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Environment at the WTO

WTO ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MAKES SLOW PROGRESS

In what was described as a meeting "lacking in energy", the WTO Committee on Trade and Environment (CTE) convened for its regular session on 21 June, with discussions focusing on paragraph 51 of the Doha Mandate. The generally more constructive debates in the special session on 22 June revolved around approaches to clarifying the relationship between WTO rules and multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), as well as the liberalisation of trade in environmental goods.

Direction on paragraph 51 still missing

Discussions during the two-hour regular CTE session were mainly confined to the implementation of paragraph 51 of the Doha Declaration, which mandates the CTE and the Committee on Trade and Development to ensure that sustainable development is adequately reflected in the negotiations. Members continue to lack clear ideas on how this could be done. In an effort to move the debate forward, the EC suggested holding a session with international organisations, asking them to provide their views on the sustainable development aspects of the negotiations. Members could not reach an agreement on the proposal and the EC was asked to provide further details. In addition, Chair Naéla Gabr (Egypt) will hold consultations with delegations and the Chair of the CTD before the next meeting.

MEA-WTO: Members differ on the approach

In the context of discussions under paragraph 31(i) regarding the relationship between WTO rules and specific trade obligations (STOs) in MEAs, Members debated the merits of using an 'experience-based'

versus a 'conceptual' approach. In its submission (TN/TE/W/40, searchable at <http://docsonline.wto.org>), the US put forward a bottom-up approach, based on assessing national experiences in implementing the two bodies of law rather than focusing on abstract principles. Based on its national experience, the US stressed the importance of national coordination as well as the design and implementation of STOs in particular. The proposal was generally well received, including by the *demandeurs* of the need for clarification (the EC, Switzerland and Norway), who believed that both approaches could be pursued in parallel. The EC, however, stressed that simply focusing on experiences was unlikely to lead to a coherent outcome in the absence of parameters to guide the discussions.

Chinese Taipei takes on EC proposal

In response to an EC paper submitted at the April CTE meeting (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 30 April 2004, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/04-04-30/story1.htm>), Chinese Taipei expressed disagreement with a number of the EC's points (TN/TE/W/41). Chinese Taipei opposed the EC's stance that disputes over trade measures applied pursuant to an MEA should be dealt with by the MEA in question, arguing that WTO Members should have the right to pursue their complaint in either forum. The submission also took issue with the EC's interpretation of the Appellate Body's ruling in the gasoline case, which, according to the EC, had confirmed that WTO rules needed to be interpreted in a broader context of public international law, including MEAs. Chinese Taipei argued that while the Appellate Body should apply public international law in the context of treaty interpretation, it should not incorporate the substantive norms created under MEAs to interpret WTO provisions. During the discussions and in response to the criticism, the EC and Switzerland cited other WTO rulings that supported this interpretation, such as the shrimp-turtle dispute.

Constructive discussions on environmental goods

The debate on environmental goods was generally perceived as useful, with one observer noting a growing shift from abstract to more concrete discussions. Regarding the negotiating process, the EC in its statement perceived the US proposal on modalities (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 11 July, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/03-07-11/story3.htm>) as premature. Instead, the EC would prefer to focus first on identifying principles and criteria for environmental goods in the CTE, followed by discussions on modalities in the Negotiating Group on Non-agricultural Market Access. The EC identified two categories of environmental goods that should be included in the definition, namely goods used in pollution control and resource management; and goods that have a high environmental performance or low environmental impacts. Goods in the second category would be chosen based on objective parameters such as composition and/or environmental performance, possibly defined through standards that require certification. The EC said it would submit a more detailed proposal in the coming months.

China in its statement emphasised the need for discussing a definition for environmental goods, while stressing that "problems" such as multiple-uses, process and production methods and clean technologies should be excluded from the deliberations. China put forward the possibility of developing a "common" and a "development" list of environmental goods. The common list would include goods of interest to both developed and developing countries, with priority given to products of export interest to developing and least-developed country Members. The development list would provide for special and differential treatment, allowing developing and least-developed countries to select a list of products on the common list for no or less reduction commitment. China also stressed the importance of facilitating technology transfer when discussing trade liberalisation in environmental goods.

