10 July communication with two major revisions, namely a reform of the milk regime and changes to the arrangements for dynamic modulation.

Civil society groups strongly rejected the Commission's proposals "in favour of a real reform" of the CAP. In a joint statement, Friends of the Earth Europe (FOEE), BirdLife International and WWF expressed their serious concern that rural development had been "abandoned", urging member states to re-balance the reform. FOEE summarised the general discontent by noting that "[in the new proposals] the positive elements have been significantly weakened, farm gate prices will be decreased, and there will be hardly any more money for rural development and organic farming". Among their suggestions for re-balancing the reform is the phase-out of export subsidies, which the groups say damage farmers in developing countries as well as the European environment.

The proposals also found little support from farm lobby groups. COPA-COGEACA alleged that "the only real beneficiaries shown by the study are the EU's trading partners who will benefit not only from greater export opportunities to the EU market but also from the reduction in the EU's share on the world market". They based their rejection on six recently released impact assessments of the Commission's July reform proposals, which they claim would require farmers "to face a further enormous economic upheaval and increased bureaucracy in return for virtually no benefit to anyone".

### **New EU ag proposal submitted to WTO**

After more than a month of internal negotiations, EU member states at a 27 January Council of General Affairs meeting finally approved a WTO negotiating proposal presented by the European Commission to European Agriculture Ministers in December last year (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 20 December 2002, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/02-12-20/story2.htm>). France and Ireland had previously opposed the Commission's proposal, particularly the initiative to cut EU export subsidies by 45 percent as well as to eventually eliminate export subsidies on "products such as wheat, oilseeds, olive oil and tobacco". France and Ireland dropped their resistance following deletion of these product specifications from the revised proposal. The proposal has now been submitted to the WTO.

### **Background on the CAP reform**

In 1999, the European Council in Berlin agreed the Agenda 2000 reform of the CAP in an effort to increase market orientation and competitiveness, ensure food safety and quality, stabilise agricultural incomes, integrate environmental concerns into agricultural policy, develop the vitality of rural areas, and simplify and strengthen decentralisation. 'Decoupling', i.e. cutting the link between production and direct payments, is among the core elements of the reform. With this measure, the Commission would integrate all existing direct payments a producer receives from various schemes into a single payment, determined on the basis of historical references. The main objective of this payment to farmers is to stabilise their incomes, thereby providing them with "entrepreneurial freedom", according to the Commission. Such payments would no longer be linked to what farmers produce, but would rather be conditional upon compliance with binding standards in environmental protection, food safety, animal health and welfare and occupational health (cross-compliance). While supporters of de-coupling have blamed the linking of subsidies and output for Europe's notorious wine lakes and butter mountains, opponents believe that de-coupling would expose European farmers to market forces and would put many of them out of business.

Other elements of the reform include: introducing a new farm advisory system; new rural development measures to boost quality production, food safety, animal welfare and to cover the costs of the farm advisory

system; and revisions to the market policy of the CAP, including with regard to arable crops, milk and rice. Also envisaged is an increase in EU support for rural development by a modulation of direct payments (from which small farmers would be exempted), i.e. money will be shifted from the first "pillar" of the CAP (direct aids and market support) to the "second pillar" of rural development.

### **Additional resources**

The Commission's 22 January CAP reform proposals:  
[http://europa.eu.int/comm/agriculture/mtr/memo\\_en.pdf](http://europa.eu.int/comm/agriculture/mtr/memo_en.pdf).

The Commission's 10 July communication on the mid-term review:  
[http://europa.eu.int/comm/agriculture/mtr/archive/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/agriculture/mtr/archive/index_en.htm)

Impact studies of the CAP reform proposals:  
[http://europa.eu.int/comm/agriculture/publi/reports/mtrimpact/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/agriculture/publi/reports/mtrimpact/index_en.htm)

"Questions & Answer" on the CAP reform:  
[http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p\\_action.gettxt=gt&doc=MEMO/03/10/0|RAPID&lg=EN&di](http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=MEMO/03/10/0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=)  
splay=.

The EU's WTO proposal: <http://europa.eu.int/comm/agriculture/external/wto/officdoc/mod.pdf>

"Agriculture: European Union States Approve Offer To Doha Agricultural Round," WTO REPORTER, 28 January 2003; "European Commission Lacks Courage To Reform CAP," FOE PRESS RELEASE, 22 January 2003; "Farm ministers urged to push for real CAP reform now," FOE-BLI-WWF PRESS RELEASE, 27 January 2003; "Outcomes of the Agri/Fisheries Council of 27/28 January 2003," EC PRESS RELEASE, 29 January 2003; "Commission: New CAP reform plans good for farmers, consumers, environment, WTO," EURACTIV, 23 January 2003; "The Commission's own studies reveal the negative effects of its proposals for CAP reform," COPA-COGEACA, 16 January 2003.

