



International Centre for Trade  
and Sustainable Development

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## **Environment at the WTO**

### **WTO ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE CONSIDERS ENVIRONMENTAL GOODS**

The WTO special (negotiating) session of the Committee on Trade and Environment (CTE) met on 19 April, and a regular CTE session took place on 20 April. The CTE special session considered an EC submission on the CTE and global governance, and continued discussions on environmental goods. The regular session of the CTE focused on how to move on the mandate to consider sustainable development implications of negotiations in all areas of the Doha round. Delegates also considered a Canadian proposal for how to create a more focused debate in the CTE.

#### **Special session focuses on global governance**

Chaired by Ambassador Toufiq Ali (Bangladesh), the CTE special session (CTESS) considered a document submitted by the EC on the relationship between WTO rules and MEAs in the context of the global governance system (TN/TE/W/39, searchable at <http://docsonline.wto.org>). The EC outlined basic principles for the relationship between WTO rules and MEAs in this regard, including: the recognition of the importance and necessity of MEAs; the fact that multilateral environmental policy should be made within MEAs; the need for close cooperation and information exchange to enhance the mutual supportiveness between international trade and environment policies; and the recognition that MEAs and the WTO are equal bodies of international law.

While some Members supported the EC paper, many others, and developing countries in particular, felt that the question was beyond the scope of the CTESS mandate. They also said that the paper was unclear, and they did not understand where the EC wanted to go with it. According to trade sources, Norway and Switzerland said the document provided a good basis for the examination of questions on how to improve the exchange of information between the WTO and MEAs and the issue of MEAs obtaining observer status at the CTE. They also felt the paper offered some useful insights on the coordination between trade and environment officials nationally. Venezuela asked whether a reference in the paper to common but differentiated responsibilities between developed and developing countries meant that this principle was acceptable as the basis for negotiations.

### **Goods discussion continues**

On the liberalisation of environmental goods, the US presented a submission it originally had made in July 2003 on modalities for moving environmental goods negotiations forward (TN/TE/W/38). The US proposed that two lists be established: a core list of goods that everyone agrees are environmental (e.g. sewage treatment equipment); and a second, complementary list of other proposed environmental goods. Tariffs would be eliminated on the core list of goods by 2010, and countries would be required to liberalise a certain percentage of products from the complementary list by 2010 (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 11 July 2003 <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/03-07-11/story3.htm>).

Members did not have the time to discuss the US proposal during the last CTE special session in July 2003, and now took the opportunity to ask the US for further clarification on the thinking behind the paper. In particular, developing countries asked for more information on possible special and differential treatment, which had not been included in the core list, and only insufficiently in the complementary list. The US said it would return with answers at the next session. Developing countries including Brazil, Mexico, Malaysia and China preferred a "more balanced" list containing products of export interest to them, as they felt that the US list focused on industrial goods exported by developed countries. China said it was considering creating a list of its own towards this end. Some Members preferred relying on existing lists produced by the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation or the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

### **Regular session seeks to move on para. 51 mandate**

In the regular CTE session on 20 April, Members discussed how to further address para. 51 of the Doha Ministerial Declaration, requesting Members to consider how sustainable development is being reflected in the negotiations. While the Secretariat has provided briefings on the environmental aspects of negotiations in other groups, such as agriculture and industrial market access, not many Members have made submissions. During the meeting, the EC said it was surprised Members had not made submissions on the topic. Some Members called for technical assistance and coordination among developing countries in this regard, and said developing countries needed to provide input on this "development" issue. The Chair Naéla Gabr (Egypt) will consult with the Chair of the Committee on Trade and Development, in order to better coordinate work under the para. 51 mandate.

Also at the meeting, Canada made a suggestion for changing the CTE work programme in light of changes that have taken place since it was first agreed ten years ago and with the goal of revitalising the CTE (WT/CTE/W/234). In Canada's view, the Committee would benefit from more focus to its work, with each meeting addressing a particular part of the CTE mandate, rather than delegates struggling to deal with all issues at once. With specific meeting themes, delegates would be able to come better prepared to the meetings, setting the stage for a substantive debate. Not all Members agreed with the Canadian suggestion, however. Some Members took a cautious stance and preferred not to make any change to the existing CTE work programme.

The EC also brought up the issue of labelling for environmental purposes, but other Members said this discussion belonged with the Committee for Technical Barriers to Trade.

The next meeting of the CTE will be held on 21 June, and the next special session on 22 June.

ICTSD reporting.

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**Biotechnology**

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**GMO UPDATE: US-EC DISPUTE, VENEZUELA, VERMONT****US argues EU biotech moratorium hurts developing countries**

The US has highlighted the alleged impacts on developing countries of the EU's de facto moratorium on the approval of biotech products in its first written submission to the WTO panel hearing the complaint brought by the US, Argentina and Canada (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 25 August 2003, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/03-08-25/story2.htm>). In the submission, presented to the panel on 21 April, the US also elaborates on its claim that the moratorium is inconsistent with certain provisions of the WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS). In addition to the de facto moratorium, the US further challenges nine measures enacted by six EU member states, namely Austria, France, Luxembourg, Germany, Italy and Greece.

