



INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR  
TRADE AND SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT

# Bridges

## Weekly Trade News Digest

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### LEAD STORIES

#### GENERAL COUNCIL CHAIR OUTLINES ROAD TO JULY AGREEMENT

On 29 April, WTO Members met for an informal Heads of Delegation meeting. The half-day meeting took stock of overall development in trade negotiations following the Cancun Ministerial in September 2003 and to date, and served to enhance transparency. In the words of India's ambassador to the WTO, KM Chandrasekhar, "it was an exploratory meeting... We need to start thinking about the July package in its entirety at this point, but it will take more time before we focus and start zeroing in on issues".

Deputy Director General Rufus Yerxa also briefed Members on progress in informal consultations on the so-called Singapore issues of investment, competition, transparency in government procurement and trade facilitation (see related story, this issue).

General Council Chair Shotaro Oshima (Japan) noted that the latest meeting of the Trade Negotiations Committee (TNC) had reached "a widely-based informal understanding that the aim is to reach agreements at a framework level by the summer" (see BRIDGES Weekly, 22 April 2004, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/04-04-22/story2.htm>). He stressed the need for delegates to make the most out of this window of opportunity, in particular in view of pending US elections and the changeover in the European Commission later this year.

#### Path to July framework

Oshima outlined the steps negotiators would have to take in order to be able to agree on a framework for July -- a "July product" -- prior to the WTO annual break. He noted that Members would have to create a balanced and acceptable product, taking into account, however, that they had weeks rather than months at their disposal for this task. The focus of the outcome would be on agriculture, industrial market access, cotton, the Singapore issues as well as issues with a particular development interest, such as special and

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differential treatment for developing countries, and implementation issues. He said that Members would have to reach general agreement by the end of May, in order to progress to working on potential draft text in June and July, and agree on a product by the end of July.

### **Links to the political process**

Delegates stressed the need to synchronise the Geneva process with a number of political meetings scheduled to take place in May. Oshima noted that "The May General Council meeting will follow on the heels of a number of ministerial meetings. It will be an important opportunity to provide a sense that we are back on track and that there is progress on key issues". However, he stressed that the actual work will have to be undertaken in Geneva, with the political process giving it a boost.

US Trade Representative Robert Zoellick hosted a small meeting among key trade ministers on 1 May (see related story, this issue), the least-developed countries (LDCs) are holding their annual meeting from 4-5 May in Senegal, and the African Group is meeting in Rwanda shortly after. In addition, trade ministers from 30 countries will meet at the sidelines of an Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development summit in Paris on 14 May, chaired by Mexico.

The next WTO General Council is scheduled for 17-18 May.

ICTSD reporting; "Member States Prepare For Cautious Steps Towards New WTO Agreement," AFP, 29 April 2004.

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## **MEMBERS APPEAR TO CONVERGE AROUND TRADE FACILITATION TALKS**

At an informal Heads of Delegation meeting on 29 April, Members reportedly began to converge around the idea of including trade facilitation as part of the Doha round of trade negotiations. According to trade sources, Members considered making a formal commitment to begin negotiations on modalities for trade facilitation as part of a negotiating framework 'package' they are hoping to achieve by July (see related story, this issue).

The emerging consensus on modalities on trade facilitation was not a sudden development, but has been building up gradually over the months since the Cancun Ministerial Conference in September 2003 (see BRIDGES Weekly, 4 December 2003, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/03-12-04/story2.htm>). The four Singapore issues investment, competition, trade

facilitation and transparency in government procurement have been controversial since they originally were introduced at the WTO Ministerial in Singapore in 1996.

### **What happens to 'explicit consensus' on modalities and what do modalities imply?**

While many developing countries, including African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) states as well as a 'core' group of countries opposed to launching talks on the Singapore issues (such as India and Malaysia), appear to have warmed to the possibility of talks on trade facilitation, they have not dropped their insistence on 'explicit consensus' on modalities for trade facilitation before negotiations can be officially launched. A number of developing country delegates stressed that agreeing to discuss modalities on trade facilitation did not imply the 'automatic' launch of negotiations, but was conditioned upon 'explicit' consensus being reached on the nature and scope of the negotiations, particularly substantive aspects such as the applicability of dispute settlement. Many also called for assurances on technical assistance as a precondition for talks (see BRIDGES Weekly, 8 April 2004, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/04-04-08/story4.htm>).

