



INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR  
TRADE AND SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT

# Bridges

## Weekly Trade News Digest

21 February 2007

Volume 11 Number 6

### LEAD STORIES

BRIEF TRIPS COUNCIL GIVES WAY TO INFORMALS<sup>1</sup>  
WORLD INCHING CLOSER TO GLOBAL CLIMATE  
COLLABORATION? 3

### OTHER STORIES

WIPO DEVELOPMENT AGENDA MEETING  
UNDERWAY 4

### IN BRIEF

TRADE FEATURES PROMINENTLY AT UNEP  
GOVERNING COUNCIL 5

MINISTERS AGREE STEPS TO REGULATE  
MERCURY 5

### WTO IN BRIEF

WTO, ILO RELEASE JOINT STUDY ON TRADE AND  
EMPLOYMENT 6

### EVENTS & RESOURCES

EVENTS 7  
RESOURCES 8

### LEAD STORIES

#### BRIEF TRIPS COUNCIL GIVES WAY TO INFORMALS

A brief session of the WTO Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Council last week focused primarily on the relationship between the TRIPS Agreement and the Convention on Biological Diversity, and on enforcement. Members adjourned early, with informal talks to continue on issues including geographical indications.

The 13 February TRIPS Council followed informal consultations on how to proceed on some intellectual property rights issues (see BRIDGES Weekly, 14 February 2007, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/07-02-14/wtoinbrief.htm>). The Council confirmed Nigerian Ambassador Yonov Frederick Agah as its new chair.

#### Members inch forward on disclosure

The need for implementing effective international measures to prevent the 'theft' of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge -- often referred to as 'biopiracy' -- has been a matter of concern for many Members, particularly some developing countries. To address this issue, a group of countries have proposed amending the TRIPS Agreement to require patent applications to include disclosure of the origin of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge along with evidence of prior informed consent and benefit sharing (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 16 June 2006, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/06-06-16/story3.htm>). The 'Disclosure Group' argues that such a requirement would be necessary to ensure that the TRIPS Agreement does not undermine the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

At the 13 February meeting of the TRIPS Council, the group of developing countries -- Brazil, China, Colombia, Cuba, India, Pakistan, Peru, Thailand, Tanzania, Ecuador and South Africa -- that have tabled a draft article on disclosure reiterated their call for an amendment. They said they now were ready to proceed with text-based negotiations.

**BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest** is [also available online](http://www.ictsd.org/subscribe) and is updated every week. To subscribe to BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest, please visit the ICTSD website at <http://www.ictsd.org/subscribe>

If you require any assistance setting up your BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest subscription, please contact Trineesh Biswas, Editor, by email at: [bridges\\_weekly@ictsd.ch](mailto:bridges_weekly@ictsd.ch), or by telephone at: (41-22) 917-8498

A number of African countries took the floor to support the disclosure of origin proposal, and said they were considering becoming co-sponsors. Brazil welcomed this, noting that it would significantly enhance the support for a potential amendment of the TRIPS Agreement.

Norway, which has made its own proposal for a disclosure amendment, agreed on the need to move forward. Other countries -- including Australia, New Zealand and Canada -- said it was too early to discuss issues such as biopiracy and disclosure of origin requirements. Some, such as the EU, were of the opinion that the TRIPS Council was not the appropriate forum for the discussion, preferring the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) and its Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge (IGC).

The US, Korea and Japan oppose an amendment to the TRIPS Agreement as they see no conflict between the CBD and the TRIPS Agreement.

Following the TRIPS Council some negotiators speculated that -- given the deep divisions between developing countries and the US -- the EU might become the bridge builder with regard to a decision on whether or not a disclosure requirement should be introduced into the TRIPS Agreement.

Discussions on a disclosure of origin requirement and access and benefit-sharing are also taking place within the CBD framework (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 2 February 2007, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/07-02-02/story4.htm>). The focus on disclosure of origin differs between the two forums, with the CBD process set to establish an international access and benefit-sharing regime. Following the TRIPS Council, one delegate speculated that if countries could agree on an access and benefit-sharing regime under the CBD, this would add credibility to the argument for a disclosure of origin requirement within the TRIPS Agreement.

