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### Note to Subscribers

In order to help us to refine the coverage and reporting in *BRIDGES Trade BioRes* and thereby target the information needs of our readership more closely, we would kindly ask you to take a few minutes to fill in the attached questionnaire. The completed questionnaire can be sent to Heike Baumüller, [hbaumuller@ictsd.ch](mailto:hbaumuller@ictsd.ch) (or by fax to +41 22 9178 093). Alternatively, you can use the questionnaire at the bottom of this email or access the questionnaire online ([http://www.ictsd.org/biores/BioRes\\_Eval\\_Form.pdf](http://www.ictsd.org/biores/BioRes_Eval_Form.pdf))

The BioRes team thanks you in advance for your support.

### Trade and Environment

#### WTO ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE ADMITS MEA OBSERVERS IN NEGOTIATIONS

At the special (negotiating) session of the Committee on Trade and Environment (CTE) on 12-13 February, Members agreed to allow secretariats of certain multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) to attend the CTE negotiations. The move effectively unblocked an impasse that had dogged the environment talks since the beginning of negotiations after the Doha Ministerial Conference in November 2001. Members also held substantive discussions around the MEA-WTO relationship and on the definition of environmental goods.

In paragraph 31 of the Doha Declaration, Members agreed to negotiations on: (i) the relationship between WTO rules and specific trade obligations in MEAs; (ii) procedures for regular information exchange between MEA secretariats and the relevant WTO committees, and the criteria for the granting of observer status; and (iii) liberalisation of trade in environmental goods and services.

### **CTE admits MEA secretariats as ad-hoc observers**

Members agreed to a proposal by Chair Yolande Biké of Gabon to allow MEA secretariats to attend the next meeting of the CTE special session as ad-hoc observers. While observers are not usually allowed to attend negotiating sessions, an exception was made in this case due to the nature of the environment negotiating mandate, which many say requires the presence of MEA secretariats, *inter alia*, to ensure better coherence at the international level. The bodies' attendance will be on a provisional basis and will be reviewed at each session. Some countries that oppose allowing observers in the negotiating groups, such as Egypt and Malaysia, insisted that the decision was taken without prejudice to the larger observership question -- which remains unresolved at the Trade Negotiations Committee/General Council level (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 21 November 2002, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/02-11-21/story2.htm>) -- and applies only to the CTE special sessions.

Delegates agreed that existing CTE regular session observers and those with pending requests for observership at the special sessions could qualify to attend. Under these criteria, the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and six MEAs were authorised, namely the Basel Convention on Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Waste, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES), the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD), the Montreal Protocol on Ozone-depleting Substances, the International Tropical Timber Organisation (ITTO), and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

### **Definition and scope of 'specific trade obligations' in MEAs**

In the context of the MEA-WTO relationship analysis, Members began substantive discussions to examine specific trade obligations (STOs) in certain MEAs, following the work structure agreed at the last CTE meeting (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 21 November 2002, referenced above). During these preliminary discussions, delegations put forward their own ideas around the scope of the mandate, including which MEAs to consider and what could constitute an STO in these MEAs. Specifically, the US (TN/TE/W/20), India (not yet available online), Canada (TN/TE/W/22) and Switzerland (TN/TE/W/21) presented proposals, which were based on a previous WTO Secretariat matrix outlining trade measures pursuant to selected MEAs (WT/CTE/W/160/Rev.1).

The US and India advocated limiting the definition of an STO to one that is mandatory and specific in character. They identified six MEAs that would qualify under this criteria: three that have entered into force -- CITES, the Basel Convention and the Montreal Protocol; and three that have not -- the Stockholm Convention on Prior Informed Consent, the Rotterdam Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants and the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. Their submissions further laid out those provisions in the agreements they believed qualified as STOs. According to the US, the special session should now begin to build a factual foundation that would then allow the Committee to examine the relationship between these two sets of international obligations (MEAs and WTO). This position was supported by Australia, ASEAN and Argentina.

