



INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR  
TRADE AND SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT

# Bridges

## Weekly Trade News Digest

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### LEAD STORIES

#### WTO PANELS CONFIRM VICTORY FOR BRAZIL IN COTTON, SUGAR CASES

On 8 September, the WTO panel hearing Brazil's challenge to US subsidies to upland cotton producers issued its final decision in favour of Brazil on all major claims. On the same date, the panel on Brazil's case against the EC's export subsidies for sugar issued its confidential final ruling to the parties to the case. Here as well Brazil largely won the case.

#### Prohibited US subsidies to be withdrawn "without delay"

The final cotton ruling now made public confirmed an interim ruling against US cotton subsidies issued on 26 April this year (see BRIDGES Weekly, 28 April 2004, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/04-04-28/story1.htm>). The panel found that certain US payments to farmers, such as 'Product Flexibility Contract' (PFC) and 'Direct Payments' (DP) amounted to trade distorting domestic support. According to the panel, the PFC and DP payments were related to the type of production undertaken and could therefore not be categorised as allowed 'decoupled payments'. The US had argued that its subsidies did not encourage overproduction because they were 'decoupled' from output (that is, they were provided independent of the yield of farmers). The panel further ruled that 'export credit guarantees' and 'step 2 marketing payments' the US offered to its cotton producers were prohibited export subsidies and had to be withdrawn "without delay" -- at the latest within six months of the date of adoption of the panel report or by 1 July 2005. Under the 'step 2' programme, US cotton producers are paid the difference between the domestic cotton price and the world market price to ensure that their cotton can be sold profitably in foreign markets.

On other aspects of the case, the ruling was mixed. The panel did not, for example, rule in favour of Brazil's claim that certain US measures had caused it "serious injury". Brazil had also argued that a basket of subsidies yet to be granted in the 2003-2007 marketing years would seriously threaten its cotton industry. On this point, the panel reasoned that the immediate withdrawal of the prohibited subsidies would

significantly transform those subsidies from their current form. Therefore, the panel found it unnecessary to rule on Brazil's 'threat of serious prejudice' claim.

The panel also ruled that the export and domestic subsidies did not qualify for exemption from WTO challenges under the so called "peace clause," under which countries agreed to refrain from challenging each other's agricultural subsidies (see BRIDGES Weekly, 18 March 2004, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/04-03-18/story1.htm>).

### **Possible effects on negotiations**

Already following the release of the interim ruling, Brazilian trade officials voiced their satisfaction and highlighted the decision's potential impact on trade distorting subsidies. While noting that both the cotton case and Brazil's challenge against the EC sugar regime were not initiated with the aim of impacting WTO talks, Brazil's ambassador to the WTO, Luiz Felipe de Seixas Correa, said that without these cases, the EC and US "would never change their policies". In contrast, US Trade Representative Robert Zoellick announced that the US would appeal certain aspects of the ruling, and that the process would be lengthy. According to Zoellick, no immediate changes would occur in terms of cotton subsidies due to the ruling.

### **US faults Brazil for making outcomes public**

In an unusual move, the US requested the panel to indicate in the final report that Brazil had breached the obligation of confidentiality of the interim report, and to note any information that the panel obtained with respect to those breaches. In its defence, Brazil noted that "the ostensible sources cited in such press reports could just as easily have been United States officials or other persons not connected with Brazil". The final report simply concluded that "We consider this lack of respect for confidentiality unacceptable".

### **EC's sugar export subsidies above WTO limits**

Another WTO panel hearing Brazil's challenge against the EC's sugar export subsidies issued its final report to the EC, Brazil and co-complainants on 8 September. This final report confirmed the ruling in favour of Brazil, made in an earlier interim report released on 4 August (see BRIDGES Weekly, 1 September 2004, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/04-09-01/story1.htm>). Press reports of the decision, which will be made public in October, confirmed the interim panel decision that 2.7 million tonnes of exported EC surplus sugar (C sugar) was cross-subsidised by the high guaranteed prices paid for in-quota sugar (A and B sugar). The panel also held that an additional 1.6 million tonnes of refined sugar, which the EC exported to the world market,

corresponded to the amount of raw sugar it had imported from India and the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP).

