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LEAD STORIES

AGRICULTURE MODALITIES: FINAL COUNTDOWN

Members are meeting in a last special (negotiating) session of the WTO Committee on Agriculture (CoA) from 25 - 31 March, but little in the way of progress is being reported. The Doha work programme requires Members to establish modalities for the ongoing agriculture negotiations by 31 March 2003. These modalities are to set out the scope of the negotiations, the methodology to be followed during the actual process, and the end-results expected. Confirming the predictions recently expressed by various actors and observers of the negotiation process (BRIDGES Weekly, 5 March, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/03-03-05/story1.htm>), the 25 March informal plenary session revealed that trading partners are still too far apart in their positions to agree on a framework accord by the end-March deadline. Members are instead trying to identify issues on which further 'technical discussions' can be held, keeping the process alive. They are also seeking to agree on a process outcome to manage the time up until the fifth WTO Ministerial meeting in Cancun in September, where they hope modalities can be hammered out at the Ministerial level.

During the next few days, Members will have time to consult bilaterally and plurilaterally, and at an informal session on Friday, 28 March, trading partners will report back on the results achieved in their efforts to bridge the remaining gaps. Members have further time to continue their consultations over the weekend, before a formal wrap-up meeting on Monday, 31 March.

Some "new ideas" presented...

In discussions on 25 March, several Members tabled "new ideas" that had emerged during informal talks between trading partners since the conclusion of the last special session on 24 - 28 February. The US, for example, proposed a new "banded approach" in the reduction of Amber Box (trade-distorting) support. This model would be similar to the formula used by Stuart Harbinson, Chair of the special session, in the context of market access expansion where -- for developed

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countries -- tariffs higher than 90 percent should be slashed by 60 percent on average, whereas those between 90 and 15 percent as well as 15 percent downwards would be cut by only 50 and 40 percent, respectively. The US further called for establishing clear eligibility criteria for developing countries with regard to special and differential treatment (S&D) under the new agriculture trade rules.

On market access, Canada suggested establishing an ambitious reduction formula, which would, however, retain some flexibility in specific areas. Canada has so far not supported demands by the US and the Cairns Group of agricultural exporters to cut tariffs uniformly to 25 percent, mainly due to its sensitive dairy and poultry sectors. Regarding domestic support, Canada proposed a "tiered approach" along the lines of the new model suggested by the US.

A group of 12 developing countries -- including Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Korea, Nigeria, Turkey, Peru, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Venezuela -- introduced its approach to the concept of 'strategic' or 'special' products (incorporated by Harbinson in the draft market access modalities, see BRIDGES Weekly, 12 February, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/03-02-13/story1.htm>). The group is, inter alia, of the view that only a "number-based self-declaration" of products to be excluded from general tariff reduction commitments could effectively address developing country concerns related to food security, rural development and livelihood security. Moreover, according to the alliance, the provision of flexibilities for 'strategic' products should be extended to all pillars, including domestic support and export competition.

Mauritius, a net food-importer and small island developing country, called for clearer provisions for the treatment of small and vulnerable countries, as addressed in paragraph 57 of the revised first modalities draft.

Reportedly, Cairns Group member Argentina introduced a new proposal on trade preferences that calls for technical assistance help smaller economies diversify away from the export crops under preferential trade terms.

...but still no breakthrough in sight

In their reactions to the new ideas presented, some Members signalled interest, whereas several others said that they were unable to sign on the new approaches tabled. Cautious liberalisers such as the EU and Switzerland rejected the US intervention on harmonising trade distortive domestic support straight

ahead, whereas some Cairns countries found that such a banded model would not go far enough.

Commenting on Harbinson's revised modalities draft (BRIDGES Weekly, 20 March 2003, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/03-03-20/story1.htm>), Japan and Bulgaria said that they could still not accept the draft on the table as a basis for negotiation. In general, several key actors in the discussions, such as Brazil, Uruguay and Switzerland, overtly stated that they do not expect agreed modalities to emerge from the current CoA negotiating session.

ICTSD reporting; "Agriculture: WTO Members gather with scant hope of meeting agriculture modalities deadline," WTO REPORTER, 26 March 2003; "World farm trade talks deadlocked, deadline looms," REUTERS, 25 March 2003.