### **Enforcement continues to stir controversy**

Members considered a new US submission on enforcement of TRIPS obligations (IP/C/W/488, available at <http://docsonline.wto.org>) at the TRIPS Council.

Originally introduced by the EU, the issue of enforcement divides Members among those that support implementing effective measures to enforce IPRs at the international and regional levels as well as multilateral discussions at the WTO, and those that feel the issue belongs at the national level (see BRIDGES Weekly, 1 November 2006, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/06-11-01/story1.htm>)

The US paper highlighted its experience in IPR-related border enforcement. The paper acknowledged that the TRIPS Agreement gave Members the flexibility to determine appropriate means for implementing enforcement measures. It reiterated the view that enforcement-related challenges surrounding IPR infringement are of concern to all Members. The submission's stated purpose was to contribute examples of tools that the US had found useful in the context of its activities seeking protection against IPR infringement, with a view to promoting international cooperation and information exchange. After presenting figures on the increasing number of pirated products at US borders, the paper provided examples of risk analysis methods (focusing the attention of enforcement authorities' on high-risk shipments) as well as on post-entry verification, where auditors review companies' financial records to identify potential IPR violations.

A number of developing countries, led by China, expressed opposition to making the enforcement issue a permanent agenda item for the Council. China noted that there is no mandate in either the TRIPS Agreement or the Doha agenda to pursue such work, and that a discussion on the topic would not be helpful in advancing other agenda items currently under negotiation or review.

China, Argentina, Brazil, Cuba, India and South Africa reiterated the importance of Members' freedom to determine the appropriate means of IP enforcement, and the need to consider enforcement issues in conjunction with other TRIPS provisions, such as the non-discrimination obligation and the need to avoid the creation of unnecessary trade barriers. In addition, they cautioned against duplication of work already carried out by the World Customs Organisation and WIPO.

Other Members, namely, Australia, Canada, El Salvador, the EU, New Zealand, Japan and Switzerland, supported the idea of an increased exchange of information on domestic IP enforcement practices.

### **The way forward**

Over the two following weeks, discussion will continue informally with ambassadors and intellectual property negotiators from individual delegations to determine how best to proceed.

WTO Deputy Director-General Rufus Yerxa will hold consultations on the possible extension of the higher level of protection accorded to GIs for wines and spirits to other products. The EU and Switzerland believe that commercial opportunities arising from extending GI protection to products such as 'Parma ham' could help

compensate their farmers for liberalisation under the Doha Round. New world countries oppose the concept, and have argued that there is no mandate to enter into negotiations on the issue.

Yerxa is also chairing informal talks on the relationship between the TRIPS Agreement and the CBD. These are separate from the discussions on the issue in the TRIPS Council.

Also with regard to GIs, Ambassador Manzoor Ahmad (Pakistan) will continue to chair talks on creating a multilateral register for GIs for wines and spirits – the only issue for which Members are currently mandated to negotiate an amendment to the TRIPS Agreement. The negotiations have been deadlocked over whether the proposed register should be legally binding or limited to information purposes.

Meanwhile, Ambassador Trevor Clarke (Barbados - previous TRIPS Council Chair) is set to chair talks on the review of the application of the TRIPS Agreement's provisions on geographical indications (GIs). Members currently disagree on whether the review should be based on the individual TRIPS provisions or on their reactions to a WTO questionnaire.

ICTSD Reporting; "TRIPS Meeting: Boost to IP Issues As Part of Resumed Trade Talks, US Submits Enforcement Proposal", INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY WATCH, 14 February 2007.

---

## WORLD INCHING CLOSER TO GLOBAL CLIMATE COLLABORATION?

More than a hundred legislators from key developed and developing countries recently reached a non-binding agreement on tackling climate change, looking to implement emissions targets for all. Following in the heels of this World Bank-sponsored event, a group of global private sector companies and organisations agreed on the need for a "bold" framework for tackling climate change in the near future.

Meanwhile, EU Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson, for his part, renewed a call for using the trade system to support climate goals by axing tariffs on low-emission technology.

### Legislators lean in on G8 climate process

Parliamentarians from the G8 major industrialised countries 'plus 5' (China, India, Mexico, Brazil and South Africa) met at the World Bank in Washington, D.C., from 14-15 February at a "Legislators Forum on Climate Change" to discuss how best to reduce the

global risks of severe climate change impacts and forge collaboration to stop the rise of atmospheric greenhouse gases.

