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LEAD STORIES

WTO RELEASES FINAL RULING IN EC SUGAR CASE

On 15 October the WTO panel in the case against the EC's export subsidies for sugar -- brought by Brazil, Thailand and Australia -- released its final report to the public. The report confirmed the panel's major findings, provided in earlier confidential rulings. The panel found that the EC subsidises sugar exports beyond the level formally notified to the WTO -- its so called commitment schedule -- and is in violation of the WTO Agreement on Agriculture (AoA) (see BRIDGES Weekly, 15 September 2004, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/04-09-15/story1.htm>). The panel further found that sugar exports above the EC's commitment level amount to the equivalent of the sugar imported under preferential arrangements from the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries and India, as well as of sugar produced in excess of EC sugar quotas.

EC scheduling error for C sugar

The complainants had argued that EC export subsidies for C sugar (sugar produced in excess of internal quotas) exceeded scheduled commitments. The EC had, however, brought the counterargument that this alleged breach resulted exclusively from an "excusable and common scheduling error," which the complainants had always been aware of but failed to take action on. The panel disagreed with the EC, reasoning that the "fact that a Member does not complain about a measure at a given point in time, cannot by itself deprive that Member of its right to initiate a dispute at some later point in time".

ACP and India sugar: footnote to EC's schedule has no legal effect

The EC had further argued that a footnote in its schedule of commitment excluded 1.6 million tonnes of sugar -- equivalent to the quantity that it imported from the ACP and India -- from the scope of its subsidies reduction undertaking. The panel dismissed this argument, holding that the footnote had no legal effect and could not enlarge or modify the EC's specified commitment levels. The panel, however, declined to

rule on the complainants' claims under the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures (SCM Agreement). This was because the findings under the AoA rendered such a ruling unnecessary, and because the parties had not sufficiently argued out their subsidiary claims relating to the SCM Agreement.

Enhanced third party rights and amicus curiae briefs

In its preliminary rulings, the sugar panel granted additional participation rights to all third parties in this case, going beyond what is currently available under the WTO Dispute Settlement Understanding (DSU). The panel refused, however, to consider an unsolicited petition -- a so called amicus curiae brief -- from Wirtschaftliche Vereinigung Zucker (WVZ), an association representing German sugar producers. Although the panel invited the parties to make comments on the brief in the interest of due process, it decided not to further consider the petition as it was filed late in the proceedings and was based on confidential information that Brazil had submitted during the panel hearings.

EC and ACP dissatisfied with the ruling

In a press release issued on the day of the public circulation of the sugar report, the EC announced its intent to appeal the decision and simultaneously proceed with its plans to reform the sugar sector (see BRIDGES Weekly, 30 June 2004, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/04-06-30/inbrief.htm#1>). EU Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy noted that "the WTO decision calls into question the texts and commitments unanimously agreed upon by all WTO Members during the Uruguay Round. The EU will abide by its international obligations. But at the same time we will defend the legitimate interests of EU sugar producers and the preferential access enjoyed by developing countries into the EU".

The ACP countries, of which fourteen were third parties to the case, have consistently cautioned that the survival of their economies would be threatened if the panel found in favour of the complainants. In the wake of the ruling, the Fiji Times described the ACP participation in the case as "a bitter-sweet experience arguing for special treatment with the world's biggest players". Nonetheless, trade specialists noted that the ACP should be reassured by the panel's comment that the EC should honour its commitments to the ACP and India under their preferential trade arrangements in the implementation of the ruling.

Commenting on the EC's intention to appeal, Jose Alfredo Graca Lima, Brazil's ambassador to the EC, lamented the fact that the implementation of WTO

rulings tends to be longwinded because "what usually happens is that you win the case, a panel gives a decision and almost automatically there's been recourse to the Appellate Body... these things can drag on for many, many months". Australian trade minister Mark Vaile described the ruling as a victory for Australian sugar farmers, however similarly cautioned that the outcomes most likely would not be implemented before March 2005 due to the appeal process.

