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LEAD STORIES

AGRICULTURE: WTO MEMBERS PREPARE FOR EXTENDED MODALITIES PHASE

WTO Members met for a 24-28 special (negotiating) session of the Committee on Agriculture (CoA) to discuss the highly controversial first agricultural modalities draft (see BRIDGES Weekly, 27 February 2003, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/03-02-27/story1.htm>) circulated by Chair Stuart Harbinson on 12 February. Although Chair Harbinson had hoped to receive Members' clear instructions for the preparation of a forthcoming second draft, the talks during the five-day session provided him with "little if any guidance," as he stated at a 28 February formal wrap-up meeting. Against this backdrop -- and with trade negotiators starting to openly express their serious doubts that the end-March deadline for adopting modalities could be met -- Members are reportedly preparing for extended negotiations up until the September Cancun Ministerial. In this context, negotiators are also turning their attention to the next 'mini-Ministerial,' to be hosted by the Egyptian government in end-June (see related story, this issue).

The modalities, scheduled to be agreed by 31 March, are to set out the scope of the negotiations, the methodology to be followed during the actual process, and the end-results expected in the agriculture negotiations. According to the Doha work programme, Members are to "submit their comprehensive draft Schedules based on these modalities no later than the date" of the 10-14 September Ministerial Conference in Cancun, Mexico. The agriculture negotiations -- just as all negotiations under the WTO's so-called 'single undertaking' -- are to be concluded by 1 January 2005.

Problem child: market access

During the five-day CoA negotiating session, virtually all Members expressed their disappointment about Harbinson's draft modalities -- ranging from outright rejection (Bulgaria and Japan), concerns about "unrealistic" targets set out in the paper (EU, Switzerland, Norway and others) to criticism about the

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lack of ambition with regard to the proposed reductions in tariffs, export subsidies and domestic support (US and Cairns Group of agricultural exporters). Consequently, in the plenary sessions Members moved only little from their traditional positions, but accused each other of blocking the negotiating process.

The discussions indicated that Members had most problems with the section of Harbinson's draft dealing with certain market access. Switzerland -- speaking for a those eight countries (with Bulgaria, Chinese Taipei, Israel, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Mauritius and Norway) having the biggest problems with ambitious reduction commitments -- reiterated its previous warning that without striking a sound balance between trade and non-trade concerns (NTCs), only minimum results could be expected to come out of the current farm trade round. The EU and Japan made similar statements.

Moreover, small island developing state (SIDS) Mauritius presented a list supported by 75 'Friends of the Uruguay Round Formula' (including the EU plus its 15 member states) that called on Harbinson to revert to the linear tariff reduction method used during the Uruguay Round (i.e. cutting tariffs by 36 percent on average, with a minimum cut of 15 percent per tariff line). "The Chair said he wanted some collective guidance," said a Norwegian trade source. "This is collective guidance!" In the current modalities draft, Harbinson suggests a hybrid approach with elements from both the Uruguay Round and the 'Swiss' or 'harmonising formula', leaving some flexibility in tariff reduction while cutting higher tariffs more than lower ones (see BRIDGES Weekly, 12 February 2003, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/03-02-13/story1.htm>).

Among others, the Uruguay Round formula camp includes European countries, EU accession countries, African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries, Japan, Korea, and -- notably -- India. Other key developing countries such as China, Egypt and Pakistan indicated that they could, at the end of the day, only subscribe to a harmonising or Swiss approach (as promoted by Cairns and the US) if they would be either exempted from this reduction model or if developed countries would agree to harmonised reductions in subsidies as well.

How to break the knot?

Sources indicated that it would be extremely difficult for key trading partners such as the US and EU to make the political decisions needed to arrive at a possible compromise in the farm trade negotiations. While the European Commission is facing the challenging task of obtaining a broadened negotiating mandate from the 15 EU member states by September this year, US Trade Representative (USTR) Robert Zoellick has had problems scaling back demands put forward in recent

US proposals, as Congress is expecting him to negotiate an accord which would "result in a good deal for America's farmers, ranchers and agricultural producers," in the words of US Senator Chuck Grassley (R- Iowa).