Members agreed to invite the OECD to give a presentation on their studies and the World Customs Organisation to speak about the harmonised system of tariff classification.

The next meeting of the CTE is currently scheduled for 11-12 October.

ICTSD reporting.

Intellectual Property

BIODIVERSITY DISCUSSIONS STAGNATE IN TRIPS COUNCIL

On 16 June, trade delegates convened to continue their discussions on Article 27.3(b) (patentability of life forms), genetic resources, traditional knowledge and folklore in the WTO Council for Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS). Despite continued efforts by developing countries to keep these issues on the table, the meeting made no real advances in the debate.

The biodiversity-related discussions focused on the checklist of issues for further discussion that had been put forward by Bolivia, Brazil, Cuba, Ecuador, India, Peru, Thailand, Venezuela and Pakistan (IP/C/W/420) in March (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 19 March 2004, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/04-03-19/story2.htm>). The submission suggested a structure for continuing the negotiating process, outlining questions in three clusters on disclosure of origin, evidence of prior informed consent, and benefit-sharing related to genetic material and traditional knowledge. The US and Japan continued to oppose such a process, arguing that the checklist was too detailed.

Chair Joshua Low, (Hong Kong) -- supported by Kenya, Canada, Australia and New Zealand -- suggested an alternative structure for organising the work. Specifically, he proposed that rather than focusing on a concrete set of questions, discussions could review national legislation on the issues, requirements of disclosure in patent filing procedures and existing databases. The EC noted that the more structured discussions should be based on three principles, namely to follow the Doha mandate, to be oriented to results, and to focus on a manageable number of issues instead of broad philosophical questions. The proponents of the initial checklist opposed the Chair's proposal.

Apart from this debate, Switzerland presented a paper (IP/C/W/423) reiterating its proposal to amend the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) to include, in appropriate cases, declaration of origin of genetic material in patent applications as a voluntary requirement (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 13 June 2003, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/03-06-13/story1.htm>). The proposal includes a concrete description of when disclosure would be relevant, as well as a penalty system for failure to comply in which case the patent would be rejected or withdrawn.

The next TRIPS Council meeting is currently scheduled for 21-23 September.

Additional Resources

For an update on the health-related discussions, see BRIDGES Weekly, 23 June 2004, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/04-06-23/story3.htm>.

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

ICTSD reporting.

UNCTAD XI

UNCTAD XI TAKES ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES

On 18 June, the eleventh ministerial meeting of the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD XI) closed with the adoption of a declaration entitled the "Spirit of São Paulo," as well as the "São Paulo Consensus," a negotiated document providing more detail on the role of UNCTAD in a globalising world. Non-governmental organisations convened at a parallel Civil Society Forum from 11-17 June, where they adopted a Civil Society Statement for UNCTAD XI.

UNCTAD holds a conference every four years to set its priorities and guidelines, and to provide an opportunity to debate key economic and development issues. UNCTAD XI opened on 13 June (see BRIDGES Weekly, 16 June 2004, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/04-06-16/story3.htm>), and focused on enhancing the coherence between national development strategies and global economic processes towards economic growth and development, particularly for developing countries.

Spotlight on developing countries in a globalising world

The UNCTAD XI declaration focuses on the challenges that developing countries continue to face in realising their economic potential. Although globalisation has brought unprecedented wealth and progress to the world, its benefits have not been equally distributed. The declaration recognises that most developing countries, "especially African countries and LDCs [least-developed countries], have remained on the margins of the globalisation process... There is a need to focus on the ability of international trade to contribute to poverty alleviation."