Canada in its reportedly well-received submission combined the US-India STO approach with a conceptual approach. Like the US and India, it also focused on the six aforementioned MEAs, but added that it did not view them as the definitive list of all MEAs with STOs, but that examination of the six could provide significant insights. Canada also raised a number of considerations on the scope of STOs. For instance, it said it might be necessary to examine a specific provision in the context of other provisions of an MEA and its objectives, including decisions by Conferences of the Parties and preambular language. It did not consider the UNFCCC or its Kyoto Protocol to contain any STOs.

Switzerland identified two broad categories of STOs. The first, 'trade measures explicitly provided for and mandatory under MEAs', coincided closely with the STO approach adopted by the US and many other Members. The second category, which met with almost universal criticism, denoted 'other measures that are appropriate and necessary to achieve an MEA objective'. According to Switzerland, this category comprises

all MEAs setting out types of measures and policies that can and must be adopted in pursuit of a specific objective negotiated by the Parties to the MEA, and which give Parties some latitude on the trade-related measures to be adopted (the so-called 'obligation de résultat'). This category would include measures taken under the Kyoto Protocol and other MEAs such as the ITTO and the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas.

### **What are environmental goods?**

Regarding environmental goods -- which the CTE special session has been tasked by the Negotiating Group on Non-agricultural Market Access to assist in defining -- some developing countries expressed concern that the emerging definition of what constituted environmental goods was too heavily focused on goods of interest to developed countries. Most definitions to date have focused on 'end-use', or industrial products that aim to mitigate or clean up environmental pollution. Most Members are wary of including so-called process and production methods (PPMs) criteria to define environmental goods, although Switzerland raised the idea of including products with 'environmentally friendly physical characteristics', such as bicycles and solar energy cookers, that could also favour developing country products.

Two new papers were submitted in this context: one from Japan outlining a list of environmental goods that it felt should be included in the Market Access talks (TN/TE/W/171) and another from Qatar on lower-carbon and pollutant emitting fuels and technologies (TN/TE/W/19).

WTO Documents are available at <http://docsonline.wto.org>.  
ICTSD reporting.

### **Fisheries**

#### **'FRIENDS OF FISH' PRESS FOR NEGOTIATIONS ON FISHERIES SUBSIDIES AT WTO**

During the meeting of the WTO Negotiating Group on Rules on 3, 6 and 7 February, the 'Friends of Fish' group, consisting of Argentina, Chile, Iceland, New Zealand, Norway and Peru, presented a categorisation of fisheries subsidies in an effort to create a negotiating platform on fisheries subsidies. Japan resisted the calls for negotiations, questioning the causality between fisheries subsidies and over-exploitation.

Based on a proposal tabled on the group's behalf by New Zealand in late 2002 (see BRIDGES Weekly, 28 November 2002; <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/02-11-28/story4.htm>), the 'Friends of Fish' group highlighted categories of fisheries subsidies that had been developed in other organisations (TN/RL/W/58). This was done in response to views voiced at the last meeting of the Negotiating Group that the different positions had now been well aired and that it was time to start looking in more detail at the actual subsidies that were the focus of the mandate. They noted that this categorisation should serve as a starting point for the next phase of work, which should be part of the Doha round of negotiations. The paper furthermore stressed the need to not simply address "fisheries subsidies" in an undifferentiated way (i.e. based on an aggregation of all support programmes in the fisheries sector), but to look specifically at different categories of subsidy, their nature and impacts as well as their situation under existing WTO disciplines.

Japan, which maintains a substantial fishery subsidy programme, opposed this idea, and presented a paper suggesting instead that future work should involve discussing environmental issues -- such as fish stock depletion -- at the Committee on Trade and Environment (TN/RL/W/52). They reiterated their position that fisheries subsidies should not be treated in a special fashion in terms of trade-distorting effects. Instead, these subsidies should be considered in conjunction with other subsidies issues in the Negotiating Group, rather than be singled out. They also stressed that the causality between fisheries subsidies and over-exploitation had not been proven and that policy objectives and positive effects of such subsidies "deserve special attention and impartial analysis".