Demandeurs, such as the EC, previously stated that this was best left for the negotiations to work out and 'modalities' implied only 'procedural modalities' surrounding the negotiations. These positions emerged well before Cancun (see BRIDGES Weekly, 21 August 2003 accessible at <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/03-08-21/story3.htm>) and have not yet been resolved.

### **No apparent shift in EC stance on 'plurilateral approach'**

Despite earlier indications, most recently by the European Commission's spokesperson in Washington, Anthony Gooch, that the EC was willing to drop the Singapore issues from the 'single undertaking' (See BRIDGES Monthly, April 2004, pp1, <http://www.ictsd.org/monthly/bridges/BRIDGES8-4.pdf>), the EC has made no such formal commitment. The EC has, since Cancun, been pushing for negotiations on the Singapore issues, particularly the more controversial ones, on a 'plurilateral basis' among willing WTO Members outside the context of the Doha negotiations (see BRIDGES Weekly, 11 December 2003, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/03-12-11/story2.htm>).

Most developing countries, on the other hand, appear uncomfortable even with a 'plurilateral approach' and prefer investment, competition and transparency in government procurement to be dropped entirely from the WTO. However, attitudes appeared to have softened at the informal Heads of Delegation meeting

where only Indonesia openly called for the issues to be dropped. Mexican Ambassador Carlos Perez de Motta stated that it was "important to be careful" with the wording in the July package on how to address the remaining three issues, noting that delegations might agree to continue clarification discussions within the respective working groups on the Singapore issues, but only if this did not imply a commitment for eventual plurilateral negotiations. In his address to the informal session meeting, General Council Chair Shotaro Oshima (Japan) stressed that major issues remained to be resolved, particularly questions regarding which issues, if any, should be within the single undertaking, and how to treat the issues to be put outside the single understanding.

#### **Informal consultations on trade facilitation to continue**

In his address to the informal Heads of Delegation meeting, Chair Oshima said he had noticed some evolution in the positions of Members since the December and February General Council meetings. This, he said, offered the strong possibility -- although no certainty -- that Members could resolve their differences over trade facilitation. Second, he pointed out that several countries -- both developing and developed -- actively supported such negotiations, and had expressed support for modalities previously set forth by Cancun Chair Luis Ernesto Derbez. Third, he said a substantial number of delegations had significant questions and concerns that they felt needed to be clarified and addressed in order for them to agree to negotiations. Many of these were set forth in a paper submitted by the Core Group of developing countries at Cancun (WT/MIN(03)/W/4, available at <http://docsonline.wto.org>). These delegations needed a clearer picture of what the negotiations sought to achieve and how the burden of assuming these new obligations would be addressed. Fourth, the Chair emphasised the need for a more systematic discussion -- with full transparency and contribution from all Members -- in order to achieve explicit consensus.

The Chair also stated that at his request Deputy Director General Rufus Yerma was holding technical consultations in order to consider how to proceed with the issue of trade facilitation and the parameters for possible negotiations. He also encouraged Members, particularly those with divergent views, to talk amongst themselves with the aim of reaching some degree of convergence.

"Ministers vow to overcome obstacles to Doha," FT, 3 May 2004;

"Zoellick to host 'select' dinner in attempt to meet Doha round target," FT, 30 April 2004; "Trade Officials See

Improvement In WTO Impasse Over Singapore Issues," WTO REPORTER, 30 April 2004; Report on consultations on trade facilitation modalities Deputy Director General Rufus Yerma, WTO NEWS, 29 April.

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## **OTHER NEWS**

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### **PACKAGE DEAL TO SALVAGE DSU NEGOTIATIONS?**

The special (negotiating) session of the WTO Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) met on 30 April to consider progress in the review of the Dispute Settlement Understanding (DSU). The meeting focused on a forthcoming package of proposals by a group of six countries to salvage the negotiations. Argentina, Brazil, Canada, India, Norway and New Zealand are working on the package to facilitate consensus on issues such as the authority of the Appellate Body to refer a case back to the panel (remand authority) and conflicting timelines arising from retaliation procedures (sequencing). Other issues in the package include developing country concerns such as litigation costs, transparency, the expansion of third party rights and procedures for determining the lifting of sanctions authorised by the WTO. Mexico is working with the group but is not a full sponsor of the package.

In response to the forthcoming package, some developing countries said the package did not seem to achieve a good balance between systemic issues that affect the DSU system as a whole and developing country issues specifically. The African Group stressed that it would like to see its earlier proposals calling on the WTO Secretariat to provide stronger litigation support to developing and least-developed countries involved in a case reflected in the package. The group has also called for a dispute settlement fund. Such reforms would, in the opinion of the African Group, be crucial in solving the problem of lack of access to the DSU by developing and least-developed countries.

