



# Bridges Weekly Trade News Digest

*Weekly trade news from a sustainable development perspective*

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## LEAD STORIES

### G20 Leaders Call for Ministers to Meet on Doha in Early 2010

Emerging from a two-day summit in Pittsburgh last week, leaders from the Group of 20 rich and emerging economies repeated calls for the WTO's Doha Round of trade talks to be concluded before the end of 2010, and instructed their trade ministers to meet early next year to assess progress toward a deal.

"We ask our ministers to take stock of the situation no later than early 2010, taking into account the results of the work program agreed to in Geneva following the Delhi ministerial, and seek progress on agriculture, non-agricultural market access, as well as services, rules, trade facilitation and all other remaining issues," the leaders wrote in a declaration released after the meeting closed on Friday.

The statement represented a compromise on proposed timelines for the talks. Australia, Brazil and the EU had fought for a commitment for negotiators to secure an agreement on 'modalities' – the broad outlines of a global tariff- and subsidy-cutting deal – early next year. Doing so would leave countries ample time to go through the process of 'scheduling' – the transformation of the modalities into specific tariff cuts on thousands of product lines – before the end of 2010. For some developing countries, scheduling could take as long as six to nine months, one rich country trade official said.

But the United States resisted the push for a commitment to reach modalities early next year, Reuters reported, on the grounds that politicians in Washington would not accept it.

WTO Director-General Pascal Lamy paid a visit to the summit to brief the leaders on the state-of-

play of world trade, and to urge them throw their political weight behind a new global trade accord.

"I explained that political signals of commitment to resisting protectionism and to concluding the Doha Round in 2010 were needed and, indeed, welcome," Lamy said in a speech at the WTO on Monday. "But that, as long as they do not translate into concrete engagement, declarations would not in-and-of themselves deliver an outcome."

Lamy has long argued that a global trade deal is critical to forestalling protectionism and lowering consumer costs amid the ongoing economic downturn. If all WTO members raised their tariffs to the maximum levels currently allowed by the global trade body, then the average world tariff level would double, Lamy said on Monday. Many trade observers doubt that countries would take such drastic measures in response to the crisis, but in the absence of a new global trade agreement, the possibility remains.

"Leaders have agreed that their negotiators now embark on the work programmes that we have established for the next three months, and that they then assess our collective ability to achieve our 2010 target," Lamy said. "It is now incumbent upon [the leaders] to 'walk the talk'."

### **IMF reform: Real change on the way?**

Beyond Doha, G20 leaders had a full agenda for their two-day summit, hitting on questions as varied as potential limits on bankers' bonuses, reforms to international financial institutions, caps on fossil fuel subsidies, and progress toward a global climate change deal.

Reforms of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the global lender that has its headquarters in Washington, are a top priority for major emerging economies, which have traditionally been sidelined in IMF decision making. Under the current system, China, which holds 3.7 percent of the vote, has less influence than France, which controls 4.9 percent, even though the Chinese economy is 1.5 times bigger than that of France. But that could soon change. The G20 leaders agreed to "a fundamental realignment of voting weights" at the IMF, according to a statement released by the White House.

"We are committed to a shift in quota share to dynamic emerging market and developing countries of at least five percent from over-represented to underrepresented countries using the current IMF quota formula as the basis to work from. We are also committed to protecting the voting share of the poorest in the IMF," the leaders' statement said.

But Mark Weisbrot of the Washington-based Center for Economic Policy Research says a 5 percent shift in voting weights would only be a superficial change. As long as the combined votes of Europe, the United States and Japan outweigh those of the emerging economies, the rich countries will continue to set the agenda, Weisbrot says.

Also at last week's meeting, leaders agreed that the G20 will become the 'premier forum' for global economic cooperation, replacing the Group of Seven, which has taken centre stage in international economic policymaking since the mid 1970s.

"We believe that the G20 is the body for dealing with the big economic issues," British Prime Minister Gordon Brown said on Thursday, according to a report in *The Financial Times*. "Over time the G20 is going to take a bigger role in international policy – I see the G20 becoming the organisation people look to," he added.

The G20's influence on the world stage will no doubt be limited by its fundamental lack of an enforcement mechanism. But leaders gave the new grouping some clout by agreeing to 'peer review' each others' economic policies. Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd said that countries will begin sharing information before the end of this year, Reuters reported.

The G20 includes the European Union and 19 countries: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Taken together, the G20 economies account for roughly 90 percent of world output.