Australia, the US and Ecuador supported the views of the 'Friends of Fish' group, while South Korea sided with Japan. Australia charged Japan with trying to sink the issue by dispersing it among committees. For its part, the US commented that Japan's position was out of line with the Doha mandate, and said that "constructive engagement" was needed to get real talks under way. The EU reserved its position, stating that it would present a new paper based on its fisheries reform agreed in December 2002. While the EU has traditionally been more aligned with Japan on the issue of fisheries subsidies, it has recently agreed to major reductions in fishing quotas in response to declining stocks (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 23 January 2003; <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/03-01-23/story2.htm>).

According to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), almost 50 percent of marine fisheries are fully exploited, while 15-18 percent are over-exploited. The 'Friends of Fish' group believes fish stocks are declining due to perverse subsidies, while Japan claims the decline is a result of poor fisheries management. Iceland noted during the meeting that while it had made major efforts to manage fish stocks in its own waters, the results had been destroyed because factory fleets from other countries were emptying North Atlantic waters.

### Background

At the Fourth WTO Ministerial Conference in Doha, Qatar in November last year, Members agreed to conduct negotiations on clarifying and improving WTO disciplines on fisheries subsidies "in the context of" negotiations on 'WTO Rules' (i.e. anti-dumping, subsidies and regional trade agreements). Reference to negotiations on fisheries subsidies is also included in the Trade and Environment section (para. 31) of the Doha Declaration. The decision to include fisheries subsidies as a separate negotiating item marks a significant change from the previous WTO mandate that had restricted discussions on this issue to the WTO Committee on Trade and Environment (CTE), which prior to Doha did not function as a negotiating forum. Fisheries subsidies are being discussed as a sub-item under the general "subsidies" topic in the Group on Rules, which was established at the Fourth WTO Ministerial Conference in November last year as one of seven negotiating bodies (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 7 March 2002; <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/02-03-07/story3.htm>).

### Additional Resources

WTO documents are available at <http://docsonline.wto.org/>.

"The state of world fisheries and aquaculture 2000," UN FAO, <http://www.fao.org/DOCREP/003/X8002E/X8002E00.htm>.

ICTSD Reporting; "Fishing subsidies raise temperatures at WTO," REUTERS, 10 February 2003.

### Forestry

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#### CONSULTATIONS ASSESS TRADE AND SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY LINKAGES

Forestry experts from governments, the private sector and non-governmental and intergovernmental organisations convened from 3-5 February in Rome, Italy, for the Expert Consultation on Trade and Sustainable Forest Management. Specifically, experts discussed issues ranging from global trends in trade of forest products and services, trade agreements and restrictions, to new markets for environmental services. The expert consultation is part of a global project on Impact Assessment of Forest Products Trade in the Promotion of Sustainable Forest Management implemented by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), involving a broad range of experts from international organisations, including NGOs.

The expert consultation was held in order to contribute to a common understanding on how developments in trade policies and market development will impact on the sustainability of forest management. The meeting thus aimed, *inter alia*, at identifying the linkages between trade in forest products and services and

international as well as regional and local governance, whether trade liberalisation could lead to the development of good forest governance systems, and what potentials regional and international trade agreements carry for a positive impact of trade in forest products.

During the opening session, Wulf Killmann from the FAO addressed challenges of balancing trade in forest products with social and environmental concerns, and the need for capacity building for stakeholders, particularly at the WTO and its Committee on Trade and Environment (CTE). Duncan MacQueen from the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) highlighted the need for new ideas and solutions for how trade policy can be used to overcome the inequities of forest product trade.

Participants discussed the effects of trade restrictions on forests, emphasising that not only tariffs but also forestry subsidies had an effect on forest trade and should therefore also be taken into account when discussing the effects of trade restrictions on sustainable forest management. During the closing plenary, participants highlighted the need for shaping trade policy to make it more supportive of sustainable forest management and improved forest governance. In addition, the experts agreed that international trade magnifies the effects of policy and market failure of forest and land use policy. They said national institutions and processes must be strengthened and supported before further trade liberalisation -- especially in developing countries.