RULES: MEMBERS CONSIDER OPTIONS FOR ADDRESSING FISHERIES SUBSIDIES, ANTI-DUMPING ISSUES

Meeting from 19-20 March, the WTO Negotiating Group on Rules considered a new US paper on fisheries subsidies, and discussed several new submissions on anti-dumping. The US -- part of the "Friends of Fish" group that also includes Argentina, Chile, Iceland, New Zealand, Norway and Peru -- circulated a paper on fisheries subsidies prior to the meeting, and engaged in informal discussions with a number of Members, as well as with NGOs (TN/RL/W/77, searchable at <http://docsonline.wto.org>). The submission was intended as a move from simply reviewing the problem of fisheries subsidies to considering possible solutions, and followed a submission on a negotiating platform by the "Friends" group at the last Rules Negotiating Group meeting (see BRIDGES Weekly, 12 February 2003, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/03-02-13/story5.htm>). The US paper presents several ideas for initial discussion, including expanding the category of prohibited "red light" subsidies under the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures (SCM) to include fisheries subsidies that "directly promote overcapacity and over-fishing, or have other direct trade-distorting effects". It further suggests creating a "dark amber" category of fisheries subsidies that would be presumed to be harmful, unless the subsidising government could demonstrate that the subsidy did not lead to overcapacity or over-fishing, nor other adverse trade effects. The paper also proposes improved notifications of fisheries subsidy programmes under WTO rules.

Ambassador Linnet Deily, presenting the US paper at the rules meeting, said Members have "an historic opportunity" to harness trade liberalisation in order to

advance sustainable development. According to scientific studies, 50 percent of marine fisheries are fully exploited, while 20 percent are over-exploited. The US estimates global fishing subsidies at US\$10-\$15 billion a year. Deily called for closer cooperation with the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and NGOs in the ongoing WTO negotiations on fisheries subsidies. While her paper received support from Norway, Peru, Iceland, Chile, Australia, Argentina, EC, New Zealand, the Philippines and Mauritius, Korea continued to take another approach, presenting its own submission (TN/RL/W/69), which states that subsidies cannot be linked to the depletion of fish stocks. Japan supported Korea, while China supported the US proposal, stressing, however, that fish farming should not be included under new rules. The EU is taking a low profile in the negotiations for the time being, as its internal fisheries reform is ongoing, but is expected to submit its own paper on fisheries subsidies to the WTO in May. A representative of an environmental NGO indicated support for the US paper, noting that the debate in the Rules Negotiating Group is moving beyond the issue of the group's mandate to concrete proposals on how to address fisheries subsidies.

New submissions tabled on anti-dumping

Discussions on anti-dumping continued to divide WTO Members at the Negotiating Group meeting. While 15 "Friends of Anti-Dumping Negotiations" want to change WTO rules to prevent abuse of anti-dumping measures and burdensome or unnecessary investigations, the US wishes to maintain maximum flexibility in the use of trade remedies and focuses on closing loopholes in the existing anti-dumping agreement.

During the Rules Negotiating Group meeting, the EU submitted a paper containing a proposal for fast-track procedures with regard to unjustified anti-dumping and countervailing investigations (TN/RL/W/67). The "Friends of Anti-Dumping Negotiations" -- Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Israel, Japan, Korea, Norway, Chinese Taipei, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey and Hong Kong, China -- made another proposal (TN/RLW/76). Their proposal suggests tightening the use of sunset reviews, to prevent the extension of anti-dumping duty orders beyond the five years set out under the WTO Antidumping Agreement. The 'Friends' groups said that in practice "an expansive use of the exception [sunset reviews to continue the order] turns the continuation of the order into a de facto practice". The US outrightly dismissed the proposal at the meeting.

The US submitted a paper on clarifying and improving subsidies disciplines, suggesting that the category of prohibited government subsidies be extended to include

large domestic subsidies, subsidies to cover operating losses and government debt forgiveness (TN/RL/W/78). A second submission proposed clarifying issues under the anti-dumping and subsidies agreements, including investigations on perishable goods and persistently dumped and subsidised imports of certain products (TN/RL/W/72). The US in the latter case referred, *inter alia*, to its steel industry.