The final panel report is available at http://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news_e.htm#panel_sugar

ICTSD reporting; "WTO reality not so sweet," FIJI TIMES ONLINE, 19 October 2004; "WTO rules against EU sugar subsidies, bloc to appeal," NEWS.DESIGNERZ.COM, 16 October 2004; "WTO decision a boost for Aussie sugar farmers," THE SYDNEY HERALD, 16 October 2004; "Brazil Favors Law Changes Over Fines to Resolve Trade Disputes," BLOOMBERG.COM, 15 October 2004; "WTO sugar ruling sparks EU appeal," BBC NEWS, 15 October 2004.

CTE REGULAR SESSION DISCUSSES MARKET ACCESS, PARAGRAPH 51

WTO Members, meeting on 14 October for the regular session of the Committee on Trade and Environment (CTE), discussed a new submission by the EC on addressing developing country concerns regarding the effects of environmental measures on market access. The Committee also debated an EC proposal to hold a workshop on paragraph 51, which mandates the CTE and the Committee on Trade and Development to ensure that sustainable development is adequately reflected in the negotiations.

The EC paper (WT/CTE/W/239, available at <http://docsonline.wto.org/>), submitted under paragraph 32(i) of the Doha Declaration (effect of environmental measures on market access), provides information on reforms carried out in the EC policy making process that contribute to addressing -- in the development and implementation stages of legislation -- concerns highlighted by developing countries. Specifically, the paper describes efforts to enhance up-stream transparency, consultation mechanisms, down-stream information mechanisms and supportive/accompanying measures. The EC concludes by putting forward proposals for further cooperation, including improving bilateral dialogue, multilateral cooperation among relevant organisations (such as UNEP, UNCTAD, the WTO and World Bank), and synergies with the private sector.

While Members generally welcomed the submission as helpful, they also used the opportunity to vent their frustration with the EC process. India referred back to its earlier submission under this agenda item (WT/CTE/W/207), dated 21 May 2002, in which it had put forward a number of proposals to ensure that environmental requirements were applied in a manner that would minimise the adverse effects on market access for developing countries. Members felt that some of India's proposals should be pursued in future discussions.

Regarding paragraph 51 of the Doha mandate, the EC suggested holding a workshop next year. According to the EC, the workshop should include international organisations presenting ideas on ways to move forward how to ensure that sustainable development is reflected in the Doha Round. Chair Naéla Gabr (Egypt) asked Members to submit their suggestions for the structure of the workshop as well as suggest speakers to the Secretariat, which could prepare a draft agenda.

The next meeting of the CTE special session will be held in February 2004.

ICTSD reporting.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION PRESENTS TEXTILES AND CLOTHING PLAN

On 13 October, the European Commission released a communication outlining a seven-step plan to enhance the competitiveness of the European textiles industry ahead of the elimination of WTO textiles quotas on 1 January 2005. Building on a June 2004 report of an EC High-Level Group for textiles and clothing, the plan suggests several measures to ensure the continued competitiveness and adjustment of the European textile and clothing sectors. The communication says research and innovation in the sector must be enhanced to "enable a technology breakthrough for clothing manufacture and development of eco-efficient processes, high value products and associated markets with growth potential". The other six steps focus on the need to ensure lifelong education and vocational training, the creation of a reserve fund within European Structural Funds to cover unforeseen crisis in the sector, ensuring intellectual property rights in the field to prevent counterfeiting and piracy, and opening markets.

Under the Agreement on Textiles and Clothing signed as part of the 1986-1995 Uruguay Round, all quotas in international trade in textiles and clothing products are to be eliminated on 1 January 2005. The Commission communication suggests the rapid completion of the Pan-Euro-Mediterranean Free Trade zone as a key part of the EU textiles strategy, as this would enable the

sector to maintain cost, quality and proximity advantages. At the same time, the Commission notes that tariff preferences will likely be eroded by liberalisation and so "alternative responses to the concerns of developing countries heavily dependent on textile and clothing exports could be also developed". This statement, which supports the Commission's 7 July proposal to focus generalised system of preferences (GSP) benefits on the countries most in need, is likely to support the concerns of small, textile-dependent developing countries that have been urging the WTO to take their adjustment needs into consideration (see BRIDGES Weekly, 6 October 2004, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/04-10-06/story4.htm>).