The meeting served to provide input into G8 discussions on the issue. The 2007 G8 Summit, chaired by Germany, will be held midyear in Heiligendamm.

During the forum, participants heard a keynote speech by Nicholas Stern. The author of a 700-page report on the effects of climate change (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 1 November 2006, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/06-11-01/inbrief.htm>), said that Europe, the US, India, China and all other major greenhouse gas emitting countries need to "move together" to tackle the problem of climate change. "That means recognising what everybody else is doing and asking together, how do we scale up? As opposed to saying, well, I'm not doing anything because they're not doing anything."

The forum took place shortly after the release of a report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) -- the scientific body examining global climate research -- concluded that humans are to blame for climate change (BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 2 February 2007, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/07-02-07/story5.htm>). It concluded by adopting a "Washington Statement," in which the parliamentarians stressed that human induced climate change is now "beyond doubt". "Climate change is a global issue and there is an obligation on us all to take action, in line with our capabilities and historic responsibilities," they said. They urged, among other, the establishment of a global market to trade carbon dioxide emissions as this was "the most efficient and powerful way to stimulate investment" in new technologies. Intergovernmental, regional and private-public initiatives and partnerships would all be needed to spur innovation.

The legislators called for action on creating a global regime for binding emissions reduction post 2012, when the Kyoto Protocol's first commitment period expires. The next meeting in this process will take place in November this year in Bali, and the legislators expressed hope that the G8 summit could provide a strong political message to help deliver results there.

On the controversial issue of developing country commitments (which major emerging economies such as India and China strongly oppose), the Washington Statement proposed "appropriate targets" for developing countries.

Speaking at the time of the legislators forum in Washington, US senator Joe Lieberman forecast that the US Congress would enact a law on cutting emissions by the end of 2008 or early 2009. The Bush

administration US has refused to sign onto the Kyoto Protocol. Presidential candidate John McCain said, however, that he was "convinced that we have reached the tipping point and that the Congress of the US will act, with the agreement of the administration."

### Private sector commitment to climate action

Meanwhile, over 100 leaders from companies including Allianz, Bayer, Citigroup, DuPont, General Electric, and Volvo, as well as other stakeholders met in a Global Roundtable on Climate Change hosted by Columbia University's Earth Institute. On 20 February, they adopted a joint statement that called for scientifically informed targets to stabilise the Earth's atmosphere; future climate action involving all countries, according to equity principles; the creation of a clear and efficient international carbon market; and support for energy efficiency, de-carbonisation and new low-emission technologies. The signatories to commitment to doing their part of the job.

"Global businesses are assuming their just place as catalysts for action on climate change. But action by business alone is not enough," commented Jeffrey Immelt, CEO of General Electric. "While we believe that applying technology against problems will create positive business opportunities that can result in positive change, national, state and local governments, academia and other non-governmental organisations must step forward with equal force," he added.

### Abolish tariffs on green goods

In related news, Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson reiterated his call for global solutions to the twin challenges of climate change and energy security at a meeting on 9 February in Norway.

On climate change, he supported an agreement in the WTO Doha negotiations for the phase-in of zero tariffs for green goods to encourage a better functioning global market in green technologies and services (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 19 January 2007, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/07-01-19/story1.htm>). He stressed "an important hidden imperative behind Kyoto - and the successor to Kyoto we now need to negotiate - is the creation of an open global market in environmental technologies and in investment in green industrial change."

The "Washington Statement" on climate cooperation by G8 + 5 parliamentarians is available at [http://www.globeinternational.org/docs/content/washington\\_statement.pdf](http://www.globeinternational.org/docs/content/washington_statement.pdf)

The Path to Climate Sustainability: A Joint Statement by the Global Roundtable on Climate Change is

available at [http://www.earth.columbia.edu/grocc/grocc4\\_statement.html](http://www.earth.columbia.edu/grocc/grocc4_statement.html)

ICTSD reporting; "Mandelson Renews Call For International Rules on Energy Trade and 0% Tariff on Green Goods", EUROPEAN COMMISSION, 9 February 2007; "G8 Climate Change Dialogue Moves to Washington", WORLD BANK, 14 February 2007; "Politicians Sign New Climate Pact", BBC NEWS, 16 February 2007; "New World Body May Help Cut CO2 Emissions, UN Told", PLANETARK, 19 February 2007; "AAAS Board Releases New Statement on Climate Change", AAAS, 18 February 2007.

