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### LEAD STORIES

#### DOHA ROUND DISCUSSIONS INTENSIFYING IN GENEVA

Geneva-based trade diplomats have stepped up the pace of talks at the WTO after receiving the green light from Director-General Pascal Lamy to resume discussions on all issues in the troubled Doha Round negotiations. The chairs of most of the negotiating groups have been consulting with delegations to try to determine how best to proceed. However, no path out of the impasse in the talks has become visible, as Members have not explicitly come forward with changed bargaining positions.

Delegates had been meeting amongst each other informally since July, when work in the various negotiating groups ceased with the suspension of the talks due to persistent differences on farm trade. In his 16 November speech to Members authorising what trade diplomats are calling a 'soft relaunch' of the negotiations, Lamy left it to the negotiating group chairs to decide how to move forward, "bearing in mind the different circumstances" of their respective committees (see BRIDGES Weekly, 22 November 2006, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/06-11-22/story1.htm>).

The WTO chief also said that "fully-fledged negotiations" -- especially those at the ministerial-level - - would remain premature until Members came forward with concrete new proposals, particularly for expanding agricultural market access and cutting farm subsidies.

#### Chairs proceeding at different paces, led by ag

Sources report that the negotiating group chairs have largely been sounding out Members to hear their views on the state of the talks. While some are still at the stage of meeting with individual delegations or small groups of them, others -- most notably the chair of the crucial farm trade negotiations -- have already convened gatherings of the entire WTO membership, or are planning to do so soon.

Agriculture Chair Ambassador Crawford Falconer (New Zealand) has held a series of 'fireside chats' with a group of around two dozen ambassadors, focusing on market access and domestic support issues. He already organised one 'transparency forum' on 10 November for all Members to discuss the talks (see BRIDGES Weekly, 15 November 2006, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/06-11-15/story2.htm>).

Delegates indicate that he plans to hold three more 'fireside chats' before the end of the year, as well as additional meetings for the entire membership.

Alongside these consultations, delegates indicate that different groups of countries have been working to refine their negotiating positions, notably with regard to the specific flexibilities that developed and developing countries will receive to shield some products from the full force of tariff cuts. For instance, the G-33 and G-20 are believed to be looking at their list of indicators for identifying 'special' products. The US in particular has argued that the value of market access proposals cannot be properly assessed in the absence of specifics about these flexibilities.

As for the negotiations on non-agricultural market access (NAMA) -- the third side of Lamy's 'triangle' of central issues in the Doha Round together with farm subsidies and tariffs -- Chair Ambassador Don Stephenson (Canada) has also been consulting with different delegations and Member groupings. Sources suggest that he has been attempting to ascertain if countries have any new concessions to offer, as well as whether they want to resume NAMA discussions immediately from where they left off in July, or to wait for signs of initiative from the farm trade talks before starting in earnest.

Trade diplomats report that services Chair Ambassador Fernando de Mateo (Mexico) held a meeting on 29 November, where he indicated that he would be available all of next week to meet with delegations wishing to discuss their interests and priorities with regard to the resumption of negotiations.

### **Trade facilitation, environment also discussed**

Trade facilitation negotiations Chair Tony Miller (Hong Kong) held an informal 'transparency' meeting on 28 November for delegates from all Member countries, following smaller consultations earlier in the month. Prior to the suspension in July, trade facilitation was one of the few issues in the Doha Round negotiations that appeared to be heading for agreement on schedule. Members still need to agree on which proposed provisions for simplifying customs procedures and cutting trade-related red tape they want in an eventual agreement, and which to leave out. Only then will they be able to start developing a legal text.

Miller indicated that there was support for resuming technical work, according to one negotiator. However, Members appeared to vary in their enthusiasm for pushing forward on trade facilitation. Some developing countries such as India, the Philippines and Egypt stressed the need to address issues of interest to them, such as special and differential treatment (S&D). The trade facilitation talks are supposed to enhance developing countries' ability to participate in international goods trade.