Critics suggest that the post-quota textile and clothing trade regime will simply invoke new forms of trade barriers, such as complex rules of origin, use of safeguards, regional agreements such as Euro-Med, proximity requirements and heightened tariff barriers.

The EC Communication "Textiles and clothing after 2005 - recommendations of the High Level Group for textiles and clothing" and its accompanying working document can be accessed at <http://europa.eu.int/comm/enterprise/textile/com2004.htm>

ICTSD reporting; "Textiles: Commission takes seven actions to help EU textiles industry ahead of 1 January 2005," WTO REPORTER, 12 October 2004.

IRAQ SEEKS WTO MEMBERSHIP

Iraq's interim government is seeking WTO Membership. On 30 September, Iraqi Trade Minister Mohammed Al-Jibouri sent a request to join the WTO to WTO Director-General Supachai Panitchpakdi, who recently distributed it among WTO Members. Iraq took the first step towards joining the 148-member organisation when the General Council approved Iraq's request for observer status on 11 February 2004. Before Iraq can become a Member, the WTO's General Council must accept Iraq's request, and the country must undergo a series of detailed negotiations. Officials indicated it was too late to consider the request at the upcoming General Council meeting scheduled for 20-21 October. The next regular General Council meeting will take place from 13-14 December. Even if Iraq's request is accepted, actual entry may take a long time. Saudi Arabia and Russia -- two other large oil producers still outside the WTO -- have been engaged in accession talks for a decade.

According to the US State Department, "the US government supports the Iraqi interim government's efforts. To that end, we have invited a team of senior Iraqi officials and experts to the US to discuss trade

issues, including preparation for WTO accession negotiations". WTO Director-General Supachai Panitchpakdi also welcomed the request, cautioning however that Iraq may need some time to prepare. Certain Geneva-based delegates expressed surprise at the quick move by Iraq. "I would have thought they would wait until the country was stable," noted one delegate, adding that, "It's probably an effort to show that Iraq is stabilising". Trade officials expect Arab states to support Iraqi membership. The fact that the US has blocked a similar request from Iran for the past three years, however, complicates matters. Eight months ago, when Members agreed to Baghdad's observer status, several countries including the EC, India, and Indonesia, encouraged Washington to drop its opposition to Tehran's entry. Washington, accusing Iran of backing international terrorism, has not done so.

The economic and political implications surrounding Iraq's entry may influence negotiations. Iraq has the second largest oil reserves in the world after Saudi Arabia. Politically, joining the WTO could serve as an important prod for internal reforms and as a way to gain the confidence of international investors. Membership in the WTO would also open Iraq's economy to competition and enable its companies to gain access to world markets.

"Iraq Asks To Join World Trade Organisation," REUTERS, 13 October 2004; "Iraq Seeks To Enter Global Economy Via WTO," WASHINGTON TIMES, 15 October 2004; "Iraq bids to join WTO," AFP, 14 October 2004; "Iraq makes formal bid for WTO," GULF DAILY NEWS, 14 October 2004.

between CAN countries and Mercosur (the ACE 36 signed with Bolivia and the ACE 58 with Peru). It is focused mainly on market access, and the two blocs will phase out import tariffs over the next 15 years, ultimately creating a large free trade zone. The agreement will go into effect in 30 days, at which time import duties will start to be lifted. With the agreement, the nine South American nations will create the world's fifth largest trade bloc. According to Peru's Foreign Minister Manuel Rodriguez, who acted as the President of the Council of Foreign Ministers of CAN, "The importance of these accords is what they will do for trade, and for social, political and economic areas". The agreement is also expected to help South America negotiate as a block with both the US and the EC.

The Mercosur bloc represents the southern part of the continent. It includes Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay as main members, and Peru, Bolivia and Chile as associate members. The Andean Community of Nations includes Peru, Bolivia, Ecuador, Colombia, and Venezuela. Chile is the only country in the region not a full member of either bloc, and has instead opted for bilateral trade deals with the US, Mexico, EU, and South Korea.