Nevertheless, some sources indicated that Zoellick had expressed his understanding that trading partners such as the EU had problems moving on agriculture without synchronised progress in other key areas of the 'single undertaking'. Against this backdrop, and in order to use the time left ahead of Cancun in an efficient way, Members are reportedly debating whether they could at least continue technical discussions on certain aspects of the modalities draft -- such as tariff rate quota (TRQ) administration, or the details of a special safeguard mechanism for developing countries -- before Members meet at the Ministerial level in Cancun in September. As a first step in managing the post-31 March period, Egypt announced that it would organise a mini-Ministerial sometime between 28 June and 3 July in Sharm El Sheikh. Stuart Harbinson will prepare a second modalities draft prior to the next (and last) meeting in the official March 2002 - March 2003 modalities phase, scheduled to be held from 25-31 March.

ICTSD reporting; "Ministerial: Egypt targets late June date for mini-ministerial gathering," WTO REPORTER, 4 March 2003; "Agriculture: WTO chair urges members to 'get on with it' in Ag talks; doubts increase about deadline," WTO REPORTER, 3 March 2003; "Senate finance blasts EU, 'Harbinson'," WASHINGTON TRADE DAILY, 27 February 2003.

TNC: NEGOTIATIONS REACHING GRIDLOCK

The WTO Trade Negotiations Committee, meeting on 4 and 5 March to take stock of negotiations, saw no progress in the on-going talks. At its last meeting in early February (see BRIDGES Weekly, 6 February 2003, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/03-02-06/story1.htm>), TNC Chair/WTO Director-General Supachai Panitchpakdi had already warned Members that progress had been uneven, and at the latest TNC he said negotiations were facing imminent gridlock. This sentiment was echoed in the statements of Members taking the floor. The meeting was held in both formal and informal mode, in order to allow for more frank discussion, but the statements made reiterated old positions, regardless of the mode of the meeting.

At the TNC meeting, the Chairs of the various WTO negotiating groups -- including on trade and development, the Dispute Settlement Body (DSB), Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights

(TRIPs), Market Access, Rules, and Trade and Environment -- provided WTO Members with their reports (TN/CTD/8, TN/DS/6, TN/IP/5, TN/MA/7, TN/RL/4, and TN/TE/5, available at <http://docsonline.wto.org>).

Committee on Trade and Development (CTD) special session Chair Ambassador Ransford Smith (Jamaica) noted that the group had held one formal and several informal meetings to finalise its report to the General Council (GC) since the last TNC (see BRIDGES Weekly, 12 February 2003, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/03-02-13/story3.htm>). He said positions had not been bridged on special and differential treatment for developing countries, and Members had also differed in their interpretations of the Doha mandate in this regard. The group had reported to the General Council, requesting it to take note of 12 agreement-specific proposals that enjoyed consensus, but adopt them later, and to provide guidance on the mandate while suspending the CTD. He said the GC had not been able to adopt the CTD's recommendations, and had agreed that the GC Chair would undertake consultations on how to take the matter forward.

Ambassador Péter Balás (Hungary), Chair of the special session of the DSB, reported that the group had continued discussing specific draft text of possible clarifications and improvements to the Dispute Settlement Understanding (DSU), focusing on panel procedures and the composition of the Appellate Body. He said the special session would continue to meet every month until May, when the text is to be agreed, and there may be a need for additional open-ended informal meetings.

The report from the special session of the Committee for Trade and Environment (CTE) focused on the last meeting, which had approved letting multilateral environmental agreement (MEA) secretariats attend the next CTE special session as ad-hoc observers (see BRIDGES Weekly 19 February 2003, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/03-02-19/story4.htm>). On outstanding issues, the CTE has not resolved the issue of technical and financial support for developing country participation in the meetings. On the way forward, the CTE special session will meet twice before the fifth Ministerial Conference in Cancun in September, taking stock of the situation in July.

No progress was reported on the issue of approximately 80 outstanding agenda issues that TNC Chair Supachai had agreed to take the leadership on. The next TNC meeting will be held from 8-9 April.

