

LEAD STORIES

WTO FARM TALKS SPUTTER INTO ACTION	1
WIPO COMMITTEE ON TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE FAILS TO AGREE ON COURSE OF FUTURE WORK	3

OTHER NEWS

EU TACKLES ILLEGAL LOGGING, BUT ENVIRONMENTALISTS WANT MORE	5
--	---

IN BRIEF

CANADA, EU TO NEGOTIATE TRADE PACT	7
KRUGMAN WINS NOBEL FOR WORK ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE	7
US TOPS COMPETITIVENESS LIST	8

WTO IN BRIEF

OVERTURNING PANEL, APPELLATE BODY ISSUES MIXED RULING IN HORMONE DISPUTE	9
ANTI-DUMPING CASES ON THE RISE IN THE FIRST HALF OF 2008, WTO REPORTS	10

EVENTS & RESOURCES

EVENTS	11
RESOURCES	14

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 Paige McClanahan, Editor, by email at: bridges_weekly@ictsd.ch, or by telephone at: (41-22) 917-8498

negotiations, which have been stalemated since the failure of ministerial-level talks at the end of July.

Falconer will return to Wellington at the end of the year, a fact that has heightened many Members' expectations of what the outgoing chair might be able to accomplish in the next two months.

This week's talks are a continuation of the "walks in the woods" that Falconer has taken with Members since the beginning of the month. Under that format, Falconer has met informally with groups of countries on issues sensitive to allow them to air their ideas and concerns. So far, Falconer has held such informal meetings on tariff rate quota creation, tariff simplification, sensitive products, cotton, green box subsidies and tropical products.

To date, the most concrete proposals have come from discussions on tariff rate quota creation and tariff simplification. Talks on other issues have largely focused on clarifying the interpretation of the language in the draft text on agriculture that was released in the run-up to the ministerial-level talks in July.

No new TRQs?

The creation of new tariff rate quotas (TRQs), first proposed during the Uruguay Round of trade talks, has long been a controversial subject for major exporters.

TRQs were created as a means to allow import-sensitive countries to end their quota regimes and transition to more transparent ad valorem tariffs. But as the Doha Round has been explicitly devoted to development since its launch in 2001, the talks have treated products of export interest to developing countries with particular sensitivity. The number of TRQs for a given Member has largely been frozen since the end of the Uruguay Round. Exporters, developing countries in particular, fear that additional TRQs will make it that much harder for their goods to gain the level market access that they were expecting to win at the Doha Round's conclusion. At the heart of the debate is a question of whether new TRQs are compatible with the aims of the Round.

LEAD STORIES

WTO FARM TALKS SPUTTER INTO ACTION

Senior officials met with the chair of the WTO's agriculture committee this week to informally exchange ideas on how to reach a compromise on liberalising trade in the agriculture sector, one of the pillars of the WTO's Doha Round. The chair, Ambassador Crawford Falconer (New Zealand), has recently put a wide variety of issues on the table in an attempt to revive the

Positions on both sides have been stiff, even during the current informal talks. Major agriculture exporters such as Brazil refuse to concede to the creation of TRQs, even as an analytical exercise, saying that importers have yet to make a "convincing explanation" for the need for new TRQs. Exporters fear that by discussing the issue of payments, or the trade-offs needed for the creation on new TRQs, they will be legitimising TRQ creation.

Nonetheless, the talks have outlined four possible categories for which TRQs could be created:

**** Dynamic trade:** products that were not originally covered by TRQs but for which trade has grown lately, e.g., ethanol.

**** Substitute products:** products that can be substitutes for goods currently facing TRQs, e.g., isoglucose, a substitute for sugar.

**** Product categories with TRQs:** cases in which TRQs exist in broader classifications but do not exist for specific goods, e.g., a TRQ exists for beef, in general, but not for beef liver.

**** Completely new TRQ:** a product with no history or other association with TRQs.

Importers agree that TRQ creation would occur within the allotment for sensitive products, which currently stands at 4 percent. Delegates also discussed whether substitute products might be dealt with via a "partial designation," which would allow importers to select detailed tariff lines rather than broad categories to count towards their allotment.

Sensitive products

Many of the details of an outline on sensitive products -- goods that will face reduced formulaic tariff cuts in exchange for an increase in quotas -- have largely been agreed. But some members of the G-10 group of import-sensitive developed countries, such as Japan, are seeking an additional two-percent increase to their sensitive product entitlement. Others, such as Canada, have also demonstrated an interest in acquiring an additional two percent

Such an increase in tariff lines eligible for sensitive product designation is premised on language in Paragraph 71 of the most recent agricultural draft modalities. That clause allows countries with exceptionally high tariffs to increase their number of sensitive product in exchange for a "payment." But

while some Members, such as Japan, believe they qualify for such exceptional treatment, others disagree.

Tariff simplification

Tariff simplification is the conversion of specific tariffs, which are set at a precise level, to ad valorem tariffs, which are expressed as a percentage of the value of the good in question. Tariff simplification has been considered an important part of making trade rules more transparent and easier to implement.

Delegates have long been deadlocked on the issue. Importers such as the EU have argued that 85 percent of tariff lines should be converted to ad valorem, while exporters, led by the G-20 and the Cairns Group, want all tariffs to be converted.

But Falconer has said that his recent consultations have yielded a "sea change" in Members' moods on the issue.

According to sources close to the talks, a Canadian study showed that complete tariff simplification may not be in the interest of exporters. Since the base period for specific tariffs and their conversion to ad valorem tariffs was set during a time of low prices, their conversion to percentage figures under current conditions may result in higher tariffs for products that have been buoyed by this year's spike in commodity prices. But some of the premises of the study may no longer be valid, as prices for many key agricultural commodities have dropped precipitously in recent weeks.

It is unclear what figure Members will agree to, sources said, but it now appears unlikely that they will settle on a complete conversion of all specific tariffs.

An 'operational' SSM

The special safeguard mechanism (SSM), a tool that would allow Members to protect domestic producers from price drops or import surges, has also been addressed in Falconer's consultations. Until recently, the SSM, which has been blamed for the collapse of the July mini-ministerial, was at the centre of efforts to revive the talks, including a series of meetings of the G-7 group of economic powers. According to Ambassador Falconer, many ideas from the present text "have been rejected" in the walk in the woods discussions.

The idea of an SSM holiday, remedial tariffs in excess of pre-Doha Bound rates, and trigger levels suggested by developed country members for use of the SSM are some of the ideas that have been rejected.

Indonesia, speaking on behalf of the G-33 group of import-sensitive developing countries, made an intervention at an informal open-ended "transparency" meeting held on 15 October, laying out the need for an 'operational' SSM. Indonesia rejected outright the notion of an SSM 'holiday,' a provision that would make the SSM periodically inaccessible. They also rejected the idea of a mandatory price-based crosscheck and a two-tiered trigger to ensure that exporters were not being unduly penalised. However, they were open to proposals that, "in good faith," tried to account for "normal" trade growth, but limited these proposals to the three-year moving averages proposed earlier.