Gregor Kreuzhuber, EC spokesperson on agriculture, noted that a decision on whether or not the EC would appeal would be made in due course. In a statement, he highlighted two important dimensions of the ruling. First, he noted the concern raised by the ACP states relating to the future of their favourable EC sugar quotas under the Sugar Protocol of the Cotonou Agreement. Secondly, Kreuzhuber pointed out that the EC's new sugar reform proposals would in any event substantially reduce "EU sugar exports and export refunds, abolish intervention, reduce EU production and the internal sugar price".

To access the final cotton panel report see [http://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news\\_e.htm](http://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news_e.htm)

To access the EU sugar reform proposals see [http://europa.eu.int/comm/agriculture/capreform/sugarprop\\_en.pdf](http://europa.eu.int/comm/agriculture/capreform/sugarprop_en.pdf)

The statement of Gregor Kreuzhuber is available at [http://europa.eu.int/news/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/news/index_en.htm)

ICTSD Reporting; "WTO issues final decision finding EU sugar subsidies exceed quotas," WTO REPORTER, 9 September 2004; "WTO Rules Against EU Sugar, U.S. Cotton Support, Backing Brazil," BLOOMBERG.COM, 8 September 2004.

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## **EXPERTS DEBATE LINKS BETWEEN INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND HUMAN RIGHTS**

On 14 September, a group of intellectual property experts convened in Geneva, Switzerland, to consider the relation between intellectual property and human rights. Discussions at the meeting, which was organised by the civil society group "3D -- Trade, Human Rights, and Equitable Economy", focused on a draft "general comment" on the International Covenant for the Protection of Social, Economic and Cultural Rights, and specifically on Article 15(1)(c) of the Covenant, which highlights "the right of everyone to benefit from the protection of the moral and material interests resulting from any scientific, literary or artistic production of which he is the author".

The first draft of the "general comment" had been presented by the Rapporteur of the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR), Eibe Riedel, in June 2004. Since then, several informal public consultations on the document have been held and are expected to continue in advance of its final presentation to the CESCR in November. The official consultations will be held in early November. The CESCR monitors implementation of the International Covenant for the Protection of Social, Economic and Cultural Rights and drafts general comments that serve as authoritative interpretations of it. Due to the authority of the general comments, the submitted draft is under high scrutiny by civil society organisations.

### **Distinction between human and intellectual property rights**

The draft general comment emphasises the difference between human rights, which have no time limit and apply only to natural persons, and intellectual property rights (IPRs), which are of temporary nature and can apply both to natural and corporate persons. However, some critics fear that this distinction is not made clear enough in the draft comment. Accordingly, they argue that the current version should be more precise in stating that IPRs are only one of the potential means of protecting scientific, literary or artistic production, rather than the only or even best way of doing so.

### **A holistic human rights approach versus a narrow economic approach**

The general comment notes that the right relating to authorship specified in Article 15(1)(c) must be balanced with other human rights "co-obligations" or "obligations of comparative priority" such as the right to health, food and education. The analysis in the draft comment could, according to civil society organisations, be clearer in saying that Article 15(1)(c) is part of the larger right to culture and to benefit from scientific progress, which in turn must be balanced with other Covenant rights. Some critics question whether the CESCR is the best place to fight this battle, while others fear that the general comment's formulation as it stands could become a threat depending on its impacts on access to health, education and basic human security.

### **IP language problematic**

A further potential area of misinterpretation is the draft's warning to states to refrain from disproportionate use of compulsory licensing, as it may take away the rights of inventors, scientists and authors. Critics point out that by definition compulsory licenses -- which allow countries to revoke patents in certain situations -- cannot be disproportionate in use, as they can only be applied in very specific circumstances, such as

emergencies or non-commercial public use. Furthermore, they argue, as compulsory licenses tend to be directed against companies rather than individuals, they should be beyond the concern of the Covenant, which deals with individual rights of authors, inventors and scientists.

Finally, the draft comment affirms that states have the responsibility to provide effective measures for the protection of indigenous intellectual property and an appropriate enforcement system. Some note that while this has the well-meaning intention of supporting the development of defensive mechanisms for indigenous communities, it leaves little leeway for a non-IP based system and a sui generis approach to satisfying authorship right specified in Article 15(1)(c). Critics would like to see a clearer formulation, which does not emphasise IP as the principal tool for protecting indigenous knowledge.