## **Globalisation and Trade**

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### **TWO 'WORLD FORUMS' DEBATE GLOBALISATION**

While potential conflict in Iraq took centre stage at this year's World Economic Forum (Davos, Switzerland) and World Social Forum (Porto Alegre, Brazil), held in parallel on 23-28 January, participants also addressed international trade, the WTO and the next WTO Ministerial in Cancun. The WEF, which brings together world leaders, especially corporate representatives, to address global citizenship and various other global challenges, was organised under the heading of "building trust". The WSF, an event originally organised as a response to the WEF in an effort to unite a diverse body of groups and individuals opposing neo-liberalism and the current form of globalisation, focused on the theme of peace.

#### **Brazil's Lula - a bridge between the forums**

Brazilian new president and former union leader Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva (also known as Lula), attended the two forums, taking the WSF's message that "another world is possible" to the WEF. He stressed the need to close the gap between rich and poor nations, especially through the eradication of hunger. He also said he saw no reason why parties at both events should not be able to come together and learn from one another, likening them to unions and management. He stated that once they begin a true dialogue, the challenges become less great than when the two sides refuse to talk.

On the issue of trade, Lula -- a leftist previously known for his opposition to the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) -- stated that Brazil needed to make "extraordinary effort(s)" to increase the nation's international trade, particularly by enhancing exports through diversification of products and markets. He

also targeted wealthier nations, however, saying that "all the export effort that [poorer nations] make will be useless if countries continue to preach free trade on one side and practice protectionism on the other side." Dealing with bilateral issues, Lula vowed to enhance the South American Mercosur agreement, create a "more positive" US-Brazil relationship, and make efforts with Europe and Asia.

### **War and trade**

A great deal of concern was voiced this year at the WEF, with participants making links between a possible war with Iraq to higher oil prices and potential continuation of difficult global economic times. At the WSF, other economic concerns in relation to the threat of war were raised. Some activists said that the conflict could hurt developing country bargaining positions at the next WTO Ministerial in Cancun (in September 2003). Martin Khor of the Malaysia-based Third World Network said that a conflict could distract developing nations from planning for the negotiations, and could allow industrialised countries to bring in new issues. Khor felt that the US had previously used 11 September as a tool to pressure other countries to accept its proposals at the last Ministerial in Doha.

Friends of the Earth International (FoEI), with delegations both at the WSF and to the 'The Public Eye on Davos' counter-conference in Davos, argued that the WEF was directly linked to the creation of the WTO and the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). FoEI stressed that WSF is "vital to formulate alternatives to neo-liberal economic globalisation policies and to review ways to minimise the negative impact of a corporate-led globalisation process".

"100,000 expected at the World Social Forum," CWI BRAZIL, 23 January 2003; "WEF vs. WSF," PRAVDA, 24 January 2003; "Davos Versus Porto Alegre, Round Three," PRESS RELEASE, Friend of the Earth International, 15 January, 2003; "Brazil's Lula: 'Another World Possible'," UPI, 23 January 2003; "Dialogue with the President of Brazil on Global Governance," WEF, 26 January 2003; "Remarks from President Lula da Silva of Brazil," WEF, 26 January 2003; "World Social Forum: War on Iraq would Affect WTO Trade Talks," IPS NEWS, 25 January 2003.

### **In Brief**

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#### **US DELAYS WTO CASE AGAINST EU GMO MORATORIUM**

The US has postponed filing a case at the WTO against the EU's de facto moratorium on the approval of genetically modified organisms (GMOs). The decision was scheduled to be taken at a 3 February cabinet-level meeting (see Bridges Trade BioRes, 23 January 2003, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/03-01-23/story3.htm>). The meeting, however, was cancelled and no new date has been set. Sources indicate that the delay should be seen as a move by the US to ease tensions with the EU in an effort to bring other countries onboard for a potential conflict with Iraq. In the words of one senior White House official, "there is no point in testing Europeans on food while they are being tested on Iraq". At the same time, the US appears to be looking for allies in a possible WTO case against the EU. According to Deputy US Trade Representative (USTR) Peter Allgeier, Washington "is consulting with a number of countries about the best way and the best time to confront the EU on this in the WTO". The US would not "go it alone", he added. While Allgeier did not specify which countries were being consulted, sources indicated that Argentina and Australia had been involved in the discussions. Pressure to launch a dispute had been growing in the US in recent weeks, including calls by USTR Robert Zoellick for a case to be brought "sooner rather than later".

"U.S. Delays Challenge to Europe's Ban on Modified Food," NY TIMES, 4 February 2003; "U.S. Recruiting Allies to Challenge EU In WTO Case Against GMO Restrictions," INTERNATIONAL TRADE DAILY, 5 February 2003.

