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LEAD STORIES

DSU REFORM: MEMBERS FEAR ANOTHER DEADLINE WILL BE MISSED

The special session of the WTO Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) met to continue its review of the Dispute Settlement Understanding (DSU) from 10 to 11 April. As the 23 May deadline for completing the DSU reform drew closer, Members were still at odds with regard to fundamental issues in the proposals, and there were serious concerns over another possible failure to meet a deadline. A failure in these negotiations, which have an express mandate to deliver an early harvest, would be a blow to the Doha round of negotiations, following a number of other missed deadlines, including in the areas of agriculture, special and differential (S&D) treatment for developing countries, and trade-related aspects of intellectual property rights (TRIPs) and access to essential medicines.

Shortly before the series of meetings held over the two days, Ambassador Peter Balas (Hungary), Chair of the special session, circulated a 70-page framework document on the basis of which the subsequent discussions took place. The document, containing a number of brackets, details the respective proposals by Members, along with the Chair's textual proposals (subject to Members' approval). The issues still bracketed included the US proposition on opening up the panel and Appellate Body proceedings to the public (predicated on participating parties' acceptance of such a proposal within five days of a request being submitted) to achieve greater transparency, and a proposition from Least Developed Countries (LDCs) on holding consultations in capitals of LDCs, should these countries be involved in consultations. A proposal by Canada on enhanced protection of confidential business information in panel and Appellate Body procedure is also still subject to debate.

Some Members had previously called on the Chair to come up with a core list of issues on which consensus was likely in time for the deadline, leaving other issues out. However, Members are now divided in their views of the usefulness of such a list. A number of countries, led by the EU and Canada, insist on a full, but

balanced, package. According to the EU, settling for anything less would "not be helpful to the discussions". On the other hand, a large group of countries favours a core list approach, including many developing countries such as Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Malaysia, Peru and Uruguay. At the meeting of the DSB special session, some of these countries cited examples of issues they consider core, which they feel should be agreed upon in a timely fashion. According to New Zealand, housekeeping proposals "such as clarifying procedures for withdrawing consultation requests and terminating inactive panels and time-saving proposals such as allowing panels to be established at first request" should be considered as part of the core issues on which consensus is obtainable before the deadline.

Sources indicate that some delegations criticised the Chair for the lack of consensus and the "unwieldy" text of the framework document circulated to Members. Chile, noting that the Chair's text maintained "all the proposals" indicated that the Chair should provide "more leadership" given the short time left for the completion of the review exercise. In his defence, Chair Balas said it was Members' task to narrow down their differences and eliminate proposals from consideration.

Given the relative contentiousness of many of the issues, the Chair will continue to hold a series of informal meetings over the next two or so weeks until the next meeting, slotted for 5 May. Sources indicated that many Members are hoping that Chair Balas will submit a narrowed-down document at the next meeting, based on the series of informal consultations. Some delegations, such as New Zealand, have suggested that Members should not feel entirely constrained by the May deadline, and that discussions should continue beyond that date on the more divisive issues such as the US proposals on transparency. The EU representative has indeed suggested that Members could use the Ministerial in Cancun to "agree on the greatest possible number of outstanding issues and define a mandate for further negotiations" should there be no meaningful conclusion by May.

ICTSD reporting; "DSB Reform Talks Stall as Deadline Looms," WTO REPORTER, 14 April 2003.

OTHER NEWS

TRADE AND INVESTMENT: NEW EU PAPER ON POLICY SPACE FOR DEVELOPMENT

WTO Working Group on Trade and Investment (WGTI) met from 14-15 April to discuss a new EU concept paper on policy space for development, as well as submissions by Japan, Canada and China on transparency and other issues related to a possible multilateral framework on investment.

The EU submission (WT/WGTI/W/154, searchable at <http://docsonline.wto.org/>) draws on the assumption of pre-establishment commitments within a future multilateral framework on investment being based on a General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) type positive list approach. This, according to the EU, would contain sufficient flexibility to allay any fears about rules on pre-establishment impeding "policy spaces" for development. The GATS-type approach has allowed Members to undertake commitments only in those sectors they wished to open up. In addition, by including limitations to market access or national treatment, the EU maintained that Members could protect spaces for domestic policies including those aimed at increasing employment, generating and transferring technology, and protecting minority groups. Members could even take measures violating national treatment and market access -- subject to transparency and most favoured nation (MFN) principles -- as long as they left the specific sectors unbound following the GATS approach.