ICTSD Reporting.

OTHER NEWS

SERVICES WEEK: MODALITIES ON AUTONOMOUS LIBERALISATION NEAR APPROVAL

During the meeting of the WTO's Council for Trade in Services (CTS) special session on 3 and 6 March, delegates neared conclusion on modalities for granting 'credits' for Members' autonomous liberalisation (AL). Also of interest during meetings on services last week, Japan submitted a new draft Annex on domestic regulation to the Working Party on Domestic Regulation. Meanwhile, civil society groups reacted strongly to a leaked document containing the EU's requests for access to the services sectors of its WTO trading partners. In the current set of negotiations, Members are focusing on market access negotiations -- taking a request-offer approach -- and also engaging in parallel negotiations on horizontal issues such as GATS rules, domestic regulation and AL.

At the meeting of the CTS special session, Chair Ambassador Jara of Chile put forward a new draft on the modalities for AL on 4 March (JOB (02)/35/Rev3 - see <http://www.ictsd.org/issarea/services/resources/Credits.pdf>), which follows a process of informal consultations addressing unresolved issues in the draft text and aims at finalising agreement on modalities for granting credit to autonomous liberalisation by end of this month (see BRIDGES Weekly, 15 January 2003, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/03-01-15/story2.htm>). The revised draft has been widely accepted by WTO Members.

Only Bulgaria, Jordan, the Kyrgyz Republic and Oman expressed dissatisfaction with the Chair's revised draft, specifically regarding the issue of recognition of commitments by recently acceded WTO Members. However, Bulgaria, Jordan and Oman said they would go along with the consensus. The Kyrgyz Republic, taking a different stand, did not give its final approval to the revised draft, and asked for a footnote to paragraph 10 that would clarify that recently acceded countries had undertaken equal or more significant GATS commitments than other WTO Members. The Chair, supported by various countries including Chile, the EU, and Uruguay, said the inclusion of such a footnote would not be binding, and would not be advisable in the current situation. Instead, he proposed that the country present a statement making the reservation after the revised draft is approved. No final agreement was reached, and the approval of the revised draft was postponed until the CTS special session meeting on 6 March.

Japan proposes draft Annex on domestic regulation

Prior to the start of the CTS special session, at a 24 February meeting of the Working Party on Domestic Regulation (WPDR), Japan presented an informal communication that proposed an Annex to the GATS on Domestic Regulation (JOB/(03)/45). This draft Annex was presented to stimulate the WPDR's work in developing disciplines according to Article VI.4 of the GATS (domestic regulation). The objective of the draft Annex is to facilitate trade in services by ensuring that measures relating to licensing requirements and procedures, qualifications requirements and procedures, and technical standards do not constitute unnecessary barriers to trade in services. The draft Annex builds on much of the content of the Disciplines on Domestic Regulation in the Accountancy Sector (S/L/64) approved in 1998. It would enhance transparency provisions contained in the disciplines for accountancy (i.e. by including a new process for public comments). It would also add due process-like provisions regarding administrative guidance by governments relating licenses and qualifications and administrative and judicial reviews.

Two particular features of the draft Annex exhibit notable developing country implications. These are its applicability only to "bound" commitments in GATS Member's lists and their non-applicability to measures regulating the entry of natural persons into, or temporary stay in, a Member's territory. The first supports many WTO and developing country Members' stance on work undertaken in the WPDR, that domestic regulation disciplines should only apply to "bound" commitments and not horizontally to the trade in services. This view has not been shared by the US, which considers that any new discipline on domestic regulation must apply horizontally to "bound" or "unbound" commitments.

The second feature relates to a wide exception in a potential set of disciplines on domestic regulation regarding "measures regulating" the entry of natural persons into, or temporary stay in, a Member's territory -- including those measures necessary to protect the integrity of, and to ensure the orderly movement of natural persons across, its borders. The exception is oriented towards retaining developed countries' sovereign rights and maximum flexibility regarding visa authorisations, visa-granting procedures and country entrance regulations. The exception affects the interest of developing countries regarding mode four of supply (a service supplier of one Member, through presence of natural persons of a Member in the territory of any other Member). Countries such as India and Pakistan have previously stressed that excessive discretionary powers regarding visa authorisation procedures undermines

any possible benefits arising from 'bound' commitments in sectors of relevance to mode four, i.e. computer services and professional services.