The US claims that apart from blocking developing country exports of biotech crops into the EU, the moratorium has also contributed to the decisions of the Southern African countries Zambia, Zimbabwe and Mozambique to reject genetically modified (GM) food aid from the US in 2002 (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 27 June 2002, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/02-06-27/inbrief.htm>). The US also notes that this situation has prevented the use of biotechnology by farmers in these countries, "notwithstanding the fact that scientists from the region have insisted that the technology is crucial to boosting food production in Africa and breaking the cycle of malnutrition and starvation". The US adds that necessary biotech research activities to "address the agronomic and nutritional issues of particular concern to developing countries" have been impeded by the EU's negative approach.

In its submission, the US furthermore argues that the EU has not based its de facto moratorium on a "risk assessment" nor on scientific principles as envisaged under the SPS Agreement. The US also asserts that the measure is maintained without "sufficient scientific evidence", ie without a "rational or objective relationship between the SPS measure and the scientific evidence". In addition, the US argues that the de facto moratorium could be considered to be causing unnecessary procedural delay, also illegal under the SPS Agreement. Moreover, the US questions the transparency of the measure and says the EU has failed to promptly publish the de facto moratorium when it was adopted. The EC is expected to present its first written submission to the WTO panel in May.

In related developments, the EU Council of Agriculture Ministers on 26 April failed to take a clear decision on the approval of Syngenta's Bt-11 maize (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 28 January 2004, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/04-01-28/inbrief.htm#2>). The decision now rests with the European Commission which "will most likely approve [the GM maize]", according to the Commission's spokeswoman for food safety Beate Gminder. If authorised, the maize would be allowed for food use in the EU, thereby ending the de facto moratorium -- at least for GM foods.

**Venezuela bans cultivation of GM crops**

The Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez Frias has prohibited the cultivation of GM crops in the country. This decision effectively cancels a contract negotiated with the company Monsanto to plant up to 500'000 acres of GM soy in Venezuela. The President cited the importance of food sovereignty and security for the country as the basis for the decision. "If we want to achieve food sovereignty, we cannot rely on transnationals like Monsanto," said the President's advisor Maximilien Arvelaiz. "We need to strengthen local production, respecting our heritage and diversity," he added. Rafael Alegria, representing the farmers' group Via Campesina, welcomed the decision as a "very important thing for the peasants and indigenous people of Latin America and the world", expressing hope that other countries would follow Venezuela's example.

## Vermont passes GM labelling legislation

Vermont became the first US state to require labelling of GM seeds. The bill, which was signed into law by Governor James Douglas on 26 April, stipulates that GM seeds will need to be labelled as of 1 October and seed manufacturers will be required to report their total sales in the state to the Secretary of Agriculture every 15 January. According to data provided on a voluntary basis by seed manufacturers, 20-40 percent of seeds are thought to be genetically modified. The passage of the law was facilitated by integrating it into a broader agricultural legislative package, which also includes the Republican-backed issues of water pollution rules for large farms and changes to the state's right-to-farm-law. In March this year, the Senate of Vermont had also passed legislation (S.0164), which would hold biotechnology companies liable for unintended contamination of conventional or organic crops. The bill has now been submitted to the House.

### Additional Resources

The US submission is available at [http://www.trade-environment.org/output/theme/tewo/US\\_submission\\_biotech.pdf](http://www.trade-environment.org/output/theme/tewo/US_submission_biotech.pdf).

For further information on the dispute, see <http://www.trade-environment.org/page/theme/tewto/biotechcase.htm>.

ICTSD Reporting; "U.S. Lays Out Case Against EU Moratorium On GMOs" Inside US Trade, 23 April 2004; "GMO moratorium likely to end soon," EURACTIV, 27 April 2004; "Venezuela to prohibit transgenic crops," VENEZUELANALYSIS, 21 April 2004; "Douglas signs nation's first GMO labelling law," VERMONT PRES BUREAU, 27 April 2004.

## Agriculture

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### AGRICULTURE: COTTON DISPUTE, EU CAP REFORM, WTO AG NEGOTIATIONS

#### Brazil claims victory in WTO dispute on US cotton

Brazil has claimed victory on an interim report issued by the WTO panel on 26 April in a challenge against subsidies maintained by the US for its cotton producers (see BRIDGES Weekly, 18 March 2003, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/04-03-18/story1.htm>). Clodoaldo Huguene, Brazil's lead WTO negotiator, noted that the WTO panel agreed with important elements of their argument and said, "this panel is going to show how important it is that you really change this policy of developed nations". At a press briefing on 27 April, Scott McClellan, White House spokesperson, insisted that the subsidies did not encourage overproduction as they were "decoupled" from farmers' yields. He added that the decision would have "no immediate impact" on the subsidy programs. The US may submit a request to the panel to review particular aspects of the interim report. However, in practice conclusions of panels are not substantially changed as a result of such requests. The final report is expected to be issued on 18 June and the US has already stated that they would appeal the ruling if it remains unchanged from the interim report. Although this dispute was initiated before the expiry of the so-called "peace clause", where Members agreed to refrain from challenging each other's domestic agricultural subsidies, there is speculation that a positive ruling for Brazil in this case may open the floodgates for challenges against developed country subsidies.