Consultations on environmental goods and services have not yet expanded to include all Member delegations at once. On 24 November, environment negotiating group Chair Ambassador Toufiq Ali (Bangladesh) convened separate meetings for the proponents of each of the two main methodologies proposed for expediting trade liberalisation for environmental goods and services. Sources suggest that differences remain largely intact between the mostly developed countries that favour the 'list' approach that would identify specific eligible products, and supporters of the 'project' approach that calls for temporarily liberalising access for goods used in approved environmental projects. Ali said that he would continue his consultations, and asked countries to be ready for further meetings.

One trade diplomat said that Ambassador Burhan Gafoor (Singapore), who chairs the negotiations on special and differential treatment, was expected to host an informal, low-profile meeting of some eight to ten developed and developing country delegations on 30 November.

Although the issue is not part of the Doha Round single undertaking, negotiators expect the committee tasked with reviewing the functioning of WTO dispute settlement understanding (DSU) provisions to meet before the end of the year. A number of Members a few weeks ago restarted informal meetings to debate ideas for DSU reform. Though not a group in the sense that participation is unrestricted and they do not seek to submit joint proposals, this forum is occasionally dubbed the 'Mexican group,' since its meetings are coordinated by the Mexican mission.

### **US lawmakers say progress could help TPA**

A group of six US Congressmen in Geneva to meet with Lamy on 29 November said that progress in the negotiations over the next few months -- especially on market access -- could help the Bush administration secure Congressional support for extending its 'trade promotion authority' (TPA) mandate.

Lamy has said that concrete progress in the negotiations is necessary by spring 2007 for there to be

a chance of concluding the round later that year, a view shared by several trade negotiators.

The narrowness of this 'window of opportunity' is primarily due to the July 2007 expiry of the president's TPA mandate. TPA allows him to negotiate trade deals and submit them for a yes-or-no vote by Congress without the possibility of amendment. Countries are reluctant to finalise trade deals with Washington in its absence, since Congress would then be free to make specific changes to negotiated agreements. Though concluding the Doha Round by June is not possible, enough progress towards a deal by March or April may be enough to convince Congress to extend the president's TPA.

Associated Press reports that Wisconsin Democrat Ron Kind told journalists at WTO headquarters that "substantial progress" over the next three or four months, particularly on market access, "may provide more momentum in Congress where TPA is concerned." He also suggested that it might influence Congressional policy on farm subsidy reform.

#### **Amorim, Nath coming to Geneva**

Brazilian Foreign Minister Celso Amorim and Indian Commerce Minister Kamal Nath are set to arrive in Geneva later this week, where both are expected to speak at a 1-2 December conference on the WTO organised by the Inter-Parliamentary Union. Japan's agriculture minister, Toshikatsu Matsuoka, will also take part in the meeting, along with WTO ambassadors from the EU and the US. However, it is not clear whether they will actually meet with each other to discuss the Doha Round negotiations.

US trade officials declined a 27 November suggestion by EU Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson to hold a small ministerial-level meeting on the WTO talks before the end of the year. According to Reuters, they said that "quiet conversations" were more likely to achieve concrete results. Mandelson disagreed, arguing that waiting until the end-January World Economic Forum summit in Davos for ministerial-level discussions would be too late given the short 'window of opportunity' in 2007.

"US rebuffs European plan to invigorate Doha," REUTERS, 27 November 2006; "EU proposes ministers push soon for Doha deal," REUTERS, 27 November 2006; "US Congressmen: WTO progress would influence farm bill, TPA decisions," ASSOCIATED PRESS, 29 November 2006.

### **ACP LAWMAKERS UNHAPPY WITH EPA TALKS, AS BRUSSELS TURNS DOWN EXPLICIT AID LINK**

Economic partnership agreement (EPA) negotiations were high on the agenda at a meeting of lawmakers from the European Parliament and African, Caribbean, and Pacific (ACP) countries in Barbados from 20-23 November. Meanwhile, leaked documents suggest that Brussels is rejecting ACP demands to include detailed aid promises in the text of a future EPA accord.