The São Paulo Consensus focuses on four topics: development strategies in a globalising world; building productive capacities and international competitiveness; assuring development gains from the international trading system and trade negotiations; and partnership for development. Each topic is analysed, and the contribution expected by UNCTAD outlined in the Consensus.

Civil society responses

The São Paulo Consensus received mixed reviews from civil society organisations. Among other reactions, the Institute for Agricultural and Trade Policy described as "promising" a decision to establish an international task force on commodities to study mechanisms for recuperating and stabilising commodity prices. A proposal to set up a fund to help countries reliant on single or dual commodities to diversify exports also received positive feedback, although some groups felt this initiative would depend on "countries that have money".

Friends of the Earth and Third World Network expressed disappointment with the lack of emphasis on corporate responsibility and accountability in the Consensus. Some organisations also would have liked to see a firmer stance against the conditionalities imposed by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund through their loan schemes. According to one UN official, the "misguided policies" of the IMF and the WB -- pressuring countries "to open their markets to imports, in most cases to cheap subsidised products" -- have "led to a complete collapse of cash crops in many of these countries". The official encouraged governments to focus their domestic policies on "how to modernise the agricultural sector as quickly as possible as a way to assist the rural farmers rapidly".

Civil society groups pointed in particular to coffee, demanding a solution to "the worst coffee crisis ever -- an issue that has been forgotten in the international agenda," as noted by Gonzalo Fajul, spokesperson for Oxfam. Coffee growers receive just five to six billion dollars of the 75 billion dollar revenue generated by sales of final coffee products. Most producer countries export coffee as raw beans primarily to industrialised countries such as Germany, which has become the world's leading exporter of ground-roasted coffee. Four transnational corporations control 76 percent of the world market, according to Oxfam.

Civil society declaration

Civil society groups, meeting in a Civil Society Forum from 11-17 June, provided their own declaration to UNCTAD XI. The declaration was delivered in the form of a civil society letter, read at the opening of the UNCTAD XI, accompanied by a longer text in resolution format. The letter highlights specific areas of concern to civil society groups that were left out of the São Paulo Consensus, such as the "negative impact and the concentration of wealth that have resulted from the implementation of the neoliberal agenda and globalisation". The letter criticises the approach to transnational corporations and to investment taken in the document, providing a much more critical analysis. It also raises concern that UNCTAD lose its independent

role as a forum for critical analysis, and provides a number of recommendations for action on, inter alia, global governance and coherence, policy space, commodities, and partnerships.

Positive alliance to pursue bio-trade

On the sidelines of UNCTAD XI, US-based Occidental Petroleum announced its intention to support CORPEI, an Ecuadorian Export and Investment Promotion Corporation, in biotrade projects in areas where the oil company operates. Ricardo Estrada, CORPEI's executive president, saw this as a sign that companies "are gaining awareness that they should contribute something to community development beyond exploiting the oil fields". Giovanni Ginatta, coordinator of the Sustainable Bio-Trade Initiative in Ecuador, described CORPEI as an "incubator" for projects that "are still small, but which are the only means of producing value-added products in a country that has only oil and raw materials, without much industry or technology". In addition to inputs for pharmaceutical and cosmetics, the CORPEI programme includes organic food, ecotourism centered on birdwatching, the use of bamboo, and sustainable wetlands use.

Additional Resources

UNCTAD XI declaration: http://www.unctad.org/en/docs/tdl382_en.pdf

São Paulo Consensus: http://www.unctad.org/en/docs/tdl380_en.pdf

Civil society Fair Trade Declaration:

<http://www.forumsociedadecivil.org.br/dspMostraBiblioteca2.asp?idBib=19>

Civil society letter: <http://www.forumsociedadecivil.org.br/dspMostraBiblioteca.asp?idBib=62>

ICTSD reporting; "UNCTAD XI consensus Declaration adopted after lengthy tussels," TWN, 19 June 2004; "Official Blames IMF, World Bank For Poor Farmers' Crisis," UN WIRE, 18 June 2004; "Coffee Crisis a Forgotten Issue on Global Agenda," IPS, 17 June 2004; "Occidental Petroleum & CORPEI (Ecuador): Contradictory Alliance to Pursue Bio-Trade," IPS, June 2004.