#### EU Reforming Agriculture Sectors

Following months of intensive negotiations and discussion on the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), the EU Council of Ministers, on 22 April, agreed to reform subsidies in the olive oil, tobacco, cotton and hops sectors. While hops reforms will start in 2005, reforms for the three other products will start from 2006. Franz Fischler, Agriculture Commissioner of the EU, said the new policy was "geared towards a competitive, environmentally friendly and quality oriented farming sector" (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 28 November 2003, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/03-11-28/inbrief.htm#5>). For the sectors in question, a significant part of the current production-linked payments will be transferred to the de-coupled single

payments (subsidies provided independently of farmers' yields). The EU member states will still have the right to grant a certain percentage of production-linked subsidies. The percentage is limited at 60 percent for tobacco, 40 percent for olive oil, 35 percent for cotton and 25 percent for hops. In addition, a transition period of four years, before fully de-coupling, has been scheduled for tobacco. A part of the current tobacco price-premium will be used to finance restructuring programmes in affected regions from 2010. Fischler further commented, "these reforms send a clear message to our trading partners, especially the developing countries". However, a recent report by the Overseas Development Institute (ODI) concludes that the CAP reforms would not alleviate the problems faced by cotton-exporting developing countries, as they do not provide sufficient incentives for farmers to move away from cotton production.

### **Negotiations on agriculture inconclusive**

The second post-Cancun negotiating week of the Committee on Agriculture (CoA) special (negotiating) session, meeting from the 20-23 April has been concluded without any substantive progress. The talks have been primarily focused on market access, which is widely considered as being the most difficult issue in the agriculture negotiations (BRIDGES Weekly, 22 April 2004, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/04-04-22/story1.htm>). The dozens of past meetings have revealed that major differences between Members persist with regards to the formula for the tariff reductions on agricultural products. The EC has however signalled some openness to replacing their proposed formula with the formula proposed by the G-20 -- but only if measures were agreed on protecting the EU's sensitive sectors. CoA special session Chair Timothy Groser expressed some disappointment about the outcome, saying on Friday that his "modest expectations" had not really been met. If a constructive atmosphere has generally been noted, a G-10 source mentioned that he was "not quite sure it's a setback...but there are certainly more divergent views". The next agriculture negotiations are scheduled for 2-4 June, 23-25 June and 14-16 July. For a more detailed report of the meeting see BRIDGES Weekly, 28 April 2004, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/04-04-28/story2.htm>.

Further information on the CAP reform can be found at:

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/agriculture/capreform>

ICTSD reporting; "CAP reform continued: EU agrees on more competitive and trade-friendly tobacco, olive, cotton and hops regimes," EU PRESS RELEASE, 22 April 2004; "Brazil Says Wins WTO Ruling on US Cotton", FINANCIAL TIMES, 27 April 2004; "Ditching the Peace", THE ECONOMIST, 1 January 2004.

### **Fisheries**

#### **DECREASING POLARISATION ON FISHERIES SUBSIDIES NOTED AT WTO AND UNEP**

A feeling of progress on how to tackle the negative effects of fisheries subsidies was apparent at both the 28 April meeting of the WTO Negotiating Group on Rules and the UNEP Workshop on Fisheries Subsidies and Sustainable Management, held from 26-27 April. New Zealand, who presented a new submission to the Group, noted a decrease in the "polarisation" of positions in this area, while many delegates at the UNEP meeting believe that the debate had moved to a point where the question was no longer whether but how fisheries subsidies should be dealt with.

#### **New Zealand proposes broad subsidy prohibitions**

In its new submission (TN/RL/W/154), New Zealand -- a member of the "Friends of the Fish" group at the WTO -- calls for a broad prohibition of subsidies that are "liable to contribute to overcapacity or overfishing or other trade distortions". Such an impact could possibly be measured by taking "reduction of fixed or variable costs or enhancement of revenues or incomes as basic tests" within new rules to be developed as part of the Doha mandate. New Zealand acknowledges the need for certain exceptions, which could be part of a negotiated "negative list" to exempt environmentally friendly and other subsidies. Noting a decrease in "polarisation" of Members' positions, New Zealand called on the proponents of controlling fisheries subsidies to work on a unified proposal.

The proposal was supported by the other members of the "Friends of Fish", including Argentina, Chile, Iceland, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, the US and the Philippines, as well as Australia, Thailand and Pakistan. The EC, while supporting the aim of reducing overcapacity and overfishing, regarded New Zealand's approach as "brutal", stressing that programmes of developing countries and poorer communities in the EU would need to be exempt. Japan -- who along with Korea has generally opposed dealing with fisheries subsidies at the WTO -- rejected the approach as "extreme" and going beyond the Doha mandate.