The two sides have been struggling to stay on track to conclude the talks in time for the end-2007 expiry of a WTO waiver allowing the EU to maintain unilateral trade preferences for ACP exports under the 2000 Cotonou Agreement. That accord foresaw the replacement of the non-reciprocal trade preferences by two-way EPAs between the EU and each of the six ACP regions by 2008. However, the EPA negotiations have become bogged down amidst widespread discontent among ACP countries, which argue that the EU's proposals go unacceptably beyond WTO rules to cover issues such as investment and competition, and would leave their fragile industrial markets vulnerable to a flood of imports (see BRIDGES Weekly, 5 July 2006, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/06-07-05/story2.htm>). EU officials have countered that ACP countries will benefit from liberalising their economies.

Aid to help ACP countries adjust to international competition arising from the EPAs has loomed large in the negotiations. The 77-member group includes many of the world's most vulnerable economies: small islands, least developed countries, small economies and landlocked states. Many ACP ministers have called for development support mechanisms to accompany the EPAs, including long implementation periods and increased support for regional integration as well as to address structural impediments and supply side constraints.

At the ACP-EU parliamentary assembly, Barbadian Foreign Minister Dame Billie Miller, who chairs the ACP ministerial trade committee, warned that much work remained to be done in the negotiations. She reiterated the ACP group's desire to see increased structural support along with easier market access, noting that both were essential for those countries to successfully integrate into world trade. In a gesture of discontent with the EPA negotiations, several ACP delegates successfully blocked a resolution on East African human rights that was broadly supported by their EU counterparts.

In Barbados, Glennis Kinnock, European MP and co-president of the assembly, affirmed that ACP states'

concerns over development support were being taken seriously.

However, the Financial Times reports that recently-leaked internal European Commission documents indicate that Brussels actually opposes making assistance a formal part of the EPAs.

In a bluntly worded letter to Fijian Trade Minister Kaliopate Tavola, two Commission officials stated "in your draft EPA submission, detailed development co-operation provisions form an integral part of the text. As you know, this is not acceptable to us." The same newspaper indicated that a separate document demonstrated the Commission's opposition to a review clause sought by the East and Southern African bloc of ACP states, which would allow them to suspend market opening after ten years if the EU failed to keep its promises on aid.

While Brussels argues that liberalisation should not be contingent on "undefined development targets," ACP countries are believed to be wary of offering concrete market opening commitments in return for non-binding promises of assistance that may go unrealised. Some other trade observers oppose including aid promises in the eventual text of the EPA agreements for a different set of reasons: they argue that doing so would effectively make development aid conditional on liberalisation.

Meanwhile, WTO Director-General Pascal Lamy urged the parliamentarians via videoconference to push for the concessions necessary to break the impasse in the Doha Round negotiations, reminding the ACP states of the benefits awaiting them from expanded international trade.

ICTSD reporting; "Amazing ACP/EU Meeting," CARIBBEAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION, 23 November 2006; "Brussels Rejects Moves to Link Aid With Trade," THE FINANCIAL TIMES, 28 November 2006; "Dame Billie Calls for EPA 'Fix'," THE NATION NEWSPAPER, 23 November 2006; "Dame Billie: EPA's Only Game in Town," CARIBBEAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION, 22 November 2006; "Lamy Asks Parliamentarians to Support Relaunch of Full Negotiations," WTO NEWS, 23 November 2006; "Opening of the 12th Session of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly," ACP SECRETARIAT PRESS RELEASE, 21 November 2006; "The Implications of an Economic Partnership Agreement," SWAZI OBERVER, 21 November 2006; "Think Again!...Kinnock tells ACP/EU Assembly It's Time for Radical Rethink," THE BARBADOS ADVOCATE, 21 November 2006; "Unequal Partners," OXFAM NEW ZEALAND, 21 November 2006.

## OTHER NEWS

### RUSSIAN ACCESSION: NEW POTENTIAL HURDLE WITH EU; TRIPS-PLUS IP COMMITMENTS WITH US

Little over a week after Russia appeared to clear one of the last major hurdles to its WTO accession by signing a bilateral entry deal with the US, a new potential obstacle has emerged: Moscow's prospective ban on EU meat exports. EU Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson on 24 November threatened to block Russia's accession if it goes through with plans to ban imports of all EU animal products from the start of 2007. Russia is the world's only major economy still outside the fold of the WTO.