In Brief

COST OF MARINE PROTECTION LOWER THAN FISHERIES SUBSIDIES - STUDY

According to a new study by the environmental groups WWF and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, the cost of establishing global networks of marine protected areas -- estimated at US\$ 12-14 billion -- would be less than the amount annually spent on fisheries subsidies (US\$ 15-30 billion). Such subsidies are frequently cited as one of the main causes underlying overcapacity of fishing fleets, and consequently overfishing, and discussions have been underway at the WTO on how to address their negative effects (see BRIDGES Weekly, 9 June 2004, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/04-06-09/story3.htm>). Networks of marine protected areas, the study's authors conclude, would help safeguard a global fish catch worth up to US\$ 70-80 billion per year, preserve marine services valued at US\$ 7 trillion annually and generate between 830,000 and 1.1 million full-time jobs. Although marine habitat loss is estimated to equal or exceed that of rainforests, only 0.5 percent of the sea is currently under protection compared to 12 percent of land area. The groups would like to see 20-30 percent of oceans protected in an effort to achieve governments' commitment made at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development to create national networks of marine parks by 2012.

The study is available at <http://www.panda.org/downloads/marine/balmfordetalproofs.pdf>

"Global network of Marine parks would cost less than current government expenditures on harmful fishing subsidies," WWF-RSPB PRESS RELEASE, 14 June 2004.

CIVIL SOCIETY GROUPS REJECT FAO ANNUAL REPORT AS BIG BUSINESS PR

On 16 June 650 civil society organisations sent an open letter to the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), rejecting its annual State of Food and Agriculture report. The report, released a month earlier, focused on the potential of biotechnology to address the needs of the world's poor and food-insecure. The civil society response, however, alleged the report to be strongly biased in favour of multinational corporations and their profits, calling it a "disgraceful public relations tool for the genetic engineering industry". According to the groups, the report, among other things, ignored evidence of negative impacts of biotech products and overlooked the fact that a single company, Monsanto, controls 90 percent of the business. The civil society groups said the report "turns FAO away from food sovereignty and the real needs of the world's farmers, and is a stab in the back to the farmers and the rural poor FAO is meant to support".

In response to the open letter, Jacques Diouf, Director General of FAO noted that "while this report emphasises biotechnology, it is not meant to represent all components of FAO's broad mandate and commitment to promote agricultural development and alleviate hunger". He stressed the importance for developing countries to "develop their scientific capacity and master the necessary expertise and techniques so that they can understand the implications and make independent choices in order to reach an international consensus on issues that concern all of humanity".

Open letter by civil society groups: <http://www.grain.org/front/?id=24>

Response by Jacques Diouf: <http://www.fao.org/newsroom/en/news/2004/46429/index.html>

State of Food and Agriculture 2003/4: <http://www.fao.org/docrep/006/Y5160E/Y5160E00.HTM>

"FAO Declares War On Farmers, Not On Hunger," GRAIN RELEASE, 16 June 2004.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION ADOPTS ACTION PLAN ON ORGANIC FARMING

The European Commission on 10 June adopted the "European Action Plan for Organic Food and Farming" in an effort to facilitate the ongoing development of organic farming in the EU. The Plan sets out 21 policy measures aimed at improving information dissemination about organic farming, streamlining public support via rural development, improving production standards, and strengthening research. Measures will include an EU-wide organic label to simplify the myriad of existing national and private schemes. In an effort to facilitate third country compliance with the EU's organic standard, the Plan proposes to step up efforts to include third countries in the equivalency list, raising the possibility of establishing a permanent Community list of inspection bodies recognised as equivalent for their activities in third countries not already on the equivalence list. In addition, further measures to facilitate trade in organic products from developing countries will be considered. The Plan also calls for continued efforts to ensure that the definition of equivalence with third countries takes into account the different climate and farming conditions and the stage of development of organic farming in each country. Regarding genetically modified organisms (GMOs), the Plan proposes to include provisions in the EU's GMO labelling regulations to explicitly exclude GM products from being labelled as organic, with a labelling threshold of 0.5 percent for products (other than seed) used in organic farming.