### **UNEP meeting highlights need to move towards practical approaches**

Several delegates at the UNEP event pointed to a change in the fisheries subsidies debate towards a less-polarised, more constructive exchange. They noted a growing acknowledgement that subsidies can be one of various factors contributing to the worldwide decline in fish stocks, which needed to be dealt with within a broader fisheries management plan that could also include environmentally beneficial support measures. They stressed the urgency of moving from analytical debates towards the practical identification of rules. Participants also highlighted the interdisciplinary nature of the problem, which required enhanced cooperation and coherence at all levels of policy-making.

Moreover, several speakers noted the need for greater transparency and access to information on subsidies programmes, raising the possibility of better using or expanding current notification requirements at the WTO. Some expressed concerns over how to take into account broader fisheries management issues in multilateral trade negotiations without going beyond the scope and mandate of the WTO. One possibility could be to focus primarily on those subsidies that are found to be harmful irrespective of the fisheries management context while relying on objective, non-controversial evidence of fisheries conditions for subsidies whose impacts depends on the context in which they are applied. The need to take into account the special interests and needs of developing countries was repeatedly stressed, including resource and capacity constraints.

For further information on the UNEP workshop, see  
<http://www.unep.ch/etu/Fisheries%20Meeting/FishMeeting2004.htm>.

ICTSD reporting; "U.S. signals support for New Zealand proposal for ban on fisheries subsidies," WTO REPORTER, 29 April 2004.

### **In Brief**

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#### **EU ENLARGEMENT: ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGE OR OPPORTUNITY?**

On 22 April, IUCN released an assessment that highlights the environmental challenges the EU will face after ten new countries join the block on 1 May. The assessment highlights in particular the role of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). "Environmentally-minded citizens in these new member states are concerned that the new soft money directed for Rural Development and Structural Funds will destroy traditional landscapes, which are 'greener' than most EU states, with their intensive farms." Such concerns are also accompanied by worries of increased pollution of freshwater resources and increased water usage due to CAP incentives. The civil society groups TRAFFIC and WWF also highlighted the threat to species, such as tortoises, parrots, snakes, lizards and orchids, due to potential increases in illegal wildlife trade. "Changes in border controls could pave the way for increased illegal trade in some of the world's most endangered species," said Cliona O'Brien, WWF wildlife trade officer. "Current EU members already face many challenges in controlling illegal trade, and it's likely that new members will also struggle as they become gatekeepers to the EU". WWF has also cited increased imports of illegally logged timber as a potential negative impact of enlargement (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 16 April 2004, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/04-04-16/inbrief.htm#3>). European Environment Commissioner Margot

Wallström, on a more optimistic note added that "NGOs [in the accession countries] have been able to put green issues on the agenda and we've seen the strengthening of ministries".

For more information on IUCN's assessment, see: [http://www.iucn.org/info\\_and\\_news/press/mediakiteu.pdf](http://www.iucn.org/info_and_news/press/mediakiteu.pdf)

To access the WWF-TRAFFIC report, "Expanding borders: New challenges for wildlife trade controls in the European Union," see: <http://www.traffic.org/25/network4/eu/report.pdf>

"Enlargement 'will not block EU green policies'," ENDS ENVIRONMENT DAILY, 19 April 2004; "EU accession: expanding threats to endangered species," WWF, 27 April 2004; "25 Member European Union Faces Environmental Challenges," ENS, 27 April 2004.

## **WB, IMF: MIXED PROGRESS ON MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

Participants at the annual World Bank (WB) and International Monetary Fund (IMF) Spring Meetings, held from 24-25 April in Washington, D.C., said the developing world needs more aid and more open markets in developed countries in order to be able to meet the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDG). Despite an IMF forecast that world growth would surge in 2004, the meeting concluded that "based on current trends, most Millennium Development Goals will not be met by most developing countries, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa". A meeting communique noted the importance of the current Doha round of trade negotiations and stressed the need for a "constructive and determined effort to move the multilateral trade agenda forward," including the elimination of trade-distorting subsidies in the areas of agriculture, textiles and clothing. "A weaker multilateral agenda risks further boosting regional and bilateral initiatives which, over time, can fragment the global trading system and reduce its transparency," stressed Anne Krueger, IMF acting Managing Director. The report of the meeting furthermore points out that the most countries was unlikely to meet the environmental MDGs. In particular progress on access to safe drinking water, basic sanitation, biodiversity, fisheries and greenhouse gas emissions has been limited. The report highlights the need to provide increased aid to developing countries to improve environmental practices and the responsibility of developed countries for the preservation of global environmental commons, as they are the largest contributors to the degradation of the commons. The progress on achieving the environmental MDGs is also aggregated in the "Green Data Book 2004", published by the WB. It provides an overview of environmental data for 200 countries, collected under 47 key indicators grouped under agriculture, forests, biodiversity, energy, emissions and pollution, water and sanitation and national accounting aggregates. The book aims to provide comparable information for policy-making monitoring progress on achieving the MDGs.