The project implementation will finish with a second expert consultation in April. For this meeting FAO intends to invite trade policy makers and trade specialists to debate the implementation of the WTO Doha Declaration, regional trade agreements and national trade policy making. The consultation is an open and informal platform for discussion aimed at identifying areas, which need further research and/or analysis. This final expert consultation will feed into the outcomes of the project, which is based on a major study on trade and sustainable forest management analysing the issue from various perspectives, including market dynamics, policy making, governance and extra-sectoral influences. The study is undertaken by the FAO and the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) in cooperation with a variety of other international and regional institutions.

"Summary of the FAO Expert Consultation on trade and sustainable forest management: Impacts and Interactions 3-5 February 2003," IISD's Earth Negotiations Bulletin, vol.79 No.1, 7 February 2003.

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## **In Brief**

### **UK ENVIRONMENT MINISTER ADVOCATES LIABILITY REGIME FOR GENE CROPS**

Michael Meacher, the UK environment minister, declared last week that in his opinion conventional and organic farmers should be compensated if their crops sustain damage or cannot be sold due to cross-pollination from nearby genetically modified (GM) crops. "Our approach to GM must be compatible with the government's ambitions for the expansion of organic farming: to increase the UK's market share of organic produce sold in the UK from 30 per cent to 70 per cent," he stressed. He went on to clarify that the terms under which GM and non-modified crops might co-exist must be examined. Meacher suggested that the government could create formal separation distances between the different crops to limit cross-pollination. Reflecting on the EC draft liability legislation under consideration, Meacher said that this document did not properly address the potential for GM crops to impact on the economic interests of non-GM farmers. Currently a governmental committee is considering whether or not additional domestic legislation may be required to deal with these issues. Later this year the UK government will be publishing the final results of a set of GM trials.

"Minister Pledges Redress For GM Harm," GUARDIAN, 12 February 2003; "Britain weighs liability regime for gene crops," REUTERS, 13 February 2003.

## AUSTRALIA OBJECTS TO ICELAND'S IWC RE-ADMISSION

Australia has taken formal steps to protest the re-admission of Iceland to the International Whaling Commission (IWC), according to David Kemp, the Australian Environment and Heritage Minister. Australia submitted an official document to the US Department of State -- the depository government for the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling -- on February 7, objecting to Iceland's refusal to follow the current global moratorium on commercial whaling. Iceland had rejoined the IWC in October 2002 following a close vote of 18 to 19. Upon Iceland's re-entry, a clause was included on Iceland's behalf exempting the country from the commercial whaling moratorium, which Kemp said Iceland plans to use to start commercial whaling as early as 2006. The minister added that Iceland's stance could potentially "render the Convention meaningless" and could "set a precedent that could have negative consequences for the orderly development of international law and could possibly undermine the authority of other international conventions." In addition, Kemp is concerned that Iceland may begin whaling for so-called scientific research even sooner than 2006. Sweden and the US have also voiced reservations regarding Iceland's re-admission, although to date, Australia is the only member to take any formal action. It is likely that this issue will be discussed during the next IWC meeting in Berlin this coming June.

"Australia Acts to Stop Iceland from Whaling," ENS, 12 February 2003.

## FAO/WHO LAUNCH TRUST FUND TO ENHANCE PARTICIPATION IN CODEX

The UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO) have set up a USD 40 million Trust Fund to support the participation of developing countries and economies in transition in the Codex Alimentarius Commission, the international body responsible for setting food safety standards. The Fund, which is expected to run for 12 years, will also enhance the capacity of regulators and food experts to develop national food safety systems. "By having all countries fully involved, we ensure that they can build up their won capacity to establish and maintain the food safety controls that will help them trade their produce and develop their economies," said Jorgen Schlundt, Director of the WHO's Food Safety Department. So far, only Switzerland and Norway have contributed to the fund with USD 37,000 and USD 100,000 respectively.

"Codex Alimentarius - new USD 40 million fund for poor countries," FAO PRESS RELEASE, 14 February 2003; "UN chiefs urge rich to back food safety fund," REUTERS, 17 February 2003.