## OTHER STORIES

### WIPO DEVELOPMENT AGENDA MEETING UNDERWAY

Another round of talks on a 'development agenda' for the World Intellectual Property Organisation is underway, as the committee responsible for the issue kicked off a week-long meeting on 19 February.

The Provisional Committee on a Development Agenda is examining some 111 proposals that have been made since 2004, when a group of developing countries, led by Brazil and Argentina, launched an initiative calling for UN developmental objectives to be integrated into every aspect of WIPO's mandate and functioning. The talks have remained controversial, pitching developing and developed countries against one another, and the committee is well past its original deadline for agreeing on reforms (see BRIDGES Weekly, 4 October 2006, <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/06-10-04/story1.htm>).

The current meeting had been slated to consider 40 of the proposals which had been deemed to have more widespread support. The talks started uncontentiously, with members assenting to base discussions on a document prepared by former PCDA Chair Enrique Manalo (Philippines), in which he organised the 111 proposals into a subject-based matrix in an attempt to facilitate discussion.

Negotiators spent the first day largely on procedural issues and general statements. Most countries said that they wanted to present WIPO's September General Assembly with a list of recommendations for action. Canada added that it felt a "positive spirit more than ever to achieve a common ground." Morocco mentioned its disappointment that no concrete result had been made after two years. Many delegations praised Manalo's work as chair.

The next two days involved detailed discussion of the proposals and their provisions. The US stressed that it was supported to the idea of a development agenda but it pointed out that in their view the Development Agenda had not been adopted yet.

New PCDA Chair Ambassador Trevor Clarke (Barbados) expressed hope that an agreement would be concluded by the end of the year. The secretariat is taking note of the points raised by delegates, and will present them with a new document on the various perspectives by the end of the week.

In the run-up to the session at WIPO, the Indian government hosted a gathering in New Delhi from 5-7 February to try to provide input to the discussions in Geneva. Participants looked at the development agenda proposals, and streamlined the 40 originally set for consideration into 22. These focused mainly on technical assistance, norm-setting, flexibilities for public policy and the public domain, technology transfer, information and communication technologies and access to knowledge, assessments and impact studies, institutional matters and other issues. The document they came up with was submitted as an informal input, or 'non-paper', to the PCDA.

Participants at the New Delhi meeting hailed from over twenty countries, and took part in their personal capacities.

During the WIPO session, countries including Russia and Switzerland praised India for taking this initiative, describing it as a 'useful exchange of views and ideas'.

The next issue of BRIDGES Weekly will provide further coverage of the PCDA meeting.

ICTSD reporting; "Flurry of activity before next week's Development meeting," SOUTH-NORTH DEVELOPMENT MONITOR (SUNS), 14 February 2007.

---

## IN BRIEF

---

### TRADE FEATURES PROMINENTLY AT UNEP GOVERNING COUNCIL

At a recent meeting, the new UN Environment Programme (UNEP) Executive Director Achim Steiner and WTO Director-General Pascal Lamy -- echoed by a number of environment ministers and other high-level participants -- called for improving the synergies between the trade and environment regimes.

In addition to Lamy, several heads of UN agencies attended the 24th Session of the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GC-24/GMEF), held from 5 to 9 February in Nairobi, Kenya. Through a series of panel discussions and interactive roundtables, participants discussed globalisation and the environment and UN reform. While participants continued to be divided on the need to establish a comprehensive new UN environment organisation, they generally agreed on the need for better coordination between trade and environment policy-making processes.

Speaking at the GC plenary in Nairobi, Lamy referred to sustainable development as central to the WTO and urged continued support from the environmental community in bringing the WTO Doha Round to a successful conclusion. He emphasised that the ongoing trade negotiations have the potential to facilitate a more efficient global allocation of resources. He stressed, however, that "for this efficient allocation to truly materialise, we all know that resources must be properly priced to start with - that externalities would have to be internalised. In today's world, our policies are not fully synchronised."