The "Little Green Data Book 2004" is available at:

[http://publications.worldbank.org/ecommerce/catalog/product?item\\_id=3426628](http://publications.worldbank.org/ecommerce/catalog/product?item_id=3426628)

"Africans getting poorer - G7," NEWS24.COM, 25 April 2004; "Protectionism would hamper growth, IMF," REDIFF.COM, 26 April 2004; "IMF, World Bank, EBRD and ADB release report on CIS-7 initiative," WB PRESS RELEASE, 26 April 2004; "African ministers call for debt relief, aid, no trade barriers," UN WIRE, 26 April 2004; "IMF, World Bank concerned over failure of developing world to meet MDGs," CHINAVIEW.CN, 25 April 2004.

## **US ACCUSED OF REGRESSIVE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES**

The third annual assessment of US environmental policies entitled "Rewriting the Rules - The Bush Administration's Assault on the Environment", released by the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) on 15 April, documents more than 150 policy actions destructive to the environment over the past year. The group argues that detrimental changes have been made to legislation undermining attempts to improve air quality, and reduce levels of atmospheric pollution and mercury contamination. "They are distributing the air that we breathe to their big contributors," said NRDC senior attorney Robert F. Kennedy Jr., referring to the way the Bush administration changes policy to appeal to campaign contributors. The report outlines how



more than 50 Clinton era lawsuits and 70 criminal investigations concerning coal-fired power plants and refineries violating clean air standards were derailed. It further states that one in twelve American women of child-bearing age have mercury levels higher than the US Environmental Protection Agency's safe level. Another concern is that a new mercury rule would require a reduction of mercury emissions by 50 percent over the next 15 years as opposed to the 90 percent reduction by 2007 as proposed under the Clinton administration. The report also cites a statement by 63 scientists, accusing the Bush administration of "deliberately and systematically" distorting scientific fact and misleading the public to further its own political objectives.

The report is available at: <http://www.nrdc.org/legislation/rollbacks/rollbacksinx.asp>

"Group Accuses US Of Rolling Back Environmental Protections," UN WIRE, 16 April 2004.

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## Events

For a more comprehensive list of events in trade and sustainable development, please refer to ICTSD's web calendar. 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

26 April to 10 May: EFORUM ON GLOBAL REPORTS AND GLOBAL POLICY CHALLENGES.

Organised by the Global Public Goods Network (gpgNet) this debate will focus on whether there has been a match or a mismatch between global reports and global policy challenges. To the extent that global reports influence (and are influenced by) policymaking, addressing this question should contribute to giving a better sense of where the world is headed, where the shortcomings and problems lie, where progress is being made and what needs to be done to ensure a better future. To participate, send a blank email to: [subscribe-gpgnet-reports@groups.undp.org](mailto:subscribe-gpgnet-reports@groups.undp.org). For further information, see <http://www.gpgnet.net/topic06.php>

2-6 May, Vancouver, BC, Canada: FOURTH WORLD FISHERIES CONGRESS. Hosted by the American Fisheries Society. The Congress will explore issues related to the challenge of managing aquatic ecosystems, in particular, the reconciliation of fisheries with conservation through the promotion of scientific advice, cooperation and partnership among the world's fisheries scientists, managers, the fishing industry, and conservationists. For further information, contact: Congress Secretariat; tel: (+1-604) 688-9655; fax: 685-3521; email: [fish2004@advance-group.com](mailto:fish2004@advance-group.com); Internet: [http://www.worldfisheries2004.org/program/congress\\_theme.htm](http://www.worldfisheries2004.org/program/congress_theme.htm)

3 May, Copenhagen, Denmark: SEMINAR ON TRADE-RELATED PROPERTY RIGHTS AND HEALTH. This seminar is organised by the 'WTO, Trade & Development' network, an initiative based at the Danish Institute for International Studies (DIIS). The aim of the network is to provide an international forum for the discussion and dissemination of research and policy-relevant information on trade and development issues. The seminar is part of the 'Trade Mondays' series, with a seminar once a month at DIIS. For further information on the network and the 'Trade Mondays', contact: Stefano Ponte, Seminar Coordinator: tel: (+45) 3269-8787; fax: 3269-8800; email: [spo@diis.dk](mailto:spo@diis.dk); Internet: <http://www.diis.dk/>

3-4 May, Washington, D.C., US: WORLD BANK ANNUAL BANK CONFERENCES ON DEVELOPMENT ECONOMICS (ABCDE). The theme of the conference will be "Lessons of Experience". It will feature presentations on: the future of development - the next 10 years; a half century of development; evolution of thinking on development - lessons learned; infrastructure and development; and trade and development. An Economists' Forum will hold parallel sessions. The forum is open to staff from the World Bank and IMF, as well as to invited guests. For further information, contact: Leita Jones, DECPO, fax: (+1-202) 522-0304; Internet: <http://econ.worldbank.org/abcde/index.php?confid=33788>



3-7 May, Paris, France: CODEX COMMITTEE ON GENERAL PRINCIPLES, 20TH SESSION. Joint FAO/WHO food standards programme. For this session, items on the agenda include: proposed draft revised code of ethics for international trade in foods, definition of traceability/product tracing of foodstuffs, guidelines for cooperation with international intergovernmental organisations. For further information, contact: fax: (+39-6) 5705-4593; email: [Codex@fao.org](mailto:Codex@fao.org); Internet: [http://www.codexalimentarius.net/ccgp20/gp20\\_01e.htm](http://www.codexalimentarius.net/ccgp20/gp20_01e.htm)