"CAN Y Mercosur Dan Paso A Espacio De Integración," LA UNIVERSAL, 10 October 2004; "South America's Two Major Trade Blocs Iron Out Deal," ASSOCIATED PRESS, 19 October 2004; "South America's Two Major Blocs Sign Free Trade Deal," INTER PRESS SERVICE, 19 October 2004; "South America Narrows Trade Differences But Delays Politic Dialogue," PRAVDA, 20 October 2004.

IN BRIEF

MERCOSUR, ANDEAN COMMUNITY EXTEND SOUTH AMERICAN TRADE COOPERATION

On 18 October, South America's two major trade blocs, the Andean Community of Nations (CAN) and Mercosur signed a pact that provides a first step towards deeper economic and political integration in South America. The agreement was sealed in Montevideo, Uruguay under the supervision of the Latin American Integration Association (ALADI) during a meeting of various foreign ministers. Though talks between the two groups had been ongoing for some time, disagreements in the agricultural sector had stalled progress. The agreement, entitled the Economic Complementarity Accord, builds on previous bilateral arrangements

CITES UPS CONSERVATION EFFORTS; DISPUTES REMAIN

The end of the 13th Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES) had conservation groups claiming success, but disputes on the best way to attain conservation goals and balance them with trade rules and poverty alleviation continued. The meeting in Bangkok, Thailand finished on 14 October and added a number of controversial and commercially valuable species to CITES' lists of endangered species, restricting their trade. The rare Irrawaddy dolphin, valuable ramin tree, appetite-suppressing hoodia plant, and minke whale were all winners at the CITES meeting, garnering a place in the CITES Appendices (see BRIDGES Weekly, 13 October 2004, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/04-10-13/story2.htm>). A key theme to these decisions, and the meeting in general, was the increasing overlap between CITES, multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), environmental organisations and international trade

rules. Decisions were taken in Bangkok to remain consistent with the International Whaling Commission (IWC) ban on whaling, increase cooperation with the UN Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO), and build on the synergies with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). When considering incorporation of the term "sustainable use" into CITES, the role of economic incentives, illegal trafficking, and poverty alleviation were seen as essential players in the conservation efforts that CITES trade restrictions promote.

For daily updates and a summary report, see IISD's Earth Negotiations Bulletin at <http://www.iisd.ca/cites/cop13/>

For further information see the upcoming issue of BRIDGES Trade BioRes at <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/index.htm>

ICTSD Reporting; ENB, Vol. 21 No. 35-45, 14 October 2004.

EC AND PARTNERS TO BUILD TRADE CAPACITY IN ACP COUNTRIES

On 15 October, the European Commission, the ACP Secretariat, the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Agence Intergouvernementale de la Francophonie launched a joint effort to support capacity in the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries with regard to formulating trade policies and negotiating trade agreements. Nicknamed the 'Hub and Spokes' project, it will establish a network of trade advisors, including nine senior experts (hubs) and forty-eight trade policy analysts (spokes), recruited mainly from ACP countries, to reinforce ACP international trade administrations. The EUR20 million programme, financed by the European Development Fund under the EU-ACP Cotonou Agreement, will also support in-country training of national counterparts. The programme will focus both on the on-going WTO talks under the Doha Round and the EU-ACP negotiations for the conclusion of Economic Partnership Agreements (EPA) under the Cotonou Agreement.

"EU-ACP: EU, Commonwealth and Francophonie Join Hands In Supporting ACP Trade Policy Makers," EUROPA, 15 October 2004; "EU-ACPs: Commission Approves EUR Trade Assistance Programme-Trade.Com," EUROPA, 25 July 2003; "Commonwealth spearheads €20 million trade project," COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT, 18 October 2004.

WTO IN BRIEF

US TO APPEAL COTTON RULING

At a meeting of the Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) on 18 October, Chair Amina Mohamed (Kenya) announced that the US had notified the DSB of its appeal the panel ruling in a case successfully brought against US upland cotton subsidies by Brazil (WT/DS267/R, available at <http://docsonline.wto.org>). The US letter to the WTO Appellate Body division indicated that it would appeal all the panel's major legal findings, including the finding that US cotton subsidies cause 'serious prejudice' to the interests of Brazil, and that certain US programmes constitute prohibited export subsidies (see BRIDGES Weekly, 15 September 2004, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/04-09-15/story1.htm>).