Seeking to address concerns that a multilateral framework would have a "crowding out" effect on domestic investment, the EU paper pointed to a lack of empirical evidence in this regard and stressed the complementary and output-stimulating effect that foreign direct investment (FDI) would have. Even in case of the "crowding-out" effect, the EU paper maintained, FDI tended to stimulate competition and promote domestic investment. Referring to a possible framework on investment as an 'Investment for Development Framework', the EU indicated it was willing to discuss different points of view and move the debate forward at a concrete level and to further discuss and analyse the "crowding out" effect.

Reactions to the EU concept paper

The first day of the WGTI meeting saw focussed discussion on the EU submission. A key developing country delegate commented that many countries were

still not comfortable with the idea of multilateral disciplines on pre-establishment commitments. Another noted that having an investment framework in place did not necessarily mean that investment flow would increase. One delegate pointed to the fact that pre-establishment commitments were still missing from a number of Bilateral Investment Agreements (BITs), and many Members were worried about opening a Pandora's box during the course of the negotiations, were they to be included. The US said it preferred using a negative list approach over a positive list approach, noting that the former was more familiar to developing countries and had been the choice in most BITs. One participant said that calling an investment agreement an "Investment for Development Framework" does not necessarily make it development-friendly.

One civil society commentator characterised the EU move as an attempt to shift the burden of proof to countries that remain unconvinced of the need for such rules. She pointed out that the EU had yet to convince countries in this regard, especially of the need for the "heavy-handed" enforcement mechanisms of the WTO. She also contended that the EU could not guarantee the outcome once Members agreed to negotiate, noting problems encountered in this regard in previous WTO negotiations. The risk of unexpected results would be particularly high if Members only agreed on "procedural modalities" (i.e. dates, the sequence of discussion and deadlines of the negotiations) and did not engage in substantive negotiations on precise definitions, parameters and rules regarding investment. She noted that while the EU submission had indicated that a Member would still be allowed to modify or withdraw from any commitment in its schedule, this might not be straightforward in practise. Another observer noted the irony of the EU speaking about an "Investment for Development Framework" when there is no meaningful progress in talks relevant to development in areas such as special and differential (S&D) treatment and agriculture.

Background

The EU has already tabled a paper on considerations for modalities for the Singapore issues -- investment, competition policy, transparency in government procurement and trade facilitation -- in late February this year (see [BRIDGES Weekly](#), 5 March 2003). The EU considers the Singapore issues to be a "key element" of the Doha Round trade talks, and supports the launch of negotiations at the WTO Ministerial conference in Cancun in September this year. Many developing countries and civil society groups oppose negotiations on the Singapore issues, and investment in particular, arguing that negotiations would be premature considering the existing workload, and that the WTO would be an inappropriate venue for such

negotiations (see *BRIDGES Weekly*, 26 March 2003, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/03-03-26/story3.htm>). The role of the WGTI is to conduct analytical work on the relationship between trade and investment. The group will meet again from 10-12 June.

ICTSD reporting; "The EC's Trojan Horse: The Investment for Development Framework," IATP GENEVA UPDATE, 9 April 2003.

IN BRIEF

IMF/WORLD BANK MEETINGS HIGHLIGHT NEED TO EASE TRADE BARRIERS

At the 12-13 April International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank Group spring meetings Washington D.C., officials urged developed countries to increase foreign aid and ease trade restrictions, especially on agricultural and textile goods. The World Development Indicators, a report issued at the meetings, cites these measures as necessary if developing countries are to achieve the targets set out in the Millennium Development Goals, which include halving the number of people in poverty by 2015. World Bank Chief Economist Nicholas Stern further stressed that developing countries themselves "need to ensure that all people, and especially poor people, have access to education, health care, and put in place the right investment climate to create opportunities, spur productivity and make real improvements in people's lives". WTO Director General, Supachai Panitchpakdi, attending the Development Committee, drew links to the Doha round negotiations in this regard, pointing out that "trade growth is key for economic growth and poverty reduction. The trade negotiations have the potential to unlock substantial new resource flows to developing countries".