NGOs voice concern over leaked EU services requests

In related news, the EU's requests for further liberalisation in the services sectors of its trading partners -- submitted during the current phase of services negotiations, which includes a request-offer approach to expand market access on a bilateral basis -- were leaked on 25 February to the public. This confidential report, from July 2002, contains detailed requests to 109 countries covering a variety of services sectors, and is available on the Canadian Polaris Institute website (<http://www.polarisinstitute.org>).

Focusing on the risks the requests pose to developing countries, World Development Movement spokesperson Peter Hardstaff in the UK commented that the EU "has chosen to target working state and not-for profit service provision, for submission to the ultra free-market rules of this agreement. This is most notably in water but they have also made extensive demands for access to energy, transport and telecommunications markets in poor countries". The EU has, however, previously explained that its requests "do not seek to dismantle public services, nor to privatise state-owned companies," and no requests have been made on health or audiovisual services (see BRIDGES Weekly 10 July 2002, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/02-07-10/story5.htm>).

Civil society groups in the US have condemned the EU requests targeting American service providers. They caution that many of the services are regulated at the state and local levels, which are disconnected from WTO negotiations. Consumer group Public Citizen's Lori Wallach warned that "everything from your town's municipal drinking water to the local electricity utility to the US postman are headed for sale on some Geneva 'trade' negotiating table". The civil society groups voiced their criticism as negotiators were meeting in Geneva at the CTS.

During the current phase of negotiations, virtually all WTO Members have received initial requests from some 30 mainly developed and larger developing countries, with the US and EU requesting new market access in most of the 12 services sectors, including business services, communication, construction, distribution, environmental services, financial services, tourism and transport. Negotiators face a 31 March deadline for responding to requests received with initial offers.

ICTSD reporting; "US groups protest EU services request at WTO," REUTERS 25 February 2003; "EU Asks U.S. to Revise Rules for Service Sector," DOW JONES 24 February 2003; "Leaked documents reveal UK Government hypocrisy over trade agreement danger," Press Release, WORLD DEVELOPMENT MOVEMENT, 25 February 2003.

IN BRIEF

ACP - EU HOLD JOINT MINISTERIAL TRADE COMMITTEE

On 27 and 28 February, the African Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries and the European Union (EU) held a joint Ministerial Trade Committee meeting in St. Lucia. This was the first ministerial meeting since the negotiations on their Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs), which began on 27 September 2002. Owing to the slow pace of the negotiations on the EPAs and persistent differences in the points of view of both parties on the objectives and contents of the EPAs, some ACP countries are now, according to a statement issued by the ACP Secretariat, "questioning the advisability of launching the second phase of the negotiations at the level of ACP regions, scheduled for September 2003". Among the issues that have sparked the ACP countries' concern is a challenge to the Sugar Protocol of the Cotonou Agreement by Brazil and Australia through the WTO dispute settlement process, as well as repeated calls for review of the EU-ACP system of trade preferences. According to Bouba Maigari, Cameroon's representative, "the ACP states are deeply concerned by the frequent calling into question of the preferences already granted them by the European Union. Such attacks constitute a real threat to the credibility and integrity of the Cotonou Agreement as a whole".

Meanwhile, the Cotonou Agreement, which provides the structure for trade and cooperation between the ACP countries and the EU, is set to enter into force on 1 April 2003, having attained the requisite number of ratifications (52 on the ACP side and 15 on the EU side). In a brief ceremony at the ACP Secretariat on 27 February, the EC deposited instruments of ratification kicking into effect the countdown to entry into force in 1 April.

ICTSD Reporting; "Press Release," ACP SECRETARIAT, 1 March 2003.