Cotton, tropical products, the green box

A proposal presented by the Cotton Four countries -- Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad and Mali -- went unanswered by major subsidisers of cotton, such as the US. Talks on the green box focussed on clarifying footnote 5 and 6 in Annex 2 so that poor farmers in developing countries could continue to receive assistance from their governments in a WTO-compliant manner. On tropical products, India has signaled its desire to play a more active role in talks on the subject since it is a "tropical country that exports tropical products." A delegate said that any settlement reached between the tropical products group and others must address Indian concerns.

A new text?

In private, delegates spoke almost longingly of a need to preserve the progress made during Falconer's tenure as chair of the farm talks. A final text could "put things in perspective" and to capture "what has been agreed so far," trade officials said.

But Falconer has downplayed the likelihood of a new modalities text unless Members make significant progress this week.

The work that awaits the next agriculture chair will most likely face significantly different circumstances. In light of the credit crisis and falling commodity prices, some countries might tend toward protectionism, while others might not. But given the changing financial climate, coupled with upcoming elections in the US, India and the EU, the negotiating positions many countries in many key areas of the negotiations may be significantly different next year.

World leaders continue to push for a deal

But despite the number of issues left to be resolved at WTO headquarters in Geneva, world leaders have continued to call for a prompt conclusion to the round.

Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula Silva said in a radio address on Monday that he was confident that a deal to liberalise world trade could still be reached.

"During this moment of international crisis it's important to conclude the Doha accord so we can show the world something positive, something to restore optimism in humanity," Lula said, according to Reuters.

US President George W. Bush echoed that call at a White House summit on international development two days later.

"The recent impasse in the Doha Round of trade talks is disappointing, but that doesn't have to be the final word. And so before I leave office I'm going to press hard to make sure we have a successful Doha Round," Bush said.

"In the midst of this crisis, I believe the world ought to send a clear signal that we remain committed to open markets by reducing barriers to trade across the globe," he said.

ICTSD reporting; "Bush vows big push for Doha before leaving," REUTERS, 22 October 2008.

WIPO COMMITTEE ON TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE FAILS TO AGREE ON COURSE OF FUTURE WORK

Despite intense negotiations that carried on late into Friday evening, the WIPO Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC) failed to agree on modalities for future work. Initially, countries seemed willing to work out an intersessional mechanism to facilitate progress on a range of issues on which they have had long standing disagreements. However, and notwithstanding the close involvement of WIPO's new Director General Francis Gurry, strong differences among member states resulted in a deadlock.

The lack of outcome fostered a sense of frustration among many delegates who were eager to see progress at the level of the IGC's working methods in view of the limited advancement in its substantive work after thirteen sessions.

Gurry expressed his disappointment at the outcome, but suggested that "the failure to close a deal on Friday night was a measure of the political significance of what is on the table: potentially, a major normative shift in the intellectual property system." He noted that there was increasing political will to find a substantive and credible basis for systematic recognition, within the law of intellectual property, of the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities.

Ambassador Rigoberto Gauto, the new committee chair from Paraguay, said efforts would be continued in the coming weeks to try to overcome differences among member states.

Competing proposals on the way forward

During the first few days in the full plenary meetings, most members restated their well known positions on the issues at hand. While all agreed on the importance of protecting traditional knowledge and folklore/traditional cultural expressions (TCEs) as well as addressing the misappropriation of genetic resources, views diverged on the best ways to achieve this. Most developing countries favoured international legally binding measures, while developed countries emphasised the need for further analysis and expressed a preference for non-binding measures, in particular at the national level. Many countries also commented on the gap analyses, prepared by the Secretariat, which contrast the current international legal framework with specific examples of gaps in protection and practical considerations of how these gaps might best be addressed.

But the plenary session rapidly gave way to numerous informal meetings, led by the Chair, with heads of regional groups, which made efforts to find a way to move forward.

Consultations centred on competing proposals one submitted by the African Group at the start of the session, which was later revised, and another one by France on behalf of the European Union.

The revised African proposal outlined the work to be carried out by three taskforce groups on TCEs, traditional knowledge and genetic resources. It suggested that the task force groups on TCEs and traditional knowledge should address the definitions and subject matter of protection, exceptions and limitations and duration, prior informed consent and moral/economic rights to knowledge, beneficiaries, and sui generis options for protection.

The African proposal further suggested that the taskforce group on genetic resources should examine

the development of disclosure requirements and alternative proposals for dealing with the relationship between IP and genetic resources as requested by the Convention on Biological Diversity. The genetic resources group would also tackle the development of guidelines and procedures for dealing effectively with the intellectual property aspects of access and benefit sharing arrangements. The African proposal stressed that the work of this taskforce group must be carried out "without prejudice to work in other international fora."

The three taskforce groups would provide legal and technical advice including, where appropriate, "options and scenarios for the consideration of the Committee" on all of these issues without prejudice to the outcome.

The African proposal specified the number of experts or observers to be included in each taskforce group: i.e 27 experts to be nominated by member governments, 10 by observers of which 7 were to be from indigenous and local communities.

The proposal by the African group was supported by several other developing countries, including the Asian group, the Least-Developed Country (LDC) group and several Central and Latin American countries, as they called for small intersessional expert group meetings.

On the other hand the submission by France, made on behalf of the EU, proposed that three informal working groups be incorporated into the next IGC sessions, as opposed to the suggestion by the African Group of meeting prior to the IGC. The proposal suggested that these working group meetings should be held during the first three days of the next IGC, leaving the plenary to meet on the two final days. According to the proposal, these three groups would be open to all members, but would not have decision-making power merely reporting to the IGC plenary. They would initially on definitions, beneficiaries, and objectives for TKs and TCEs, as well as disclosure of origin for genetic resources. The submission also introduced the idea of an internet portal for electronic correspondence on these issues, and the establishment of a consultative group to advise the chair. This is unlike the revised African text proposals which call for working group meetings to be held prior to the next IGC session.

Several developed countries expressed concern about the financial implications of additional meetings. Some members viewed such protests as furtive means of opposing intersessional work.

The chair then advanced his own text, proposing one morning for general business during the upcoming 2009 IGC plenary, to be followed by three and a half days of expert working groups open to all members would that

would run in parallel and would be chaired by individuals with expertise in the relevant subject matter. The groups would be expected to report to the plenary on 13 March 2009 for their work to be noted by the Committee.

Agreement elusive

In regard to the possibility of concurrent meetings, some delegates fear that some small countries may not have the capacity to source experts to attend the simultaneous sessions. Furthermore, some expressed doubt as to whether it would be possible to ensure substantive work from the expert groups without duplicating efforts made in previous IGC meetings.