Egypt, following the line taken by the US rather than the "Friends of Anti-Dumping Negotiations," stated that dumping, not measures to prevent dumping, are trade disruptive, and more rules making anti-dumping measures more complicated would be counterproductive (TN/RL/W/27). This paper, submitted by Egypt in February, stressed that many 'new users' of anti-dumping measures were developing countries that would find it difficult and burdensome to deal with complex rules put forth by some Members on anti-dumping. China tabled its first paper on anti-dumping during the rules meeting. The paper called for stronger disciplines on anti-dumping actions, and for the removal of a clause on "non-market economy" (TN/RL/W/66).

Meanwhile, a representative of the National Foreign Trade Council (NFTC), a US business group, called on WTO Members to start from a "clean slate" in anti-dumping negotiations and to abandon the current agreement. The group has presented its proposal to US trade negotiators. The proposal suggests developing model regulations and instruments for national antidumping regimes -- based on, *inter alia*, US regulations -- that countries could implement at the national level in order to be in compliance with the WTO.

ICTSD reporting; "U.S. wants tougher trade rules for fish subsidies," REUTERS, 20 March 2003; "U.S. Proposes Tougher WTO Disciplines on Fishing Subsidies," REUTERS, 21 March 2003; "U.S. Tables Three Papers On Dumping, Subsidies In WTO Rules Group," INSIDE US TRADE, 21 March 2003; "'Friends' Group Targets Sunset Reviews In Latest WTO Proposal on Antidumping," WTO REPORTER, 20 March 2003; "Overhaul WTO antidumping rules - US business group," REUTERS, 21 March 2003.

OTHER NEWS

**NGOS LAUNCH CAMPAIGN AGAINST
WTO INVESTMENT AGREEMENT**

Representatives of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and other interested parties met in Geneva from 19 to 21 March to consider investment issues. A seminar on 20 March focussed on the nature and implications of a WTO investment agreement, involving government officials both from countries favouring and opposing an investment agreement presenting their points of view, in discussion with civil society groups. Many participants agreed that while investment needs to be regulated, the WTO may not be the appropriate forum for this. In their opinion, discussions so far at the WTO have failed to achieve a balance between investor's rights and their obligations, omitting environmental, labour and developmental and other public interest perspectives.

On 21 March, over 50 NGOs launched a campaign against negotiations aiming at a WTO investment agreement, stressing that an agreement would harm developing countries. Martin Khor of the Third World Network said proposals for an investment agreement tabled at the WTO by the EU and Japan (see BRIDGES Weekly, 5 March 2003, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/03-03-05/wtoinbrief.htm>) are "not aimed at regulating investment but to regulate governments so that they can't regulate investments". One participant noted that investment is likely to become the major rallying point for NGOs at the fifth WTO Ministerial meeting in Cancun in September, and the meeting in Geneva served to solidify the civil society movement in this regard. The organisations launching the campaign against an investment agreement include Oxfam, the Center for Consumer Defense of El Salvador, Public Citizen from the US, the Third World Institute from Uruguay, REBRIP from Brasil, the Solon Foundation from Bolivia, and the Third World Network.

ICTSD reporting; "Oxfam And Other NGOs Launch Campaign Against Investment Agreement," DIARIO EL COMERCIO, 21 March 2003; "Campaign groups aim to stop WTO investment pact," REUTERS, 21 March 2003.

IN BRIEF

**EU AGREES ON ENERGY TAX
FRAMEWORK**

The EU Council on Economic and Financial Affairs, meeting on 19 March in Brussels, agreed on an EU-wide energy tax framework. The decision comes six years after the idea was first introduced, and aims at implementing EU commitments to address climate change. The framework covers coal, natural gas and electricity, and increases existing minimum tax rates for oil products, including petrol, and will harmonise the current patchwork of European national taxation schemes. The framework as aimed as a first step, containing some exceptions for energy intensive industries, but will allow the EU to increase tax rates over time. The framework is expected to be formally adopted at the next meeting of the European Parliament.