#### **ENVIRONMENT IN DANGER OF BEING NEGLECTED IN NEW EC TREATY**

During the Environmental Governance Conference on 27-28 January in Brussels, Belgium, concerns surfaced that the EU could lose some of its greatest environmental policy achievements from attempts to make changes to the institutional framework in response to EU enlargement. Pascal Lefevre, a European Commission Environment Directorate official, said that environmental policy was "just not being discussed"

in the EU Convention, the body tasked with preparing the future institutional reform, including the reworking of current EU treaties into a constitution. He added that the first draft of the document did not include the necessity for sustainable development or include a requirement that environmental concerns should be integrated into mainstream sectoral policy. Lefevre believed that as a result of this exclusion "one of the biggest steps forward since [the 1992 Earth Summit in] Rio has simply gone". His criticism was echoed by the umbrella environmental lobby known as the 'Green G8', who in a letter to Commission President Romano Prodi expressed their concern over the "potential deterioration" of the requirement for the integration of environmental policy in the new proposals compared with the current EC Treaty. The group referred in particular to the 4 December Communication of the Commission on the EU's institutional architecture (see also [http://www.foeeurope.org/press/2003/G8\\_29\\_Jan\\_Convention.htm](http://www.foeeurope.org/press/2003/G8_29_Jan_Convention.htm)). The eight organisations include the European Environmental Bureau (EEB), Friends of the Earth Europe, Greenpeace, WWF, Friends of Nature International, the European Federation for Transport and Environment, BirdLife International and Climate Network Europe.

The Commission's communication is available at  
[http://europa.eu.int/comm/commissioners/prodi/pdf/com\\_728\\_2002\\_en.pdf](http://europa.eu.int/comm/commissioners/prodi/pdf/com_728_2002_en.pdf).

"New European Constitution May Erase Eco-Progress," ENS, 29 January 2003.

#### **AFRICAN WETLANDS FACE INVASIVE SPECIES THREAT**

A new report by IUCN - The World Conservation Union, produced in collaboration with the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance and the Global Invasive Species Programme (GISP), warned of the significant threat that invasive species pose for African wetlands. These species are estimated to cost African countries billions of dollars every year in economic and environmental damage. Among the best known of the seven worst invasives listed in the report is the South American water hyacinth, brought to Africa as an ornamental plant. Having spread to most of the continent's lakes and rivers, the water hyacinth can form huge mats of floating vegetation covering thousands of hectares. They thereby deprive organisms beneath the surface of light and oxygen and reduce the variety of fish species. Co-author Geoffrey Howard -- who is also acting as the regional program coordinator for IUCN in Eastern Africa -- noted that the report's collaborators "hope that the booklet will help Africa in its efforts to counter the global threat posed by alien invasive species and will give this issue a more prominent place on the agenda of conservationists, economists and planners, and in the thinking of millions of people across the continent and worldwide". In addition to habitat loss and degradation, biological invasion is thought to be one of the most serious threats to biodiversity. Globally, it has been estimated that alien species invasion causes up to USD 400 billion in damage annually.

"Invasive Species Threaten Africa's Wetlands," ENS, 5 February 2003; "Alien species 'cost Africa billions'," BBC ONLINE, 5 February 2003.

#### **FIRST 'WORLD LEGACY' AWARDS RECOGNISE RESPONSIBLE TOURISM**

Conservation International and National Geographic magazine have joined to honour three tourism agencies with the first ever World Legacy Awards for their commitment to respecting both cultural heritage and the environment. The winners -- Wilderness Safaris, ATG Oxford, and the REST Project with operations in South Africa, Italy and Thailand respectively -- are being touted as prime examples for how to create the right balance between business and social responsibility in the tourist industry. According to Costas Christ, senior director of Conservation International's ecotourism department, "these winners are outstanding examples of responsible tourism that both helps to protect nature and promotes the well being of local peoples". The awards were broken into three categories -- heritage tourism, nature travel, and destination stewardship -- and applicants from over 40 countries were under consideration.

"World Legacy Awards Honour Ecotourism," ENS, 23 January 2003.

**NEW STUDY DEMANDS GREATER COORDINATION TO SAVE TOOTHFISH**

A new study by TRAFFIC, the wildlife monitoring network of WWF and IUCN, entitled "Fishery Activities and Trade of Patagonian Toothfish in South America: A Regional Perspective" has found that poor coordination of South American fishing fleets targeting the valuable patagonian toothfish may be causing significant additional pressure on the stocks already at threat from unregulated fishing. The network has called on South American countries with commercial interests in patagonian toothfish, including Brazil, Argentina, Peru, Uruguay, and Chile, to engage in an urgent dialogue to create necessary co-management procedures that could lead to sustainable use of the stocks and trade of the species. Anita Sancho, who co-authored the report, noted that in this sector the involved country governments have not kept pace with the rapid expansion of the fishery, leading to conflict and declining catch rates. Sancho added that a regionally coordinated approach to ensure sustainable use and conservation of the species did not exist in waters beyond those governed by the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR). Some progress towards creating effective management of the fishery was accomplished last November when Parties to the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) adopted a voluntary resolution to improve international monitoring of harvest and trade of toothfish, and agreed to assist the CCAMLR in its efforts to eliminate illegal fishing of toothfish (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 21 November 2002, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/02-11-21/story1.htm>).

For further information, including a copy of the report in Spanish, visit: <http://www.traffic.org/news/press-releases/toothfish.html>.