The apparent lack of enthusiasm by the US and the EC for the work of the group led some Members to question whether they would lend their support to the package once it is presented, of key importance to its viability.

Meanwhile, trade delegates indicated that a deadline set for 31 May this year to conclude negotiations (see BRIDGES Weekly, 3 March 2004 <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/04-03-03/story2.htm>) was likely to be missed. The next DSU negotiating session

has been scheduled for 10 May, and the new draft proposal is likely to be tabled by its proponents at the meeting. In the meantime, consultations among Members and between Members and the Chair, Ambassador David Spencer (Australia), will continue.

ICTSD reporting; "'Magnificent Seven' Offer Compromise As Clock Ticks Down to Deadline in May"; WTO REPORTER, 4 May 2004.

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## IN BRIEF

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### 'MICRO-MINISTERIAL' DEBATES WAYS TO MOVE TRADE TALKS

Key trade ministers met in London on 1 May to consider how to break the deadlock in trade negotiations, focusing their talks primarily on how to move in agriculture. EC Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy, Kenyan Trade Minister Mukhisa Kituyi, South African Trade Minister Alec Erwin and Brazilian Foreign Minister Celso Amorim attended the meeting, which was organised by US Trade Representative Robert Zoellick. The ministers discussed ways to agree on a package of proposals that would appeal to both developed countries and the group of 90 developing nations before a "window of opportunity" is closed by the US presidential election and a changeover in the European Commission in November this year. Following the meeting, EC spokesperson Arancha Gonzalez said ministers left feeling convinced they would be able to agree on a blueprint for negotiations by the end of July, including a framework for talks on agriculture and industrial tariffs, cotton subsidies and special & differential treatment for developing countries. A slightly broader mini-ministerial gathering, to be chaired by Mexico, will take place on the sidelines of the council meeting of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in Paris on 14 May. Trade ministers from around 30 countries, including all the major trading powers, are set to attend.

On the eve of the "micro ministerial," a number of business organisations called on trade ministers to "fulfil their responsibilities" and exert joint leadership to ensure progress in the WTO trade talks this year. The 35 organisations, including the US Chamber of Commerce, requested "bold outcomes" on trade in industrial goods and services, particularly among developed and middle-income countries. The "Call to Leadership" petition also requested the elimination of all forms of export subsidies and trade-distorting domestic

support "concomitant with substantial liberalisation of major agricultural markets worldwide".

To access the "Call to Leadership" petition visit <http://www.nftc.org/default/trade/doha%20round/Joint%20Business%20Petition%20on%20the%20Doha%20Agenda%20April%202004.pdf>

"WTO diplomats urge 'meaningful effort' to progress stalled trade talks," AFP, 2 May 2004; "Intl Trade Ministers Meet To Discuss Treaty Deadlock," DOW JONES, 1 May 2004; "Zoellick to host 'select' dinner in attempt to meet Doha round target," FINANCIAL TIMES, 30 April 2004; "World Business Groups Call on Governments To Ensure Progress in WTO Talks This Year," INTERNATIONAL TRADE DAILY, 3 May 2004.

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### MIXED FEELINGS ON TRADE AS EU ENLARGES

On 1 May, ten new member states joined the EU, adopting the Common Commercial Policy. The EU now comprises 450 million citizens, 18 percent of world trade and more than 25 percent of the world's Gross Domestic Product. As the new member states joined the EU, trading partners provided a varied response, highlighting the benefits and disadvantages of enlargement. "The EU expansion is mixed baggage," said Nagesh Kumar, Director General of Research and Information System (RIS) for the Non-Aligned and Other Developing Countries. "The potential advantage of a bigger, expanded market would be diluted by the fact that labour-intensive goods from India would be at a disadvantage as new member countries would enjoy duty-free access," noted Kumar. For certain groups of countries such as MERCOSUR (Southern Common Market -- Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay), the enlargement represents "an opportunity, not a threat", according to Argentina's Deputy Foreign Minister Martín Redrado. "The offer of improved access to the EU markets takes into account the greater European demand resulting from the expansion," he added. Pakistan, on the other hand, has filed a provisional claim with the WTO seeking compensation to cover possible losses due to decreased Pakistani exports of rice, leather and other items following the accession. The new EU member states are: Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, the Slovak Republic and Slovenia.