In related news, the Global Governance Project (a joint research programme comprising three German academic institutions), released a report examining the possibility to use energy border-tax adjustments in countries that have enacted ambitious energy tax schemes to implement the Kyoto Protocol. Entitled "Implementing the Kyoto Protocol Without the United States: The Strategic Role of Energy Tax Adjustments at the Border," the working paper -- written by Frank Biermann and Rainer Brohm -- argues that the EU could make use of comprehensive border tax adjustments on US products, as US energy prices are much lower. The report also outlines ideas for special rebates on energy-intensive products exported from the EU to the US. The authors examine whether such tax adjustments would be permissible under the WTO General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures. The paper concludes that under certain circumstances the adjustments would be permitted, however they would likely be challenged before the WTO dispute settlement mechanism. To access the paper, visit <http://www.glogov.org/workingpapers/index.html>.

"EU signs up to energy tax plan to help environment," REUTERS, 24 March 2003; "Europe Reaches Agreement on Energy Tax Framework," ENS, 21 March 2003.

ALTERNATIVE WORLD WATER FORUM OPPOSES WATER PRIVATISATION

The first People's World Water Forum gathered from 21-22 March in Florence, Italy to push for the establishment of a World Water Parliament and provide an alternative to the Third World Water Forum held in Japan. The meeting stressed the importance of water in international trade, and examined requests made under the WTO General Agreement on Trade and Services (GATS) negotiations for countries to open their water markets to private service providers. Meeting participants criticised the ongoing GATS negotiations as a first step toward privatising global water supplies, making water another resource to be "bought, sold and monopolised by wealthy nations and corporations". In a move to reverse this trend, trade campaigning groups promised to escalate their 'take services out of the WTO' campaign before and after the September 2003 WTO ministerial meeting in Cancun, Mexico. The First People's World Water Forum served as a follow-up to January's Porto Alegre World Social Forum and coincides with the UN International Year of Freshwater.

The Third World Water Forum, held in Kyoto, Osaka and Shiga, Japan -- attended by ten thousand government officials, representatives of civil society and intergovernmental organisations, industry and water experts -- closed on 23 March with the adoption of a Ministerial Declaration declaring water a driving force of sustainable development (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 21 March 2003, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/03-03-21/inbrief.htm>). However, the Forum was criticised for failing to achieve its stated goal of delivering concrete plans to tackle water-related problems.

For further information about the World Water Forum, visit: <http://www.world-water-forum3.com/>. Visit the 1st People's World Water Forum at: <http://www.contrattoacqua.it>. "World Water Forum Views Water as a Life and Death Issue," ENS, 17 March 2003; "People's Water Forum Urges World Water Parliament," ENS, 24 March 2003.

FINANCIAL LIBERALISATION: NEW IMF REPORT ADVISES CAUTION

A new study by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), entitled "Effects of Financial Globalisation on Developing Countries: Some Empirical Evidence," was released on 17 March. The report explores the relationship between the liberalisation of financial markets in developing countries and the results that liberalisation has had on the economic development of these countries. The authors note that, during the past

two decades, the amount of capital flows from developed to developing countries has increased dramatically. Economic theory would suggest that factors such as increased specialisation, lower cost of capital, and the development of the financial sectors of poor countries would make financial integration beneficial for developing countries. However, contrary to theory, the report finds that very few developing countries have shown significant growth from investment. The report reveals that liberalisation will not necessarily increase output, and can in fact harm poor countries, as it makes them more susceptible to fluctuations in the global financial market, which in most cases they are not equipped to handle. Although recent research has found no direct connection between a country's degree of financial openness and the volatility of its output, a link has been established between higher levels of development within a country's financial sector and lower volatility.

The report does not claim to provide the solution for improving the effects of financial integration on developing countries, but it does contend that factors such as transparency, reduced corruption, and government involvement are essential in improving domestic financial institutions. Such improvements will help boost the positive effect of financial integration on these countries. It strongly recommends that stakeholders consider developing countries on a case-specific basis before determining what practices are best for its growth. A copy of this report can be accessed at: <http://www.imf.org/external/np/res/docs/2003/031703.pdf>.

ICTSD reporting.

EVENTS & RESOURCES

EVENTS

For a more comprehensive list of events in trade and sustainable development, please refer to ICTSD's web calendar at: <http://www.ictsd.org/cal/index.htm>. If you would like to submit an event, please email events@ictsd.ch.