Weak growth in European markets and a stagnating Japanese economy, as well as other financial uncertainties, were cited as contributing to stifled economic growth and slowed progress toward the Millennium Goals. Comments on the effects of the war in Iraq were mostly left to the Group of Seven, which met in Washington in conjunction with the IMF/World Bank meeting.

Supachai's statement can be viewed at: [http://wbln0018.worldbank.org/DCS/DevCom.nsf/\(statementsattachmentweb\)/April2003EnglishDCS20030002/\\$FILE/DCS2003-0002-WTO.pdf](http://wbln0018.worldbank.org/DCS/DevCom.nsf/(statementsattachmentweb)/April2003EnglishDCS20030002/$FILE/DCS2003-0002-WTO.pdf)

"IMF meetings to focus on recipes for better growth," REUTERS, 8 April 2003; "IMF-World Bank: Institutions Urge Action On Trade Barriers," UN WIRE, 14 April 2003.

CIVIL SOCIETY VOICES CONCERN OVER CAFTA NEGOTIATIONS

In a letter to US President Bush on 9 April, over 60 civil society organisations voiced their concern over the lack of civil society participation and transparency in the Central America Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA) negotiation process. The US and the five CAFTA countries -- Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua launched their free trade talks on 8 January this year (see [BRIDGES Weekly](#)). The civil society groups --that include the Centre for International Environmental Law, the Campaign for Labour Rights, and the League of United Latin American Citizens among others -- stressed that since the negotiations began, the only efforts to bring stakeholders on board have involved large multinational corporations. Furthermore, the details of the proposed CAFTA agreement have not been made available to the public. The concerned organisations fear that increased corporate power and lack of transparency could lead to policies that may harm women, children, workers, indigenous and ethnic groups, and farmers in Central America, and would offset current efforts being made by governments to advance transparency and civil society participation in the region. The organisations call for an extension of the CAFTA negotiating deadline, in order to put in place effective mechanisms for broad and representative civil-society participation in both the US and Central America.

To view the civil society letter, visit:
http://www.ciel.org/Tae/CAFTA_9Apr03.html.

"Central American deal a dud, activists say," IPS, 10 April 2003; "Over sixty civil society organizations call for greater transparency and public participation in President Bush's Central American Free Trade Area negotiations," CIEL, 9 April 2003; "Urgent action: CAFTA," RELIGIOUS TASK FORCE ON CENTRAL AMERICA AND MEXICO, 9 April 2003.

INDIA AND SINGAPORE MEET TO LAUNCH ECONOMIC COOPERATION AGREEMENT

On 8 April, India and Singapore signed a declaration that marked the launch of negotiations on a Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA). This free trade agreement will deal with tariff

cuts, investment promotion, cooperation and protection, improved double taxation avoidance, more liberal air services, and a work programme for economic cooperation. The negotiations are expected to last for 12-18 months, and will be based on a framework from a recently concluded study by a joint study group, established by the prime ministers of both countries to research the benefits of the CECA. Singaporean Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong expressed his hope that that this agreement would allow his country to serve as a bridge between the economies India and China. Officials of both countries hoped that with Singapore's strong financial market and India's well established IT sector, the benefits of the agreement would be substantial on both sides.

"India-S'pore trade talks keenly watched: PM Goh," SINGAPORE BUSINESS TIMES, 9 April 2003; "Free trade deal gets ASEAN near home," THE CALCUTTA TELEGRAPH, 9 April 2003; "S'pore, India to announce launch of free trade talks," THE HINDU, 8 April

ASEAN AND EU TO AGREE TRADE PACT

The ten-member Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the European Union (EU) agreed on 4 April become partners in a free trade deal. Meeting in Luang Prabang in Laos, trade ministers and the EU Trade Commissioner agreed to identify and begin removing trade barriers by 2004. The so called Trans-Regional EU-ASEAN Trade initiative (TREATI) would allow ASEAN countries to choose the pace and areas of liberalisation, rather than provide a set timetable for all. EU Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy said that "this initiative will pave the way for a future free trade agreement between our two regions by addressing, in the shorter term, regulatory issues," referring to, inter alia, customs cooperation, investment, services and technical barriers to trade, including health and safety standards. Minister Abdul Rahman Mohamad Taib of Brunei expressed his hope that the agreement would draw EU investment to the region. However, the EU stressed a successful outcome at the WTO Doha round of negotiations -- currently near stalemate -- as a prerequisite for the conclusion of negotiations with the ASEAN.