ICTSD reporting; "United States Appeals the Panel Report on Cotton," WTO RELEASE, 18 October 2004.

CHINA SUPPORTS RUSSIA'S BID TO JOIN WTO

China formally endorsed Russia's entry into the WTO during President Vladimir Putin's visit to Beijing, China on 15 October. Shortly after a meeting between Putin and Chinese President Hu Jintao, both countries signed an agreement in which Beijing gave its backing to Russia's bid to join the Geneva-based trade body. As a condition for its accession, which Russia hopes will happen by 2006, the country must negotiate more than 60 bilateral deals with WTO Members before 2005. Russia wants to join the WTO to win investment, increase international trade and diversify its US\$434 billion economy away from oil and natural resources. Russia, which received backing for its accession from the EU in May (see BRIDGES Weekly, 2 June 2004, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/04-06-02/story5.htm>), received support from China. China, for its part, was seeking to secure greater access to Russian oil and gas. "We support Russia to enter the WTO to become a full Member as soon as possible," said China's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhang Qiyue. Xia Yishan, a natural resources expert at the China State Institute of International Studies in Beijing, added, "Russia has abundant natural resources and China has a vast import market. We gladly will support Russia's entry into the WTO". Russia has increased oil supplies to China by a third in the first seven months of 2004 to almost seven million metric tonnes.

"China to support Russian accession to WTO," PRESS TRUST OF INDIA, 15 October 2004; "China backs Russia's bid to join WTO," BUSINESS DAY, 18 October 2004.

EVENTS & RESOURCES

EVENTS

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

Coming Up: 21-27 October

18 October to 15 November: ONLINE CONFERENCE ON BIOSAFETY CONSIDERATIONS IN THE USE OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS FOR MANAGEMENT OF ANIMAL POPULATIONS. The Biosafety Clearing-House is hosting this online conference to facilitate exchange of views on a range of issues such as the use of genetically modified microorganisms, nematodes and insects for biological control (including those used to cause sterility in pest species for conservation and/or commercial purposes); the use of genetically modified viruses to protect mammal populations against disease; and the use of genetically modified insects for reducing disease transmission rates. For further information see <http://www.biodiv.org/doc/notifications/2004/ntf-2004-081-bs-en.pdf>. To subscribe, visit <http://bch.biodiv.org/onlineconferences/GMOAM.shtml> or send an email to bchlistserv@biodiv.org with the subject line blank and the message "Subscribe GMOAM FirstName LastName" in the message body.

20-24 October, Udine, Italy: MEETING ON THE ROLE OF MULTI PURPOSE AGRICULTURE IN SUSTAINING THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT. The theme of the fourth Agro Environ symposium is "The role of multi-purpose agriculture in sustaining the global environment". It will address key environmental and agricultural issues and consider new technologies that aim at sustaining agricultural systems, monitoring the environment and conserving natural resources. For further information contact Giuseppe Zerbi, University of Udine, tel: +39-43-255-8670; fax: +39-43-255-8603; email: zerbi@dpvta.uniud.it; Internet: <http://www.dpvta.uniud.it/~agroenv/docs/brochure.pdf>

21-29 October, Cambridge, UK: 21ST CENTURY TRUST CONFERENCE ON GLOBAL GOVERNANCE: SCENARIOS FOR THE FUTURE. At this meeting, participants will consider issues related to global governance, against the backdrop that global governance is at a crossroads. While the challenges to global security and well-being grow ever sharper, the role of the institutions at the heart of global governance is under question as rarely before. In the field of economics, the WTO, with the accession of China, has never had a broader remit, yet anti-globalisation protestors and the stalling of the Doha round have brought its future role into question, at the same time as there is a general re-examination of the approaches and accountability of the World Bank and the IMF. Can stagnation be avoided and a new consensus forged, permitting the further development of these institutions? For further information on the conference, contact John Lotherington, tel: +44-20-7323-2099; fax: +44-20-7323-2088; email: trust@21stcenturytrust.org; Internet: <http://www.21stcenturytrust.org/2004.html#2>

21-23 October 2004, Geneva, Switzerland: ENVIROINFO CONFERENCE 2004. The conference is designed for the exchange of information among scientists, public administrations, and private and public companies involved in environmental information processing and environmental informatics end-users. Also referred to as the 18th International Conference Informatics for Environmental Protection, this year's focus will be on "sharing" and will cover a wide scope of environmental information systems topics while showing the latest in research, development, and application. The conference will be held at CERN, the European Organisation for Nuclear Research. For further information, email: enviroinfo@etat.ge.ch or visit <http://www.enviroinfo2004.org>.