3-14 May, Geneva, Switzerland: FOURTH FORUM ON FORESTS. This UN Forum on Forests seeks to: facilitate implementation of forest-related agreements and foster a common understanding on sustainable forest management, to enhance cooperation as well as policy and programme coordination on forest-related issues and to provide for continued policy development and dialogue among governments, international organizations, including major groups, as identified in Agenda 21 as well as to address forest issues and emerging areas of concern in a holistic, comprehensive and integrated manner. For further information, contact: UNFF Secretariat, phone: (+1-212) 963-3160, fax: 963-4260, email: [unff@un.org](mailto:unff@un.org), Internet: <http://www.un.org/esa/forests/about.html>

9-12 May, The Hague, Netherlands: ENVIRONMENT, SECURITY AND SUSTAINABILITY. This conference, bringing together around 200 of the leading scholars and thinkers, aims to derive comprehensive approaches to address the challenges posed by environmental change for human security. For further information, contact: the Institute for Environmental Security; tel: (+31-70) 365-1074; fax: 365-1306; email: [conference@envirosecurity.org](mailto:conference@envirosecurity.org); Internet: <http://www.envirosecurity.net/conference/ESSDConference.pdf>

10-14 May, Montreal, Canada: CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD LABELLING, 32ND SESSION. Joint FAO/WHO food standards programme. For this session, items on the agenda include: report of the working group on the management of the agenda items on labelling of foods and food ingredients obtained through certain techniques of genetic modification/ genetic engineering and guidelines for the production, processing, labelling and marketing of organically produced foods: draft revised annex 2 - permitted substances. For further information, contact: fax: (+39-6) 5705-4593; email: [Codex@fao.org](mailto:Codex@fao.org); Internet: [http://www.codexalimentarius.net/ccfl32/fl04\\_01e.htm](http://www.codexalimentarius.net/ccfl32/fl04_01e.htm)

10 May, Szentendre, Hungary: SEMINAR ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MEAS AND WTO RULES. Organised by Ecologic - Institute for International and European Environmental Policy in co-operation with the Royal Institute of International Affairs (RIIA) and the Regional Environmental Centre for Eastern and Central Europe (REC). This is a one-day seminar aimed at raising the awareness within civil society of international and European trade policy, especially the relationship between Multilateral Environmental Agreements and WTO rules. For further information, contact: Markus Knigge; tel: (+49-30) 8688-00; email: [knigge@ecologic.de](mailto:knigge@ecologic.de); Internet: <http://www.ecologic-events.de/eu-trade-policy/en/index.htm>

### Other Forthcoming Events

23-24 May, Copenhagen, Denmark: GLOBAL CONSCIENCE – ENVIRONMENT, POVERTY AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT. Organised by a range of environmental and development organisation in collaboration with Le Monde Diplomatique this conference aims to contribute to maintain the vision of sustainable development as a guiding principle for the future development of the world. The Global Conscience Conference is a "co"-conference to the Copenhagen Consensus Conference organised by The Danish Institute for Environmental Assessment (Institut for Miljøvurdering, IMV) and will provide an open and complex discussion of the worlds challenges. Speakers and participants include *inter alia*, Klaus Töpfer, Vandana Shiva, Margot Wallström and Suanita Narain. For further information, contact: Ecocouncil, tel: (+45) 33 15 09 77; email: [rikke@ecocouncil.dk](mailto:rikke@ecocouncil.dk); Internet: <http://www.globalconscience.dk/indeng.htm>

24-28 May, Copenhagen, Denmark: COPENHAGEN CONSENSUS. This conference is organised by the Danish Institute for Environmental Assessment and supported by The Economist. The conference aims to assess the effects of international opportunities for solving ten of the worlds greatest challenges related to environmental and economic development. In Copenhagen, nine economic experts will discuss, analyze and

rank the opportunities corresponding to each challenge based on a background paper within their field of research. For more information, contact: Environmental Assessment Institute; tel: (+45) 7226-5800; fax: (+45) 7226-5839; email: [info@copenhagenconsensus.dk](mailto:info@copenhagenconsensus.dk); Internet: [www.copenhagenconsensus.com](http://www.copenhagenconsensus.com);

11-12 June, São Paulo, Brazil: UNCTAD CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM. As part of the official UNCTAD XI programme, a Civil Society Forum will provide an opportunity for civil society organisations (CSOs) to discuss priority issues relevant to the overall theme, subthemes and topics of the conference; to exchange information and build consensus among CSOs; to facilitate and support CSO advocacy and lobbying; and to raise public awareness of the issues at stake. CSOs are expected to present a final outcome document to UNCTAD XI. For further information, contact: the Brazilian Association of NGOs (ABONG), email: [abong@uol.com.br](mailto:abong@uol.com.br); Internet: <http://www.abong.org.br>