## WIPO DRAFT DECLARATION FOCUSES ON PROMOTING IPRS

The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) on 13 February circulated a draft declaration for consideration at the Summit on Intellectual Property and Knowledge Economy in Beijing on 24-26 April. The draft stresses that intellectual property "provides incentives to creativity and innovation; promotes investment, technology transfer, job creation, cultural diversity; contributes to sustainable development; and is of fundamental value for all humankind". Among the resolutions in the draft is a decision to "fully support" WIPO in enhancing partnerships "with a view to making the intellectual property system more accessible in order to offer equal opportunities to all creators worldwide". Still in brackets in this resolution is language referring to the promotion of social and economic welfare and a call on WIPO to put the social and economic development of developing countries "at the core of all its programs and activities". Passing mention is also made to issues such as genetic resources, traditional knowledge and folklore by stressing "the importance of on-going discussions at WIPO" in this regard.

For further information on the WIPO Summit, see <http://www.wipo.int/summit-china/en/index.html>.

ICTSD reporting.

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**Events & Resources**

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**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**

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>  
18-21 February, Geneva, Switzerland: COUNCIL FOR TRADE-RELATED ASPECTS OF INTELLECTUAL 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 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](mailto:secretariat@biodiv.org); Internet: <http://www.biodiv.org/doc/meeting.asp?wg=TEGURT-01>

24-25 February, London, United Kingdom: STRATEGIC ENERGY DIALOGUES. Organised by the Royal Institute for International Affairs. 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>.

24-28 February, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE (special and regular session). 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).

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.

3 March, Geneva, Switzerland: WORKSHOP ON FRESH WATER AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE LAW. Co-hosted by the Graduate Institute of International Studies, the Faculty of Law of the University of Geneva, and the Georgetown University Law Center, this forum will bring together scholars and policy-makers concerned with issues of water supply, trade and investment. Its purpose is to make clear problems of trade law for water management and international water law for trade agreements. For further information on the conference, please contact: Makane Mbengue; email: [Makane.Mbengue@droit.unige.ch](mailto:Makane.Mbengue@droit.unige.ch).

4-5 March, Geneva, Switzerland: TRADE NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE. 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).

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. It will address some of the sustainable development-related aspects of the EU's services liberalisation and investment agenda in the WTO. The hearing will address the potential for developing binding rules for corporations at the European and international level and will elaborate on alternatives to investment and trade liberalisation. 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).

7&10 March, Geneva, Switzerland: COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT. 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).

### **Other forthcoming events**

10 - 14 March, Montreal, Canada: EIGHTH MEETING OF THE CBD SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE (SBSTTA-8). For further information, contact: the CBD Secretariat; tel: (514) 288-2220; fax: 288-6588; email: [secretariat@biodiv.org](mailto:secretariat@biodiv.org); Internet: <http://www.biodiv.org/doc/meeting.asp?wg=SBSTTA-08>

10 - 14 March, Rome, Italy: 16TH SESSION OF THE FAO COMMITTEE ON FORESTRY. Organised by U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization. For further information, contact: tel: (39) 06-57051; fax: 5705-3152; email: [fao-hq@fao.org](mailto:fao-hq@fao.org); Internet: <http://www.fao.org>.

10 - 14 March, Rome, Italy: COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIPS OF FORESTS (CPF). Organised by U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization. For further information, contact: Mr. Jacques Diouf; tel: (39) 06-57051; fax: 06-5705-3152; email: [fao-hq@fao.org](mailto:fao-hq@fao.org); Internet: <http://www.fao.org>

11 - 14 March, Yokohama, Japan: AD HOC INTERGOVERNMENTAL TASK FORCE ON FOOD DERIVED FROM BIOTECHNOLOGY, 4th SESSION. For further information, contact: tel: (39 06) 57051; fax: 5705-4593; email: [Codex@fao.org](mailto:Codex@fao.org); Internet: [http://www.codexalimentarius.net/ccfbt4/bt03\\_01e.htm](http://www.codexalimentarius.net/ccfbt4/bt03_01e.htm)