"The Right of Everyone to Benefit from the Protection of the Moral and Material Interests from any Scientific, Literary or Artistic Production of Which he is the Author - Preliminary Comments on Draft General Comment No 18," SISULE MUSUNGU, September 2004; "Draft General Comment No. 18," CESCR, 22 June 2004.

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## **IN BRIEF**

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### **PACIFIC COUNTRIES, EU POSTPONE TRADE TALKS**

On 10 September, sixteen Pacific countries began Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) discussions with the EU in Nadi, Fiji. The joint negotiating teams agreed to postpone negotiating the agreement until the end of 2006, owing to the fact that any negotiations on trade in goods with the EU would automatically initiate trade negotiations between Pacific countries, Australia and New Zealand under the Pacific Closer Economic Relations (PACER) agreement. Under PACER, free trade agreement negotiations planned for 2011 with Australia and New Zealand will start earlier if Pacific countries enter into free trade agreements on goods with other countries. This is a prospect Pacific countries wanted to avoid due to limited negotiating capacity. Instead, the road map for the EPA will initially focus on regional integration issues and possibly also trade in services and intellectual property. During the meeting, EU Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy sought to reassure Pacific countries that "the special circumstances of the Pacific region will enter into the final equation when jointly establishing EPAs". Pacific

civil society organisations, however, delivered a statement that set out their concerns regarding the social, political and economic implications of negotiations. Among other issues, they questioned whether the small island countries of the Pacific might lose their ability to ensure food security through the protection of their fisheries and agriculture sectors as a result of the EPA.

The almost forty-year-old preferential relationship based on the Lomé Convention between the EU and the African Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries is to be replaced, according to the Cotonou agreement signed in June 2000, by separate EPAs for each of the six regions of the ACP by 2008. The stated goals of the EPAs are to implement a reciprocal economic partnership, facilitate regional integration within each area, enhance development, and make the EU-ACP relationship WTO compatible. EPA negotiations are already underway for the other five ACP regions.

"EU-ACP: launch of trade and development negotiations with Pacific region," EU TRADE NEWS WEEKLY DIGEST, 8 September 2004; "Pacific ACP and EU agree to defer free trade talks with the EU," PACNEWS, 11 September 2004; "Special needs of Pacific ACP states to be included in EPA, EU trade commissioner assures," PACNEWS, 13 September 2004; "Pacific Civil Society Statement on the EU-Pacific EPA negotiations," EPAWATCH, 9 September 2004; "Economic Partnership Agreements: Hopes, Fears, and Challenges," THE COURIER ACP-EU, November-December 2002; "Pacific Islands and EU launch EPA Negotiations on 10 September 2004 in Fiji but FTA talks deferred to the end of 2006," EPA WATCH, 10 September 2004.

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### **RICUPERO LEAVES UNCTAD**

On 14 September, Rubens Ricupero, Secretary-General of the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), gave a speech to mark his last day at the institution he led for nine years. Giving the 12th Raúl Prebisch Lecture, he spoke on the forty years that UNCTAD has existed as an institution. The lecture also served to launch the publication "Beyond Conventional Wisdom in Development Policy - An Intellectual History Of UNCTAD (1964-2004)". In the foreword to the book, reflecting on the relationship between UNCTAD and the WTO, he stressed that "At the moment that trade issues have again become politically explosive subjects, UNCTAD and the WTO have no other choice than to closely cooperate in order to integrate development and poverty reduction in trade negotiations for the benefit of an interdependent world and for the consolidation of a fair and balanced multilateral trading system". A new Secretary-General

has not yet been selected for UNCTAD. UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan is responsible for this process. In the meanwhile Carlos Fortín from Chile will take over as acting Secretary-General for UNCTAD.