14-15 June, Tampere, Finland: TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE FUTURES - TOOLS AND STRATEGIES. Organised by the Turku School of Economics and Business Administration, Finland Futures Research Centre and Finland Futures Academy. The Conference is aimed at both researchers and corporate representatives. The aim of the multidisciplinary conference is to bring together those interested in sustainable development and futures oriented research. The participants will be offered new perspectives and methods for measuring sustainable development and creating strategies. The conference will also cast a look into how sustainability aspects are actually taken into consideration in corporations. For further information, contact: Paula Hakola at tel: (+358) 3223-8363; fax: 2481-4630; email: [paula.hakola@tukkk.fi](mailto:paula.hakola@tukkk.fi); Internet: <http://www.tukkk.fi/tutu/conference2004/default.htm>

20-23 June, Durango, Mexico: CONFERENCE ON FOOD SCIENCE AND FOOD BIOTECHNOLOGY IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. Organised by the Instituto Tecnológico de Durango (ITD), Universidad Autónoma de Coahuila (UAdeC), Universidad Autónoma Agraria Antonio Narro (UAAAN), Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León and Sociedad Mexicana de Biotecnología y Bioingeniería. This conference is aimed at presenting and discussing research, carried out in developing countries, which is related to food science and biotechnology. For further information, contact: Instituto Tecnológico de Durango, email: [meeting\\_dgo@prodigy.net.mx](mailto:meeting_dgo@prodigy.net.mx); Internet: <http://www.itdposgrado-bioquimica.com.mx/congress2004.htm>

21-23 October, Geneva, Switzerland: ENVIROINFO 2004. The 18th conference of the German Informatics Society (GI) will continue the series of conferences dedicated to information exchange among scientists, public administrations, private and public companies involved in environmental information processing as well as environmental informatics end-users. The conference will focus on "sharing": sharing information technologies in order to comply with the principles of sustainable development; and sharing data and knowledge. For further information, contact: Mr Philippe Minier, tel (+ 41-22) 327-4857; fax: 327-5070; email: [enviroinfo@etat.ge.ch](mailto:enviroinfo@etat.ge.ch); Internet: <http://www.enviroinfo2004.org/>

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## 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 Marianne Jacobsen, [mjacobson@ictsd.ch](mailto:mjacobsen@ictsd.ch).

## ICTSD Resources

ENCOURAGING INTERNATIONAL TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER. By Keith E. Maskus (UNCTAD-ICTSD Project on Intellectual Property Rights and Sustainable Development Issue Paper No. 7, May 2004). This report comprehensively reviews the basic theory and evidence for how intellectual property protection affects incentives for international technology transfer (ITT). Analysis is provided of market-mediated ITT through trade, foreign direct investment, licensing, and personnel movements, along with informal means through imitation, reverse engineering, and spillovers. To access the report, visit: [http://www.iprsonline.org/unctadietsd/docs/CS\\_Maskus.pdf](http://www.iprsonline.org/unctadietsd/docs/CS_Maskus.pdf)

THE SOCIO-ECONOMICS OF GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATIONS, A REVIEW OF EMPIRICAL EVIDENCE FROM EUROPE. By Dwijen Rangnekar (UNCTAD-ICTSD Project on Intellectual Property Rights and Sustainable Development Issue Paper No. 8, May 2004). This study reviews the empirical evidence from European countries with respect to the socio-economic implications of the protection of geographical indications (GIs). To this end, the paper first provides for an overview of the economic rationale behind the protection of trademarks, which in certain respects are similar to GIs. It then turns to GIs, explaining the economic principles of their protection, their key functions of promoting rural development and protecting provenance and indigenous knowledge. To access the report, visit: [http://www.iprsonline.org/unctadictsd/docs/CS\\_Rangnekar2.pdf](http://www.iprsonline.org/unctadictsd/docs/CS_Rangnekar2.pdf)

### Other Resources

WORLD AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT - A COMMODITY-BY-COMMODITY GUIDE TO IMPACTS AND PRACTICES. By Jason Clay (WWF, April 2004). The book focuses on the impact that agriculture has on the environment, paying particular attention to the stresses that agricultural practices place on environmental well-being. Twenty of the world's major crops are examined, each analysed according to criteria such as types of production, environmental impacts, and management strategies. The book also addresses the economic and social problems accompanying the agriculture industry, particularly in developing countries. It cautions against the use of agricultural subsidies and promotes better management strategies regarding agricultural policy. For further information, see: <http://www.islandpress.org/books/detail.html?cart=108195272732101&SKU=1-55963-370-0>

WHOSE TRADE ORGANIZATION? A COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE TO THE WTO. By Lori Wallach and Patrick Woodall (The New Press, March 2004). This publication tracks the outcomes of the WTO during its nine years of existence, with chapters on the WTO's impact on the economies and employment of rich and poor countries, as well as on the environment, food safety, public health, service sectors, agriculture and human rights. The book also details the WTO's controversial dispute resolution system and connects WTO rules with US job losses, unsafe food, attacks on domestic laws and burgeoning international inequality that makes headlines daily. For further information, see: <http://www.citizen.org/publications/articles.cfm?ID=7304&relatedpages=1&catID=126&secID=1185>