As the meeting was drawing to a close, a final attempt was made to propose the following compromise: the next meeting of the IGC should be replaced with an "Extraordinary Expert Session of the Committee." That session would allow three consecutive meetings of the working groups, running for two days each; the chair would determine the composition of the groups following consultation with the committee. According to the text, the meeting would be attended by several experts determined according to an equitable formula that would take into account the number of countries in each regional group. All other interested member states and accredited observers to the committee would be allowed to attend the meeting as observers. But several members were not keen on having a regular meeting of the IGC replaced.

Members of the African Group were particularly disheartened by the outcome in view of the efforts and proposals they had made. An African group delegate complained about the lack of "flexibility" shown by developed countries which "in reality opposed any effective intersessional mechanism which would inject momentum in the work of the IGC and contribute to progress in substantive discussions." He pointed that the open-ended nature of the working groups suggested in some proposals "would considerably reduce their effectiveness and would replicate the IGC format which had shown its limits."

But a developed country delegate argued that, while they supported efforts to accelerate the work of the Committee, they believed that any modalities reached should not prejudice the outcome of its deliberations either in form or in substance.

Brazil, for its part, was supportive of the African group proposal and of an effective intersessional mechanism to accelerate the work of the IGC, a Brazilian delegate said. In consultations, he mentioned that his country had stressed the importance it attached to the careful

drafting of the terms of reference of the expert working group on genetic resources so as to ensure that its work is without prejudice to the progress achieved in other fora on this matter and more particularly at the WTO. In July, more than one hundred countries, Brazil among them, submitted draft modalities (TN/C/W/52) on the key parameters for negotiating final draft legal texts with respect to a number TRIPS issues including disclosure of origin of genetic resources in patent applications.

Despite this setback, many are still hopeful that a successful agreement may be reached through the continuation of informal consultations before it reconvenes in March 2009. The committee has two more meetings to fulfil in its remaining mandate (2008-2009).

ICTSD reporting. "WIPO Poised To Move To Talks On Potential Traditional Knowledge "Treaty," IP-Watch, October 17, 2008; "WIPO Committee On Traditional Knowledge And Folklore Running In Place," IP-Watch, 16 October 2008.

OTHER NEWS

EU TACKLES ILLEGAL LOGGING, BUT ENVIRONMENTALISTS WANT MORE

The EU's Environment Commissioner announced two new initiatives to combat illegal logging and deforestation on Friday, but environmental groups quickly slammed the measures for not going far enough to address the problems.

Nearly one fifth of the timber that enters the European market comes from illegal sources, according to European Commission. Hotspots of the illicit activity include Central Africa, Brazil and Indonesia, although illegal logging has been documented in EU countries such as Bulgaria, Romania and Slovakia. Globally, the practice deprives timber-producing countries of between US\$ 13 billion and US\$ 20 billion each year in lost taxes and stumpage fees.

Total loss of forest cover, from both legal and illegal activities, causes close to 20 percent of greenhouse gas emissions worldwide, according to the Commission. Roughly 13 million hectares of forest - an area nearly the size of Greece - are lost each year around the globe.

But the EU has said it aims to cut tropical deforestation in half by 2020, and to completely stop the loss of global forest cover by 2030.

The measures announced on Friday by EU Environment Commissioner Stavros Dimas, which include a potential new EU law on forests and a policy paper on deforestation, would oblige European timber traders to "seek sufficient guarantees" that the products they sell have been harvested in line with the domestic laws of the country from which the timber originated. The legislation would not require traders to establish the legality of their timber beyond a reasonable doubt, only "to their best ability."

The legislation would also increase incentives for legal and sustainable forest management, especially in developing countries looking to gain greater access to the large European market.

Dimas further called for the creation of a Global Forest Carbon Mechanism that would reward developing countries for reducing deforestation within their borders. The commissioner also urged the EU to provide "an appropriate level of funding" to fight global loss of forest cover.

"Forests are home to half of all known species. When forests disappear, so does a vast array of plants and species, with disastrous and irreversible consequences," Dimas said.

"Developed and developing nations must unite to protect the world's remaining forests. We must also send a firm message to timber suppliers that illegal timber or timber products will not be tolerated on the EU market," he said.

But environmental NGOs said that the two proposals do not go far enough.

"By failing to ban illegal timber outright and not tackling major causes of deforestation like biofuels, the EU is making a mockery of its own attempts to combat climate change," Owen Espley of Friends of Earth said on Friday. The group called on the EU to take measures to reduce consumer demand for products like biofuels and soy for animal feed, the production of which often leads to forest clearing in tropical regions.

Greenpeace likewise said on Friday that the EU proposal "falls far short of the resolute response needed to tackle the climate and biodiversity crisis." Instead of simply encouraging timber traders to seek out verifications of legality for the goods they buy and sell, the EU "should ensure that operators are required

by law to provide reliable proof of the legality of their products," Greenpeace said in a statement.

But the EU claimed that verifying the legality of all timber imports would be a "difficult if not, in many cases, impossible task," and that requiring all of the bloc's 27 member states to enact legislation on the matter might stretch the limits of the Commission's powers.

"Europe is generally reluctant to act beyond its jurisdiction or to pass judgement on other countries' legal frameworks unless there is an immediate threat to the well-being of its population, such as in the case of food safety or terrorism," the Commission said.

Greenpeace also faulted the EU for focussing solely on legality and failing to call for sustainability standards in the timber trade. Such an omission, the campaigners argue, means that the legislation would be blind to the rights of indigenous people and would ignore regional and international environmental laws.

But the Commission held that legality is in many cases an important step towards sustainability, and that omitting sustainability standards avoids "placing an unnecessary burden on the operators and on enforcement authorities."

In other efforts to combat illegal logging, the EU is negotiating a series of forest trade deals called Voluntary Partnership Agreements, or VPAs, with several forested developing countries.

Those pacts would require the EU's partner countries to establish transparent licensing schemes for EU-bound timber exports that certify that all of the exported goods have been legally harvested. More broadly, the deals are intended to promote better enforcement of forest law and greater involvement of civil society and the private sector.

But only one such agreement - with Ghana - has been finalised since the VPA initiative was launched in 2003 (see Bridges Weekly, 10 September 2008, <http://ictsd.net/i/news/bridgesweekly/29055/>).

Negotiations are ongoing with Cameroon, Indonesia, the Republic of Congo (Brazzaville), and Malaysia. A number of other timber-producing nations have also reportedly expressed interest in concluding a VPA with the EU.

ICTSD reporting.

IN BRIEF

**CANADA, EU TO NEGOTIATE TRADE
PACT**

Canada and the EU are expected to begin preliminary negotiations toward a comprehensive economic partnership. The transatlantic deal was announced at the annual Canada-EU Summit in Quebec City last week, where recently re-elected Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper, French President Nicolas Sarkozy - who currently holds the rotating Presidency of the EU - and European Commission President José Manuel Barroso met to discuss trade policy and the global financial situation.