"South America's role in the global catch and trade of Patagonian Toothfish," TRAFFIC, 24 January 2003.

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**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/html/calendar.htm>. 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.

**Coming up in the next two weeks**

3-7 February, Guatemala City, Guatemala: CONTRIBUTION OF CRITERIA AND INDICATORS TO SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGMENT- THE WAY AHEAD. Organised by the National Forest Service of Guatemala, in cooperation with the ITTO, FAO, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Finland and the US Government. This event has been planned in response to the recommendations made during the FAO/ITTO/UNEP/CIFOR/IUFRO Expert Meeting on Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management held in Rome in November 2000. For further information, contact: INAB; tel: (+502) 379-9838; fax: 379-9830; email: [cici2002@inab.gob.gt](mailto:cici2002@inab.gob.gt); Internet: <http://www.inab.gob.gt/>

3-7 February, Nairobi, Kenya: 22ND SESSION OF THE UNEP GOVERNING COUNCIL. For further information, contact: Mr. B.A. Miller, UNEP Office of the Secretary for Governing Council; tel: (+254-2) 62-3411; fax: 62-3748; email: [millerb@unep.org](mailto:millerb@unep.org); Internet: <http://www.unep.org/GoverningBodies/GC22/>

3-7 February 2003, Chiang Mai, Thailand: 3RD WORLD CONGRESS ON MEDICINAL AND AROMATIC PLANTS FOR HUMAN WELFARE: "From Biodiversity through Science and Technology, Trade and Industry to Sustainable Use." Organised by Wocmap III. This event will look at areas such as; biodiversity prospecting and ethnopharmacology, conservation, cultivation and sustainable use, and trade and industry perspectives. For further information contact: Wocmap III, email: [secretariat@wocmap3.org](mailto:secretariat@wocmap3.org); Internet: <http://www.wocmap3.org>

6-9 February, New Delhi, India: DELHI SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT (DSDS). The third Delhi Sustainable Development Summit will focus on "The Message from WSSD: translating resolve into

action for a sustainable future." For further information, contact: TERIIN, tel: (+91 11) 468-2100; fax: 468-2144; email: [program@teri.res.in](mailto:program@teri.res.in); Internet: <http://www.teriin.org/dsds/>

7-8 February, Budapest, Hungary: EMISSIONS TRADING AND PROJECT-BASED MECHANISMS: SYNERGIES BETWEEN EMERGING REGIMES. This Concerted Action on Tradeable Emission Permits (CATEP) workshop is organised by FIELD, UNEP and the Central European University. It aims to explore synergies, possibilities for linking instruments and possible conflicts between the new and emerging frameworks for the implementation of GHG emissions trading at the domestic, regional and international levels. For further information, see: <http://www.ucd.ie/~envinst/envstud/CATEP%20Webpage/publications/ceuprog.pdf>.

10-11 February, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO GENERAL COUNCIL. For further information, contact the WTO Information and Media Relations Division, Geneva; tel: (+41 22) 739- 5007; fax: 739-5458; email: [enquiries@wto.org](mailto:enquiries@wto.org)

10-11 February, Rome, Italy: COMMITTEE OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION, 51st (EXTRAORDINARY) SESSION. For further information, contact: the Secretariat of the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme, tel: (39) 065-7051; Telefax: (39) 06-5705-4593; email: [Codex@fao.org](mailto:Codex@fao.org); Internet: <http://www.codexalimentarius.net/current.asp>.

10-12 February, Montreal, Canada: EXPERT MEETING ON INDICATORS OF BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY INCLUDING INDICATORS FOR RAPID ASSESSMENT OF INLAND WATER ECOSYSTEMS. Organised by Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. For further information, contact the CBD Secretariat, tel: (+1 514) 288-2220; fax: 288-6588; email: [secretariat@biodiv.org](mailto:secretariat@biodiv.org); Internet: <http://www.biodiv.org/doc/meeting.asp?wg=EMIND-01>

11-14 February, Phnom Penh, Cambodia: THE SECOND INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON THE MANAGEMENT OF LARGE RIVERS FOR FISHERIES. Convened by Mekong River Commission (MRC) and the Cambodian Department of Fisheries (DOF) in collaboration with the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). For further information, contact the conference organisers; email: [info@lars2.org](mailto:info@lars2.org); Internet: <http://www.lars2.org>.

12-14 February, Geneva, Switzerland. WTO SPECIAL SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND ENVIRONMENT (regular and special sessions). For further information, contact: the WTO Information and Media Relations Division, Geneva; tel: (41 22) 739- 5007; fax: 739-5458; email: [enquiries@wto.org](mailto:enquiries@wto.org).

12-15 February, Rome, Italy: CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION, 25th (EXTRAORDINARY) SESSION. For further information, contact: the Secretariat of the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme, tel: (+39) 065-7051; fax: (39) 06-5705-4593; email: [Codex@fao.org](mailto:Codex@fao.org); Internet: <http://www.codexalimentarius.net/current.asp>.