For further information on "Beyond Conventional Wisdom in Development Policy - An Intellectual History Of UNCTAD (1964-2004)", visit <http://www.unctad.org/Templates/webflyer.asp?docid=5391&intlItemID=2068&lang=1&mode=downloads>

To read Ricupero's speech, see [http://www.unctad.org/en/docs/prebisch12th\\_ricupero\\_en.pdf](http://www.unctad.org/en/docs/prebisch12th_ricupero_en.pdf)

ICTSD reporting; "Brazil's Ricupero Retires from Unctad," BRAZZIL NEWS, 15 September 2004.

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### **EU, MERCOSUR TRADE TALKS CONTINUE**

A 12 September meeting between Brazil's Foreign Minister Celso Amorim and EU Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy sought to speed up trade negotiations between the EU and Mercosur. The two parties are aiming at an agreement by 31 October. Technical meetings between the EU and Mercosur began on 14 September in Brussels, and on 20 September both sides will present complete offers. After 30 days, a ministerial meeting will take place, bringing together officials from roughly 25 EU nations and four Mercosur partners -- Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay -- to evaluate the proposals and to conclude the free trade agreement.

Negotiations between the EU and Mercosur first began in 1999 and have been deadlocked since June 2004 (see BRIDGES Weekly, 1 September 2004, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/04-09-01/inbrief.htm#1>).

Though the two sides have agreed on integration and cooperation agreements in areas such as technology, human rights and education, reaching a mutually beneficial proposal on trade and business topics has proven difficult. Disagreements over import quotas by the EU for Mercosur agricultural products and demands by the Europeans for greater access to financial services and telecommunications markets have been the main obstacles to an agreement. Whereas Mercosur is concerned with market access for goods that it can produce more competitively, such as beef, chicken, and bananas, the EU has focused on access to telecommunications, maritime transportation and banking, in addition to more openings in government procurement.

"EU And Mercosur Optimistic About Closing Trade Agreement," EFE, 12 September 2004; "Mercosur, EU



Hope To Meet Trade Deadline," ASSOCIATED PRESS, 12 September 2004; "Brazil: EU And Mercosur Push For Free Trade Pact," AGENCIA BRAZIL, 15 September 2004.

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### **DONORS PLEDGE AID FOR SANITARY STANDARDS CAPACITY BUILDING**

On 10 September, several developed countries joined with five multilateral organisations to donate new funds to help developing countries put international sanitary and phytosanitary standards into practice. With funding for the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) set to expire in June 2005, members of the organisation convened a meeting in Paris from 9-10 September seeking donor commitments that would put the mechanism on "a more stable and sustainable long-term financial footing," according to the business plan presented at the meeting. The Food and Agriculture Organisation, the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), the World Bank, the World Health Organisation, and the WTO created the STDF after a joint communiqué at the Doha Summit in November 2001 (see BRIDGES Weekly, 2 October 2002, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/02-10-02/wtoinbrief.htm>).

Even as world trade tariffs have gone down, standards and other non-trade barriers have continued to increase. The STDF aims to assist developing countries in accessing and implementing international standards under the Sanitary and Phytosanitary Agreement (SPS), in order to increase exports in goods subject to such international standards. The STDF provides small grants for projects that build capacity in standards in developing countries, lends assistance to governments and the private sector in meeting international standards, and strengthens inter-agency coordination in the delivery of technical assistance in standards.

For more information on the STDF see <http://www.standardsfacility.org>

"Donors Pledge Aid on Sanitary Standards for Developing Countries," WTO REPORTER, 13 September 2004; "The OIE to host the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) meeting in September 2004," WORLD ORGANISATION FOR ANIMAL HEALTH (OIE), 30 July 2004; "World Bank grant kicks off Bank-WTO assistance on standards," WTO, 27 September 2002.

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### **FUTURE OF WIPO DISCUSSED AT GENEVA MEETING**

The Transatlantic Consumer Dialogue organised a two day meeting from 13-14 September in Geneva to

critically examine "The Future of WIPO". At the very well attended event, the organisers managed to bring together WIPO secretariat employees, NGOs, IGOs, Geneva missions, academics and the media, looking into the future of what is arguable the most influential institution forming intellectual property (IP) policy. To do so, they examined a very diverse set of topics, ranging from information technologies, medical technologies, genetic resources, traditional knowledge and folklore, copyright, patents and technical assistance to provide analysis and make suggestions on what WIPO's institutional role should look like in the future. This conference comes at a time in which WIPO is being repeatedly challenged for being not sufficiently development friendly, including by a Argentinean and Brazilian proposal to the upcoming General Assembly of WIPO at the end of September (see BRIDGES Weekly, 8 September 2004, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/04-09-08/story1.htm>). While it remains to be seen what impact the event, without doubt it pushed forward a timely and fundamental debate on WIPO and what it could and should be in the immediate and long term future.