The next step, Harper told reporters at a press conference on 17 October, would be to "define formal mandates for negotiating an ambitious, deeper and comprehensive and truly historic economic partnership agreement" - the process of which is set to commence "as early as possible in the new year."

"In the current global economic climate, we agreed that closer economic cooperation with key partners is becoming more important than ever," he said. "Among other things, this means rejecting the frequent tendency in difficult times to turn inward and erect barriers between our economies and our citizens."

"Indeed, we must stand against protectionism and work to lower and eliminate barriers," he said.

Harper said the EU and Canada, in taking their economic cooperation to "an entirely new level," have already directed their negotiators to work towards a comprehensive air-services agreement over the next few weeks.

The announcement came after the release of an economic study by Canada and the 27-nation trading bloc on 16 October.

According to the study, reducing tariff and non-tariff trade barriers and liberalising trade services would be worth around €11.6 billion for the EU and €8.2 billion for Canada by 2014. That would represent a gain worth 0.77 percent of GDP for Canada and 0.08 percent of GDP for the EU.

The proposed pact is set to include unrestricted trade in goods, services and investment and the elimination of tariffs as well as free movement of skilled workers and

an open market in government services and procurement, the Globe and Mail reported.

Ottawa has said that all 13 provincial and territorial governments had agreed to the proposed pact. Disagreement within Canada is one of the more difficult hurdles the country faces on the road to securing an agreement. Other potential difficulties include agricultural subsidies, which both parties defend, the outline of a dispute resolution system and carbon and environment policies. Agreements on carbon trading and output could prove troublesome as Canadian provinces already differ on these subjects.

For Canada, trade diversification underscores any deal with the European trade bloc. Since striking the Canada-US Trade Agreement in 1988 and the North American Free Trade Agreement in 1993, Canada has focused primarily on its southern neighbour; currently Canada sends more than 80 percent of its exports to the US. But with the US economy languishing, demand for Canadian goods is waning, and a deal with one of the largest markets in the world takes on a greater urgency for Canada.

The EU is Canada's second-largest trading partner, after the US, while Canada is Europe's eleventh-largest trading partner. The EU has conducted various free trade agreements with developing countries over the years, but with a stalled Doha Round of trade talks at the WTO, the European trade bloc is looking to move forward in other areas, including bilateral agreements.

If a deal is reached, Canada would be the first developed nation to have open trade relations with the EU.

ICTSD reporting; "Canada, EU seek new trade pact amid global financial crisis," DEUTSCHE PRESSE AGENTUR, 18 October 2008; "Canada-EU trade proposal rivals scope of NAFTA," GLOBE AND MAIL, 18 September 2008; "Ottawa, EU seek new trade pact," GLOBE AND MAIL, 17 October 2008.

**KRUGMAN WINS NOBEL FOR WORK ON
INTERNATIONAL TRADE**

Paul Krugman, an American economist, professor and columnist for The New York Times, was awarded the Nobel Prize in economics last week for his "analysis of trade patterns and location of economic activity."

Krugman made a significant contribution, the Nobel Committee said, by demonstrating how and why the British economist David Ricardo's theory of comparative

advantage, which has dominated economic thinking since the early 19th century, cannot account for many emerging patterns of world trade.

Ricardo held that foreign trade is driven by differences among countries: those rich in labour tend to import industrial goods and export agricultural products, while those rich in capital tend to do the opposite.

But this theory has proven unable to explain the increasing number of countries that import and export relatively slight variations of the same goods. Why, for example, does the US both import and export televisions? And why does Sweden both import and export cars?

In a relatively short paper published in the *Journal of International Economics* in 1979, Krugman put forward a potential explanation. Once consumers' basic needs are met, he theorised, they look for diversity and variety in the goods they purchase; they get more satisfaction from each dollar they spend if they have a wide range of products to choose from.

This phenomenon then gives firms an incentive to specialise in manufacturing a specific product and to produce that product for the world market, while other firms in other countries will specialise in producing slightly different goods. By thus focussing on the production of one specific good, firms are able to take advantage of economies of scale - declining per-unit costs as more units of the same good are produced - which in turn helps them turn a profit. Thus, consumers worldwide are better off thanks to both lower prices and greater product diversity.

In the 1990s, Krugman expanded this theory to explain what goods are produced where and how capital and labour are distributed across countries and regions. Economies of scale encourage firms to produce in one location, and then to ship the goods to consumers, he said. But on the other hand transport costs push firms to locate production close to their consumer base. Using this model, Krugman explained how lower transport costs, which indeed exhibited a general decline over the course of the 20th century, can lead to urbanisation and concentration of industry.

WTO Director-General Pascal Lamy acknowledged Krugman's work at a meeting of the General Council last week. "Yesterday trade took centre stage with the award of the Nobel economics prize to an economist who has spent a great part of his life trying to better understand trade and its economic underpinnings, the relationship between trade and inequality or the relationship between multilateralism and regionalism. I see this as an encouraging signal to all of us," he said.

ICTSD reporting.

US TOPS COMPETITIVENESS LIST

The World Economic Forum released its annual Global Competitiveness earlier this month, detailing and ranking the strengths and weaknesses of 134 countries that account for 98 percent of the world economy.

The US once again topped the list as the most competitive country despite the recent financial crises, followed by Switzerland, Denmark, and Sweden. European countries continued their domination of the top ten, with Finland, Germany, and the Netherlands also taking spots on that coveted list. The UK, however, dropped three places and out of the top ten due to its weakened financial markets. China, up four positions from last year, slid into 30th place-well ahead of other emerging economies. Overall, Asia had a good showing, with Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, and Taiwan all in the top 20.

The report cited the US' infrastructure and competitive labour and goods markets as the primary reason that country has been able to maintain its competitiveness and survive economic shocks. Though there are worries about its macroeconomic stability and financial markets, which may be a problem in the long run, its innovation has carried it through. Switzerland held onto its number two spot in much the same way as the US, as its economy is similarly characterised by its innovative capacity and a sophisticated business culture. The Nordic countries of Denmark, Sweden and Finland (ranked sixth), attained their high rankings through similar strategies of creating a stable macroeconomic environment and placing a heavy emphasis on education, but Denmark gained a higher level of competitiveness through its flexible and efficient labour markets-a stark contrast to the inflexible labour markets of Sweden and Finland.

The report also provided in-depth analysis of the economies of Costa Rica, China, and Saudi Arabia, among others.

Costa Rica was presented as a success story of Latin America. Due to an early emphasis on education, and policies aiming to diversify the economy away from commodities and towards value-added products, Costa Rica has climbed nine places since 2006 to achieve its current ranking of 59th. In addition, its thriving eco-tourism industry and recent progress in macroeconomic stability have given it a leg up, though it still faces major challenges in infrastructure development and inflation.

China, as one of the largest economies in the world, has made vast strides in developing and diversifying its economy and improving its overall competitiveness. But the country will have to face many obstacles if it is to develop further. The report said that China must focus on improving the basics of competitiveness-institutions, infrastructure, public health, and all levels of education-while maintaining a stable macroeconomic environment. The country's unsophisticated financial market, which suffers from a lack of government protection of both borrowers' and lenders' rights, will also require reforms.