Coming Up This Week: 27 March to 2 April

24-28 March, Mexico City, Mexico: TRADE AND ENVIRONMENT IN THE AMERICAS 2003. This event, organised by the North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation and the United Nations

Environment Programme will include three features, all of which focus on trade in North and Latin America from an environmental perspective. The first day will consist of a workshop (hosted by the Joint Public Advisory Committee) examining Chapter 11 of NAFTA and its implications with respect to dispute settlement over environmental protection. This workshop will be followed by "The Second North American Symposium on Assessing the Environmental Effects of Trade". During this two-day symposium, various papers with the central themes of energy and agriculture with respect to the environment will be discussed. This event will conclude with a two-day meeting during which representatives from Latin American economic and trade organizations will discuss current trade issues and prospects on improving on trade and environmental activities for the future. On 27-28 March, UNEP will organise a Capacity Building Meeting on Environment, Trade and Sustainable Development for the Latin American and Caribbean Region. For further information on this event, please visit: <http://www.cec.org/symposium/index.cfm?varlan=english>.

24-28, March, Florence, Italy: ADVANCED RESEARCH AND PROCEDURES IN BIOSAFETY AND RISK ASSESSMENT FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL RELEASE OF GMOs. Organised by the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB) and the Istituto Agronomico per l'Oltremare (IAO). For further information, contact: Chiara Villanovich; tel: (39- 040) 375-7345; fax: 22-6555; email: mcourses@icgeb.org; Internet: http://www.icgeb.trieste.it/TRAINING/CRS03/BSF_Florence.htm.

27-28 March, Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium: WORKSHOP ON SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND TRADE LIBERALISATION. This workshop, organized by the SUSTRA Network (a network of European scientists, stakeholders and policy-makers focusing on improving the socio-economic knowledge base) and the University of Louvain, will concentrate on encouraging the development of sustainability impact assessment (SIA) methodology and promoting capacity building in SIA. For more information, please visit: <http://www.agro-montpellier.fr/sustra/>.

27-28 March, Montreal, Canada: BEYOND FREE TRADE: STRENGTHENING NORTH AMERICA. Hosted by the North American Forum on Integration (NAFI), this conference will bring together guests from the political, economic and academic spheres of Mexico, the US and Canada. They will debate NAFTA's future, focusing on the development gap between Mexico and its partners to the north. Participants will consider a possible North American Investment Fund to finance Mexican infrastructure projects. For further

information, contact: NAFI secretariat, tel: (514) 844-8030; email: minfo@fina-nafi.org; Internet: http://www.fina-nafi.org/menu_conference_ang.html.

27-29 March, New York, US: THE APPEL CONFERENCE 2003 - REGULATION OF FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT. This conference at Columbia Law School will focus on issues related to the regulation of foreign direct investment. Participants will address the appropriate level, as well as type, of regulation ("soft" guideline/industry self-regulation/hard law or treaty/private contract) across a variety of issues, including labour, environment, expropriation, competition policy, and corruption. The conference will also launch the Columbia Centre for Global Legal and Policy Problems. For further information please contact Ms. Lenge Hong at tel: +1-212-854-1366; fax: +1-212-854-7946.

28 March to 5 April, Oxford, England: GLOBAL CIVIL SOCIETY - EXPECTATIONS, CAPACITIES AND THE ACCOUNTABILITY OF INTERNATIONAL NGOS. This event is being organised by the 21st Century Trust. It will look at the changing nature of NGOs and the role they are playing in conjunction with governments, intergovernmental organisations, and corporations. For further information, visit: <http://www.21stCenturyTrust.org>.

30-31 March, Florida, USA: THE EU AND THE NORTH AMERICAN FREE TRADE AREA (NAFTA): COMPARATIVE REGIONAL INTEGRATION AND MUTUAL RELATIONS. This conference is being cosponsored by the Miami European Union Center and the Jean Monnet Chair, in cooperation with the Dante B. Fascell North-South Center and the Center for European Studies/National Autonomous University of Mexico. For more information contact: Joaquín Roy; tel: (305) 284-3266; email: mjroy@miami.edu.

31 March to 3 April, Marrakech, Morocco: EXPERT MEETING ON SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION. This international expert meeting will report to the 11th session of the UN Commission for Sustainable Development (CSD-11). For further information, contact Ralph Chipman, UN Division for Sustainable Development; tel: +1-212-963-5504; fax: +1-212-963-4260; e-mail: mchipman@un.org; Internet: <http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev>.