For further information, see http://europa.eu.int/comm/agriculture/qual/organic/plan/index_en.htm

AFRICAN MINISTERS VOICE CAUTIOUS SUPPORT FOR BIOTECH

During the US-sponsored Ministerial Conference on Science and Technology, held from 21-23 June in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, the Presidents of Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger and Ghana expressed cautious support for biotechnology. "We cannot and must not wait on the sidelines of this global debate and ignore

scientific and technological innovations that are crucial to progress... But our obligation to the people to provide safe food, means we must proceed with caution," noted Malian President Amadou Toumani Toure. At the conference, the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding to share food technologies with the African Agriculture Technology Foundation, a public-private partnership. "This Memorandum of Understanding will identify technologies that can be adapted for use by African farmers," Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman said. "The agreement will help African scientists to learn specific technologies developed by USDA scientists." J. B. Penn, US Under-Secretary of agriculture for farm and foreign agricultural services noted that African ministers had become much better informed about biotechnology since they had attended a US-sponsored agricultural science and technology ministerial in Sacramento, California, last year.

Non-governmental organisations in West Africa took a more critical stance on the use of biotechnology, arguing that food shortages in Africa were caused mainly by poor distribution and lack of infrastructure, rather than a lack of food. In their statement, a group of concerned Ouagadougou-based organisations pointed to the potential side-effects of genetically modified organisms (GMOs), including the loss of seed diversity and the dependency on the GM crop. "We cannot in good conscience move forward without a clear understanding of its consequences for health of humans, animals and plant," they noted. "Relying on genetically modified foods is only a short-term solution that will, in the long run, only breed dependence on multinational corporations."

For further information concerning the conference, please see:
<http://www.fas.usda.gov/icd/stconf/event6.html>

"USDA and African Agricultural Technology Foundation Sign Agreement to Share Technologies," FAS RELEASE, 21 June 2004; "Burkina Faso: West African Leaders Give Cautious Thumbs Up to Biotech," ALL AFRICA.COM, 23 June 2004; "Four African Presidents Support Biotech," US Official Says," US DOS WEBSITE, 21 June 2004; "Food Safety Key to Food Security, West Africa Says After US Makes GMO Pitch," APF, 21 June 2004.

BIODIVERSITY FORUM LINKS LIVELIHOODS AND CONSERVATION

On 9-11 June, the 4th Eastern and Southern African Regional Biodiversity Forum took place in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, organised jointly by IUCN and ResourceAfrica. Under the overall theme of "Biodiversity and Livelihoods in Africa: Delivering on the Millennium Development Goals", the Forum brought together 120 governmental and civil society actors from 18 countries in the region. Among their recommendations, participants called for a broadening of food security to better take into account the role of agricultural biodiversity for livelihood improvements. They also stressed the need to mainstream environmental governance into national decision-making processes, including by considering the impact of governance and land reform on biodiversity. Furthermore, they advocated the application of the precautionary principle in a proactive and solutions-oriented manner as part of an adaptive management process. The recommendations will be presented to policy makers at upcoming regional and international events, such as the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) in Tripoli (late- June), the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in October and the IUCN World Conservation Congress in November in Bangkok.

For further information, see http://www.gbf.ch/present_session_old.asp?no=37&lg=EN.