Saudi Arabia, another rapidly growing economy, faces its own challenges. Since 2004, when the country began its ambitious program to become one of the most competitive countries by the end of the decade, Saudi Arabia has improved many facets of its economy, including its institutional framework and the efficiency of its good markets, and has moved up eight places in the Competitiveness Index since last year, placing 27th. But the report said that the country must still address many problems, especially its poor education system, which has made the private sector dependent on foreign labour. Other obstacles to development that the report cited include large barriers to trade, a lack of foreign competition, and unsophisticated financial sector.

The report comes amid turbulent financial times. "Today's volatility underscores the importance of a competitiveness-supporting economic environment that can help national economies to weather these types of chocks in order to ensure solid economic performance going into the future," Xavier Sala-i-Martin, a co-author of the study, said in the preface to the report.

The Global Competitiveness Index is based on a measurement of each countries development of the 12 pillars of competitiveness, which include infrastructure, institutions, education, and technological readiness.

ICTSD reporting.

WTO IN BRIEF

OVERTURNING PANEL, APPELLATE BODY ISSUES MIXED RULING IN HORMONE DISPUTE

In the latest development in an ongoing transatlantic dispute over the European ban of imported hormone-treated beef, the WTO's Appellate Body issued a mixed ruling on 16 October that said that while Canada and

the US can impose trade sanctions on the EU, Brussels can continue banning imports of hormone-treated beef from those countries.

Brussels, Ottawa and Washington had all appealed a March WTO panel ruling that found fault with the three parties in the dispute (see BRIDGES Weekly 2 April 2008, <http://ictsd.net/i/news/bridgesweekly/11106/>).

But the Appellate Body overturned the panel's ruling (see BRIDGES Weekly 18 June 2008, <http://ictsd.net/i/news/bridgesweekly/12276/>) that Canada and the US breached international trade rules by unilaterally deciding to retain sanctions against EU exports without initiating proper legal proceedings at the WTO.

US Trade Representative Susan Schwab welcomed the verdict and said that it meant there was no need for Washington to remove the sanctions.

"The Appellate Body's report confirms that WTO Members that are subject to additional duties for failing to bring themselves into compliance with the WTO's ruling and recommendations must do more than simply claim compliance in order to obtain relief from such duties," she said in a statement.

But the Appellate Body also ruled that the dispute panel had erred in ruling that a 2003 risk assessment by the EU did not bring the 27-nation bloc into compliance with the WTO Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, known as the SPS Agreement.

But while the Appellate Body faulted the panel for some of its conclusions, it said that it alone was unable to analyse whether the EU's risk assessment brought the European trading bloc into compliance with the SPS Agreement.

"This is an important decision," EU Trade spokesman Peter Power said. "The panel had no sound basis for questioning the WTO-legality of the new EU hormones directive. These clarifications will strengthen WTO Members' ability to protect citizens."

The Appellate Body concluded by recommending that the parties re-initiate WTO dispute settlement proceedings to resolve the existing disagreement over whether the EU measures now comply with WTO rules and whether the continued Canadian and US are still valid.

Brussels had sought an Appellate Body ruling arguing that its ban on hormone treated beef was scientifically sound, and therefore legal, and that the WTO should

have ordered the US and Canada to lift their sanctions. In their appeal, the Washington and Ottawa said it was not enough for the EU to argue that its new scientific study had justified the ban for the sanctions to be removed.

The dispute dates back to the 1980s, when the EU first banned the import of Canadian and US beef that had been treated with growth-promoting hormones. Two years after the dispute was brought to the WTO in 1996, the WTO Appellate Body found that the EU ban was not consistent with international trade law and authorised Canada and the US to impose sanctions of US\$ 125 million annually on various European exports.

But Canada and the US decided unilaterally to retain trade sanctions on EU products ranging from Roquefort cheese to Dijon mustard, reasoning that the modifications to its ban that the EU made in 2003 were not sufficient to bring it into compliance with the 1998 WTO ruling. But the EU claimed the amended ban, based on a risk assessment, was in compliance with WTO requirements and challenged the continued application of Canadian and US duties.

ICTSD reporting.

ANTI-DUMPING CASES ON THE RISE IN THE FIRST HALF OF 2008, WTO REPORTS

The Secretariat of the WTO reported this week that there was an increase in the number of anti-dumping investigations initiated during the first six months of 2008, as compared with the same period in 2007. The number of new anti-dumping measures applied also rose over these time periods, although to a lesser extent, the Secretariat reported.

Altogether the cases initiated on dumping - the practice of selling goods more cheaply overseas than in the producer country's home market - increased by 39 percent over the period of 1 January to 30 June 2008 in comparison with the first half of 2007. Sixteen WTO Members reported initiating a total of 85 new investigations in the first half of 2008, compared with the 61 investigations that were launched in the corresponding 2007 period.

While Turkey, the US and India initiated the greatest number of new cases, launching 13, 12 and 11 new anti-dumping investigations respectively in the early half of 2008, China remained the most frequent target of the new investigations, with 37 - nearly one half - of the new cases directed at its exports. Notably this

represents a 75-percent increase from the corresponding period in 2007. Thailand, with seven new investigations, and the EU and Indonesia, with five each, were the second- and third-most-frequent targets of new anti-dumping probes.

Products in the base metals (21 initiations), textiles (20 initiations) and chemicals sectors (10 initiations) were the most common subjects to the new investigations.

The report also tracked the number of times that Members took measures to counter the effects of other countries' dumping practices - a practice permitted under WTO rules. Such anti-dumping measures, which usually come in the form of punitive tariffs against the offending country, also were on the rise in the first half of this year.

From January to June 2008 the number of new anti-dumping actions rose by six percent. Altogether, 12 Members applied 54 new final measures against unfairly priced imports during the first half of 2008 compared with 51 new measures reported by 17 Members for the corresponding period in 2007.

In particular, India, with 16, initiated the greatest number of new measures. The European Communities reported eight new measures and Indonesia reported five.

Products exported from China were also the most common target of new anti-dumping measures, accounting for 13 of the 54 new measures. But this represented a 40-percent decline from the 22 new measures applied on Chinese exports during the first half of 2007. Exports from Taiwan were the second-most frequent target, followed by the EU, Korea, Russia and the US with four each.

Dumped goods from the chemical sector were the most frequent target of anti-dumping measures, accounting for 16 of the 54 measures reported from January to June 2008.

But in comparison with the latter half of 2007 - the period immediately preceding that reported - the number of new anti-dumping investigations and new measures actually fell (see BRIDGES Weekly, 16 July 2008, <http://ictsd.net/i/news/bridgesweekly/12780/>). Overall, 101 new investigations and 58 new measures were reported in the final six months of 2007, compared to the 85 new investigations and 54 new measures in early 2008.