A report of the meeting will be available shortly at <http://www.iprsonline.org/index.htm>

The WIPO General Assembly is scheduled to meet from 27 September to 5 October.

ICTSD reporting.

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## **EVENTS & RESOURCES**

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### **VACANCIES**

TRADE AND INVESTMENT ADVISOR, WWF. WWF is looking for a trade and investment advisor to work in its European Policy Office in Brussels. The position requires an in-depth understanding of economic policy or international governance, drawing on several years of experience in the public, private or voluntary sectors; exceptional communication and networking skills; a willingness to travel extensively; and an excellent command of English and ideally another main European language. To apply, please send a written response to the following two questions along with a CV: What is the most effective role of organisations such as WWF in working to affect change (maximum 300 words)? Choosing an issue of pressing personal concern to you, relating to international economic policy and its implications for sustainable development, outline a strategy for how you would use the opportunity

presented by working with WWF to deliver a piece of specific policy change (maximum 500 words). For further information and to apply, please contact Laurence Jacques, Office Manager, email: [LJacques@wwfepo.org](mailto:LJacques@wwfepo.org).

**JUNIOR PROGRAMME OFFICER TO THE TRADE THEME, EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT POLICY MANAGEMENT (ECDPM).** ECDPM is looking for a creative individual able to assist in the planning and management of key elements of the Centre's Programme for ACP-EU Trade Relations, working in Maastricht, the Netherlands. The Junior Programme Officer will, among other, conduct and assist in practical research; draft and assist with the writing and editing of ECDPM publications; review literature and research on trade; assist in document preparation; plan and report on activities carried out within the programme; and assist with the initiation and management of contacts with ACP and European organisations, activity partners, and fund-raising agencies. ECDPM is looking for an individual with a university degree in economics, preferably post-graduate with a background in international trade; a minimum of two years experience in development co-operation; familiarity with and experience/ keen interest in trade and development issues; very good writing, analytical and synthesis skills; excellent inter-personal and communication skills; and excellent writing and editing skills in English and good working knowledge of French or vice versa. Applications (motivation letter -- format free -- in English or French) with a recent CV (in English) should be sent by email to Leonne Willems, Human Resources Officer at [lw@ecdpm.org](mailto:lw@ecdpm.org) and should arrive no later than 30 September 2004. More information can be found at <http://www.ecdpm.org> (go to: about ecdpm -- vacancies).

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## 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).

### Coming Up: 16-22 September

16 September, Washington DC, US: **BREAK ON THROUGH: AMBASSADOR ALLEN JOHNSON ON THE AG BREAKTHROUGH AT GENEVA.** Organised by the Washington International Trade Association (WITA), this event will feature Ambassador Johnson, Chief Agriculture Negotiator at USTR, who will share his views on the recently concluded negotiations that led to a WTO consensus on an agricultural roadmap.

Ambassador Johnson will highlight the U.S. priorities in the framework talks, what was necessary to get other countries to sign on the dotted line, and how the process is likely to unfold from this point forward. For further information, contact WITA, email: [events@wita.org](mailto:events@wita.org); Internet: <http://www.wita.org/content.cfm?L1=4&QA=251>

16-17 September, Geneva, Switzerland: **UNECE/FAO WORKSHOP ON ILLEGAL LOGGING AND TRADE OF ILLEGALLY-DERIVED FOREST PRODUCTS IN THE UNECE REGION.** This Joint UNECE/FAO workshop will discuss the extent and causes of illegal logging in the UNECE region. For further information contact Timber Branch, UNECE, fax: +41-22-917-0041; email: [ED.Pepke@unece.org](mailto:ED.Pepke@unece.org); Internet: <http://www.unece.org/trade/timber/docs/sem/2004-1/sem-2004-1.htm>