Also in early April, ASEAN trade ministers agreed to deepen their internal cooperation in the face of risks to the regional economy posed by the outbreak of severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) and the war in Iraq. Japan also expressed its support for further integration, and promised to support the Initiative for ASEAN Integration, which aims at narrowing the development gaps between ASEAN members.

"EU to ask Southeast Asia for trade deal; Europe wins over S.E.Asia with free trade scheme" REUTERS, 4 April 2003; "Asean Trade Mins Seek Integration To Face War, SARS Risks," DOW JONES, 3 April 2003; "Japan supports ASEAN," KYODO NEWS, 8 April 2003.

WTO IN BRIEF

SUPACHAI INDICATES KEY HIGH-LEVEL GATHERINGS ON ROAD TO CANCUN

WTO Director-General Supachai Panitchpakdi has expressed his intent to take advantage of several key international meetings during the coming months to "mobilise stronger political input" into the Doha round of negotiations. The meetings include the OECD annual ministerial meeting in late April, the APEC trade ministers' meeting in Bangkok, Thailand in June and the G-8 summit in Evian, France, in June. The OECD meeting will gather 40 trade ministers, including the trade ministers of the 30 OECD member countries as well as key developing non-member partners, from 29-30 April. Egypt will further host a WTO "mini-Ministerial" in Sharm El Sheik, reportedly from 21-22 June. Supachai indicated his intention to harness these meetings to gather momentum for the WTO negotiations in conjunction with WTO Trade Negotiations Committee meeting held from 2-4 April (see [BRIDGES Weekly](#), 10 April 2003). Denmark is also planning to host a high-level meeting on trade and development in Copenhagen on 27 April, bringing together key developing countries as well as donor countries, all with stakes in the Doha process.

ICTSD reporting; "Trade Officials End WTO Meeting On Doha With Few Signs of Progress," WTO REPORTER, 7 April 2003; "WTO Eyeing Ministerial Meeting in April to Narrow Gap," JIJI PRESS, 29 March 2002.

EVENTS & RESOURCES

EVENTS

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

Coming Up: 17 - 30 April

22-23 April, Washington DC, US: LINKAGES - HOW DO WE BRIDGE THE GAP? This event, organised by CUTS Centre for International Trade, Economics & Environment (CUTS-CITEE) and the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, is part of a series of sessions intended to enhance the understanding of trade issues concerning the connection between labour and environmental standards. For updates on this event, please visit: <http://cuts.org/forthcoming-events.htm>.

23-25 April, Dakar, Senegal: OECD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT - MAXIMISING THE BENEFITS OF GLOBALISATION FOR AFRICA. At this conference, participants will discuss the role that market de-segmentation and national market interdependence will play in globalisation. Participants will seek to identify policies that will make globalisation more beneficial for Africa. For further information on this event, please visit: <http://www.investrade-inafrica.org/EN/Doc/doc.htm>.

24-26 April, Beijing, China: WIPO SUMMIT ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND THE KNOWLEDGE ECONOMY. Heads of State, government officials, CEOs, judges and academics will discuss issues of relevance for the future of intellectual property and its role in stimulating innovation and creativity, and in generating economic growth through business development. An Industry and Private Sector Forum will be held in conjunction with the Summit, and World Intellectual Property Day will be celebrated on 26 April. For more information visit: <http://www.wipo.int/summit-china>.

28-29, April, Bonn, Germany: THE CONTROVERSY ABOUT A NEW INVESTMENT AGREEMENT IN THE WTO IN THE RUN-UP TO THE MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE IN CANCÚN - SOCIAL AND ECOLOGICAL IMPLICATIONS AND ALTERNATIVES. The German NGO Forum on Environment & Development and the Protestant Church Development Service are organising this conference to discuss alternatives to a WTO investment. For further information, please contact: Antje Schultheis; tel: +49-228-3681010; e-mail: handelsprojekt@forumue.de; Internet: <http://www.forumue.de/themenundtags/handel/index.html>.