IUCN reporting

WTO PANEL ISSUES FINAL REPORT IN US COTTON CASE

On June 18, the WTO panel on Brazil's challenge against US cotton subsidies confirmed its findings in a final report issued solely to the parties to the dispute (see BRIDGES Weekly, 28 April 2004, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/04-04-28/story1.htm>). According to WTO practise, the report will be available to the public after it has been translated into the three working languages of the WTO in the coming weeks. The panel affirmed that subsidies granted to US cotton farmers by the US government from 1999-2002 under various programmes, such as marketing loans, export credits, commodity certificates and direct payments, depress world market prices and are injurious to Brazil's trade interests. The issued the US with a deadline of 1 July 2005 to withdraw them.

US officials have repeatedly criticised this ruling and insisted that it is unlikely to have any immediate impact on current farm programs, a view supported by the National Cotton Council (NCC) of America. Speaking to reporters, Woody Anderson, NCC chair, added that any changes to cotton programmes only will affect future cotton crops. Brazilian officials, however, expressed their satisfaction with the decision. Roberto Azevedo, the head of the trade dispute department at Brazil's foreign ministry, was reported as saying that Brazil expects the US to comply with the ruling. The US is, however, determination to launch an appeal, a process that could drag on for over a year, especially if Brazil in turn challenges any compliance and implementation measures the US undertakes.

ICTSD reporting; "WTO Issues Final Ruling Condemning U.S. Cotton Subsidies; U.S. Plans Appeal," WTO Reporter, 21 June 2004; "W.T.O. Rules Against U.S. Cotton Subsidies," New York Times, 19 June 2004; "WTO Rules Against U.S. on Cotton," United Press International 19 June 2004; "WTO Again Rules for Brazil in Cotton Row with U.S.," Reuters, 18 June 2004; U.S./Brazil Dispute Final Report Expected, Press Release, National Cotton Council of America, 18 June 2004.

Events & Resources

EVENTS

For a more comprehensive list of events in trade and sustainable development, please refer to ICTSD's web calendar (<http://www.ictsd.org/cal/2004calendar.htm>). Please bear in mind that dates and times of WTO meetings are often changed, and that the WTO does not always announce the important informal meetings of the different bodies.

Coming up in the next two weeks

27 June - 2 July, Orlando, Florida, USA: FIRST WORLD CONGRESS OF AGROFORESTRY 2004: WORKING TOGETHER FOR SUSTAINABLE LAND-USE SYSTEMS. Organised by the University of Florida/IFAS, School of Forest Resources and Conservation in collaboration with others. This congress seeks to provide a global forum for agroforestry professionals to share knowledge, experiences, and ideas and to plan future strategies in agroforestry research, education and training, and development. For further information, contact: P. K. Nair, Director, Center for Subtropical Agroforestry; tel: (+1-352) 846-0880; fax: 846-1277; email: pknair@ufl.edu; Internet: <http://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/wca/>

27 June - 2 July, Ljubljana, Slovenia: SEVENTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON MERCURY AS A GLOBAL POLLUTANT. Organised by the Joef Stefan Institute. For further information, contact Milena Horvat, tel: (+ 386 1) 588 5389; fax: 588 5346; Internet: http://congress.cd-cc.si/icmgrp04/?menu_item=welcome&menu_level=2.

28 June to 3 July, Rome, Italy: 27TH SESSION OF THE FAO/WHO CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION. The session is organised by the Codex Alimentarius Secretariat. For further information, contact: the Codex Secretariat, tel: (+39 06) 5705 2287; fax: 5705 3369; email: codex@fao.org; Internet: http://www.codexalimentarius.net/codex/codex27_en.htm

29 June, Geneva, Switzerland: COMMITTEE ON TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADE. For further information, contact the WTO Information and Media Relations Division, Geneva; tel: (41-22) 739- 5007; fax: (41-22) 739-5458; email: enquiries@wto.org.