"Pakistan to seek compensation via WTO for possible EU losses," ASIA PULSE, 29 April 2004; "Mercosur Trade Bloc Does Not Fear EU Expansion," IPS, 30 April 2004; "Expanded EU seen as bringing both opportunities, challenges," BUSINESS NEWS INDIA, 4 May 2004.



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## **CSD-12 FOCUSES ON IMPLEMENTING TARGETS**

The twelfth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), which took place from 14-30 April in New York, was widely welcomed as an important opportunity to move forward on the implementation of the sustainable development targets set out in the Millennium Development Goals and the World Summit on Sustainable Development. The Commission meeting was the first to focus more on substantive issues and progress of implementation -- in particular related to water, sanitation and human settlement -- than on negotiating text. Chair Borge Brende, Norway's Minister for the Environment and Chair of CSD-12, called on delegates to begin a "decade of keeping promises", envisaging the CSD to become the "watchdog" of progress on implementing global sustainable development goals. Discussions at CSD-12 reaffirmed the WSSD's emphasis on poverty eradication as a central element of the sustainable development agenda. While many countries were found not to be on track to meet the water, sanitation and human settlement targets, these goals were thought to remain achievable with the proper means of implementation, including financial assistance, capacity building and technology transfer. In his opening speech, however, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan warned that the recent emphasis on terrorism and the war in Iraq had diverted high-level political attention away from sustainable development, calling for balancing these concerns with a greater focus to environmental protection, social progress and economic growth.

CSD-13, tentatively scheduled for 2-13 May 2005 and to be chaired by John Ashe of Antigua and Barbuda, will again focus on water, sanitation and human settlement. For further information on CSD-12, see <http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/csd12/csd12.htm>.

ENB Vol 5, No 211, 3 May 2003; "Terrorism, Iraq Sap Energy From Sustainable Development," ENS, 28 April 2004.

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## **US DROPS CHINA LABOUR RIGHTS CASE**

On 28 April, the Bush administration rejected a call by domestic labour groups to investigate labour standards in China. AFL-CIO, the largest US labour federation, had filed a trade complaint with the US Trade Representative on 16 March asking the administration to impose economic sanctions on China (see BRIDGES Weekly, 18 March 2004, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/04-03-18/inbrief.htm>). According to AFL-CIO, China was brutally repressing workers' rights in order to gain a

competitive advantage over the US, and this constituted an unfair labour practice under the US Trade Act. The Bush administration, however, responded that engagement was a more effective way to press for change than sanctions were. Robert Zoellick, US Trade Representative, said "We do not need to conduct a year-long investigation to know there are serious concerns with labour rights and working conditions in China as there are in many other developing countries. This administration believes that trade and economic growth, combined with the use of leverage to pursue mutual interests under agreed upon international rules, will move China faster and further toward achieving real results than a retreat into economic isolationism and the raising of barriers that block trade".

"US Won't Investigate China On Alleged Labor Rights Abuse," DOW JONES, 29 April 2004; "Bush refuses probe into claims against China," FINANCIAL TIMES, 29 April 2004.

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## **WTO IN BRIEF**

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### **SAUDI ARABIA CLOSER TO WTO ACCESSION**

Following a round of accession talks in Geneva, Saudi Arabia -- the world's largest oil exporter -- said on 29 April that it hoped to finalise negotiations to join the WTO by mid-June this year. "Roughly, we hope to join the WTO before the end of 2004," noted Saudi Arabian Deputy Trade and Industry Minister, Fawaz al-Alamy. Saudi Arabia must fulfill two conditions before it can join the WTO: its commercial laws must be adapted to WTO rules; and it must conclude bilateral accords with any Member that demands an agreement. Earlier this month, Saudi Arabia had signed a bilateral agreement with China, bringing the total number of such accords to 31. The timing of its accession, however, still depends on its ability to reach bilateral deals with the US, Indonesia, Panama and the Philippines. The US warned that the mid-June target might be a "bit tight," as the US still wants to see changes to Saudi Arabia's financial services sector, intellectual property rights and domestic fuel price discounts, opening up the sectors to competition.

In related news, Lebanon's WTO accession is moving closer to reality. "On the legislative level, we have an action plan. Most of the laws allowing us to join the WTO are either already in the Parliament in the various committees or on their way to the Parliament," noted Fadi Makki, Director General of the Lebanese Ministry

of Economy and Trade in a 28 April speech. He added that "The third round of negotiations, which will take place in July, is expected to allow Lebanon to join the WTO" by early 2005. Negotiators are focusing their efforts on certain Lebanese peak tariffs in agricultural and industrial products.