FISHERIES MEETING FOCUSES ON MAMMAL COMPETITION AND ILLEGAL FISHING

On 24-28 February, government officials and experts met in Rome to discuss a report on the implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and Related International Plans of Action. The meeting, organised by the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) under the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), focused in particular on strategies for increasing the role and sustainability of small-scale fisheries with regard to food security and poverty alleviation. It also considered the implementation of an ecosystems approach to fisheries management to restore fisheries resources in marine environments. In this context, the Japanese delegation presented its preliminary findings from a whale research programme, arguing that whales consume large volumes of fish and undermine fisheries conservation efforts -- and ultimately world food security. In light of the research findings, the Japanese delegation urged the committee to continue its work on implementing an ecosystem model to manage fisheries and take into account the competition between marine mammals and fisheries. A number of other delegations requested the committee to increase its work to address illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing as well as to strengthen regional fisheries management organisations. Japan furthermore announced its financial support for the next meeting of the committee to be held in early 2004.

"Fish consumption by marine mammals concerns Japan" SCOOP Media, 28 February, 2003. "Strong support for firmer action against IUU fishing" FAO, 3 March, 2003.

WATER WORKSHOP HIGHLIGHTS UNCERTAINTY

On 3 March, the University of Geneva and Georgetown University Law Center co-hosted a workshop on fresh water and international trade law. Held in Geneva, the workshop attracted experts whose discussion ranged from the geopolitical, trade and legal issues associated with trans-boundary exports of fresh water, to GATS and agriculture. Participants agreed that water is a unique good, possibly even "sacred," due to the impossibility of finding substitutes, and commented that this feature heightens the sensitivity of action and calls into question the role of bodies such as the WTO in the area. Professor Edith Brown Weiss highlighted the lack of legal certainty surrounding bulk water exports involving the public and/or the private sector, stressing that markets for this resource are already beginning to

grow in countries around the world. While it is undecided whether the 1994 General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade applies to such exports, if it does, there is further uncertainty as to how it might apply. Another participant noted the additional uncertainty that stems from the General Agreement on Trade in Services in this regard. Participants also referred to findings of Professor Franklin Fischer questioning the necessity of conflict over water. Fischer claims that through desalinisation, water can be produced for 65 cents per cubic meter -- thus, "a price can be put on potential peace". For more in depth coverage of the event, see the forthcoming issue of BRIDGES Trade BioRes (<http://www.ictsd.org/biores/index.htm>).

ICTSD Sources.

WTO IN BRIEF

EU MOVES ON 'SINGAPORE' ISSUES

On 27 February, an EU paper on considerations for modalities for the Singapore issues -- investment, competition policy, transparency in government procurement and trade facilitation -- was made available to WTO Members. This paper, submitted to the General Council, claims that the Singapore issues are in a state of clarification until the fifth WTO Ministerial in Cancun in September, after which negotiations will proceed. The EU considers them to be a "key element" of the Doha Round trade talks and "part and parcel" of the single undertaking. The paper lays out elements for modalities, i.e. for the scope of negotiations, the methodology to be followed during the actual process, and the end- results expected. It also proposes discussion elements on special and differential treatment for developing countries. The paper, WT/GC/W/491, is searchable at <http://docsonline.wto.org>.

Many developing countries have opposed negotiations on the Singapore issues, and have questioned whether the WTO would be an appropriate forum for this. Also, a coalition of European NGOs sent EC Trade Representative Pascal Lamy a letter in mid-February rejecting the interpretation that a negotiating mandate exists, and opposing an expansion of the negotiations (see BRIDGES Weekly 19 February, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/03-02-19/story1.htm>).

ICTSD Reporting; "EU Sets Out Modalities Options For Discussing 'Singapore Issues'," WTO REPORTER 3 March 2003; "EU Begins Laying Ground For Modalities Decision On Singapore Issues," INSIDE US TRADE, 28 February 2003.