1 April, Washington D.C., US: ANNULMENT OF ICSID AWARDS - THE IMPACT OF RECENT DECISIONS. This joint International Arbitration Institute/American Society of International Law conference will focus on the recent annulment decisions of the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID). The primary cases being looked at are Wena v. Egypt

and Vivendi v. Argentina. The impact of ICSID's application dismissal and partial award annulment in the respective cases will provide the focus for the conference. The Metalclad annulment decision, the function of national courts, and the US Trade Act that calls for an appellate mechanism in foreign investment will be discussed as well. For further information please contact: Nanou Leleu-Knobil, tel: +33-1-5389-7000; fax: +33-1-5389-7070; email: Mnleleuknobil@shearman.com.

1 April, New York, US: BIODIPLOMACY: GENETIC RESOURCES, GMOs AND INTERNATIONAL POLICYMAKING. Organised by the UN University. For further information, contact: Prof A.H. Zakri; tel: +81-3-5467-2323; fax: +81-3-5467-2324; email: mzakri@ias.unu.edu; Internet: <http://www.ias.unu.edu>.

2-4 April, Dushanbe, Tajikistan: INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CONFERENCE AND REGIONAL ROUND TABLE ON FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT FOR CENTRAL ASIA. Organised by the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the UN Economic Commission for Europe, and the UN Conference for Trade and Development, with the Government of Tajikistan. For further information contact: Jamshed Sharipov, tel: +992-37-2-213-861; fax: +992-37-2-216-901; e-mail: wto_unit@tojikiston.com; Internet: <http://www.unescap.org/ITID/mtg/iecrtr.htm>.

WTO Events

An updated list of forthcoming WTO meetings is posted at: http://www.wto.org/english/news_e/meets.pdf. Please bear in mind that dates and times of WTO meetings are often changed, and that the WTO does not always announce the important informal meetings of the different bodies. Unless otherwise indicated, all WTO meetings are held at the WTO, Centre William Rappard, rue de Lausanne 154, 1211 Geneva, Switzerland, and are open to WTO Members and accredited observers only.

27 March, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE.

28 March, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO WORKING GROUP ON TRADE, DEPT AND FINANCE.

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

31 March, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO SPECIAL SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE.

2 April, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO TRADE POLICY REVIEW - BURUNDI.

2-3 April, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO COMMITTEE ON SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES.

Other Forthcoming Events

19-20 May, London, England: FOOD PRODUCTION AND THE NEW TRADE AGENDA. The Royal Institute for International Affairs, in association with the Institute for European Environmental Policy and the National Farmers' Union, is hosting a two-day conference to address questions related to food production, transportation, and sales. These issues are often subject to contradictory pressures in Doha Round of trade negotiations under the WTO and the EU Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). For further information, please contact: The Royal Institute of International Affairs; tel: +44 20 7957 5700; fax: +44 20 7957 5710; email: Mcontact@riia.org; internet: <http://www.riia.org>.

22-23 May, Santiago, Chile: MOBILISING SOCIAL CAPITAL AND VOLUNTEER ACTION OF LATIN AMERICA. This conference, organised by the government of Chile and the Inter-American Initiative on Social Capital, Ethics, and Development, will help bridge the gap between government and civil society in Latin America. It will also address the vast potential in Latin America for the production of social goods through volunteer organisations. For further information, please visit: <http://www.iadb.org/etica/ingles/index-i.htm>.

20-21 November, Vienna, Austria: THE WTO AFTER CUNCUN: HALF-TIME OF THE NEW TRADING ROUND. This conference, organised by the European Community Studies Association - Austria and the Research Institute for European Affairs will feature panel discussions on WTO law, the 'Development Round' and its success in terms of development, Agriculture, and TRIPS. For more information on this event, please visit: <http://fgr.wu-wien.ac.at/ecsa/cancunco.html>.

RESOURCES

BLUE GOLD: THE BATTLE AGAINST CORPORATE THEFT OF THE WORLD'S WATER. By Maude Barlow and Tony Clarke, 2002. The authors address the future ecological, economic, and political implications of the world's current water shortage. They argue that privatisation, a fundamental strategy of the World Bank, is creating water monopolies -- turning water access into an ability-to-pay function. For more information, please visit:

<http://www.earthscan.co.uk/asp/bookdetails.asp?key=3799>.