Moscow claims that the restrictions are justified since Bulgaria and Romania, which are set to join the EU on 1 January, have inadequate food safety practices. EU officials have suggested that the claims are spurious. Russia's restrictions on meat imports had also held up its accession talks with the US (see BRIDGES Weekly, 22 November 2006, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/06-11-22/wtoinbrief.htm>).

Trade in energy has been another irritant in relations between EU governments and Moscow, alongside diplomatic tensions over the recent poisoning death in London of former Russian spy Alexander Litvinenko (see BRIDGES Weekly, 25 October 2006, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/06-10-25/story3.htm>).

The EU has already signed a bilateral accession deal with Russia. However, Brussels could still obstruct remaining multilateral negotiations in the WTO working party on Russia's accession.

#### Russia to assume TRIPS-plus data exclusivity

In related news, newly available information on the Russia-US bilateral accord suggests that Moscow has agreed to undertake some intellectual property (IP) obligations that go beyond core WTO rules. The provisions on clinical test data protection in particular could have a significant impact on access to medicine. The bilateral phase of the WTO entry process has been criticised for allowing existing Members to extort commitments from membership seekers that go beyond standard multilateral rules, as the price of assenting to their accession.

According to a Russian government side letter detailing intellectual property commitments released by the US trade representative's office, Moscow has agreed to



provide a 6-year protection period to "undisclosed information and test data" that pharmaceutical companies provide to state authorities when seeking approval to place a new drug on the market. This would affect the production of cheap generic drugs, since would-be generic manufacturers will have to either run their own expensive clinical tests, or wait for the end of the exclusivity period to access the information necessary to secure marketing approval.

Article 39.3 of the WTO TRIPS Agreement obliges Members to protect such information "against unfair commercial use." However, it stipulates no time period, and specifically exempts non-commercial measures "necessary to protect the public." The US' own bilateral free trade agreements set out 5-year data exclusivity periods. Furthermore, the accession deal appears to preclude both private and public entities from using undisclosed test data, implying that even public non-commercial use of data would be limited. This could further complicate Russia's public health problems with diseases such as HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis.

Russia also pledged to enforce stricter measures against the piracy and counterfeiting of copyrighted material. Like with other countries that have signed bilateral free trade agreements with US, Russia has pledged adherence to World Intellectual Property Organization copyright treaties.

Another provision of the agreement with the potential to go beyond the stipulations of the TRIPS Agreement makes internet service providers liable for supporting websites that contain illegal content. Prior to this, liability was limited to the owners of the particular website.

The US has indicated that it will seek plans to coax further commitments from Russia during the multilateral accession process, especially in the field of intellectual property rights.

In a separate move to win support for its entry into the WTO, Russian President Vladimir Putin on 28 November announced that Moscow would lift a ban on wine and meat imports from Moldova. The former Soviet republic, which relies heavily on wine exports to Russia, had said that it would not consent to Russia's accession as long as the ban was in place.

Even after Russia completes all of its bilateral negotiations, the working party will have much work to do in order to finalise the country's package of accession commitments. Over one and a half years separated the conclusion of China's last bilateral accession deal from its entry into the WTO.

ICTSD reporting; "Russia may risk WTO entry with EU meat ban," INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE, 24 November 2006; "US-Russia Bilateral/WTO Deal Pushes New Standards for IP Protection," INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY WATCH, 24 November 2006; "Russia to lift ban on imports of meat and wine from Moldova," ASSOCIATED PRESS, 28 November 2006.

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## IN BRIEF

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### US SIGNS COLOMBIA FTA, SPARKING INDIGNATION AMONG DEMOCRATS

The US presidential administration signed a free trade agreement (FTA) with Colombia on 27 November, touching off indignation among Congressional Democrats who had been seeking to have the accord modified to include tougher labour standards.

In a letter to US Trade Representative Susan Schwab on 21 November, influential Democrats warned that they may not approve FTAs with either Colombia or Peru unless they were appropriately renegotiated. After their victory in the midterm elections earlier this month, Democrats will take control in both chambers of Congress in January (see BRIDGES Weekly, 15 November 2006, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/06-11-15/story3.htm>).