16-19 September, Sussex, UK: **MEETING ON ENVIRONMENT, DEVELOPMENT, AND SUSTAINABLE PEACE: FINDING PATHS TO ENVIRONMENTAL PEACEMAKING - WATER, FORESTS, AND MINERALS.** Development Minister Hilary Benn and UNEP Executive Director Klaus Töpfer among others will speak at this meeting on environment, development, and sustainable peace organised by the Wilton Park Centre. The conference will emphasize positive theories and examples to counter the persistent focus on negative linkages among threats to the environment, development, and peace. Discussions will tackle questions such as: What can we learn from a decade of intensive analysis and debate about "environmental security"? How do the North and South view the challenges differently? What are positive examples of environmental peacemaking between neighboring countries? For further information, contact Sandry Koo, tel +44-1903-817765; fax: +44-1903-817162; email: [sandry.koo@wiltonpark.org.uk](mailto:sandry.koo@wiltonpark.org.uk); Internet: <http://www.wiltonpark.org.uk/web/welcome.html>

20-24 September, Rome, Italy: **30TH SESSION OF THE FAO COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY.** The Committee on World Food Security (CFS) serves as a forum in the United Nations System for review and follow-up of policies concerning world food security, including food production and physical and economic access to food. For further information contact: Margarita Flores, Secretary, Committee on World Food Security; e-mail: [margarita.flores@fao.org](mailto:margarita.flores@fao.org); Internet: [http://www.fao.org/unfao/govbodies/wfsfinal\\_en.htm](http://www.fao.org/unfao/govbodies/wfsfinal_en.htm)

22-23 September, Dhaka, Bangladesh: **REGIONAL LAUNCH MEETING OF "ADVOCACY AND CAPACITY BUILDING ON COMPETITION POLICY AND LAW IN ASIA" PROJECT.** Intended for participants from South

and South East Asia, this meeting is organised by the CUTS Center for Competition, Investment and Economic Regulation (CUTS C-CIER). The project aims to accelerate the process towards functional competition policy and law for selected countries (Vietnam, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Bangladesh, Nepal and India) and advance an enabling environment for the law and policy to be better enforced. For further information, contact Alice Pham, email: [7up2@cuts-international.org](mailto:7up2@cuts-international.org); Internet: <http://www.cuts-international.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.

16-17 September: WTO TEXTILES MONITORING BODY.

17 September: WTO TRADE POLICY REVIEW BODY - KOREA.

20 September: WTO NEGOTIATING GROUP ON RULES - REGIONAL TRADE AGREEMENTS.

20 September: WTO WORKING PARTY ON GATS RULES.

21 September: WTO SERVICES MEETING.

21-22 September: WTO COUNCIL FOR TRADE-RELATED ASPECTS OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS.

22 September: WTO COMMITTEE ON SPECIFIC COMMITMENTS.

## Other Upcoming Events

26-30 September, Montpellier, France: EIGHTH INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON THE BIOSAFETY OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS. Organised by the International Society for Biosafety Research, this symposium will be held under the theme "How Scientific Research Informs Biosafety Decisions". A special workshop will discuss North-South issues related to biosafety of GMOs. For further information,

contact the International Society for Biosafety Research, tel: +33-1-30-83-37-30; fax: +33-1-30-83-37-28; e-mail: [isbgmo@versailles.inra.fr](mailto:isbgmo@versailles.inra.fr); Internet: <http://www.inra.fr/gmobiosafety/aboutsymposium.php>

4 October, Copenhagen, Denmark: SEMINAR ON DEVELOPMENT IMPACTS OF REGIONAL AND BILATERAL TRADE AGREEMENTS. 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)

8 October, Montreal, Canada: TRADE AND ENVIRONMENT IN NORTH AMERICA: PUBLIC CALL FOR PAPERS ON INVESTMENT, GROWTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT. The Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) invites paper proposals by this date in English, French or Spanish examining trade and environment issues related to investment and growth in North America. The final papers are to be presented by the authors at the third North American Symposium on Assessing the Environmental Effects of Trade in the fall of 2005. For further information, contact CEC, tel: 001-514-350-4328; email: [clcarpentier@ccemtl.org](mailto:clcarpentier@ccemtl.org) and copy [emcarrillo@ccemtl.org](mailto:emcarrillo@ccemtl.org) with the subject heading "Symposium 2005 Paper"; Internet: [http://www.cec.org/pubs\\_docs/documents/index.cfm?varlan=english&ID=1586](http://www.cec.org/pubs_docs/documents/index.cfm?varlan=english&ID=1586)