Delegates to the meeting called upon UNEP to contribute to the dialogue on trade to help shape trade-related rules and institutions that affect the environment. Actions by UNEP should also include working with the WTO on the mutual supportiveness of trade and environment. Delegates further suggested that the international community strengthen international environmental governance to respond to globalisation processes and to ensure greater parity among international organisations promoting sustainable development (e.g., multilateral environmental agreements and the WTO).

For a full update on the UNEP Governing Council, see the latest issue of BRIDGES Trade Biores, 16 February 2007, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/07-02-16/story1.htm>.

ICTSD reporting; "Environment Ministers Rise to the Challenge of Globalization and UN Reform," UNEP RELEASE, 9 February 2007; ENB Vol. 16 No. 60, 12 February 2007.

---

### MINISTERS AGREE STEPS TO REGULATE MERCURY

Ministers at a recent high-level environmental gathering have agreed to take steps to limit global exposure to the toxic chemical mercury. As countries remain divided on whether to opt for voluntary commitments or legally-binding rules, they decided to focus on a voluntary programme for the time being, leaving open the



possibility to start negotiations on a treaty in two years' time.

The mercury issue has been divisive at the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) Governing Council in the past (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 4 March 2005, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/05-03-04/inbrief.htm#3>), and those involved in the process said that the decision to scale up activity in this area was significant.

"The mercury decision... underlines a new determination by environment ministers to rise to the challenges of our time," commented UNEP Executive Director Achim Steiner. The Zero Mercury Working Group, however, said that the current approach did not go far enough and stressed the need for a legally-binding instrument.

At the UNEP Governing Council, the EU, the African Group, Norway and Switzerland pushed for negotiations on a treaty (which would also cover trade aspects). The US, Australia, Canada, Japan, China and India preferred to extend voluntary partnerships. Under the two-track approach agreed, a new ad hoc open-ended working group of government and stakeholder representatives will be established "to review and assess options for enhanced voluntary measures and new or existing international legal instruments."

Currently, the EU is the main exporter of mercury, with India and China being the main importers. The EU has taken steps to ban mercury exports by 2011 (see BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 3 November 2006, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/06-11-03/inbrief.htm#2>).

Exposure to high levels of mercury in any form -- metallic, inorganic or organic -- can permanently damage the brain, kidneys, and developing fetuses. Mercury is released from coal-fired power stations, waste incinerators and as a by-product of artisanal mining of gold and silver.

"New UN-backed voluntary programme seeks to curb toxic mercury pollution," UN NEWS CENTRE, 14 February 2007; "Governments Agree Action on Mercury, but no Treaty," REUTERS, 12 February 2007; ENB Vol. 16 No. 60, 12 February 2007.

---

## WTO IN BRIEF

---

---

### WTO, ILO RELEASE JOINT STUDY ON TRADE AND EMPLOYMENT

---

The secretariats of the WTO and the International Labour Organization have issued a joint study on the

relationship between trade and employment. It concludes that greater policy coherence in the two areas can have positive impacts on the growth effects of trade reforms and ultimately on their potential to improve job quality worldwide.

The study, entitled "Trade and Employment: Challenges for Policy Research," surveys existing literature, attempting to highlight what is known, unknown, or uncertain about the relationship between trade policies and labour and social policies.

According to the report, which was released on 19 February, trade liberalisation is associated with both job losses and job creation as economic activity is restructured. In the long run, efficiency gains from liberalisation are expected to lead to positive overall employment effects.

With regard to wages, the study points out that average wage increases may hide distributional changes that affect some workers negatively, and that redistributing gains requires effective social and labour policies. However, there is no widely-agreed way to design appropriate redistribution policies.

Expanded trade has generally increased income inequality in developed countries and reduced it in developing countries. The report notes that the relative increase in demand for skilled labour -- and resulting skill premiums -- is a global phenomenon, and often results in increased skill premiums. The ensuing increases in income inequality are a serious challenge for developing countries in which redistribution policies are absent or inadequate.

Research has also indicated that trade and outsourcing stimulate the rate of technological change. Education policy is one tool that can have redistributive effects and play an important role in how countries cope with economic and technological change. Although research suggests a trade off between efficiency and unemployment insurance, appropriately designed schemes can mitigate the negative affects.