The imposition of anti-dumping duties is one way that the WTO allows its Members to protect their local

industries. Thus, it will be interesting to see whether the next report by the Secretariat, which will cover the tumultuous latter half of 2008, will document an increase in anti-dumping measures. WTO Director-General Pascal Lamy has repeatedly urged countries to resist protectionist tendencies despite the turmoil in world markets.

The Secretariat's report is based on WTO Members' semi-annual submissions to the Anti-Dumping Practices Committee.

For further information, please refer to: http://www.wto.org/english/news_e/pres08_e/pr542_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.

Upcoming Events: 23 29 October

23-26 October, Padova, Italy. VI INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ETHICS AND ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS 2008. Goal of the event is to encourage the debate on issues of social, environmental and economic justice concerning climate change. In particular, attention will be focused on the definition and reasoning of ethical criteria, equitable and shared, useful to identify targets for future emission ratios already under negotiation in sight of the Kyoto Protocol deadline in 2012. For further information, please refer to <http://www.webethics.net/padova2008/>.

23-24 October, UN headquarters, New York, US. FFD PROCESS INFORMAL MEETINGS. The preparatory process for the 'Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus' to be held from 29 November to 2 December 2008, in Doha, Qatar, will feature several informal meetings during the month of October 2008, to discuss the drafting of the Outcome Document for the Conference. Informal consultations will be held on Chapters 1 and 2 on 9-10 October; Chapters 3, 4 and 5 on 14-17 October; and Chapter 6 and new issues on 23-24 October. A follow-up session will be held on 29-31 October. During the sessions countries will debate the detailed wording of the Outcome Document for the Conference, including on any new commitments that countries may undertake. For more information, please contact the Finance for Development Office; tel: +1-212-963-2587; fax: +1-212-963-0443; Internet: <http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/>

25-30 October, Fez, Morocco. SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH OUTLOOK IN THE ARAB WORLD. This is a premier event in the field of science and technology. More than 1500 participants are expected, including science and technology leaders of the Arab region, investors, technologists, eminent scientists, winners of international scientific prizes, and others from regional and international science and technology community. For further information, please refer to <http://www.astf.net/sro/sro5>.

27-29 October, Ismal, Algeria. INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS: ANTHROPOGENIC IMPACTS ON THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT. The themes to be addressed during this congress are: the contribution of the human activities to the marine and coastal imbalance; means and tools to avoid or mitigate the anthropogenic impacts; and global and regional oceanographic data analysis related to the influence of human activities on the marine system. For more information, please refer to <http://www.carboncyclescience.gov/documents/anthro-impacts-congress-algeria.pdf>

27-29 October, Melbourne, Australia. SANITATION AND WATER CONFERENCE 2008: MEETING THE CHALLENGE IN EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC. In 2006, the United Nations General Assembly issued a resolution that declared 2008 as 'International Year of Sanitation'. The resolution expressed concern about the slow and insufficient progress made in achieving the global sanitation target, and recognised that progress can be made through active commitment and action by all. At the 2007 World Water Week, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) presented its sanitation agenda that calls upon governments in Asia to make sanitation an urgent priority. ADB promotes the need for better and affordable facilities for individuals, disease prevention and healthy environments for communities, and financial viability of sanitation services for provider governments and utilities. It also invites public and private agencies to help governments, utilities, and communities accelerate actions that will achieve better sanitation results. In line with these sanitation initiatives, this international conference directs attention on the challenge of sanitation and water development in East Asia and the Pacific. It will also provide a forum for the Australian Agency for International Development to discuss its increased focus on sanitation and water. For further information, please refer to <http://www.adb.org/Documents/Events/2008/Sanitation-Water-Conference/>.

27-30 October, Manila, the Philippines. SECOND GLOBAL FORUM ON MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT (GFMD). The second GFMD, chaired by the Government of the Philippines, is expected to build on the achievements and recommendations made at the 2007 forum in Brussels regarding policy and institutional coherence in linking migration and development, but will also place special emphasis on the human face of migration. The theme of the Manila GFMD 2008, 'Protecting and Empowering Migrants for Development', reflects a focus on human rights and empowerment of migrants on the ground. Three roundtable discussions have been proposed on: migration, human rights and development; secure, legal migration can achieve greater development impact; and policy and institutional coherence and partnerships. For more information, please refer to

<http://www.gfmd-fmmd.org/en/press-release/philippines-prepares-way-gfmd-manila-october-2008-report-first-fof-meeting>.

27-31 October, Rome, Italy. **FOURTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE ROTTERDAM CONVENTION (PIC COP-4)**. Included during the meeting will be a high-level segment, scheduled for Thursday and Friday, 30 and 31 October, that will focus on the theme: 'Sound chemicals management: relieving the burden on public health'. A series of related side events and panel discussions are planned for Thursday afternoon. For more information contact: Rotterdam Convention Secretariat; tel: +41-22-917-8296; fax: +41-22-917-8082; e-mail: pic@unep.ch; Internet: <http://www.pic.int>.

28 October, Brussels, Belgium. **GOING GLOBAL: THE WAY FORWARD**. A conference organised by **BUSINESSEUROPE** on European companies' standing in international markets and the role of EU policies in supporting them. The conference will also be an opportunity to present the results of a new study commissioned by **BUSINESSEUROPE** on these issues. It will not only evaluate the implementation of Trade's Global Europe Strategy - the core agenda for this area - but also look to the role of other areas of policy at EU and Member State level in improving structural conditions for European exporters. For registration and further information, please refer to <http://www.businessseurope.eu/Content/Default.asp?PageID=538>.

28 October, Brussels, Amsterdam. **FRENCH PRESIDENCY AND EU ISSUES ON THE AGENDA: A GERMAN PERSPECTIVE**. This lunch debate will be introduced by Peter R. Weilemann, Director of the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung European Office, and forms part of the series "Ifri's Tuesdays in Brussels". For further information, please refer to http://www.ifri.org/frontDispatcher/ifri/manifestations/d_jeuners_et_diners_d_bats_1043938397808/publi_P_mib_weilemann_1223557611987?language=us.

28-29 October, London, UK. **OIL AND MONEY 2008: THE NEW REALITIES OF HIGH-COST OIL**. This conference, hosted by 'Energy Intelligence' and the 'International Herald Tribune', is an annual industry summit where the world's most influential decision-makers examine the macroeconomic and geopolitical issues that are shaping the international oil and gas industries. This year's conference theme, 'the New Realities of High-Cost Oil', will assess the current and future trends affecting the global energy business, especially how it impacts and is impacted by a politically charged and economically fragile world. Topics to be addressed include the effect of national oil companies on oil supply and demand, the prospects and challenges presented by strong upstream activity, the future of natural gas and new carbon economies, and energy and foreign policy. A distinguished roster of panelists leads the two-day session through lively exchanges centering on issues of critical importance to all market sectors, the exchange of confidential insights, and the opportunity to network with the industry's greatest leaders. Attendees are drawn from the ranks of senior executives at major oil and gas companies - both state-owned and publicly traded - government leaders, financial planners, energy

analysts, traders and consultants from virtually every major oil- and gas-producing and consuming nation. For further information, please refer to <http://www.energyintel.com/om/>.