14 - 15 March, Brussels, Belgium: CITIZENS' PARLIAMENT ON SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION. The Brussels Institute for the Management of the Environment, the administration of the environment in the Brussels-Capital Region, is organising an international event called the Citizens' Parliament on Sustainable Consumption. One of the aims of this forum is to promote changes in consumer behaviour in Europe. For further information, contact: (32 2) 775-7575; fax: 775-7621; email: [info@ibgebim.be](mailto:info@ibgebim.be); Internet: <http://www.ibgebim.be>.

10 - 21 March, Nairobi, Kenya: MONITORING FOR EFFECTIVENESS IN COMMUNITY-BASED WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION. Organised by the Network for Water and Sanitation. This course introduces approaches to participatory monitoring within communities and agencies. It emphasises the utilisation of monitoring information, particularly at the lowest levels where action can be taken. For further information, contact: NETWAS, tel: (254 2) 890-555/6/7; fax: 890553/4; email: [netwas@nbnet.co.ke](mailto:netwas@nbnet.co.ke); Internet: <http://www.netwasgroup.com/>

14 March, Faculty of Law, University of Geneva, Geneva, Switzerland. A NEW CONSTELLATION: SPS, TBT AND THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS IN LIGHT OF THE HORMONES AND SARDINES CASES.



Organised by the Faculty of Law, University of Geneva. For further information, contact: Urs Thomas, tel: (41 22) 705-8491; email: [urs.thomas@droit.unige.ch](mailto:urs.thomas@droit.unige.ch).

16 - 23 March, Kyoto, Japan: THIRD WORLD WATER FORUM. A Ministerial Conference will be held during the Forum, where Ministers will work towards framing and adopting a political declaration concerning global water problems. For further information, contact: the Forum Secretariat; tel: (81 3) 5212-1645; email: [office@water-forum3.com](mailto:office@water-forum3.com); Internet: <http://www.worldwaterforum.org>

17 - 18 March, McGill University, Montreal, Canada: "GREENING THE FTAA?: TOWARDS THE PROTECTION OF ECOLOGICAL INTEGRITY IN OUR HEMISPHERE." Organised by Environmental Law McGill (ELM). This international conference will highlight issues of environmental governance and sustainable development in the context of the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) negotiations. For further information, contact: William Amos; tel: (514) 845-3605; email: [wamos@po-box.mcgill.ca](mailto:wamos@po-box.mcgill.ca); Internet: <http://www.law.mcgill.ca/elmftaaconference>

17 - 19 March, Montreal, Canada: CBD OPEN-ENDED INTER-SESSIONAL MEETING ON THE MULTI-YEAR PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES UP TO 2010. For further information, contact: the CBD Secretariat; tel: (514) 288-2220; fax: 288-6588; email: [secretariat@biodiv.org](mailto:secretariat@biodiv.org); Internet: <http://www.biodiv.org/doc/meeting.asp?wg=MYPOW-01>.

18 - 21 March, Montreal, Canada: AMERICANA 2003: "SOLUTIONS FOR A HEALTHY WORLD." This event will draw participants, primarily from North, Central and South America. The conference program's objectives are to promote spreading and sharing of techniques, knowledge, solutions and technologies allowing pollution mitigation or elimination. For further information, contact: tel: (514) 270-7154; fax: 270-7154; email: [info@americana.org](mailto:info@americana.org); Internet: <http://www.americana.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 or review by the BRIDGES staff to Heike Baumüller, [hbaumuller@ictsd.ch](mailto:hbaumuller@ictsd.ch).

MAKING GLOBAL TRADE WORK FOR PEOPLE. By the United Nations Development Programme, Heinrich Boll Foundation, Rockefeller Brothers Fund, Rockefeller Foundation and Wallace Global Fund, published by Earthscan, 2003. The book presents a far-reaching reassessment of the current multilateral trade regime and examines how it can be improved in order to contribute genuinely to human development. Available electronically at <http://www.undp.org/dpa/publications/globaltrade.pdf>. To order a copy, visit <http://www.earthscan.co.uk/asp/bookdetails.asp?key=3879&field=new>.