The study calls for further research on how trade liberalisation affects the informal economy. It also recommends further work on supporting the formulation of more effective and coherent policies on trade, labour, and social policy for the benefit of the international community.

Access the study online at [http://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news07\\_e/ilo\\_feb07\\_e.htm](http://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news07_e/ilo_feb07_e.htm).

ICTSD reporting.

## EVENTS & RESOURCES

### EVENTS

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

#### Coming Up: 22-28 February

26 February, Managua, Nicaragua: NICARAGUAN NATIONAL MEETING AND EXPERTS' ROUNDTABLE ON TRADE IN SERVICES AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. Organised by ICTSD in collaboration with the Nitlapán Research Institute for Development at the University of Central American, the National Meeting will provide a forum where the findings of a Nicaraguan case study commissioned by ICTSD will be presented. The case study, which focuses on tourism services, environmental services and logistics services, seeks to analyse the relevance of the services sector in advancing the sustainable development goals of Nicaragua, the opportunities and risks appurtenant to liberalising trade in selected services sectors or modes of supply and possible options regarding the corollary regulatory reform and other flanking measures that may be needed to achieve these goals. Following on from the National Meeting there will be an Experts' Roundtable that will focus on tourism services. This Experts' Roundtable will produce a Roadmap for Implementation, which will constitute a practical tool for policy makers to take the next steps and translate the domestic interests identified in each priority sector into specific domestic reform proposals. For more information e-mail [hullrich@ictsd.ch](mailto:hullrich@ictsd.ch); tel: +41 (0)22 917 88 46; fax: +41 (0)22 917 80 93; or visit [http://www.ictsd.org/issarea/services/roundtable/2007-02-26/2007-02-26\\_desc.htm](http://www.ictsd.org/issarea/services/roundtable/2007-02-26/2007-02-26_desc.htm).

26 February to 2 March, New York, United States: CSD-15 INTERGOVERNMENTAL PREPARATORY MEETING. This will be a preparatory meeting for the fifteenth session of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-15). The discussions will focus on energy for sustainable development, industrial development, air pollution/atmosphere, and climate change. For further information contact the Division for Sustainable Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs; tel: +1 212 963 8102; fax: +1 212 963 4260; e-mail: [dsd@un.org](mailto:dsd@un.org); internet: [http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/csd15/csd15\\_ipm.htm](http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/csd15/csd15_ipm.htm).

27 February, Copenhagen, Denmark: THE WTO AND THE SHRINKING OF DEVELOPMENT SPACE: HOW BIG IS THE BITE? The Danish Institute of International Studies will present a trade and development seminar featuring Dr. Alisa DiCaprio of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Global Development and Environment Institute. She will examine the industrial policies of Newly Industrialised Countries employed during the GATT regime and to what extent the textual limitations of the 1994 WTO agreement has resulted in actual changes in policy implementation. For more information, contact [events@diis.dk](mailto:events@diis.dk) or visit <http://www.diis.dk>.

28 February to 2 March, Wels, Austria: WORLD SUSTAINABLE ENERGY DAYS 2007. Organised by the O.Ö. Energiesparverband, four concurrent conferences offer a range of events and seminars on sustainable energy production and use, the future of renewable energy technology, efficiency and renewable energy sources, and rural sustainable energy development. For further information visit <http://www.wsed.at>.

28 February, Washington, D.C.: INTERNATIONAL TRADE: THE 2006 RECORD AND THE DYNAMIC FOR 2007. This breakfast discussion, hosted by the Washington International Trade Association (WITA), will feature US Undersecretary of Commerce for International Trade Franklin Lavin, who will present an in-depth analysis of the dynamics underlying the 2006 record international trade numbers. For further information email [events@wita.org](mailto:events@wita.org); or visit [http://www.wita.org/index.php?tg=addon/4/form&id\\_app=25&trt\\_step=1&id\\_step=163](http://www.wita.org/index.php?tg=addon/4/form&id_app=25&trt_step=1&id_step=163).