The leaders agreed to meet again in Canada in June 2010, in Korea in November 2010, and in France the following year.

#### More information

The G20 leaders' statement is available here <http://ictsd.net/downloads/2009/09/g20-statement.pdf>.

ICTSD reporting; "Snap analysis: Another Doha pledge, but will negotiators move?" REUTERS, 25 September 2009; "Brown says G20 will focus on new framework," THE FINANCIAL TIMES, 24 September 2009; "G20 economic peer review to start by year-end: Rudd," REUTERS, 25 September 2009.

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### NAMA Talks Spin Wheels While Rules Group Finds Some 'Common Ground'

As the frequency of meetings, if not the pace of substantive progress, picks up at the WTO, industrial goods negotiators met last week to discuss non-tariff barriers to trade and sector-specific liberalisation proposals. Meanwhile, negotiators in the rules group made tentative steps forward in the long-controversial negotiations on fisheries disciplines.

The 23-24 September meeting of the negotiating group on non-agricultural market access (NAMA) came at the start of three months of intensive talks at the WTO aimed at helping members iron out their differences in the long-running Doha Round trade negotiations (see Bridges Weekly, 23 September 2009, <http://ictsd.net/i/news/bridgesweekly/55785/>).

But the busier schedule has done little to change perceptions that the talks are drifting, in part due to a US stance that is at best distracted, at worst unconstructive.

Nevertheless, one trade diplomat held out hope that holding regular, high-level meetings might lead to more constructive engagement. "Having senior officials come here [from national capitals] and look at each other is better than not having

them come here," the negotiator said. "Maybe they'll start to negotiate, and things will happen." In the meantime, however, delegates stuck to technical work, much of it simply factual.

Several members have notified so-called 'non-tariff barriers' (NTBs) to the WTO, arguing that other countries' technical regulations, health and safety standards and certification, labeling requirements and other policies are serving as undue restrictions on their export opportunities. They have submitted different proposals for minimising the trade-restricting effects of such regulations in sectors such as textiles, clothing, footwear, wood for construction, electronics and auto parts. Most of these would have Members, when adopting a new regulation for a product, consider the costs of compliance to would-be exporters, discuss prospective regulations with trading partners, and respect international standards when possible.

The chair of the negotiating group, Swiss Ambassador Luzius Wasescha, urged the sponsors of these proposals to find convergence, which would enable legal text to be drafted for potential future disciplines on NTBs.

A separate approach proposed for dealing with NTBs is a so-called 'horizontal mechanism' to mediate trade irritants between two or more countries.

Proposals to cut deeply or even eliminate tariffs across entire industrial sectors such as chemicals, industrial machinery, or bicycles remain one of the most divisive issues in the NAMA negotiations. The US, the EU, and other developed countries want large, fast-growing markets like China, India, and Brazil to sign on to 'sectoral' initiatives. The latter countries counter that the mandate states clearly that participation in such initiatives is voluntary. Given this deadlock, negotiators have simply been looking at detailed information compiled by the sponsors of different initiatives on countries' trade and tariff profiles, in an attempt to highlight potential commercial interests arising from participation.

The next week of NAMA negotiations is scheduled for early November.

### Rules group finds agreement ‘on principles’

The WTO’s negotiating group on rules resumed its discussion of fisheries subsidies in informal meetings on 24 and 25 September, moving ahead on the basis of a ‘roadmap’ for the talks that the chair, Ambassador Guillermo Valles Galmés of Uruguay, put forward in a draft text in December 2008 (see Bridges Weekly, 14 January 2009, <http://ictsd.net/i/news/bridgesweekly/37803/>). A group calling itself the Friends of Fish put forward a statement outlining its views on how the talks should progress. The statement outlined the group’s goals of promoting sustainable fishing, doing away with harmful subsidies, and offering ‘effective and appropriate’ flexibilities – special and differential treatment (S&DT), in WTO jargon – for developing countries. The Friends of Fish group, a loose coalition of countries that has long supported far-reaching bans on fish subsidies, is made up of Argentina, Australia, Chile, Colombia, New Zealand, Norway, Iceland, Peru, Pakistan and the United States.

But while such flexibilities are important, they “should be conditioned upon effective fisheries management systems,” the group said.