JANUARY ISSUE OF 'SEEDLING'. By Genetic Resources Action International, 2003. This issue takes a closer look at domestic farm animals and the loss of breeds. An article by Susanne Gura and the League for Pastoral Peoples provides an overview of the situation; Raul Perezgrovas takes a close look at the Chiapas sheep; and CENESTA, an Iranian NGO, brings together a number of pastoralists from around Iran to discuss the issues. Available at <http://www.grain.org/seedling/>.

"Turtles, Trade and Unilateral Measures: Reframing the Debate," by K.Ravi Srinivas in ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL WEEKLY 38(6), 8 February 2003. The author argues that unilateral measures may be desirable in some contexts. The author also believes that NGO participation in the WTO's Dispute Settlement Mechanism should be welcomed as this would enhance the WTO's legitimacy by bringing in the views, voices and interests of those excluded from the process. The paper can be downloaded from <http://www.epw.org.in> or send an email to [rskrishn@law.upenn.edu](mailto:rskrishn@law.upenn.edu) or [ravisrinivas@rediffmail.com](mailto:ravisrinivas@rediffmail.com) to receive an electronic copy.

**U.S. DUMPING ON WORLD AGRICULTURAL MARKETS: CAN TRADE RULES HELP FARMERS?**

By Mark Ritchie, Sophia Murphy and Mary Beth Lake of the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (IATP), February 2003. This report claims that the US is selling various primary farm commodities on the world market at dumping prices that is in violation of WTO rules, and in turn are distorting market conditions. The IATP have said these practices are particularly damaging to developing countries, and in particular, their farm sectors. To remedy the situation the IATP has suggested that visible export subsidies should be eliminated as soon as possible, and that exporting countries should commit to keeping all products priced below the cost of production out of the global market. The IATP believes to accomplish these goals, international trade rules would need to be strengthened putting the onus on the WTO's court.

"A Social Contract For Biotechnology: Shared Visions For Risky Technologies?" by D. M. Bruce in the JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS 15 (3), 2002. This paper examines agricultural biotechnology in terms of a social contract, whose conditions would have to be fulfilled to gain acceptance of novel applications. Current and future GM applications are evaluated against these conditions through the course of the paper. For further information, see:

[http://www.icgeb.org/~bsafesrv/db/query\\_biosafety.php?biosafety\\_id=3538](http://www.icgeb.org/~bsafesrv/db/query_biosafety.php?biosafety_id=3538)

**BIOTECHNOLOGY AND GENETIC RESOURCE POLICIES.** Edited by Philip G. Pardey and Bonwoo Koo, EPTD Research at Glance, Briefs No. 1-6. International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), January 2003. Collection briefs on biotechnology and genetic resource policies. Available at:

<http://www.ifpri.org/pubs/rag/br1001.pdf>

**BIOPIRACY IN THE AMAZON.** By Amazon Link, 2003. This collection of short case studies tries to highlight the obstacles posed by biopiracy to the development of a sustainable trade in Amazon forest products. Each case study outlines the indigenous use of each forest product, it's perceived economic potential and the patents applied to that product and/or its derivatives. The view the collection, see:

<http://www.amazonlink.org/biopiracy/index.htm>

**AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL INDICATORS.** By the Economic Research Service: U.S. Department of Agriculture in Ag Handbook No. AH722, February 2003. This report identifies trends in land, water, and biological resources and commercial input use, reports on the condition of natural resources used in the agricultural sector, and describes and assesses public policies that affect conservation and environmental quality in agriculture. For further information, see:

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/arei/arei2001/>.

## Electronic Resource

**FOOD SAFETY AND QUALITY UPDATE.** A new bulletin from FAO's Food Quality and Standards Service aimed at keeping readers up-to-date with the activities of the group and informing them of new areas of development. For further information, see <http://www.fao.org/english/newsroom/news/2003/13987-en.html>

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