13-14 February, Geneva, Switzerland: UNEP WORKSHOP FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A FRAMEWORK FOR STRATEGIC INTEGRATED ASSESSMENT. UNEP is establishing a Working Group to develop a framework for integrated assessment and to help guide eight country projects to test the framework. The objective of workshop, which launches the project, is to review and provide input to the preparation of the framework and agree on a road map for the testing of the framework and selection and implementation of country projects. For further information, contact: UNEP; email: [etb@unep.ch](mailto:etb@unep.ch); Internet: <http://www.unep.ch/etu/etp/events/Integrated%20Assessment/Feb2003.htm>.

13-15 February, Copenhagen, Denmark: 2nd GLOBAL CONFERENCE: ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP. This inter-disciplinary and multi-disciplinary conference aims to explore the role of ecology and environmental ideas in the context of contemporary society and international politics, and assess the implications for our understandings of fairness, justice and global citizenship. For further

information, contact: tel: 01993-882087; fax: 0870-0560055; email: [info@learning-solutions.org](mailto:info@learning-solutions.org); Internet: <http://www.inter-disciplinary.net/ejgc2cpa.htm>.

13-15 February, Rome, Italy: CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION, 25th (EXTRAORDINARY) SESSION. For further information, contact: the Secretariat of the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme, tel: (+39) 065-7051; Telefax: 06-5705-4593; email: [Codex@fao.org](mailto:Codex@fao.org); Internet: <http://www.codexalimentarius.net/current.asp>

17 February, Chatham House, London, England. BLOOD, DIAMONDS AND TERRORISM: IS KIMBERLY A SOLUTION? This event will bring together speakers to discuss the Kimberly process certification scheme for rough diamonds. For further information, contact: The RIIA Meetings Department; tel: (+44 20) 7957-5732/22; email: [meetings@riia.org](mailto:meetings@riia.org); Internet: <http://www.riia.org>.

17-18 February, Geneva, Switzerland: THIRD UNEP WORKING GROUP MEETING ON ECONOMIC INSTRUMENTS. At this workshop, participants will discuss two papers on "Opportunities, Prospects and Challenges for the Use of Economic Instruments in Environmental Policy Making" and, "The Use of Economic instruments to Implement Selected Multilateral Environmental Agreements". For further information, contact: UNEP; email: [etb@unep.ch](mailto:etb@unep.ch), Internet: [http://www.unep.ch/etu/etp/events/Economic\\_Instruments/2003\\_17Feb.htm](http://www.unep.ch/etu/etp/events/Economic_Instruments/2003_17Feb.htm).

17-21 February, Ubon Ratchathani, Thailand. ITTO/IUCN INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP: INCREASING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF TRANSBOUNDARY CONSERVATION AREAS IN TROPICAL FORESTS. The workshop will bring together practitioners involved in the implementation of ITTO's transboundary conservation areas programme and experts from IUCN and other interested organizations. For further information, contact: Dena Cator, IUCN; tel: (+41 22) 999-0265; fax: 999-0025; email: [transboundary@iucn.org](mailto:transboundary@iucn.org); Internet: <http://www.iucn.org/themes/fcp/activities/transboundary1.htm>

17 - 28 February, Geneva, Switzerland. SECOND MEETING OF THE PREPATORY COMMITTEE, WORLD SUMMIT ON THE INFORMATION SOCIETY. During PrepCom 2 the Committee will begin the consideration of a draft Declaration of Principles and Action Plan, to be submitted in the future for the approval of Heads of State attending the Summit in December 2003. For further information, contact: Alain Clerc; tel: (+41 22) 730-6366; fax: 730-6393; email: [info@geneva2003.org](mailto:info@geneva2003.org); Internet: <http://www.geneva2003.org/home/annexes/>

18 February, Winnipeg, Canada. FRESHWATER FORUM. This free one-day forum sponsored by the Manitoba Clean Environment Commission, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (Freshwater Institute), and Manitoba Conservation hopes to facilitate the sharing of various perspectives on the many critical issues facing water resource in Canada and Manitoba. For further information, contact: tel: (+1 204) 945-0594; fax: 945-0090; email: [rgrewar@gov.mb.ca](mailto:rgrewar@gov.mb.ca); Internet: <http://www.cecmanitoba.ca/>

18-21 February, Geneva, Switzerland. COUNCIL FOR TRADE-RELATED ASPECTS OF INTELLECUTAL PROPERTY RIGHTS (regular and special sessions). For further information, contact: the WTO Information and Media Relations Division, Geneva; tel: (+41 22) 739- 5007; fax: 739-5458; email: [enquiries@wto.org](mailto:enquiries@wto.org).

19-21, Geneva, Switzerland. WTO NEGOTIATING GROUP ON MARKET ACCESS. For further information, contact: the WTO Information and Media Relations Division, Geneva; tel: (+41 22) 739- 5007; fax: 739-5458; email: [enquiries@wto.org](mailto:enquiries@wto.org).