29-30 June 2004, Brussels, Belgium: 13TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON EUROPEAN FOOD LAW: THE CHALLENGES AHEAD: FROM OBESITY TO FOOD SAFETY. Organised by Agra. The conference will bring together key representatives from the European Commission, the food industry and national food agencies to debate and analyse the major regulatory issues affecting the industry. For further information, contact: AGRA, tel (+44-1892) 533-813; Fax: 544-895; email: marketing@agra-net.com; Internet: <http://www.agra-net.com/NASApp/cs/ContentServer?pagename=agra/showEvent&id=20001018090>

30 June, Washington, DC, US: TWO BY TWO.....OR NOT? A LOOK AT TRANSGENIC ANIMALS, ETHICS AND REGULATION. Hosted by the Pew Initiative on Food and Biotechnology (PIFB). This policy dialogue will engage leaders on the ethical and regulatory issues raised by the introduction of genetically modified (GM) animals. Particular attention will be paid to the ability of the regulatory system to simultaneously guide producers and advance innovation, while safeguarding the food supply and the environment. For further information, contact: the Pew Initiative, tel: (+1 202) 3479044; email: animaldialogue@pewagbiotech.org; Internet: <http://pewagbiotech.org/events/0630/>.

Other Forthcoming Events

1-2 November, Amsterdam, Netherlands: TRADE, ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT: THE NORTH-SOUTH DIMENSIONS. Organised by CAT & E (Concerted Action on Trade and Environment). This conference seeks to provide a forum for the presentation of recent research on trade and environment, and consideration of its implications for policy. Priority topics for consideration include: social and environmental problems in production, trade and (sustainable) development; systemic issues; regional, national, and local case studies; trade in commodities, including GMOs; and Sustainability Impact Assessment. To submit papers, send abstracts no longer than 300 words to Luke Brander, email: luke.brander@ivm.vu.nl, tel. (+31-20) 4449-555; fax. 4449-553; email: luke.brander@ivm.vu.nl; Internet: <http://www.cat-e.org/>

21-22 September 2004, London, UK: MEETING: CSR IN THE FOOD INDUSTRY. Organised by Agra. This conference on corporate social responsibility in the Food Industry aims to assist business to identify, understand and manage these and other stakeholder concerns. For further information, contact: AGRA, tel (+44-1892) 533-813; Fax: 544-895; email: marketing@agra-net.com; Internet: <http://www.eldis.org/cf/rdr/rdr.cfm?doc=DOC14883>

10-12 October, Warsaw, Poland: INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON EVALUATING FORESTRY INCENTIVE AND ASSISTANCE PROGRAMMES IN EUROPE - CHALLENGES TO IMPROVE POLICY EFFECTIVENESS. Organised by the European Forest Institute (EFI) and The Polish Forest Research Institute (Instytut Badawczy Lesnictwa). The EFFE project addresses effectiveness and economic efficiency of European forestry incentive and assistance programmes. For further information, contact: Brita Pajari, Conference Manager, European Forest institute, email: brita.pajari@efi.fi; Internet: http://www.efi.fi/events/2004/effe_conference/

Training Course

4-15 October, South Africa: BUILDING COMPETENCIES FOR MAINSTREAMING TRADE & DEVELOPMENT WORK. The UK Department for International Development (DFID) in collaboration with the Trade Law Centre for Southern Africa (TRALAC) in South Africa will hold a 2-week intensive training programme on trade and development topics to around 30 trainees drawn from DFID, other donor agencies (e.g. EC, SIDA, CIDA, World Bank) and national government counterparts. For more information, contact Hushe Mzenda, email: h-mzenda@dfid.gov.uk, or Paul Leenane, email: p-leenane@dfid.gov.uk, tel: (+44 20) 7023 0892.