"We are dismayed that the administration has consistently declined to take the simple steps necessary to address our key outstanding concern (about the Peru agreement), which continues to be labor standards," the letter stated, adding that "our concerns apply to the Colombia agreement as well." The letter was signed by members of the House Ways and Means Committee and on the Senate Finance Committee, the Congressional bodies with jurisdiction over trade-related legislation. It was spearheaded by New York Representative Charles Rangel, who is set to become chair of the House Ways and Means Committee.

It seems increasingly unlikely that the Bush administration will try to push the two trade deals through the outgoing Republican-controlled Congress before the year's end.

Despite his qualms about the two FTAs, Rangel has indicated that he would be willing to renew the Andean Trade Preference Act (ATPA), which currently allows many of Colombia and Peru's exports to enter the US

market duty-free. The unilateral preferences are scheduled to expire at the end of this year.

US trade officials have indicated that the Bush administration would consider working with the Democratic majority to add supplemental labour commitments to the FTAs, according to Washington publication "Inside US Trade." They have not, however, said that they would be open to renegotiating the agreements.

ICTSD reporting; "Democrats Urge USTR to Renegotiate Andean Trade Pacts," REUTERS, 21 November 2006; "US, Colombia Sign Landmark Free Trade Agreement," THE CALTRADE REPORT, 27 November 2006.

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### WAL-MART'S IMMINENT ENTRY INTO INDIA RAISES QUESTIONS

Wal-Mart, the world's largest retail chain, is poised to enter India's rapidly-growing retail market, through a joint venture agreement announced on 27 November with local conglomerate Bharti Enterprises. The partners plan to start opening stores in 2007.

Supporters of the deal argue that it will give Indian consumers more choice and lower prices, given Wal-Mart's ability to source inexpensive products from around the globe. Critics counter that it could decimate the roughly 15 million small, family-owned stores that have dominated India's retail sector. Political opponents have vowed to scrutinise the memorandum of understanding between the two companies, accusing Wal-Mart of unfairly circumventing restrictions on foreign investment.

India's retail industry has for decades been sheltered from foreign investment. Although foreign investors are now permitted to open majority-owned outlets of single brand specialty stores such as Nike, retailers that sell multiple brands are still required to be locally-owned or licenced franchises. Under the terms of the Bharti-Wal-Mart agreement, the Indian company will own and operate the physical stores. The supply chain of these outlets, on the other hand, will be jointly managed. Companies other than Wal-Mart have already established similar partnerships.

The Communist Party of India (Marxist), part of the ruling coalition in New Delhi, has denounced Wal-Mart's "backdoor entry" into India, and has vowed to examine the joint venture agreement "with a fine-toothed comb." CPI (M) representatives have warned of large-scale unemployment in the small-scale retail sector, and threatened to take to the streets in protest. Commerce

Minister Kamal Nath has promised to verify whether any laws have been violated.

Analysts suggest that the biggest value of Wal-Mart's entry into the Indian market could be its famously efficient logistics services -- if it succeeds at harnessing India's vast, varied and often fragmented agricultural production into a cohesive network of suppliers.

Others, however, point out that Thailand's liberalisation of its retail sector in the 1980s and 1990s was criticised for creating an uneven, insufficiently competitive market, in which international retail giants were able to dictate the prices and conditions under which they would buy produce from farm producers.

Trade experts in Geneva noted that in the current round of WTO negotiations, India has not offered to open its retail services sector to foreign competition.

ICTSD reporting; "CPM urges UPA to block Wal-Mart entry," ECONOMIC TIMES, 29 November 2006; "India's Bharti group ties up with America's Wal-Mart," HAVEERU DAILY ONLINE, 28 November 2006; "Wal-Mart, You've Got India Now; Don't Bungle It: Andy Mukherjee," BLOOMBERG, 30 November 2006; "Left sees red in Wal-Mart's retail foray in India," MONEYCONTROL.COM, 29 November 2006; "Wal-Mart to alter retail landscape," TIMES OF INDIA, 28 November 2006.