#### 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.

26 & 28 February: TRADE POLICY REVIEW BODY- EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

27 February: WORKING PARTY ON THE ACCESSION ON MONTENEGRO

28 February: COMMITTEE ON SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

## Other Upcoming Events

1-2 March, Geneva, Switzerland: **DISCIPLINING FISHERIES SUBSIDIES - INCORPORATION SUSTAINABILITY AT THE WTO AND BEYOND.** Developing new disciplines on fisheries subsidies that present sustainability concerns is a priority for achieving sustainable management of the world's fisheries resources. After several years of work on subsidies reform at UNEP and WWF, the remaining question is how "sustainability" can be incorporated into appropriate and workable conditions on fisheries subsidies at the WTO and beyond, including national and regional level fisheries policy. Answering this question is the aim of this symposium. For more information about this meeting contact Anja von Moltke (anja.moltke@unep.ch) or Aimee Gonzales (agonzales@wwfint.org) or visit [http://www.unep.ch/etb/events/2007fish\\_symposium.php](http://www.unep.ch/etb/events/2007fish_symposium.php).

28- 30 March, Oslo, Norway: **THE OSLO CONFERENCE ON GOOD GOVERNANCE, SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY.** The Oslo Conference aims to take the ongoing debate about business and sustainability beyond corporate social responsibility by providing a platform for an integrated approach comprised of key players from government, business, academia, trade-unions and non-governmental organisations (NGOs). The conference is hosted by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in cooperation with the World Business Council for Sustainable Development, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI), the Norwegian Ministry of the Environment and the City of Oslo. For further information visit <http://www.csr-oslo.org/>.

13-15 March, Copenhagen, Denmark: **CARBON MARKET INSIGHTS 2007.** Organised by PointCarbon, this year's event will consider, among other topics, the opening up of the EU emissions trading scheme to the global carbon markets. Three programme areas - carbon trading, carbon projects, and carbon and energy - will be explored through a series of presentations, roundtables, case studies, and workshops. Al Gore will give the keynote address. For more information, contact [conference@pointcarbon.com](mailto:conference@pointcarbon.com) or visit <http://www.pointcarbon.com/Events/Carbon%20Market%20Insights/category401.html>

22-24 March, New Delhi, India: **POLITICAL ECONOMY CONSTRAINTS IN REGULATORY REGIMES IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.** Organised by the Consumer Unity and Trust Society International (CUTS) as part of their research programme 'Competition, Regulation, and Development Research Forum', the symposia will feature presentations on research

findings from the first phase of the programme. Authors and participants, including political economists, policy-makers, government officials and representatives from regulatory authorities, will identify and deliberate the political economy constraints developing countries face in implementing competition and regulatory regimes. For more information, contact [cdref@cuts.org](mailto:cdref@cuts.org) or visit <http://www.circ.in/cdrfsymp.htm>.

15-16 March, Nairobi, Kenya: **INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON LINKAGES BETWEEN TRADE, DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY REDUCTION.** The Consumer Unity and Trust Society International (CUTS) is organising this conference to bring together project partners from 15 countries across South-East Asia, Southern Africa, and Europe with representatives from inter-governmental agencies, civil society, and research organizations to discuss the involvement of civil society in implementing aid for trade programmes. For further information visit <http://www.cuts-citee.org/events/htm>.

27-30 March, Atlanta, Georgia, United States: **SOL FORUM ON BUSINESS INNOVATION FOR SUSTAINABILITY.** This event is being organised by the SoL Sustainability Consortium for leaders from NGOs, government, academia, and business who are dedicated to developing and utilising environmentally sustainable business practices. The forum will use workshops, café-style discussions, and learning forums to promote sustainable practices, emissions limits, and renewable energy. For further information visit <http://www.solsustainability.org/forum2007.htm>.

30 April to 11 May, New York, United States: **UN CSD-15.** The fifteenth session of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-15) will focus on the areas of energy for sustainable development, industrial development, air pollution/atmosphere, and climate change. For further information contact the Division for Sustainable Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs; tel: +1 212 963 8102; fax: +1 212 963 4260; e-mail: [dsd@un.org](mailto:dsd@un.org); internet: <http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/policy.htm>.