28-29 October, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. **CARBON CAPTURE AND STORAGE - SHOWCASING THE OPPORTUNITIES AND NECESSITY FOR CO2 STORAGE**. A two day high level, information rich congress will bring together key experts from the carbon capture and storage (CCS) global developments and showcase the opportunities and necessity for successful carbon dioxide storage. Cost effective CCS is essential for the future viability and sustainability of the power generation industry. For further information, please refer to http://www.greenpowerconferences.com/carbonmarkets/carbon_capture.html.

28-29 October, Turin, Italy. **INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON DESIGN-DRIVEN INNOVATION: NEW CHALLENGES TO INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY PROTECTION**. For further information, please refer to http://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/details.jsp?meeting_id=16682.

28-30 October, Beijing, China. **INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT IN AGRICULTURE**. This workshop is co-organised by the Ministry of Agriculture, Republic of China and the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO). This event aims to: strengthen the capacity in quantifying and controlling water pollution from agricultural practices in China; improve the level of national resource management in China; introduce theories and methods of best management practice in China; promote sustainable development and sustainable use of water in agriculture, strengthening the role of agriculture in water quality conservation, preservation and management, in particular; and help identify integrated management practices, practical lessons learned and the necessary enabling environments that will lead to sustainable water use and quality preservation. For more information, please refer to: <http://www.wqma.org/en/>.

28-31 October, Hong Kong, China. **ASIAWORLD EXPO**. China is facing increasing environmental challenges as a result of its rapid economic growth and industrial development. Because of this, the Chinese government has been placing more emphasis and resources in promulgating widespread adoption of cleaner production by industries. For further information, please refer to <http://ecoexpoasia.hktdc.com/>.

28 October - 4 November, Changwon, Republic of Korea. **TENTH CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE RAMSAR CONVENTION**. The Convention on Wetlands, signed in Ramsar, Iran, in 1971, is an intergovernmental treaty which provides the framework for national action and international cooperation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources. There are presently 158 Contracting Parties to the Convention, with 1801 wetland sites, totaling 163 million hectares, designated for inclusion in the Ramsar 'List of Wetlands of International Importance'. For more information, please contact: Ramsar Secretariat; tel:

+41-22-999-0170; fax: +41-22-999-0169; e-mail: ramsar@ramsar.org; Internet: <http://www.ramsar.org>

29 October, Jakarta, Indonesia. APEC SEMINAR: "THE IMPACT OF LIBERALISATION ON TRADE IN SERVICES". The seminar is aimed at deepening APEC member economies' understanding of the impact of liberalisation of trade in services based on specific issues in recent studies and acquiring necessary knowledge in relation to ways and avenues in measuring the impact and how to optimise the benefits and minimise the adverse effects of liberalisation. The seminar will also lead to an elaboration on how to devise specific policy recommendations for a specific sector. For further information, please refer to: APEC Seminar "The Impact of Liberalisation on Trade in Services" (CTI 04/2008T).

29-31 October, Geneva, Switzerland. THIRD SESSION OF THE JOINT ILO/IMO/BASEL CONVENTION WORKING GROUP ON SHIP SCRAPPING. The third session of the Joint ILO/IMO/Basel Convention Working Group on Ship Scrapping is expected to convene from 29-31 October 2008 in Geneva, Switzerland. For more information, please refer to: http://www.imo.org/Environment/mainframe.asp?topic_id=818

29-31 October, UN headquarters, New York, US. FFD PROCESS INFORMAL MEETINGS. This meeting is part of the preparatory process for the 'Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus' to be held from 29 November to 2 December 2008, in Doha, Qatar. During the sessions countries will debate the detailed wording of the Outcome Document for the Conference, including on any new commitments that countries may undertake. For further information, please refer to <http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/>.

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.

23 OCTOBER: COMMITTEE ON TRADE-RELATED INVESTMENT MEASURES

24 OCTOBER: WORKING PARTY - ACCESSION - YEMEN

27 OCTOBER: COMMITTEE ON ANTI-DUMPING PRACTICES - INFORMAL GROUP ON ANTI-CIRCUMVENTION FOLLOWED BY THE WORKING GROUP ON IMPLEMENTATION;

27 OCTOBER: COMMITTEE ON ANTI-DUMPING PRACTICES - WORKING GROUP ON IMPLEMENTATION FOLLOWED BY THE REGULAR COMMITTEE

27 OCTOBER: COMMITTEE ON ANTI-DUMPING PRACTICES

28 OCTOBER: COMMITTEE ON SAFEGUARDS

28-29 OCTOBER: COUNCIL FOR TRADE-RELATED ASPECTS OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

29 OCTOBER: COMMITTEE ON SUBSIDIES AND COUNTERVAILING MEASURES - SPECIAL MEETING FOLLOWED BY REGULAR COMMITTEE

29 OCTOBER: COUNCIL FOR TRADE-RELATED ASPECTS OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS -SPECIAL SESSION

29 OCTOBER: COMMITTEE ON SUBSIDIES AND COUNTERVAILING MEASURES

Other Upcoming Events

31 October, Copenhagen, Denmark. PUBLIC SEMINAR: WORLD DEVELOPMENT REPORT 2009 - SPATIAL DISPARITIES IN DEVELOPMENT. 'Reshaping economic geography' is the title of the World Bank Report 2009 to be launched in November 2008. The overall objective of the report is to investigate how the gradual concentration of economic activities within nations relates to spatial disparities in levels of welfare. This seminar will focus on the spatial dimensions of development, in particular two central themes in the report: rural-urban relations and regional inequality. A group of key development scholars and a representative from the World Bank Report 2009 Core Group have been invited to present their views on the report. A subsequent panel session will open for a broader discussion of the pertinent issues raised throughout the day. For further information, please refer to: http://www.ddrn.dk/index.php?side_id=207.

3-4 November 2008, Paris, France, OECD POLICY DIALOGUE ON AID FOR TRADE. The OECD with the support of the European Commission and the German Marshall Fund of the United States is organising a Policy Dialogue on Aid for Trade on 3-4 November 2008 in the OECD Conference Centre. The main objectives of this two-day event is to discuss between policy makers, practitioners and academics how the developing community can help developing countries to build trade capacity and address supply-side constraints, in order to realise the full benefits from their integration in the world economy. Participation to this event is by invitation only. For more information, please contact: e-mail: aft.dialogue@oecd.org; fax: : +33 1 44 30 61 59; Internet: <http://www.oecd.org/trade/aftdialogue2008>.