"Lebanon on track to join WTO," THE DAILY STAR, 29 April 2004; "Saudi's WTO accession may be delayed until end of year," MENAFN, 27 April 2004; "Saudi Arabia signs WTO agreement with China, four deals still to go," CHANNEL NEWS ASIA, 4 April 2004; "Saudi Arabia: on course for another good year," AME INFO, 18 April 2004; "Saudi WTO entry seen in 'final stages'," REUTERS, 29 April 2004.

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### **WTO TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER WORKING GROUP RESUMES**

On 3 May, the WTO's Working Group on Trade and Transfer of Technology (WGTTT) met for the first time since before the September 2003 Cancun Ministerial Conference. Under the guidance of Chair Ambassador Jaynarain Meetoo (Mauritius), Members discussed the Working Group's work programme for the year, which includes further analysis on the trade and technology transfer relationship and possibly making recommendations on steps to be taken -- within the ambit of the WTO -- to increase flows of technology to developing countries. A number of delegates in attendance described the meeting as "very positive" and a "good start" to renewing to the Group's activities. Pakistan made note of the June 2002 submission from the European Community (WT/WGTTT/1; searchable at <http://docsonline.wto.org>) as a good "starting point" for the work programme, calling on them to help move the analytical work ahead and elaborate on some of the themes in the document. Pakistan also called for initial work to intensify, along with Egypt and India, on two of the seven recommendations in the joint Cuba, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Pakistan, Tanzania and Zimbabwe submission from 7 May 2003 (WT/WGTTT/W/6). The two recommendations deal with, inter alia, a detailed examination of WTO provisions relating to the transfer of technology to developing countries (with a view to making these provisions operational and meaningful) and looking at how to mitigate the effects of any WTO provisions that may hinder technology transfer. With Members in agreement on both accounts, the proponents agreed to prepare a submission for the next meeting, which is currently scheduled to take place on 13 July 2004.

At the 2001 Doha Ministerial Conference, Ministers agreed to examine the "relationship between trade and transfer of technology, and of any possible recommendations on steps that might be taken within

the mandate of the WTO to increase flows of technology to developing countries." A progress report was to be made at the Cancun Ministerial Conference; however this did not occur (see BRIDGES Daily Update, Issue 1, 10 September 2003, [http://www.ictsd.org/ministerial/cancun/wto\\_daily/ben030910.htm](http://www.ictsd.org/ministerial/cancun/wto_daily/ben030910.htm)). For more information on the WGTTT, see the Doha Round Briefing Series, Vol. 2, No. 11, [http://www.ictsd.org/pubs/dohabriefings/cancun\\_updates/V2\\_11\\_ToT.pdf](http://www.ictsd.org/pubs/dohabriefings/cancun_updates/V2_11_ToT.pdf).

ICTSD reporting.

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### **NEW ZEALAND PROPOSES BROAD FISHERIES SUBSIDY PROHIBITIONS**

In its new proposal submitted to the 28 April meeting of the WTO Negotiating Group on Rules (TN/RL/W/154), New Zealand -- a member of the "Friends of Fish" group at the WTO -- called 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 acknowledged the need for certain exceptions, which could be part of a negotiated "negative list" to exempt environmentally friendly and other subsidies. 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. Despite these differences in opinion, New Zealand pointed to a decrease in the "polarisation" of positions in this area, calling on the proponents of controlling fisheries subsidies to work on a unified proposal.

ICTSD reporting.

## EVENTS & RESOURCES

### EVENTS

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

#### ICTSD Events

19 May, Geneva, Switzerland: BIOTECHNOLOGY AND TRADE - UNTANGLING KEY ISSUES. Organised by ICTSD and the Geneva Environment Network. The roundtable will offer an informal setting for exploring a number of policy questions relating to trade and biotechnology, including: To what extent will trade considerations constrain the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol when finalising and implementing biosafety measures under the Protocol? What flexibilities does the multilateral trade regime provide for countries to implement their biosafety regulations and how will these flexibilities be impacted by the WTO dispute? Will it be possible to strike an adequate balance between a precautionary approach to policy-making and existing obligations under international trade rules? The roundtable will be held at the International Environment House. For further information, contact Sofie Flensburg; email: [Sofie.flensburg@unep.ch](mailto:Sofie.flensburg@unep.ch), Internet: <http://www.environmenthouse.ch/roundtables.htm>.