25 October, Buenos Aires, Argentina: INTERNATIONAL FOOD & AGRICULTURAL TRADE POLICY COUNCIL (IPC) SEMINAR. This seminar is organised by the IPC, a group that develops policy recommendations addressing critical issues facing the world agricultural system. Session topics include the impact of regional integration on trade and investment in agriculture, the Doha development agenda: taking stock, the group of twenty's emerging role in global trade negotiations, the evolution of global biotechnology, and issues in animal agriculture. For further information, contact Christin Cogley, tel: +1-202-328-5117; fax: +1-202-328-5133; email: [cogley@agritrade.org](mailto:cogley@agritrade.org); Internet: <http://www.agritrade.org/Plenary/BA/BASeminar.htm>

4-5 November, Strasbourg, France: SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND FINANCE SYSTEMS: PUBLIC AUTHORITIES' AND CITIZENS' COMMITMENT FOR SOCIAL COHESION. The annual forum of the Council of Europe's Directorate General of

Social Cohesion will provide guidance for policies aimed at supporting the solidarity-based economy and help to promote public authority/citizen partnerships based on common social and environmental objectives such as projects with ethical and socially responsible citizen initiatives in the economy. For further information, contact Irène Malki-Botte, tel: + 33 (0)3 88 41 37 46; fax: + 33 (0)3 90 21 49 52; email: irene.malki@coe.int; Internet: <http://www.coe.int/socialcohesion/forum2004>

## RESOURCES

UNCTAD TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT REPORT 2004. On 16 September, UNCTAD releases its annual trade and development report (TDR). This year, the report focuses on the connections between international trade and finance. According to the TDR, greater openness to international trade and finance has not enabled developing countries to establish a virtuous interaction between external financing, domestic investment and export growth. The TDR 2004 argues that, to achieve this, a feasible development agenda has to be based on the concept of "coherence". Here, a fundamental question is how to address the problems of trade imbalances originating in the monetary and financial system. To access the report visit <http://www.unctad.org>

ADDRESSING THE IMPACT OF PREFERENCE EROSION IN BANANAS ON CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES. NERA Economic Consulting and Oxford Policy Management OPM (August 2004). This report, commissioned by the UK Department for International Development, sets out to assess the impact on Caribbean countries of the reform -- or tariffication -- of the EU Common Organisation of the Market in Bananas (COMB). The first part of the study, by NERA, examines the impact of different tariff levels on the European market while the second part, by OPM, goes on to examine the development options for Caribbean countries given the price impact of different tariff levels on individual countries. The study concludes with recommendations for future aid strategies. To access the report visit <http://www.dfid.gov.uk/pubs/files/impactpreferenceerosi.on.pdf>

UTILIZING TRIPS FLEXIBILITIES FOR PUBLIC HEALTH PROTECTION THROUGH SOUTH-SOUTH REGIONAL FRAMEWORKS. By Sisule Musungu, Susan Villanueva, and Roxana Blasetti (South Centre, April 2004). This study analyses the constraints that developing countries have faced in their attempts to utilise the flexibilities in the WTO's Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) for public health protection. It argues that strategic

regional South-South frameworks will significantly help developing countries devise ways by which national constraints in the use of TRIPS flexibilities can be overcome. To access the report visit <http://www.southcentre.org/publications/flexibilities/flexibilities.pdf>

"Representing Transnational Environmental Interests: New Opportunities for Non-governmental Organization Access within the World Trade Organization". By Michael Mason in ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICS 13 (3,2004) pp. 566-589. What opportunities does the WTO offer for the representation of transnational environmental concerns by NGOs? Even prior to the Seattle protests in 1999, social movement pressure prompted WTO to increase its engagement with civil society groups, derestrict documents, facilitate NGO-oriented symposia and briefings, and extend access to ministerial meetings. A survey of NGO participants in recent WTO environment briefings reveals their positions on current and proposed modes of civil society input, the feasibility and legitimacy of which are discussed. Their recent coalition-building with development NGOs on specific trade campaigns is evidence that transnational environmental NGOs have grasped the need to appeal to developing country interests in order to widen political support for ecological concerns within the WTO.