---

## RESOURCES

**COLLATERAL DAMAGE: EXCHANGE CONTROLS AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE.** By Shang-Jin Wei and Zhiwei Zhang (IMF Working Paper, 1 January 2007). This paper examines the negative effects of exchange controls on trade and concludes that collateral damage in terms of foregone trade is sizeable. The paper finds that a one standard-deviation increase in the controls on trade payment has the same negative effect on trade as a tariff increase of about 14 percent. And a one standard-deviation increase in the controls on foreign exchange transactions reduces trade by the same



amount as a tariff increase of about 11 percent. Download the paper at <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/cat/longres.cfm?sk=20191.0>

**AFRICA AND THE WTO DOHA ROUND: AN OVERVIEW.** By Michael Friis Jensen and Peter Gibbon (Development Policy Review, 2007). Despite WTO promises of a development round at Doha in 2001, Sub-Saharan countries have gained little so far, often finding the discussions irrelevant to them. This article argues that, should the round be revived, Africa would benefit from a more aggressive stance on preferences and should push for more concessions through Aid for Trade and Special and Differential Treatment. Access the article online at <http://www.eldis.org/trade/index.htm>

**AFRICAN COUNTRIES AND THE WTO'S DISPUTE SETTLEMENT MECHANISM.** By Amin Alavi (Development Policy Review, 2007). This article seeks to answer why, after 10 years, the WTO dispute settlement mechanism (DSM) has not been used by any Sub-Saharan country. The author identifies high entry barriers, a skewed retaliation system, and a lack of development orientation as obstacles to utilizing the DSM and critically analyses the solutions proposed to remedy this. The paper also discusses how this reflects broader problems concerning African participation in the WTO. Access the article online at <http://www.eldis.org/trade/index.htm>

**THE WTO, AGRICULTURAL TRADE REFORM, AND THE ENVIRONMENT: NITROGEN AND AGRO-CHEMICAL INDICATORS FOR THE OECD.** By Allan N. Rae and Anna Strutt (The Estey Centre Journal of International Law and Trade Policy, Volume 8, Number 1, Winter 2007). This article uses a modified version of the Global Trade Analysis model to estimate for OECD countries' changes in two environmental indicators, nitrogen balances and intensity of agro-chemical use, resulting from simulated trade reforms. The reforms simulated lead to slightly improved nitrogen balances across the OECD; and less intensive agro-chemical use in Western Europe and Northeast Asia but more intensive use in other OECD countries. The article can be downloaded at <http://esteyjournal.com/>

**INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN BIOFUELS: GOOD FOR DEVELOPMENT? AND GOOD FOR ENVIRONMENT?** By Annie Dufey (IIED, January 2007). Biofuels have been promoted as a means of creating jobs and wealth in developing nations, while cutting greenhouse gas emissions in the industrialised world, where demand for biofuels is set to skyrocket to meet ambitious targets. This report calls for international trade barriers, especially subsidies, to be relaxed to enable developing countries to reap the benefits of the biofuels trade, and for certification schemes to take account of the real

environmental and social conditions in such countries. The current trade regimes are not fit for encouraging synergies and sorting out trade-offs. Any benefits from biofuels trade could be undermined if the sector continues to expand without improved policies and international coordination. To access the report visit <http://www.iied.org/pubs/display.php?o=11068IIED>.

Back issues of *BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest*® can be accessed at: <http://www.ictsd.org/weekly/archive.htm>.

*BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest*® is published by the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD), <http://www.ictsd.org/>.

Contributors to this issue of *BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest*® are Melanie Butler, Marie Chamay, Kamal Gueye, Malena Sell and Christoph Spennemann. Editors of this issue: Malena Sell and Trineesh Biswas, [bridges\\_weekly@ictsd.ch](mailto:bridges_weekly@ictsd.ch). Director: Ricardo Meléndez-Ortiz, [rmelendez@ictsd.ch](mailto:rmelendez@ictsd.ch). ICTSD is an independent, not-for-profit organisation based at: 7, ch. de Balexert, 1219 Geneva, Switzerland, tel: (41-22) 917-8492; fax: 917-8093. Excerpts from *BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest*® may be used in other publications with appropriate citation. Comments and suggestions are welcomed and should be directed to the Editor or the Director.

*BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest* is made possible through the generous support of the Government of the United Kingdom (DFID) and ICTSD's core donors including the Governments of Finland, Denmark, the Netherlands and Sweden; Christian Aid (UK) and NOVIB (NL). *BRIDGES Weekly* also benefits from support for the BRIDGES series of publications from donors including the Rockefeller Foundation and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation. ISSN 1563-0