#### Coming Up: 6 - 12 May

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 the Codex Secretariat, 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 UN FORUM ON FORESTS. For further information, contact: UNFF Secretariat, phone: +1-212-963 3160, fax: +1-212-963-4260, email: [unff@un.org](mailto:unff@un.org), website: <http://www.un.org/esa/forests/about.html>

9-12 May, The Hague, Netherlands: ENVIRONMENT, SECURITY AND SUSTAINABILITY. This conference, bringing together around 200 scholars and thinkers on

these issues, 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>

9 May - 26 September 2004, Barcelona, Spain. FORUM BARCELONA 2004. The forum will bring together people from all over the world to debate issues around the themes of sustainable development, cultural diversity and conditions for peace. For 141 days, this will be the place where visitors experience cultures and entertainment from around the world through exhibitions, markets, performances, games and more. For further information, visit <http://www.barcelona2004.org/eng/>.

10 May, Szentendre, Hungary: SEMINAR ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MEAS AND WTO RULES. The Institute for European and International Environmental Policy is organising a one-day seminar to bolster civil society's awareness of international and European trade policy, with a special emphasis on multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and WTO rules. A number of civil society groups from central and eastern Europe are expected to attend, including environmental NGOs, consumer groups, trade unions, and research institutes. The seminar seeks to better inform these groups about the relationship between MEAs and WTO rules as well as promote their involvement in European trade policy. 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>

10-11 May, Brussels, Belgium: WORLD BANK ANNUAL BANK CONFERENCES ON DEVELOPMENT ECONOMICS (ABCDE). Co-organised by the World Bank and the Government of Belgium, this second part of the ABCD conference has been designed to expand the flow of ideas between thinkers, practitioners and policy-makers within the field of international development, and to provide a forum for discussion on key international development issues. The conference will also conduct region-based workshops on the Middle East and North Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, East Asia, and Eastern Europe and Central Asia, as well as thematic sessions on migration and the investment climate. For further information see <http://wbln0018.worldbank.org/EURVP/web.nsf/Pages/ABCDE-Europe>

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 the Codex Secretariat, 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)

11-12 May, Brussels, Belgium: BRUSSELS CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE. This conference will take stock of recent EU and international developments. After a review of EU policies, participants will examine the approaches and policies of the EU's main trading partners such as the US, Japan, Canada or Australia. The review will include an evaluation of emerging carbon markets, including overall size, liquidity, price levels etc. Speakers include Catherine Day, Director General of DG Environment, European Commission, Harlan Watson of US State Department, Charles Nicholson of BP, Sean O'Dell from Natural Resources, Canada, T Sakamoto from METI, Japan and Howard Bamsey, CEO of the Australian Greenhouse Office. For further information contact Mark Kinloch, email: [mark.kinloch@euconferences.com](mailto:mark.kinloch@euconferences.com); Internet: <http://www.euconferences.com/fraclimate04.htm>

12 May, Toronto, Canada: CONFERENCE OF THE REDUCERS. The Conference of the Reducers is a forum of leading companies and national, state, and city governments concerned with reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Sponsored by the Climate Group and the city of Toronto, presentations and panel discussions will address government approaches to climate change, reducing corporate emissions, and the role of the financial community. For further information contact the organisers at: [info@climategroup.org](mailto:info@climategroup.org)

## WTO Events

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

6 May: WTO COUNCIL FOR TRADE IN SERVICES - SPECIAL SESSION.

10 May: WTO NEGOTIATING GROUP ON MARKET ACCESS.

10 May: WTO DISPUTE SETTLEMENT BODY - SPECIAL SESSION.

10-14 May: WTO GENEVA WEEK.

11 May: WTO COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT.

12 May: WTO COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT - DEDICATED SESSION.

## Other Forthcoming Events

13 May, Geneva, Switzerland: UNCTAD/WORLD BANK TRADE FACILITATION SEMINAR. UNCTAD and the World Bank are organising a one-day trade facilitation seminar in Geneva to present examples illustrating their involvement in trade facilitation as a key component of the external trade competitiveness of many developing and transition countries. UNCTAD and the World Bank expect this event to be an opportunity to stimulate the dialogue between private and public stakeholders on the importance of making progress on this agenda for the benefit of the international community at large, and in particular for countries still somewhat remote from the global marketplace. For further information contact UNCTAD at email: [trade.logistics@unctad.org](mailto:trade.logistics@unctad.org); Internet: <http://www.unctad.org/Templates/Meeting.asp?intlItemID=2068&lang=1&m=8929&year=2004&month=5>