RESOURCES

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

ICTSD Resources

AGRICULTURE NEGOTIATIONS AT THE WTO: 'FRAMEWORK PHASE' UPDATE REPORT. By ICTSD (June 2004). The aim of this report is to provide stakeholders in agriculture trade and sustainable development with concise, user-friendly description and analysis of the current developments in the often very complex WTO negotiating process in agriculture. The report also looks ahead at upcoming issues in connection with the negotiations in agriculture so as to provide relevant stakeholders with an opportunity to respond to emerging themes in due time. The methodology used in compiling this report combines comprehensive in-house analytical work, on-site monitoring of key events, as well as

extensive outreach to country delegates based in Geneva and representatives of local non-governmental organisations. To access the report, visit: <http://www.agtradepolicy.org/output/resource/agriculturenegotiations11.pdf>.

Other Resources

BETWEEN LIBERALIZATION AND PROTECTION: FOUR LONG-TERM SCENARIOS FOR TRADE, POVERTY AND THE ENVIRONMENT. By B. Eickhout, H. van Meijl, A. Tabeau and H. van Zeijts. Prepared for the 7th Annual Conference on Global Economic Analysis: Trade, Poverty, and the Environment, 17-19 June 2004 Washington D.C., US. This paper deals with the complex interaction between agricultural trade regimes, poverty and the environment given two key uncertainties. This analysis aims to quantify the impact of trade liberalisation on developing countries and the environment. To access the paper, see: <http://www.gtap.agecon.purdue.edu/resources/download/1811.doc>

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE KYOTO PROTOCOL WITHOUT RUSSIAN PARTICIPATION. By Bjart Holtsmark and Knut Alfsen. Centre for International Climate and Environment Research, April 2004. This discussion paper analyses likely consequences of some proposed alternatives to Kyoto implementation if Russia decides against ratification. The paper provides estimates of the permit price and environmental benefits that are likely if the proposed "mini-Kyoto" agreements, involving a limited number of the remaining Annex B parties, are implemented. To access the discussion paper, see <http://www.ssb.no/publikasjoner/DP/pdf/dp376.pdf>

"The European Commission's regulations for genetically modified organisms and the current WTO dispute -- human health or environmental measures? Why the Deliberate Release Directive is more appropriately adjudicated in the WTO under the TBT Agreement," in the *COLORADO JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL LAW AND POLICY* 15 (2, 2004) pp. 209-244. By Aaron A. Ostrovsky. This paper seeks to establish that the challenged European Commission directive, as well as environmentally concerned measures in general, are better adjudicated under the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Agreement. It also assesses the likelihood that the EC directives would prevail on a claim made under the TBT Agreement. The paper argues that the current measures do not run afoul of the TBT Agreement primarily because the EC directives are based on international standards created in the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (CPB) contained in the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD).

PUBLIC ATTITUDES TOWARDS AGRICULTURAL BIOTECHNOLOGY. By Thomas J. Hoban. ESA Working Paper 04-09, Published by the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), May 2004. The full benefits of agricultural biotechnology will only be realised if consumers and food manufacturers consider it safe and beneficial. Although few internationally comparable public opinion surveys have been conducted on this issue, the available evidence suggests that public attitudes differ sharply both between and within countries and are evolving over time. To access a copy, please see: http://www.fao.org/es/ESA/pdf/wp/ESAWP04_09.pdf

AGRICULTURAL IMPACTS ON SOIL EROSION AND SOIL BIODIVERSITY: DEVELOPING INDICATORS FOR POLICY ANALYSIS. By the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), June 2004. These are the proceedings of an OECD Expert Meeting hosted by the Italian Ministry of Agricultural and Forestry Policies, the Ministry for the Environment and Territory, the National Institute of Agricultural Economics, Rome, Italy, March 2003. Papers cover most OECD countries, and from international governmental and non-governmental organisations. For further information, see: <http://www.oecd.org/agr/env/indicators.htm>

AGRICULTURE AND LAND CONSERVATION: DEVELOPING INDICATORS FOR POLICY ANALYSIS. By the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), June 2004. These are the proceedings of an OECD Expert Meeting hosted by the Japanese Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Kyoto, March, 2003. Papers cover many OECD countries, and from international governmental and non-governmental organisations. For further information, see: <http://www.oecd.org/agr/env/indicators.htm>

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