19-20 February, Geneva, Switzerland: UNEP MEETING ON THE INTEGRATED ASSESSMENT OF TRADE LIBERALISATION IN THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR. This meeting will review UNEP country projects on trade liberalisation in the agricultural sector, as well as a Reference Manual for the Integrated Assessment of Trade-Related Policies for the Agriculture Sector. For further information, contact: UNEP; email: [etb@unep.ch](mailto:etb@unep.ch); Internet: [http://www.unep.ch/etu/etp/events/Agriculture/2003\\_19Feb.htm](http://www.unep.ch/etu/etp/events/Agriculture/2003_19Feb.htm).



19-21 February, Geneva, Switzerland. FARMERS, FOOD AND TRADE: A HEARING ON THE DRAFT REVIEW OF THE WTO AGRICULTURE AGREEMENT. This event is an international workshop of NGOs, Farmers and Church Groups. The purpose of this event is to analyse the content of the draft text related to several key development issues, including: food dumping, food security/rural development, market volatility, and the right to food. The event hopes to raise these specific NGO-concerns and to strengthen the positions of the Developing Countries. For further information, contact: tel: (+49 30) 20355-225; fax: 20355-250; email: r.buntzel@gkke.org

19-21 February, Montreal, Canada. AD HOC TECHNICAL EXPERT GROUP ON GENETIC USE RESTRICTION TECHNOLOGIES. Organised by Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. The group will discuss the theme, "Potential Impacts of Genetic Use Restriction Technologies (GURTs) on Smallholder Farmers, Indigenous, and Local Communities and Farmers' Rights." For further information, contact the CBD Secretariat; tel: (+1 514) 288-2220; fax: 288-6588; email: secretariat@biodiv.org; Internet: <http://www.biodiv.org/doc/meeting.asp?wg=TEGURT-01>

19-21 February, Paris, France. TWENTIETH SESSION OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON CLIMATE CHANGE (IPCC). The IPCC was established jointly by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) to assess all available factual information on the science, the impacts and the economics of climate change and on the adaptation/mitigation options to address climate change; assess, and if necessary develop, methodologies such as the IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories; and provide, on request, scientific/technical/socio-economic advice to the COP to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and its bodies. For further information, contact: The IPCC Secretariat; tel: (+41 22) 730-8284/8208; fax: 730-8025/8013; e-mail: IPCC\_Sec@gateway.wmo.ch; Internet: <http://www.ipcc.ch/meet/session20/orgletter.pdf>.

### **Other forthcoming events**

24-28 February, Geneva, Switzerland. WTO COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE. For further information, contact: the WTO Information and Media Relations Division, Geneva; tel: (+41 22) 739- 5007; fax: 739-5458; email: [enquiries@wto.org](mailto:enquiries@wto.org).

24-25 February, London, United Kingdom: STRATEGIC ENERGY DIALOGUES. This event will host a dialogue between importers and exporters of oil and gas. For further information, contact: Georgina Wright; tel: (+44 20) 7957-5700; fax: 7321-2045; email: [conferences@riia.org](mailto:conferences@riia.org); Internet: <http://www.riia.org>

24-28 February, Rome, Italy: 25TH SESSION OF THE FAO COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES. For further information on this session, contact: B.P. Satia, FAO; tel: (39) 065-7051; fax: 5705-3152; email: [FAO-HQ@fao.org](mailto:FAO-HQ@fao.org); Internet: <http://www.fao.org/fi/meetings/cofi/cofi25/default.asp>.

26 February, Geneva, Switzerland: SIXTH WTO INTRODUCTION DAY. For newly arrived WTO delegates, non-governmental organizations and interested WTO-interns and Staff. For further information and to confirm participation, contact Bernard Kuiten (WTO External Relations Division, tel: + 41 22 7395676, email: [Bernard.Kuiten@wto.org](mailto:Bernard.Kuiten@wto.org)) and Mrs Syrat (WTO Training Institute), tel: +41 22 7395631.

6 March, Brussels, Belgium: THE EU BETWEEN JO'BURG FOLLOW-UP AND CANCUN POLITICS: HOW TO SET THE RIGHT FRAMEWORK FOR INVESTMENT RULES. The Heinrich Boell Foundation, in collaboration with the European Parliament, is hosting a public hearing to assess the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development on globalisation, trade and corporate accountability, and public-private partnerships in the field of water. For further information, contact: Heinrich Boell Foundation EU Regional Office; tel: (+32 2) 743-4105; email: [Brussels\\_2@boell.de](mailto:Brussels_2@boell.de).

10-14 March, Rome, Italy. FAO COMMITTEE ON FORESTRY (16TH SESSION). For further information, contact: FAO; email: FI-Inquiries@fao.org; Internet: <http://www.fao.org/unfao/bodies/cofo/cofo16/cofo16-e.htm>

20-21 March, Geneva, Switzerland: DEVELOPMENTS IN WTO LAW. This conference, organised by the International Bar Association, will cover current WTO activities, focusing in particular on issues relating to the Doha round and dispute settlement. For further information, contact: IBA; tel: (+44 20) 7629-1206; fax: 7491-4460; email: [iba@int-bar.org](mailto:iba@int-bar.org); Internet: <http://www.ibanet.org/general/ConferenceOverview.asp?ID=655&Section=&Committee>.