24 October to 6 November, Nicoya, Costa Rica: WORKSHOP AND FORUM ON GLOBALISATION AND FOOD SYSTEMS. This scientific workshop and science-policy forum, organised by the IHDP (International Human Dimensions Programme on Global Environmental Change) and IAI (Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research), will focus on interactions between globalisation and global environmental change, and the implications of these interactions for food systems and food security. For further information contact the IAI, tel: +55-12-3945-6856; fax: +55-12-3941-4410; email: i2004-geci@dir.iai.int; Internet: <http://www.institutes.iai.int/2004GECL.htm>

25 October, Buenos Aires, Argentina: SEMINAR ON ISSUES FACING SOUTH AMERICAN AGRICULTURE. Convened by the International Food & Agricultural Trade Policy Council (IPC). The seminar will be held at the Sheraton Buenos Aires Hotel &

Convention Center. Sessions include: The Impact of Regional Integration on Trade and Investment in Agriculture; The Doha Development Agenda, Taking Stock; The Evolution of Global Biotechnology; and Issues in Animal Agriculture. Speakers include Roberto Lavagna, Minister of Economy & Production, Argentina; Miguel Campos, Secretary of Agriculture, Argentina; and Martin Redrado, President of the Central Bank of Argentina. For further information and to register visit <http://www.agritrade.org/ba.htm>

25-26 October, Nairobi, Kenya: REGIONAL SEMINAR - CAN AFRICA TRADE HER WAY OUT OF POVERTY? This seminar is organised by the CUTS Centre for International Trade, Economics & Environment (CUTS-CITEE) Nairobi, in partnership with the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung. The overall objective of the seminar is to uncover the lessons, ideas and experience in making and implementing those policies that can help reduce poverty in Sub-Saharan Africa. The seminar will provide a platform to different stakeholders to discuss and debate policy issues regarding trade and economic liberalisation and poverty reduction; and prepare an agenda for future activities of the non-state actors in monitoring the trade and economic policy regime and its impact on poverty. For further information, contact David Maina or Clement Onyango; Telefax +254-20-572790; email: cuts-nairobi@cuts-international.org; Internet: <http://www.cuts-international.org>

25-29 October, Mexico City, Mexico: CGIAR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2004. The annual general meeting of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research will bring together over 1000 international and Mexican policy makers, agricultural research experts, scientists, and development specialists. For further information contact the CGIAR Secretariat, tel: +1-202-473-8951; fax: +1-202-473-8110; email: cgiar@cgiar.org; Internet: <http://www.cgiar.org/meetings/agm04.html>

27-28 October, Moscow, Russia: INVESTING IN RUSSIA'S LONG-TERM FUTURE. This conference is being organised by the Royal Institute of International Affairs (Chatham House) and Interfax in association with, among others, the Russian Ministry for Economic Development and Trade and the World Bank Group. The conference will examine the current economic climate in Russia, the fast growing and established business sectors, particularly those where foreign investment is involved, the future of Russia as a consumer market and wider economic issues. For further information, contact Dino Ribeiro, email: dribeiro@riia.org; Internet: <http://www.riia.org/Russia2004>

WTO Events

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

20-21 October: WTO GENERAL COUNCIL.

21 October: WTO COMMITTEE ON RULES OF ORIGIN.

21 October: WTO COUNCIL FOR TRADE IN GOODS DEDICATED SESSION.

22 October: WTO GENERAL COUNCIL - COHERENCE.

22 October: WTO DISPUTE SETTLEMENT BODY - SPECIAL SESSION.

22 October: WTO WORKING GROUP ON TRADE AND TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY.

25 & 27 October: WTO TRADE POLICY REVIEW BODY - EUROPEAN UNION.