EGYPT TO HOST END-JUNE MINI-MINISTERIAL

Egypt has indicated that it will host a 'mini-Ministerial' gathering to further trade negotiations sometime between 28 June and 3 July this year. The meeting will take place in Sharm El Sheikh, and serve to prepare for the WTO fifth Ministerial conference in Cancun, Mexico in September. According to Egyptian officials, the meeting will attract the same ministers as invited to previous events in Sydney and Tokyo (see BRIDGES Weekly, 20 November 2002, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/02-11-20/story1.htm> and 19 February 2003 <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/03-02-19/story1.htm>). In addition, however, they would probably push for greater attendance from African and Arab Members to have them put forward their particular objectives and concerns.

"Egypt Targets Late June Date For WTO Mini-Ministerial Gathering," WTO REPORTER, 4 March 2003.

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: 6-12 March

6 March, Brussels, Belgium: MEETING ON SUSTAINABLE TRADE AND THE AGRI- FOOD CHAIN. Organised by the Sustainable Trade and Innovation Centre (STIC). This workshop is an exploratory meeting to jointly define an agenda that will lead by September 2003 to an action plan. Six issue areas will be covered including primary producers labelling, and the financial sector. For further information, contact: tel: (32 2) 771- 1534; email: raymond.vanermen@epe.be.

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: e-mail: Brussels_2@boell.de; tel: +32-2-743-41-05.

10-14 March, Montreal, Canada: EIGHTH MEETING OF THE CBD SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE (SBSTTA-8): During this event the Convention on Biological Diversity's Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice will consider, inter alia, mountain biological diversity. For further information, contact: CBD Secretariat; tel: (514-288-2220), fax: 288-6588, email: secretariat@biodiv.org, Internet: <http://www.biodiv.org/>.

12-14 March, New Delhi, India: GOVERNANCE AND ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH POVERTY REDUCTION. Consumer Unity & Trust Society (CUTS) is organising a Partnership Conclave to celebrate its 20th Anniversary. For more information, contact: Apurva Dayal or Mukta Srimali at tel: +91-141- 2207482; fax: +91-141-220 7486/220 3998; email: 20thAnniversary@cuts.org; and internet: <http://www.cuts.org/CUTS-Anniversary.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.

6 March, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO SPECIAL SESSION OF THE COUNCIL FOR TRADE IN SERVICES.

6 March, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO WORKING PARTY ON THE ACCESSION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION.

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

10 March, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT OF SMALL ECONOMIES.

12 March, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO TRADE POLICY REVIEW BODY - CANADA

12&13 March, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO COUNCIL FOR TRADE IN GOODS - TRADE FACILITATION.

Other Forthcoming Events

March 1 - May 31: AFRICAN UNION (AU) CONSULTATIVE PROCESS ON REGIONAL AND GLOBAL ECONOMIC INTEGRATION. In collaborative efforts with the Office of the Chair of the AU Assembly, the Proposed AU Commission on Regional and Global Economic Integration have invited individuals to officially participate in the proposed AU Consultative Process on Global Economic Integration Programme (AUGEIP) developed in the overall interest and objective of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and the WORLD COMMISSION ON THE SOCIAL DIMENSIONS OF GLOBALISATION of the UN International Labour Organisation (ILO). For further information, contact: email: permanent-secretary@africanunion.intranets.com; Internet: <http://www.africanunion.org.7p.com/>.

20 March, Geneva, Switzerland: MASTER CLASS AND WORKSHOP ON CSR AND LABOUR. Organised by HCInternational Ltd. The event will cover the main issues that confront managers in dealing with their employees and their suppliers. The class is meant for managers and professionals responsible for: CSR matters, sustainable development, human resources, codes of conduct, treatment of suppliers, and investor relations. For further information, contact: Jawahir Adam; tel: (41 22) 734-0308; email: jadam@mhcinternational.com; Internet: <http://www.mhcinternational.com/>.

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 a range of dignitaries and special guests from the political, economic and academic spheres of Mexico, the United States and Canada. They will be looking to hold a debate on NAFTA's future perspectives, including business strategies and federalism, with special attention given to the relevancy of creating a North American Investment Fund looking to finance Mexican infrastructure projects. For further information, contact: tel: (514) 844-8030; email: info@fina-nafi.org; Internet: <http://www.fina-nafi.org>.