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### WTO IN BRIEF

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#### MEMBERS AGREE IN PRINCIPLE TO EXTEND KIMBERLEY PROCESS WAIVER

WTO Members have agreed in principle to renew for six years a decision allowing countries to block trade in conflict diamonds.

At a meeting on 20 November, the Council for Trade in Goods accepted the text of a draft deal (G/C/W/559) that would allow parties to the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme for Rough Diamonds to continue to waive WTO rules in order to restrict trade in uncertified diamonds. The draft must now be formally adopted by the General Council, the WTO's top permanent decision-making body. The original waiver, approved in early 2003, was scheduled to expire on 31 December 2006 (see BRIDGES Weekly, 27 February 2003, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/03-02-27/story3.htm>).

The Kimberley Process excludes conflict diamonds from legal international markets through a series of certification requirements and trade restrictions.

Participant countries must certify that diamonds produced on their territory do not finance rebel groups seeking to overthrow UN-recognised governments. Diamond trade with countries that are not members of the scheme is completely banned.

In order to comply with Kimberley Process requirements, Members require recourse to some measures that would ordinarily violate WTO obligations. Specifically, they need to be able to discriminate between diamonds based on their country of origin (which runs counter to the most-favoured nation principle in GATT Article I). They also must have the ability to place outright bans on diamond exports and imports -- and apply them selectively on only some WTO Members (Article XI bans quantitative restrictions in most circumstances; Article XIII says that they should be non-discriminatory). The original waiver was hailed as an example that WTO strictures were flexible enough to accommodate other international rules.

The process was the product of cooperation among governments, the diamond industry, and the advocacy groups that first drew public attention to the fact that diamonds were being used to fuel armed conflict. Kimberley Process members are believed to account for 98 percent of legal international trade in diamonds.

The waiver decision covers Australia, Botswana, Brazil, Canada, Croatia, India, Israel, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mexico, Norway, Philippines, Sierra Leone, Chinese Taipei, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, United States and Venezuela.

ICTSD reporting; "Goods Council considers new EC enlargement, extends Kimberley waiver," WTO NEWS, 20 November 2006.

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## EU DECISION NOT TO APPEAL BIOTECH RULING ATTRACTS CRITICISM

Several civil society groups have sharply criticised Brussels' decision not to appeal the WTO ruling against the EU's application of its approval procedures for biotech products in response to a complaint from the US, Canada and Argentina (see BRIDGES Weekly, 4 October 2006, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/06-10-04/story2.htm>).

Following the release of the dispute panel's report in September, GeneWatch, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), the Forum for Biotechnology and Food Security and the GM Freeze campaign had urged EU Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson to appeal the ruling, pointing to "serious errors" in its interpretation of trade law.

Specifically, the groups warned that the ruling could undermine the precautionary principle, because the panel concluded that it was not obliged to take other international treaties into account if not all parties to the dispute were also parties to these treaties. "The precautionary principle is a key element of national environment and health policy and should not be dispensed with by the WTO," said Alex Gonzalez-Calatayud, Trade Policy Officer of the RSPB.

Their sentiments were echoed by Greenpeace, which fears that the ruling could lead to the further fragmentation of international law. "Governments must take urgent action to restrict the power of the WTO, so it cannot be used to undermine environmental laws," said Trade Policy Advisor Daniel Mittler. In a letter addressed to WTO Director-General Pascal Lamy, Greenpeace called for environmental disputes to be removed from the global trade body "as the WTO is not equipped to deal with such cases effectively".

The legal analyses released by the civil society groups are available at <http://www.trade-environment.org/page/theme/tewto/biotechcase.htm>.

ICTSD reporting.

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## US ANTIDUMPING DUTIES ON SHRIMP FACE NEW CHALLENGE

The Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) on 21 November set up a panel to examine India's claim that the US is placing WTO-inconsistent bond requirements on importers of certain kinds of goods facing antidumping or countervailing duties, particularly shrimp. The US had vetoed India's first request for the creation of a dispute panel, but countries are prohibited from doing so a second time.