25 October: WTO COMMITTEE ON CUSTOMS VALUATION.

26 October: WTO COMMITTEE ON TRADE-RELATED INVESTMENT MEASURES.

26 October: WTO COMMITTEE ON ANTI-DUMPING PRACTICES - INFORMAL GROUP ON ANTI-CIRCUMVENTION.

26-27 October: WTO COMMITTEE ON ANTI-DUMPING PRACTICES - WORKING GROUP ON IMPLEMENTATION.

27-28 October: WTO COMMITTEE ON SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES.

Other Upcoming Events

17-26 November, Prague, Czech Republic: 16TH MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL. Delegates attending MOP-16 will continue their negotiations to phase out the use of various ozone-depleting substances such as

hydrochlorofluorocarbons and methyl bromide. For further information contact the Ozone Secretariat, UNEP, tel: +254-2-62-3850; fax: +254-2-62-3601; email: ozoneinfo@unep.org; Internet: http://hq.unep.org/ozone/Meeting_Documents/mop/16mop/16mop.asp

6-10 December, San José, Costa Rica: EXPERT MEETING ON TRADITIONAL FOREST-RELATED KNOWLEDGE AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RELATED INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS. This meeting is organised by the International Alliance of Indigenous Tribal Peoples of Tropical Forests. It begins with a two-day preparatory meeting for indigenous participants. Following this, indigenous and local community experts will join government and international agency delegates in a three-day official Expert Meeting of the UN Forum on Forests. The meeting will provide an opportunity for indigenous and other experts to discuss the extent to which governments have implemented international commitments related to the protection, promotion and support of Traditional Forest Related Knowledge. Outcomes from this meeting will be introduced into the 5th Session of the UN Forum on Forests, and will feed into discussions on the Convention on Biological Diversity and other relevant international and national forest policy processes. For further information contact Annabel Pinker, tel: +66-53-904037; fax: +66-53-277645; email: iait@loxinfo.co.th; Internet: <http://www.international-alliance.org>

11-22 April 2005, New York, US: THIRTEENTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. CSD-13 is the policy session in the first two-year "Implementation Cycle" and will continue to focus on the thematic cluster of water, sanitation and human settlements. It will build upon the outcome of CSD-12 - the review session of the cycle - and take policy decisions on practical measures and options to expedite implementation of commitments in water, sanitation and human settlements as contained in Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, as well the Millennium Declaration. For further information contact Federica Pietracci, Major Groups Programme Coordinator, UN DSD/DESA, tel: +1-212-963-2803; fax: +1-212-963-4260; email: pietracci@un.org; Internet: <http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/csd13/csd13.htm>

RESOURCES

CRITICAL ISSUES IN AGRICULTURAL TRADE -- WTO: WHAT DOES AFRICA WANT FROM AGRICULTURE NEGOTIATIONS? By Prof. Haidari K.R. Amani (Trade Law Centre for Southern Africa,

TRALAC, September 2004). This Trade Briefing by the Executive Director of Economic & Social Research Foundation ESRF Tanzania focuses on critical issues for African countries in WTO negotiations on agriculture and puts forward what African countries should do differently in the new WTO round of trade negotiations from a development perspective. For more information and to access the report visit http://www.tralac.org/pdf/Amani-Africa_in_the_WTO.doc

"WHO PROFITS FROM TRADE? THE ROLE OF MULTINATIONAL COMPANIES". By David J. Frederickson (Development Fund, 2004). This text is from the presentation given by the president of the US National Farmers Union during the conference 'Hungry for trade' in Oslo, June 2004. Framed broadly around a discussion of trade policy and the WTO negotiations the speech focuses on the issue of agri-business integration under liberalisation and deregulation policies over the last decade or so particularly in seed processing and food retail markets. A number of examples are given of single multinationals or clusters that have achieved dominance in these and other sectors. For further information and to access the paper visit http://www.utviklingsfondet.no/graphics/Filbibliotek/pdf/Konferanser/Sulten_handel/Dave_Frederickson.pdf