24-28 March, Mexico City, Mexico. TRADE AND ENVIRONMENT IN THE AMERICAS 2003. This week-long dialogue on trade and environment in North America and Latin America presented by the North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC and the United Nations Environment Programme features three main events: Public Workshop on NAFTA Chapter 11, Second North American Symposium on Assessing the Environmental Effects of Trade, and the UNEP Capacity Building Meeting on Environment, Trade, and Sustainable Development for the Latin American and Caribbean Region. For further information, contact: Manon Pepin; tel: (+1 514) 350-4305; email: [mpepin@ccemtl.org](mailto:mpepin@ccemtl.org); Internet: <http://www.cec.org/symposium/>

24-26 April, Beijing, China. WIPO SUMMIT ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND THE KNOWLEDGE ECONOMY. This event will feature three days of discussion, reflection and comment on the key role of the intellectual property system in stimulating creativity and innovation to foster economic growth and social well-being through wealth creation and business development. For further information, contact: WIPO; email: [summit.china@wipo.int](mailto:summit.china@wipo.int); Internet: <http://www.wipo.org/summit-china/en/index.html>.

## RESOURCES

If you have a relevant resource (books, papers, bulletins, etc.) you would like to see announced in this section, please forward a copy or review by the BRIDGES staff to Heike Baumüller, [hbaumuller@ictsd.ch](mailto:hbaumuller@ictsd.ch).

FARM HOUSEHOLD INCOMES: ISSUES AND POLICY RESPONSES. By the OECD, January 2003. This report assesses farm households' income situations and the effect of agricultural policies and others, such as tax and social security, on the observed outcomes. The report recognises that support can also target and impact many other variables such as technologies used, the quality of the environment, production levels, the role of the sector in the rural economy and the production of agriculture-related public goods. The second part of the report focuses on the related policy effects and other related aspects while investigating the degree to which the efficiency of the most common policy interventions are increasing farm household income. Available at [http://www.ictsd.org/issarea/ag/resources/OECD\\_farm%20households.pdf](http://www.ictsd.org/issarea/ag/resources/OECD_farm%20households.pdf).

DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLICATIONS OF PATENT LAW IN THE FIELD OF BIOTECHNOLOGY AND GENETIC ENGINEERING. Report from the European Commission to the European Parliament and the Council, October 2002. The report concludes that the Commission should, in particular, consider two questions: the scope to be conferred on patents relating to sequences or part-sequences of genes isolated from the human body, and the patentability of human stem cells and of cell lines obtained from them. Available at [http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/com/rpt/2002/com2002\\_0545en01.pdf](http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/com/rpt/2002/com2002_0545en01.pdf).

THE STATE OF THE NATION'S ECOSYSTEMS: MEASURING THE LANDS, WATERS, AND LIVING RESOURCES OF THE UNITED STATES. Published by the Heinz Center, September 2002. This report attempts to create a clear picture of the state of ecosystems in the US. The report draws on data and research from across the country and can be used as a resource for those seeking to address environmental concerns in the U.S. Available at <http://www.heinzctr.org/Programs/Reporting/overview.htm>.

THE BIG DOWN: ATOMTECH - TECHNOLOGIES CONVERGING AT THE NANO-SCALE. By ETC, January 2003. This publication is an analysis of nanotechnology for civil society and policymakers. The

report attempts to expand the focus on biotech and genetically engineered crops, and to contribute to widespread public debate on the societal impacts of nanotechnology. For further information, see <http://www.etcgroup.org/search.asp?slice=recent>.

SUSTAINABLE USE TECHNICAL PAPERS CD. By the IUCN Sustainable Use Team, January 2003. This resource contains more than 50 technical papers relating to sustainable use of wild living natural resources. It is the culmination of over five years work and includes papers from Volumes I (1998), II (1999), and III (2001) of the SUI Technical Series and six cases studies from Lessons Learned: Case Studies in Sustainable Use (2001) which comprises the proceedings of a workshop held to identify 'lessons learned' from case studies of sustainable use projects. For further information, contact: David Beamont; email: [dbeamont@iucn.org](mailto:dbeamont@iucn.org); Internet: <http://www.iucn.org/themes/sustainableuse/cd.html>.

JUST SUSTAINABILITIES: DEVELOPMENT IN AN UNEQUAL WORLD. Edited by Julian Agyeman, Robert D. Bullard and Bob Evans, 2003. This publication argues that social and environmental justice within and between nations should be an integral part of the policies and agreements that promote sustainable development. The book addresses many aspects of the links between environmental quality and human equality and between sustainability and environmental justice more generally. For further information, see <http://mitpress.mit.edu/catalog/item/default.asp?sid=7AC27520-48F4-44A6-8F6C-124EB2D93932&tttype=2&tid=9600>.