Under current legislation, the US may require importers of certain goods subject to antidumping or countervailing duties to furnish bonds (a sum of money) worth more than the total value of such duties on imports during the preceding twelve month period. These bond requirements only apply to goods designated as a 'special category' or a 'covered case' within a 'special category.' At present, agriculture and aquaculture goods are the only designated special categories, and shrimp the only 'covered case'.

Prior to amendment of the bond rules in 2004, India argues, US importers were required to submit continuous entry bonds of substantially lower amounts as security for compliance with US customs regulations -- equivalent to only 10 percent of the duties, taxes and fees levied on the same good in the year before.

India believes that the new bond requirements unfairly render its shrimp exports uncompetitive. In its complaint, it argued that the amendment bonds directive violates provisions of both the Antidumping Agreement and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

According to the request, the US has only applied the new bond requirement on importers of frozen warmwater shrimp from India subject to antidumping duties. India further notes that the singling out of one good emphasises the arbitrary and discriminatory nature of the amended directive (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 16 June 2006, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/06-06-16/inbrief.htm#3>).

A separate WTO dispute panel has already been established to examine Thai complaints against the amended bond directive and the US's methodology for calculating antidumping margins (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 28 April 2006, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/06-04-28/inbrief.htm#2>).

ICTSD reporting.

## EVENTS & RESOURCES

### VACANCY

The Danish Institute for International Studies (DIIS), an independent public research institution located in Copenhagen, invites applications for a Project Researcher or Project Senior Researcher position in the field of Trade and Development. Candidates should hold a PhD in economics or a related social science, have a track record of publications in international peer-reviewed journals (or, for recent PhDs, be in good 'in process' status) and hands-on experience in trade policy analysis. They should have a proven interest in international trade policy, with a focus on at least two of the following: the role of developing countries in international trade; the impact of composition and flows of trade on growth, development and poverty alleviation; and the dynamics of multilateral and regional/bilateral trade negotiations and agreements. The candidate must also have the capacity to work in a multi-disciplinary context. The selected candidate will pursue a mutually agreed-upon agenda of research within these fields, as well as spend around 40% of his or her time working on a combination of commissioned studies, outreach work, PhD supervision and administrative activities. Females and minorities encouraged to apply. For more information, contact

Peter Gibbon at [pgi@diis.dk](mailto:pgi@diis.dk), tel: +45 32 69 87 01; or Stefano Ponte at [spo@diis.dk](mailto:spo@diis.dk); tel: +45 32 69 87 10.

## 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).

### Upcoming Events: 30 November – 6 December

30 November- 8 December, Geneva, Switzerland: INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS AND GENETIC RESOURCES, TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE AND FOLKLORE (TENTH SESSION). For more information see

[http://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/details.jsp?meeting\\_id=11222](http://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/details.jsp?meeting_id=11222) or contact the IGC Secretariat, tel: +41 22 338 8161; fax: +41 22 338 8120; e-mail: [grtkf@wipo.int](mailto:grtkf@wipo.int).

4-5 December, Santa Cruz, Bolivia: FIRST INTER-AMERICAN MEETING OF MINISTERS AND HIGH-LEVEL AUTHORITIES ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. This meeting of environment ministers and senior officials from the Organisation of American States (OAS) will identify specific opportunities for cooperation in integrating environmental management within core economic development, poverty alleviation and related goals. The meeting shall identify practical, replicable project and policy lessons integrating the three pillars of sustainable development: economic development, social issues and environmental protection. Focuses will include integrated water-resource management, risk sharing and risk transfer arrangements of natural disasters, and sustainable agriculture, sustainable forestry and tourism. For more information see [http://www.oas.org/dsd/MinisterialMeeting/ReunionInterAm\\_eng\\_v1.htm](http://www.oas.org/dsd/MinisterialMeeting/ReunionInterAm_eng_v1.htm).