7-8 June, Jaipur, India: MEETING TO REVIEW PROJECTS ON BETTER MARKET ACCESS AND THE DOHA AGENDA. This mid-term review meeting of the projects "Achieving Better Market Access" and "International Working Group On The Doha Agenda" is being organised by CUTS Centre for International Trade, Economics & Environment (CUTS-CITEE). The "ABMA" project intends to look into the issues pertaining to trade and development concerns vis-à-vis the multilateral trading system. The "IWOGDA II" project deals with two complex topics: transparency in government procurement and trade facilitation. One of the objectives of both the projects is to assist developing and least developed countries to evolve appropriate positions at the WTO by building the capacity of negotiators and other stakeholders. For further information please contact Purnima Purohit or Diana Montero Melis at email: [citee@cuts-international.org](mailto:citee@cuts-international.org)

9-11 June, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania: THE EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA REGIONAL BIODIVERSITY FORUM. The fourth Regional Session of the Global Biodiversity Forum for Africa will focus on the overall



theme of Biodiversity and Livelihoods in Africa: Delivering on the Millennium Development Goals. A joint initiative of World Conservation Union's (IUCN) Regional Office for Southern Africa, IUCN South Africa, and ResourceAfrica, its aim is to gather and review regional experiences and perspectives on the precautionary approach in natural resource management and biodiversity conservation, review and discuss early drafts of case studies, and contribute to the development of best-practice guidance on implementation of the precautionary principle. For further information contact Kule Chitepo, ResourceAfrica, tel: +27-12-342-9252; email: [kule@resourceafrica.org](mailto:kule@resourceafrica.org); Internet: [http://www.gbif.ch/present\\_session.asp?no=37&lg=EN](http://www.gbif.ch/present_session.asp?no=37&lg=EN)

10-12 July, Beijing, China: INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY IN AGRICULTURE: CURRENT AND FUTURE. This symposium will convene under the theme of "Innovation and Development in Agricultural Science and Technology". Its purpose is to promote the academic exchange and cooperation among the agricultural communities in China and other countries. For further information contact the World Food Prize Foundation, tel: +1-515-245-3783; fax: +1-515-245-3785; e-mail: [wfp@worldfoodprize.org](mailto:wfp@worldfoodprize.org); Internet: <http://www.worldfoodprize.org/chinaconference.htm>

25-30 July, Trondheim, Norway: XI WORLD CONGRESS OF RURAL SOCIOLOGY. This event will address a diverse range of food security interests under the theme of "Globalisation, risks and resistance". For further information contact Mark Shucksmith, ESRS, tel: +44-1224-273-901; fax: +44-1224-273-902; e-mail: [IRSA@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:IRSA@abdn.ac.uk); Internet: <http://www.irsaworld.org/XI/>

1 November, Copenhagen, Denmark: SEMINAR ON TRADE, DEVELOPMENT AND CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY. 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, email: [spo@diis.dk](mailto:spo@diis.dk)

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## RESOURCES

IMPLICATIONS OF EU ENLARGEMENT FOR THE ACP - A DISCUSSION PAPER. By the European Research Office (May 2004). Ten new countries are

about to join the EU, increasing the total membership to 25. This process of EU enlargement will affect third countries, and in particular ACP countries, in a number of ways, through changes in trade and investment flows, development co-operation aid, agricultural issues and migration opportunities. The principal objective of this discussion paper is to analyse how this process may affect EU-ACP agricultural trade relations especially in the context of the negotiations for Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs). In particular, there is a need for ACP negotiators to have a better understanding of the likely implications of EU enlargement on the EU agricultural sector in terms of new market opportunities, but also in terms of threats in third-country markets served by both the EU and ACP countries. After reviewing the major consequences of incorporation of the ten new countries into the CAP, the paper looks specifically at the likely impacts that this could have on the cereals, livestock, dairy, sugar and banana sectors, both in EU and ACP countries. The last section of the paper discusses the lessons to be drawn from the enlargement process in terms of the support that has been made available for the purpose of bringing the agricultural and food-processing sectors of accession countries up to EU standards. These lessons could be of vital importance in relation to the development dimension in the EPA negotiations, especially in terms of restructuring assistance and SPS issues. To access the paper visit <http://agritrade.cta.int/EUEnlargement.pdf>