3-4 November, Geneva, Switzerland. WORKING PARTY ON REGULATORY COOPERATION AND STANDARDISATION POLICIES. The eighteenth session of the Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardisation Policies (WP.6) will take place at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on Monday 3 November and Tuesday 4 November 2008, in Room V. The WP. 6 is a forum for dialogue among all stakeholders that are involved in standardisation matters with the purpose of enhancing safety, reducing obstacles to regional and

international trade, preserving the environment and promoting the international the transfer of knowledge and technology. This year, the Working Party will progress work on regulatory cooperation; discuss the controversial issue of private standards; review recent developments in the area of market surveillance (new EU common framework, negotiations on the Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA); work on a model for decision-making by national market surveillance authorities. All information regarding the meeting is available at <http://www.unece.org/trade/wp6/welcome.htm>.

3-5 November, Paris, France. THE IMPORTANCE OF MILITARY ORGANISATIONS IN PROTECTING THE CLIMATE: 2008. This meeting is organised and sponsored by the European Communities Defense Environmental Network (DEFNET), US Environmental Protection Agency, US Department of Defense, UNEP, Institute for Defense Analyses (IDA), Ministries of Environment and Defense Ministries of France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, United Kingdom and others. This workshop is scheduled to: provide a forum for leadership announcements and updates; apply lessons from ozone layer protection to climate protection; highlight challenges and progress made by developed and developing countries; summarise emerging and available climate protection technologies suitable for military and civilian applications; focus on military-unique problems not solved by technology developed for civilian applications; and present case studies of military and commercial leadership to protect the climate. A conference report will be published with consensus findings, including proven strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions while improving military effectiveness. For further information, please contact: Veronique Millon, Institute for Governance and Sustainable Development; e-mail: vmillon@inece.org; Internet: <http://www.igsd.org/conferences/Paris2008.php>

4 November, Brussels, Amsterdam. EU COMMUNICATIONS AFTER THE IRISH "NO". Lunch debate introduced by Margot Wallström, Vice-President and Commissioner for Institutional Relations and Communication Strategy, European Commission. This debate forms part of the series 'Ifri's Tuesdays in Brussels'. For further information, please refer to http://www.ifri.org/frontDispatcher/ifri/manifestations/d_jeuners_et_diners_d_bats_1043938397808/publi_P_mib_wallstrom_1224233618221?language=us.

5-7 November, Maputo, Mozambique. ECOTOURISM AND PROTECTED AREAS: CONTRIBUTING TO COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CONSERVATION. The World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO), in cooperation with the Ministry of Tourism of Mozambique, is organising this seminar, which will focus on the contribution of ecotourism to community development, poverty reduction and financing of protected areas, as well as related social and environmental issues. For more information contact: Helder Tomas; tel: +34-91-567-81-00; e-mail: caf@unwto.org; Internet: <http://www.unwto.org/sdt/events/en/events.php>

RESOURCES

ANNUAL REVIEW OF DEVELOPMENT EFFECTIVENESS 2008 - SHARED GLOBAL CHALLENGES. World Bank, October 2008. This report focuses on assessing the World Bank's development effectiveness, with attention to the provision of global public goods - including the global trading system, biodiversity conservation - and the issue of combating global public 'bads' - such as climate change and transborder contagion. The report notes that project performance has improved over the medium term and that country programmes that house a majority of the world's poor have achieved some results, but there is a need to do more on areas where national interest is not clear. To access the report, please refer to http://siteresources.worldbank.org/EXT2008ANNREVDEVEFE/Resources/arde_08.pdf.

THE GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS REPORT 2008-2009. The World Economic Forum. The United States tops the overall ranking in The Global Competitiveness Report 2008-2009. Switzerland is in second position followed by Denmark, Sweden and Singapore. European economies continue to prevail in the top 10 with Finland, Germany and the Netherlands following suit. The United Kingdom, while remaining very competitive, has dropped by three places and out of the top 10, mainly attributable to a weakening of its financial markets. The rankings are calculated from both publicly available data and the Executive Opinion Survey, a comprehensive annual survey conducted by the World Economic Forum together with its network of Partner Institutes (leading research institutes and business organisations) in the countries covered by the report. For further information, and to access the report, please refer to <http://www.weforum.org/en/initiatives/gcp/Global%20Competitiveness%20Report/index.htm>.

THE STATE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE 2008 - BIOFUELS. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), October 2008. The 2008 edition of the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation State of the World's Food and Agriculture Report focuses on the prospects, risks and opportunities for biofuels. The report addresses key questions relating to the benefits and impacts of biofuel production and use, including impacts on food security, land and water resources, as well as contributions to greenhouse gas reduction and agricultural development. The report assumes that biofuel demand will affect food prices for the coming decade or longer. While higher food prices threaten the food security of poor households in developing countries, they could offer an opportunity for agricultural development if they are accompanied by increased investments in research, institutions and infrastructure as well as sound policies. It also points to the need to harmonise approaches towards assessing greenhouse gas balances and other impacts, and calls for investments in research and development of second generation biofuels. The report stresses that blending mandates and subsidies have resulted in a rush on biofuels in advance of actual knowledge about their effects and impacts, and calls for their revision and additional policy action to ensure they are produced in an environmentally and socially sustainable manner. For further information, please refer to http://www.fao.org/sof/sofa/index_en.html.

WORLD TARIFF PROFILES 2008. WTO, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the International Trade Centre (ITC), 2008. The 2008 edition of World Tariff Profiles presents a comprehensive and updated compilation of the main tariff indicators for the WTO's Members as well as for other countries and customs territories. Numbers play a fundamental role in key areas of trade negotiations. Perhaps more than in any previous multilateral round of negotiations, tariffs and formulas are at the core of the Doha negotiations. World Tariff Profiles provides detailed data on the bound and applied tariffs of WTO Members. Information on each country's market access is presented in summary tables - allowing cross-country comparisons - and in country pages. These detail the levels of protection for domestic markets and the protectionism encountered in the major export markets. This year's edition includes more detailed information on "exports to major trading partners and duties faced", with data provided for agricultural and non-agricultural products. There are also two new technical annexes. The first discusses the new Harmonised System and its impact on WTO Members' schedules while the second covers concessions on other duties and charges for all WTO Members. For further information, please refer to http://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news08_e/world_tariff_profiles_1sep08_e.htm.

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/>.

To subscribe to *BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest*, send an email to: bridges_weekly@ictsd.ch and type the words subscribe bridges in the message header.

To unsubscribe from *BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest*, send an email to: bridges_weekly@ictsd.ch and type the words unsubscribe bridges in the message header.

Contributors to this issue of *BRIDGES Weekly Trade News Digest*® are Ahmed Abdel Latif, Ammad Bahalim, Paige McClanahan, Camille Russell, Jessica Thorn and Sarah Van Vliet. Editor: Paige McClanahan. Director: Ricardo Meléndez-Ortiz. ICTSD is an independent, not-for-profit organisation based at: 7, ch. de Ballexert, 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.