WATER IN THE CURRENT ROUND OF WTO NEGOTIATIONS ON SERVICES. By Ellen Gould. Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives Briefing Paper Series: Trade and Investment 4:1, January 2003. The author looks at the potential effects of water services being covered by the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS), focusing primarily on conservation measures, local decision-making ability, and the risk of trade setbacks. For more information, visit: <http://www.policyalternatives.ca/>.

"Will international investment rules obstruct climate protection policies?" by Jacob Werksman, Kevin Baumert, and Navroz Dubash, in **INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENTS: POLITICS, LAW AND ECONOMICS** 3 (1, 2003): 59-86. The authors note that rules governing the global environment and the international economy are currently decided in separate arenas. Yet, environmental agreements can have strong economic implications, particularly with the growing use of market mechanisms. In this regard, they assess the interaction between the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) of the Kyoto Protocol and the framework of international investment law.

"Frontiers in trade: the clean development mechanism and the general agreement on trade in services" by Glenn Wiser in **INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES** 2 (3/4, 2002): 288-309. The author assesses the Kyoto Protocol's Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), focusing on the new international trade opportunities it presents. Projects hosted in developing countries will result in 'Certified Emissions Reductions' (CERs), which may be used to assist developed countries to meet their emissions reduction targets. The author argues that CERs will share the qualities of licenses and not products or services, and should therefore not be subject to regulation by the WTO. However, services related to CDM project development, and financial services rendered in the CER trading system, may fall within the scope of the General Agreement on Trade in Services (the GATS). Therefore, the author supports clear CDM rules promulgated at the international level, bearing this linkage in mind. "Food risks and the environment: changing perspectives on a changing social order" by Arthur Mol and Harriet Bulkeley in **JOURNAL OF ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY AND PLANNING** 4 (3, 2002): 185-195. Reflecting changes in the agro-food system, food production and consumption, and scientific risk assessment, this article provides an overview of the institutions, practices, and risks of the new food and environment regime. "Arguments surrounding organic and genetically modified food labelling: a few comparisons" by Mikael

Klintman in **JOURNAL OF ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY AND PLANNING** 4 (3, 2002): 247-259. The author compares mandatory genetically-modified (GM) labelling with organic food labelling, outlining views expressed by non-governmental organisations (NGOs), scientists, policy-makers, and corporations. **CSO NEWSLETTER.** A publication of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). March 2003. This newsletter is produced by UNCTAD's Civil Society Outreach unit with the purpose of informing civil actors of related topics and events in order to encourage them to become more involved in UNCTAD's objectives. Future issues are envisaged. For access to this newsletter, please visit: <http://www.unctad.org/Templates/Webflyer.asp?docID=3318&intltemID=2068&lang=1>.

INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC GOVERNANCE AND NON-ECONOMIC CONCERNS: NEW CHALLENGES FOR THE INTERNATIONAL LEGAL ORDER. By Stefan Grillier (Springer, 2003). Since the WTO conference in Seattle in 1999, it is becoming increasingly evident that the realm of international economic law is expanding to include factors such as environmental issues, labour, development, human rights, and transparency. This book explores these and other developments in international law and their implications for the future. To order a copy of this book, please visit: <http://www.springer.at/main/book.jsp?bookID=3-211-83823-6&categoryID=51>.

POSITION VACANCIES

WWF European Policy Office is seeking to recruit a Fisheries Policy Officer to develop WWF's policy and advocacy work. The successful candidate will have a relevant degree plus three years experience of working on fisheries/marine policy, preferably at the European or international level, and speak fluent English and another European language. The application deadline is 22 April. For further information contact Florence Mouné, Office Manager, e-mail: Mfmouné@wwfepo.org.

The Overseas Development Institute (ODI) is looking for candidates to combine research, policy advice and public affairs, in the following areas: aid and international macroeconomics; EU-developing country relations; and aid and public expenditure. For further information, please contact ODI: fax: +44 20 7922 0399; email: Mrecruitment@odi.org.uk; internet: <http://www.odi.org.uk/jobs/index.html>.

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