7 - 8 April, Chatham House, London: TRADE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES POST-DOHA. Organised by the International Institute for Sustainable Development and the Royal Institute of

International Affairs. During this event investment rules, multilateral environmental agreements, sustainable development and the WTO will be discussed. For further information, contact: Sam Usiskin; tel: (44 20) 7957-5711; email: sam.usiskin@riia.org.

12 May, Brussels, Belgium: ACP MINISTERIAL COMMITTEES: TRADE, SUGAR, BANANA AND DEVELOPMENT FINANCE COOPERATION: For further information, contact: ACP Secretariat; tel: (32 2) 743-0600; fax: 735-5573; email: info@acpsec.org; Internet: <http://www.acpsec.org/>.

14 - 15 May, Geneva, Switzerland: SECOND INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON TRADE FACILITATION - SHARING THE GAINS OF GLOBALISATION IN THE NEW SECURITY ENVIRONMENT. It is hoped that this UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) event defines new, practical measures to progress trade facilitation in the new world environment. It will highlight possible ways of constructing an equitable mechanism of facilitating trade, where small and large countries and businesses will share the benefits. It will also point to innovative methods for resolving the dilemma between heightened security measures and the necessity for faster movement of goods, services and information. For further information, contact: Mr. Mario Apostolov; tel: (41 22) 917-1134; fax: 917-0037; email: mario.apostolov@unece.org; Internet: <http://www.unece.org/trade/forums/forum03/index.htm>.

15 - 16 May, Brussels, Belgium: 28TH SESSION OF THE ACP-EC COUNCIL OF MINISTERS. For further information, contact: ACP Secretariat; tel: (32 2) 743-0600; fax: 735-5573; email: info@acpsec.org; Internet: <http://www.acpsec.org/>.

17 - 20 June, Marrakech, Morocco: IAIA '03: ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR IMPACT ASSESSMENT. The general theme of this conference is capacity building. Participants will also consider the impact of globalisation, with particular emphasis on impact assessment of trade. For further information, contact: Clive George; tel: (70 1) 297-7908; fax: 297-7917; email: clive.george@man.ac.uk; Internet: <http://www.iaia.org/>.

RESOURCES

EARTH POLICY READER. By Lester R Brown, Janet Larsen and Bernie Fischlowitz-Roberts, Earthscan (February 2003). This book examines the costs of ecological deficits caused by increasing populations and demands on natural support systems. A dozen indicators are selected to measure progress, or lack of,

in building an eco-economy – one that respects the Earth's ecosystems rather than undermining them. For further information, see: <http://www.earthscan.co.uk/asp/bookdetails.asp?key=3882>.

MEASURING SUSTAINABILITY: LEARNING FROM DOING. By Simon Bell and Stephen Morse, Earthscan (February 2003). This book, a follow-on to Bell and Morse's book Sustainability Indicators (1999), offers practical advice on how to develop measurements that will work in real-life development contexts. It describes and analyses how to derive, validate and apply indicators in the course of an actual development project – in this case the Mediterranean Action Plan in Malta. For further information, see: <http://www.earthscan.co.uk/asp/bookdetails.asp?key=3886>.

FREE MARKET: AT WHAT COST? INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. From IIED, February 2003. This book looks at what has gone wrong in the process of trade liberalisation and suggests that an international trading system, built from the bottom-up, is required, and should involve all nations and contribute to sustainable development. For further information, contact: Tom Bigg; tel: (44 20) 7388-2117; fax: 388-2836; email: wssd@iied.org; Internet: <http://www.id21.org/society/s7bnb2q1.html>.

THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE REGIME: A GLOBAL PUBLIC GOODS PERSPECTIVE. By Matteo Rizzolli. University of Maastricht, Faculty of Economics. December 2002. The international trade regime is experiencing a crisis of legitimacy because it failed to deliver the efficiency gains of open trade in a just and equitable manner. However, compared to other international regimes, the multilateral trade system is already an advanced framework that fosters cooperation among countries. A Global Public Goods perspective casts new light on the way the regime can be further adjusted and turned into a solid architecture capable of delivering important emerging global public goods such as global market efficiency, global political stability and global equity. To access the thesis, visit <http://space.virgilio.it/matnet@tin.it/GPGs.htm> or contact the author at matnet@tin.it, tel: (+39) 333 783-5829.