4-5 December, Geneva, Switzerland: EXPERT MEETING IN SUPPORT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION AND FOLLOW-UP OF THE WORLD SUMMIT ON THE INFORMATION SOCIETY: USING ICTs TO ACHIEVE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT. Jointly organised by the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the International Labour Organization (ILO). Research findings confirm that information and communication technologies (ICTs) contribute positively to economic growth in both developing and developed countries. Evidence abounds that ICTs create opportunities for industries and businesses in developing countries to overcome the constraints posed by limited access to resources and markets; lower transaction costs and facilitate



trade; stabilise employment levels for the manufacturing sector; and promote growth in business services. This meeting will bring together experts from both developed and developing countries to share views and experiences on how to harness the benefits offered by ICTs to support economic and social development. For more information see <http://www.unctad.org/Templates/meeting.asp?intItemID=1942&lang=1&m=11908&info=not;> e-mail: [Diana.korka@unctad.org](mailto:Diana.korka@unctad.org); tel: +41 (0) 22 917 5548; fax: +41 (0) 22 917 0052.

### 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.

30 November: COUNCIL FOR TRADE IN SERVICES

30 November: WORKING PARTY ON THE ACCESSION OF THE LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

1 December: SERVICES COMMITTEE ON SPECIFIC COMMITMENTS

6 December: WORKING PARTY ON THE ACCESSION OF SERBIA

### Other Upcoming Events

12-15 December, Nairobi, Kenya: AFRICAN REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON SUSTAINABLE USE. Organised by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Government of the Netherlands, and hosted by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP). This will be the third in a series of technical expert workshops on ecosystem services assessment, the sustainable use of biological resources, and the financial costs and benefits associated with conservation of biodiversity. For more information see <http://www.biodiv.org/doc/meeting.aspx?mtg=RWSUAFR-01&tab=3>.

18-19 December, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh: NATIONAL SEMINAR ON GLOBALISATION AND INDIA: VOICES FROM THE GROUND. Organised jointly by the Consumer Unity and Trust Society's Centre for International Trade, Economics & Environment (CUTS-CITEE) and the Network of Entrepreneurship & Economic Development (NEED). The objective of this

seminar is to provide a forum for civil society representatives to share their experiences in generating awareness on the linkages between trade and development throughout India; and to deliberate over the best policy methods to ensure that the poor benefit from globalisation. For more information, see <http://www.cuts-citee.org/events.htm>.

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## RESOURCES

A SIMPLE GUIDE TO INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS, BIODIVERSITY AND TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE. By Tejaswini Apte. International Institute for Environment and Development, September 2006. Patents, intellectual property rights, biopiracy -- these terms are appearing more and more frequently in the news. It is clear even to the lay person that they are controversial issues. What is not clear is what they mean. What implications do they have for an ordinary citizen? Why are they such a hot topic of debate? What connection do intellectual property rights (IPRs) have with biological resources? What is the link to India's traditional knowledge, such as the medicinal properties of turmeric that were patented in the USA a few years ago? This handbook is a step towards filling the gap of user-friendly information and encouraging mainstream debate on IPRs, biodiversity and traditional knowledge. This handbook introduces the world of IPRs in clear, simple language. Presented in a Question & Answer format, it begins with the most basic questions and progresses to more complex issues, making it easily accessible to laypersons as well as those who are already familiar with the subject. For more information about this book, visit <http://www.iied.org/pubs/display.php?o=14525iied>.

LIBERALIZATION AND INTERACTIONS WITH THE MARKET: A SURVEY OF SOME EXPERIENCES OF RURAL PRODUCERS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. By Meenakshi Raman. Third World Network, April 2006. This paper presents a survey of the experiences of rural producers in some developing countries in facing up to the promises and challenges of liberalisation and in interacting with the market. Its objectives are to: (a) look at the problems encountered by producers in marketing their products, firstly in their local and national market, and secondly in the global market; (b) examine cases where rural producers face competition from imports, which can reduce their incomes or even displace them from their livelihoods; and (c) provide some examples of innovative ways in which rural producers are attempting to find a beneficial place in the market. To access this paper, visit <http://www.twinside.org.sg/pos.htm>.

REGIONAL ECONOMIC OUTLOOK: WESTERN HEMISPHERE. International Monetary Fund World and

Economic Financial Surveys, November 2006. This report provides the IMF's latest views on recent developments and prospects for the region, discusses potential risks to the forecast, and describes key policy challenges. To access the report, visit <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/reo/2006/eng/02/wreo.htm>.

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