NAFTA: TEN YEARS OF CROSS-BORDER DIALOGUES. By David Brooks and Jonathan Fox (Interhemispheric Resource Center Americas Program Special Report, March 2004). This article focuses on The North American Free Trade Agreement's (NAFTA) myriad opportunities for civil society convergence from below. Social constituency organisations -- such as labour organisations, environmental organisations, and trade advocacy networks -- from the US and Mexico have been interacting for more than ten years under the increased economic integration stimulated by NAFTA. Their experiences illuminate some of the earliest examples of people-to-people globalisation. The article concludes that while there is a much greater civil society network after NAFTA, the level of its organisation and its impact have been rather limited. To access the article, visit <http://www.americaspolicy.org/reports/2004/0403nafta.html>

FAIR AND EQUITABLE BENEFIT-SHARING WITHIN THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE: THE VIEW OF THE BERNE DECLARATION. By Herold, B. (Syngenta, 2003). This paper presents the NGO viewpoint on how the benefit-sharing provisions of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (IT) should be practically applied for all parties concerned and what the main ingredients for the determination of the term "fair and equitable" with respect to benefit-sharing would be. The main argument of the paper is that it is erroneous to link benefit-sharing to patents. It states that when speaking of benefit-sharing the IT shows clearly that one may not limit oneself to a monetary concept. The paper is available at: [http://www.syngentafoundation.com/pdf/Contribution\\_Bernhard\\_Herold.pdf](http://www.syngentafoundation.com/pdf/Contribution_Bernhard_Herold.pdf)

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION POLICIES AND INCENTIVES TO HUNT: AN EMPIRICAL ANALYSIS OF ILLEGAL HUNTING IN WESTERN SERENGETI, TANZANIA. By A. Borge Johannesen (Norwegian University of Science and Technology, NTNU, 2004). This paper examines the factors, which determine

participation and effort in illegal hunting, in western Serengeti, Tanzania. It studies the impact on illegal hunting of the integrated conservation and development project, the Serengeti Regional Conservation Project (SRCP), and looks at how the pattern of crop production in agriculture, market accessibility and wildlife-induced damage to crops and domestic animals affect illegal hunting. The paper is available at: <http://www.svt.ntnu.no/iso/WP/2004/3WPAnne2.pdf>

CONFLICTS IN JOINT FOREST MANAGEMENT: CASES FROM SOUTH RAJASTHAN, INDIA. By P. Kashwan (2003). Joint Forest Management (JFM) has been an important step for improving management and governance of forests in India. However, conflicts and conflict resolution arrangements in the JFM framework are one area where there is urgent need for attention. This paper attempts to bring out some of the major areas of conflict in the JFM arena based on the experience of the author while working in Udaipur on implementation of JFM projects in India. The paper is available at: [http://www.cbnrm.net/pdf/kashwan\\_p\\_001\\_jfmconflict.pdf](http://www.cbnrm.net/pdf/kashwan_p_001_jfmconflict.pdf)

NAOMI KLEIN AND THE ANTI-GLOBALISATION MOVEMENT. By P. Segerstrom (Centre for Economic Policy Research, CEPR, 2003). This paper examines the writings of Naomi Klein, one of the leaders in the anti-globalisation movement. The contents of her influential book *No Logo* are summarized and some problems with her analysis of globalisation are discussed. Among the topics covered are the facts about poverty and income inequality, the facts about trade liberalisation and economic growth, the experience of Mexico following trade liberalisation, and the implication of protest rallies for farmers in developing countries. According to Klein, corporate rule has been associated with an assault on the three social pillars of civic space, civil liberties and employment. The paper is available at: <http://www.cepr.org/pubs/new-dps/dplist.asp?dpno=4141>

POVERTY AND ENVIRONMENT TIMES (NO. 2). By UNEP/GRID Arendal (United Nations Environment Programme, UNEP, 2004). This is a collection of articles on poverty and the environment. There are reports on: urban daily life in Nouakchott, Mauritania, irrigation and decentralisation in India, discussion on environment and security, the implications of water privatisation and women managing natural resources. Article titles include: "Human capabilities are the link," "Environmental investments could yield health benefits," "Sharing Middle Eastern water," "Northern concentrations" and "The environment on stamps". The book is available at: <http://www.grida.no/environmenttimes/pov2/>

FOOD-FOR-WORK FOR POVERTY REDUCTION AND THE PROMOTION OF SUSTAINABLE LAND USE: CAN IT WORK? By S. Holden, C. B. Barrett and F. Hagos. (Department of Economics and Resource Management, Agricultural University of Norway, 2004). This paper assesses the potential of Food-For-Work (FFW) programs to reduce poverty and promote sustainable land use in the longer run. The study uses empirical evidence and an applied bio-economic farm household model in northern Ethiopia. The paper concludes that FFW projects have the potential of contributing to long-term development in economies characterised by imperfect markets. However, poor design and implementation can easily lead to the opposite result. The paper is available at: <http://www.nlh.no/ios/Publikasjoner/d2004/d2004-05.pdf>

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