BRAZIL'S CHALLENGE OF US COTTON PROGRAMMES - WHAT'S AT STAKE? By the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (IATP), April 2004. IATP's backgrounder on the Brazil challenge of US cotton programmes provides basic information on the WTO case. The ground-breaking case could set the stage for future WTO challenges of US farm programmes. Ultimately, the case should open a broader discussion about how to raise global commodity prices and stop agricultural dumping. The backgrounder is available at [http://www.tradeobservatory.org/library.cfm?filename=Brazils\\_Challenge\\_of\\_US\\_Cotton\\_Program\\_at\\_the\\_.pdf](http://www.tradeobservatory.org/library.cfm?filename=Brazils_Challenge_of_US_Cotton_Program_at_the_.pdf)

2004 COMMITMENT TO DEVELOPMENT INDEX. By the Center for Global Development and Foreign Policy magazine. The second annual Commitment to Development Index ranks 21 rich nations on how their aid, trade, investment, migration, environment, security, and technology policies help poor countries. In order to rank rich nations as accurately as possible, this year the aid, trade, and environment components of the index were revised, a technology component added, and the sections on investment, migration, and security (formerly called peacekeeping) overhauled. To see how the rich countries scored this year, visit

[http://www.foreignpolicy.com/story/cms.php?story\\_id=2540](http://www.foreignpolicy.com/story/cms.php?story_id=2540)

**TRADEMARK PROTECTION OR PROTECTIONISM?**  
Eugenia Baroncelli, Ekaterina Krivosos, and Marcelo Olarreaga (World Bank Report, February 2004). The authors examine whether discrimination against foreign applicants for trademark registration can be a barrier to imports. Prima-facie evidence suggests that the ratio of trademark registration to applications is higher for national applicants than foreign ones in many developing countries, supporting the hypothesis that foreign firms are discriminated against. To access the report, visit:  
[http://econ.worldbank.org/files/33097\\_wps3214.pdf](http://econ.worldbank.org/files/33097_wps3214.pdf)

**ON THE GEOGRAPHY OF TRADE: DISTANCE IS ALIVE AND WELL.** Celine Carrere and Maurice Schiff (World Bank Report, February 2004). The authors analyse the evolution of countries' distance of trade (DOT) from 1962-2000. They find that the number of countries with declining DOT is nearly double those with increasing DOT, leading to the conclusion that distance has become more important over time for a majority of countries. Several hypotheses are explored to explain this phenomenon, with an important conclusion being that the evolution of the DOT is unrelated to that of overall trade costs and instead depends on the relative evolution of various components. To access the report, visit:  
[http://econ.worldbank.org/files/33022\\_wps3206.pdf](http://econ.worldbank.org/files/33022_wps3206.pdf)

**"Implementation Deficits of Ethical Trade Systems: Lessons From the Indonesian Cocoa and Timber Industries".** By Michael Blowfield in the JOURNAL OF CORPORATE CITIZENSHIP 13 (Spring 2004) pp. 77-90. If the suppliers of Asia dependent on producing for Western markets are to benefit from corporate social responsibility (CSR), there needs to be recognition of the values and priorities of communities and workers. Ethical trade is a central means for introducing social and environmental issues into global trade, but does it really improve the lives of its intended beneficiaries? This paper examines whether communities and workers are benefiting from ethical trade in the Indonesian cocoa and timber supply chains. It sets out four tests for measuring the efficacy of ethical trade and applies these to two of the most significant international initiatives. The tests reveal that ethical trade fails to involve or even recognise important social groups and omits many of the priority issues for communities and workers. The paper argues that this is not the result of technical failings in standards, auditing or stakeholder engagement but rather reflects the intrinsic nature of such instruments that reproduces culturally specific values. If ethical trade is to answer the concerns of its intended beneficiaries in Asia, it (and CSR more widely)

needs to acknowledge and tackle the consequences of its own norms and practices.

**"Implementing Voluntary Labour Standards and Codes of Conduct in the Thai Garment Industry".** By Alex Kaufman, Ekalat Tiantubtim, Nongluck Pussayapibul and Patrick Davids in the JOURNAL OF CORPORATE CITIZENSHIP 13 (Spring 2004) pp. 91-99. This paper focuses on labour practices in the Thai garment industry. In the context of developments in the Asian garment and textile industries, the authors investigate key factors effecting the implementation of codes of conduct in Thailand. First, they consider the forces in the international and domestic garment industry that structure the implementation of labour standards in a competitive market. Second, they discuss the factors governing work conditions in apparel factories and the role of Thai trade unions therein. Last, they provide a synopsis of issues related to occupational health and safety in garment factories.

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[http://www.newsbulletin.org/bulletins/WhichBulletin.cfm?Bulletin\\_ID=14&SID=](http://www.newsbulletin.org/bulletins/WhichBulletin.cfm?Bulletin_ID=14&SID=)

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