"Transgenic Crops, Biotechnology And Ownership Rights: What Scientists Need To Know," by Stanley P. Kowalski, Reynaldo V. Ebor, R. David Kryder<sup>3</sup> and Robert H. Potter in THE PLANT JOURNAL, 31(4), 2002. Transgenic plants and ag-biotech products embody numerous components and processes, each of which may have IP/TP rights attached. This paper examines the identification of these rights, and explains how transgenic plant or ag-biotech product must be dissected into its essential components and processes, with each 'piece' analysed under the IP/TP 'microscope'. The paper goes on to explain how this product deconstruction is an integral step in product clearance analysis leading to freedom to operate. Available at <http://www.blackwellpublishing.com/plantgm/Kowalski.pdf>.

"The Release Of Genetically Modified Crops Into The Environment: Part I. Overview Of Current Status And Regulations," by Jan-Peter Nap, Peter L. J. Metz, Marga Escaler and Anthony J. Conner in THE PLANT JOURNAL 33, 2003. This paper states that it is important that the regulation of risk, regarding GMO products, should not turn into the risk of regulation. The authors believe the best and most appropriate baseline for comparison when performing risk assessment on GM crops is the impact of plants developed by traditional breeding. They say the latter is an integral and accepted part of agriculture. For further information, see <http://www.blackwellpublishing.com/plantgm/Nap.pdf>.

"The Release Of Genetically Modified Crops Into The Environment: Part II. Overview Of Ecological Risk Assessment," by Anthony J. Conner, Travis R. Glare and Jan-Peter Nap in THE PLANT JOURNAL 33, 2003. This paper looks at the concerns over the potential environmental impacts which GMO products could cause. The authors note the necessity for a proper assessment to define the appropriate baseline for comparison and decision. They felt that for GM crops, the best and most appropriately defined reference point is the impact of plants developed by traditional breeding. For further information, see <http://www.blackwellpublishing.com/plantgm/Conner.pdf>.

### Call For Papers

CONGRESS ON 'GLOBALISATION, LOCALISATION AND TROPICAL FOREST MANAGEMENT IN THE 21ST CENTURY'. Organised by the Amsterdam Institute for International Development. This event taking place from 22 - 23 October in Roeterseiland, Amsterdam, the Netherlands, is going to focus on the effects of global-local partnerships and agreements related to climate change and the international trade in forest products, for being two topical aspects of globalisation with a potential impact on forest management and forest-related livelihoods. For further information, see <http://gp.fmg.uva.nl/agids/agids/globalisation.html>.

## Electronic Resources

**CASSAVA BIOTECHNOLOGY NETWORK WEBSITE.** By the Cassava Biotechnology Network (CBN). This website is supported by the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT). Among several features, the website includes information about grant opportunities, such as those offered by the CBN for Latin America and the Caribbean (CBN-LAC). Accessible at <http://www.ciat.cgiar.org/biotechnology/cbn/index.htm>

**INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS DOSSIER.** Published by the SciDevNet, a free-access, internet-based network. This online guide to intellectual property rights has recently been re-designed and updated to include revised versions of the following policy Briefs: Intellectual property and basic research: discovery vs. invention; TRIPS and its impact on developing countries; What impact do IPR rules have on food security?; IPR rules and human rights: is there a conflict?; Are patent rules compatible with access to essential medicines in developing countries?; Bioprospecting: legitimate research or 'biopiracy'? For further information, see <http://www.scidev.net/dossiers/ip>.

## Courses

**COURSE ON PLANT VARIETY PROTECTION.** The Centre for Genetic Resources (CGN) will provide a course from 9-20 June in Wageningen, the Netherlands, regarding the legal protection of plant varieties. The course aims at facilitating the introduction of plant variety protection in countries where legislation on this matter is being developed, or has recently been passed. This will be achieved through presentations, discussions and practical training, and through visits to key organizations in the operation of a plant variety protection system. For further information, see <http://www.upov.int/en/news/index.html>.

**GENETIC RESOURCES AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS - PATHWAYS FOR DEVELOPMENT: ADVANCED INTERNATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMME.** The Swedish Biodiversity Centre, Svalöf Weibull AB and the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) are offering a three-week IPR /Genetic Resources Course in Svalöv, Sweden, 5-23 May. The course plans: to assist participants to understand the background and the implications of the recent developments related to IPRs and exchange of genetic resources, to enable participants to find, use and draw conclusions from sources of information and expertise world-wide, related to IPRs and exchange of genetic resources, to enhance participants' managerial efficiency to handle, address and deal with genetic resources and intellectual property rights issues, and to assist participants to understand the background and the implications of the recent developments related to IPRs and exchange of genetic resources. For further information, contact: Marie Hardfors, tel: (46) 418-667000; fax: 418-667109; email: [consultants@swseed.se](mailto:consultants@swseed.se) [marie.hardfors@swseed.se](mailto:marie.hardfors@swseed.se); Internet: [www.swseed.com](http://www.swseed.com).

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