28-29 April, Paris, France: OECD FORUM 2003. This forum will be held in order to develop ideas and prioritise issues to be discussed at the OECD Ministerial, which will follow immediately after this event. Topics to be examined at the forum will include transparency in the international economy, economic

recovery following a period of slowdown, WTO trade negotiations, and sustainable development -- with specific regard to the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. For further information, please visit: <http://www.oecd.org/EN/document/0,,EN-document-0-nodirectorate-no-20-34768-0,00.html>.

28 April - 9 May, New York, USA: 11TH SESSION OF THE UN COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. For further information, contact: The Division for Sustainable Development Secretariat, tel: +1-212-963-3170, fax: +1- 212-963-4260; email: dsd@un.org; Internet: http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd11/csd11_2003.htm.

29 April, Imperial College, London: THE FUTURE OF BIOTECHNOLOGY - A BAPTISM BY FIRE FOR THE WORLD TRADE ORGANISATION. As part of a lecture series on international and European environmental law, the British Institute of International and Comparative Law and the Legal Environmental Affairs Centre of Imperial College London, are hosting a conference on biotechnology. For more information about the meeting, please contact: Meetings Secretary, tel: +44 20 7862 5163; fax: +44 20 7862 5152; e-mail: info@biicl.org.

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.

23&25 April, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO TRADE POLICY REVIEW BODY - SOUTHERN AFRICAN CUSTOMS UNION (SACU).

23-24 April, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO WORKSHOP ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PRODUCTS.

24 April, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO COMMITTEE OF PARTICIPANTS ON THE EXPANSION OF TRADE IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PRODUCTS.

28 April, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO COMMITTEE ON SAFEGUARDS.

28-30 April, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO TEXTILES MONITORING BODY.

29-30 April, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND ENVIRONMENT.

29-30 April, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO SPECIAL SESSION OF THE COUNCIL FOR TRADE-RELATED ASPECTS OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS.

29 April to 2 May, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO COMMITTEE ON ANTI-DUMPING PRACTICES.

Other Forthcoming Events

Note - Meeting Postponed: 12-14 May, Seoul, South Korea: HIGH LEVEL FORUM ON ENVIRONMENT, TRADE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. This UNEP meeting has been postponed due to the outbreak of the SARS disease and the health risks it is posing. UNEP is currently considering several alternate dates for the meeting and will announce its decision as soon as possible. For more information, see: http://www.unep.ch/etu/Seoul/2003_Seoul.htm.

4-6 May, Arizona, US: THE EMISSIONS MARKETING ASSOCIATION SEVENTH ANNUAL SPRING MEETING. This meeting is titled "Maximising the Value of Emissions Trading in Uncertain Times". For further information, contact Linda Terry, tel: +1-414-276-3819, or visit: <http://www.emissions.org/conferences/springconference03/default.html>.

4 June, Toronto, Canada: DRIVING THE RETURN ON RESPONSIBILITY - CEO STRATEGIES FOR THE 21st CENTURY. Organised by Corporate Knights Roundtable. Emerging social and environmental issues in business are creating a new leadership challenge for Canada's corporate elite. Organised by Corporate Knights Roundtable Inc., "Driving the Return on Responsibility," is committed to helping Canadian firms find value creation levers through corporate responsibility. A major objective of the conference will be to set 10 national goals for corporate responsibility in Canada. Join the business, government and NGO communities and Ralph Nader on 4 June at the Four Seasons Hotel in Toronto. For further information, contact: Jordan Gold, tel: +1-416-305- 2578; e-mail: jordan@corporateknights.ca; Internet: <http://www.ckroundtable.ca/>.