"Core Labour Standards' and the Transformation of the International Labour Rights regime". By Philip Alston in the EUROPEAN JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL LAW 15 (3, 2004), pp. 457-521. The past decade has seen a transformation of the international labour rights regime based primarily on the adoption of the 1998 ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, and the widespread use of the concept of 'core labour standards'. Notwithstanding the enthusiasm which has greeted these innovations, it is argued that the resulting regime has major potential flaws, including: an excessive reliance on principles rather than rights, a system which invokes principles that are delinked from the corresponding standards and are thus effectively undefined, an ethos of voluntarism in relation to implementation and enforcement, an unstructured and unaccountable decentralisation of responsibility, and a willingness to accept soft 'promotionalism' as the bottom line. The regime needs urgent reforms, such as anchoring the principles firmly in the relevant ILO standards, giving greater substance to the Follow-up mechanism, extending monitoring under the Declaration to include an empirical overview of practice under the bilateral and regional mechanisms which have invoked ILO principles and the Declaration itself, and adequately funding the commitment to workers' rights.



"A WTO Multilateral Framework For Competition Policy and Trade-Induced Development: Debunking Their Complementarity In Developing Countries". By M. Rafiqul Islam in the JOURNAL OF WORLD INVESTMENT AND TRADE 5 (3, 2004) pp 491-508. The issue of competition has assumed prominence in the global marketplace due to increasing private anti-competitive practices which thwart multilateral trade liberalisation under the WTO. This article examines the history of efforts to devise a global competition policy in the context of the relationship between competition policies and the economic development needs of developing countries. It examines, in particular, the implications that a multilateral or universal competition policy would have for developing countries. It concludes that a WTO multilateral competition policy is a prematurely conceived, rickety idea under the existing circumstances of global trade, especially given the inherent problems of the WTO system, which it examines in some detail.

"The WTO and Agriculture: Why Is India So Furious?" By Suman Modwel in JOURNAL OF WORLD INVESTMENT & TRADE 5 (2, 2004) pp 289-319. This article attempts to explain the perspective of India (and a number of other developing countries) in the continuing negotiations at the WTO on agriculture in the special context of the importance of this sector and of the extremely poor who subsist on it. In juxtaposing this with the incredible levels and varieties of continuing protectionism in the developed world, it attempts also to explain why India is so discontented with the way the trade talks are proceeding.

"Greening Trade in the Americas: an agenda For Moving Beyond the North-South Impasse". By Carolyn Deere in the JOURNAL OF WORLD TRADE 38 (1, 2004) pp 137-153. In November 2003, governments from across the Western Hemisphere met in Miami for the third Summit of the Americas Trade Ministerial to advance negotiations for a Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA). At the first Summit of the Americas in Miami in 1994, governments acknowledged the intersections of their social, economic and environmental priorities, calling for progress on all three policy fronts. However, fraught with conceptual and political problems, the ongoing negotiations for a new regional trade agreement for the Americas stand poised to squander the opportunity to refocus attention on this original vision. Conceptually, the FTAA negotiating framework fails to address expressly or coherently either development or environment priorities, despite the fact that all countries in the Americas have articulated clear domestic objectives for each dimension.

## Electronic Resources

## UN-NGLS NEW MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS INTERNET PORTAL.

The UN Non-Governmental Liaison Service (UN-NGLS) has created a new portal that provides a basic introduction to the Millennium Development Goals, describes UN, Civil Society, and State action on the goals, and offers tools, links, listserves, and a calendar. The Millennium Development Goals were adopted by all 189 member countries of the United Nations in September 2000. They have gained popularity in development circles and elsewhere as a key tool to unite disparate and sometimes competing development agendas, while being a powerful political tool to hold governments and international institutions accountable. For further information see <http://www.un-ngls.org/mdg>

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