DEVELOPING COUNTRY PROPOSALS ON MODALITIES FOR FURTHER REFORM IN AGRICULTURE. By Luisa Bernal, February 2003. This piece summarizes the different WTO proposals made by developing countries on issues of development and food security, including the food security mechanism, balancing mechanism, and special safeguards. For further information, see: <http://www.cafod.org.uk/policy/proposals2003.shtml>.

DEVELOPMENT AND AGRICULTURE IN THE WTO: A COMPARISON BETWEEN THE DEVELOPMENT BOX, THE EU'S FOOD SECURITY BOX AND THE HARBINSON DRAFT. By Duncan Green and Tim Rice, February 2003. This book offers a detailed comparison between the development box, the EU's food security box and the Harbinson draft. The authors find that the Harbinson and EU proposals fall short and that developing countries should demand a great deal more. For further information, see: <http://www.cafod.org.uk/policy/harbinson2003.shtml>.

SUSTAINING AGRICULTURE: POLICY, GOVERNANCE, AND THE FUTURE OF FAMILY-BASED FARMING. By Bill Vorley, 2002. This report looks at the findings of an IIED collaborative research project entitled Policies that Work for Sustainable Agriculture and Regenerated Rural Economies (PTW). The report tries to draw a picture of the policy environment for sustainable agriculture at the levels of the local community, local government, national government, the private sector, and global institutions. The report goes on to make recommendations for each of these levels. For further information, see: http://www.iied.org/agri/proj_ptw.html.

"What future for West Africa's family farms in a world market economy?" by Jean-François Bélières, Pierre-Marie Bosc, Guy Faure, Stéphane Fournier, Bruno Losch (IIED, 2002). This paper looks at a major challenge in West Africa: the creation of public policy and new support structures that are able to take into account the "rural masses" practicing traditional agriculture and those running commercial agricultural operations, along with the reality of the new international environment and its consequences for agriculture in many countries. One possibility outlined is that family-based forms of agriculture could be the best equipped to cope with globalisation, due to their flexibility and adaptability. For further information, see: <http://www.iied.org/drylands/pubs3.html#issuepapers>.

"A nexus of trade and the environment: the relationship between the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the SPS Agreement of the World Trade Organization" by Terence P. Stewart and David S. Johanson in COLORADO JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL LAW AND POLICY 14 (1, 2003). This article examines the relationship between the Cartagena Protocol and the SPS Agreement. The article assesses how the existence of the Protocol, with its possibly overlapping coverage with the SPS Agreement, and with its differing emphasis upon the precautionary principle, might affect the outcomes of international trade disputes involving LMOs.

"The Proposed United States-Chile Free Trade Agreement: Reconciling Free Trade and Environmental

Protection" by Heather Corbin in the COLORADO JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL LAW AND POLICY 14 (1, 2003). In this piece the author evaluates the general theories of free trade advocates and environmentalists regarding trade and the environment, and their arguments specific to the United States-Chile Free Trade Agreement (US-CFTA), and suggests the best plan for the agreement to implement.

WORLD INVESTMENT DIRECTORY ONLINE. UNCTAD, February 2003. This resource is an online version of UNCTAD's World Investment Directory, and will provide quick electronic access to comprehensive statistics on foreign direct investment (FDI) and the operations of transnational corporations (TNCs). When this resource was launched, statistics on 11 countries were immediately available: Albania, Australia, Belarus, Czech Republic, Hungary, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Slovakia and Spain. For further information, contact: Masataka Fujita; tel: (41 22) 907-6217; fax: 907-0194; email: masataka.fujita@unctad.org; Internet: <http://www.unctad.org/Templates/Page.asp?intItemID=1923&lang=1>.

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