16-18 June, Geneva, Switzerland: PUBLIC SYMPOSIUM: CHALLENGES AHEAD ON THE ROAD TO CANCÚN. The WTO is hosting a public symposium on the challenges being faced by WTO Members, in anticipation of the September Ministerial meeting in Cancún, Mexico. The symposium will feature an opening plenary followed by work sessions on key subjects being negotiated in the Doha Round. Topics include trade and development, issues related to

agriculture, trade in services and trade and environment. In addition, time will be set aside for governments, parliamentarians and civil society to organise their own events during the symposium on issues of their choice. For further information, please visit:

http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/dda_e/symp_devagenda_03_e.htm.

24 June, Capri, Italy: AGRICULTURAL POLICY REFORM AND THE WTO - WHERE ARE WE HEADING? Changes in the agricultural sector involving new technologies and evolving consumer demand have brought the need for policy reform, with implications for WTO negotiations on agriculture. At this event, plenary sessions focus on: the three "pillars" of the WTO negotiations on agriculture; agriculture and agricultural policies ten years after the Uruguay Round Agreement on Agriculture; other relevant issues for agriculture in the WTO negotiations and beyond; and the future of international trade relations. There will also be a roundtable on the WTO negotiations on agriculture. For further information on this event, please visit: <http://www.farmfoundation.org/documents/Finalcallforpapers12-02.pdf>.

11-14 September, Linz, Australia: LABOUR AND NEW SOCIAL MOVEMENTS IN A GLOBALISING WORLD SYSTEM. At this conference, discussions will attempt to tie together the workers movement and globalisation in policies, organisation and culture. For further information on this event, please go to: http://www.ith.or.at/konf_e/call_2003_e.htm or contact Berthold Unfried at: berthold.unfried@univie.ac.at.

October, Berlin, Germany: MOVING FORWARD FROM CANCÚN - A CONFERENCE ON THE GLOBAL GOVERNANCE OF TRADE, ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. This conference, hosted by Ecologic, will provide an opportunity to take stock of the negotiations of the September WTO Ministerial meeting in Cancún, Mexico. The conference, which will bring together over one hundred researchers, policymakers, and NGO representatives, is part of the European Union-funded "Concerned Action on Trade and Environment" network. Paper submissions are currently being accepted. For more information, please visit: <http://www.ecologic.de/>. To submit a paper, send an email to: cat-e@ecologic-events.de.

RESOURCES

CULTIVATING A CRISIS: THE GLOBAL IMPACT OF THE COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY. By John Marsh and Secondo Tarditi, Consumers International and the European Research into Consumer Affairs (ERICA), 2003. The authors demonstrate the global cost of the European Union's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and highlight the negative effects for consumers and producers in developing countries. They argue that the export of CAP- subsidised surplus produce is raising general food prices and is, effectively, blocking trade liberalisation. To view the report, please visit: http://www.consumersinternational.org/document_store/Doc341.doc.

GATS AND WATER: THE THREAT OF SERVICES NEGOTIATIONS AT THE WTO. By John Hilary, Save the Children UK, 2003. This report highlights concern over the potential effects of the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) for developing country WTO Members. The report flags problems involved with privatising public services, focusing particularly on people in poverty and on children. To view the report, please visit: http://www.scfuk.org.uk/development/global_pub/GATS_and_water.pdf.

GENE WARS. By Kristin Dawkins, Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy, 2003. The second edition of Gene Wars, updating the 1997 first edition, illustrates the links between the fight over genetic resources, corporate power, technology, and politics. The author offers a strategy for addressing genetically engineered crops that includes a wide spectrum of stakeholders. For further information, please visit: http://www.iatp.org/iatp/library/admin/uploadedfiles/New_Book_on_the_Politics_of_Biotechnology.htm.

"Agriculture in the WTO: After the Chairman's Text," by Bhagirath Lal Das in THIRD WORLD ECONOMICS 301 (31March, 2003). The author argues that Stuart Harbinson, Chair of the WTO Committee on Agriculture (CoA), failed to redress the deep seated imbalances in agricultural trade in his framework proposals. This article poses a new set of modalities, in order to protect farm sectors in the developing world.

"Developing Countries Cautioned Against WTO Services Liberalisation Commitments," by Goh Chien Yen in THIRD WORLD RESURGENCE 149/150 (1-2, 2003). This article warns developing countries against liberalising their services sector too quickly and stresses the need to develop national service strategies to make sure that the correct decisions are made.

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