WE'RE MANAGING! CLIMATE CHANGE AND LIVELIHOOD VULNERABILITY IN NORTHWEST GHANA. By Kees van der Geest (African Studies Centre, 2004). This book looks at the link between climate and livelihoods in Northwest Ghana and, in particular, examines at the consequences of migration for environmental quality and livelihood sustainability. The work combines quantitative and qualitative methods and articulates different levels of analysis: from micro through meso to macro. For those interested livelihood strategies, climate change, and ethnography in Ghana, this book provides a view into the daily lives of the people of Northwest Ghana. For more information and to access the report visit <http://asc.leidenuniv.nl/publications/>

ALTERNATIVES TO ECONOMIC GLOBALISATION: A BETTER WORLD IS POSSIBLE, 2ND EDITION. Eds. John Cavanagh and Jerry Mander (International Forum on Globalisation, 2004). The International Forum of Globalisation presents a new edition of the popular 2002 book that incorporates hundreds of living examples of on-the-ground alternatives as well as some of the better proposals for alternatives at local, national, and global levels to the challenges posed by globalisation. The book has been expanded and updated to incorporate information received over the past two years. Coauthors include Maude Barlow, Walden Bello, Vandana Shiva, and David Korten writing

on issues such as the military responses to the terrorist attacks of 9-11, reclaiming the commons, local action and ten principles for sustainability. For more information and to order the book visit <http://www.ifg.org>

EVOLVING SUI GENERIS OPTIONS FOR THE HINDU-KUSH HIMALAYAS. Edited by the South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment (June 2004). This book was published as a part of the three-year Regional Programme on Securing Farmers' Rights to Livelihood in the Hindu-Kush Himalaya (HKH) Region. The book is a compilation of papers presented at the Regional Seminar on Evolving Sui Generis Options for the Hindu-Kush Himalayas held in Kathmandu from 24-26 March 2003. Some additional papers are also included in the book. For more information and to order the book visit <http://www.sawtee.org>

"Moving People to Deliver Services: How can the WTO help?" By Sumanta Chaudhuri, Aaditya Mattoo and Richard Self in the *JOURNAL OF WORLD TRADE* 38 (3, 2004), pp 363-393. The previous General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) negotiations produced little liberalisation of the movement of individual service providers (mode 4), and the potentially large global gains from such movement remain realised. In the current negotiations, as part of the Doha Development Agenda, developing countries are seeking greater openness in their area of comparative advantage: the movement of providers unrelated to commercial presence abroad. Meanwhile, multinational firms would like easier intra-corporate movement of their personnel. This paper examines this coincidence of interest and how it can deliver greater openness.

"Developing Countries in International Negotiations: How they Influence Trade and Climate Change Negotiations". By Sheila Page in *IDS BULLETIN* (35.1, 2004), pp 71-82. Both multilateral trade negotiations undertaken under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and negotiations undertaken within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) are presented as being of benefit to developing countries. This paper examines whether the negotiations are actually important for poverty and development and whether developing countries can participate effectively in negotiations to obtain benefits from this participation.

"Where Ricardo and Mill Rebut and Confirm Arguments of Mainstream Economists Supporting Globalisation". By Paul A. Samuelson in the *JOURNAL OF ECONOMIC PERSPECTIVES* 18 (3, 2004), pp 135-146. In this paper, Nobel Prize-winning economist Paul Samuelson employs the trade theory of Ricardo and Mill to demonstrate that free trade does not necessarily

bring gains to everyone. In a direct critique of neoliberal thinkers who justify trade liberalisation according to models that show positive net gains to all parties to free trade, Samuelson sets up a scenario in which free trade between the US and China could move from being beneficial to both parties, to where Chinese technological improvement could actually lead to real income losses in the US relative to an autarky scenario.

"Is there anyone listening? Women workers in factories in Central America, and corporate codes of conduct". By Marina Prieto-Carrón in *DEVELOPMENT* 47 (3, 2004), pp 101-105. As a part of her on-going research, Marina Prieto-Carrón examines how corporate codes of conduct can respond to the needs and interest of women workers in supply chains in developing countries. She argues that theorising on CSR should draw on empirical research and theories of gender and power if it wants to account for women's (and worker's) experiences. In her research she shows how important it is to listen to women workers' arguments about how transnationals and retailers as well as suppliers must implement codes of conduct.

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