A second statement, put forward jointly by Brazil, China, Ecuador and Mexico, put an even stronger emphasis on the importance of substantive special and differential treatment. There should be no limits to boat sizes in developing countries, said Brazil, speaking on behalf the four-country grouping, and poorer countries should be allowed to subsidise fishing on the high seas if they meet certain conditions. In its statement, the group was adamant that such flexibilities should be ‘effective’, ‘substantive’, and that they should go “beyond mere technical support or transitional provisions.”

“In no case should conditionalities be inserted which would hamper our countries’ developmental aspirations by means of rendering the S&DT provisions actually devoid of meaning,” the Brazil-China-Mexico-Ecuador statement said.

Barbados, speaking on behalf of the small, vulnerable economies (SVEs), reiterated the group’s proposal that countries that account for

less than 0.1 percent of global non-agricultural trade be completely exempt from any new subsidies disciplines.

Despite the differences among the statements, at least one official was struck by the similarities across the countries and groupings. All of those present agreed on the dual importance of curtailing overfishing and ensuring that developing countries have access to adequate flexibilities, the delegate said.

There was “substantive common ground” between the statements presented and “agreement on principles,” continued the source, who was encouraged by the tone of the talks. “It’s a good start,” the delegate added, “but the devil is always going to be in the details.”

At the next meeting of the rules group, scheduled for the week of 26 October, fisheries negotiators will consider how they aim to define ‘fisheries management’. The chair has advised negotiators to be ready to delve into the ‘nitty gritty’ of the talks. In the rules group’s talks on horizontal subsidies (held 22 and 23 September) and anti-dumping (held 16 September), delegates agreed to proceed according to a ‘three pillar approach’, in which the group considers a mix of bracketed and un-bracketed issues, as well as topics that are not covered in the most recent chair’s text.

The anti-dumping discussions centred on material retardation (with regard to infant industries); negligible imports; the threat of injury; the definition of ‘domestic industry’; and the exclusion of producers who are related to exporters or importers who are themselves importers, among other items. One delegate described the meeting as a “technical discussion.”

The horizontal subsidies talks addressed export credits, an Indian proposal on duty rebate schemes, and the title of Article 14 of the Uruguay Round Agreement (‘Anti-Dumping on Behalf of a Third Country’), among other issues. The group also considered the possibility of the ‘transposition’ of provisions between the WTO’s Anti-Dumping Agreement and its Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures. The two agreements have many similarities, one official explained, and could be better harmonised.

ICTSD reporting.

## OTHER NEWS

### WTO Hears Out Civil Society at Annual Public Forum

The WTO threw open its doors to civil society this week, welcoming more than a thousand participants to its annual Public Forum, held this year from 28 to 30 September at the organisation's headquarters on the shores of Lake Geneva.

"It is to your needs and aspirations that this organisation must cater," WTO Director-General Pascal Lamy told the opening session. "I certainly hope that this forum will enable the entire WTO-family, members and secretariat staff alike, to better keep their 'fingers on the pulse' so to speak. In other words, to better gauge your concerns and expectations of how we, in the WTO, can do things better in future."

The high-level plenary debate that kicked off the three-day conference saw a lively discussion among Thabo Mbeki, former president of South Africa; Gro Harlem Brundtland, former prime minister of Norway and current UN special envoy on climate change; and Uruguayan Senator and former foreign minister Sergio Abreu. Lamy also took part in the two-hour discussion, which – echoing the theme of the forum – centred on how governance can be improved at the global level. The wide-ranging debate, held in front of a packed auditorium in the WTO's new wing, touched on climate change, crisis-triggered protectionist policies, and how heads of state should balance national interests with global imperatives. (An audio recording of the full discussion is available here

[http://www.wto.org/audio/forum09\\_plenary\\_opening.mp3](http://www.wto.org/audio/forum09_plenary_opening.mp3).)

Upon leaving the auditorium, participants broke off to attend concurrent sessions that were organised by NGOs, businesses, academic institutions and international organisations. A total of 44 such sessions – covering topics as diverse as climate change, regional trade agreements,

unemployment and trade financing – were offered over the course of the three-day forum. Several themes surfaced repeatedly.

### Agriculture trade

As in years past, forum participants heard a wide range of views on food security and trade. At one extreme, Swiss farmers vocally defended a world in which countries support and protect local production for local consumption; at another, trade negotiators from the Cairns Group of agriculture-exporting countries called for faster and deeper farm trade liberalisation. Multinational agribusiness firms argued for stronger intellectual property protection, while Filipino and West African farmers described the specific trade challenges that they faced, and Olivier de Schutter, the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, critiqued the agricultural trading system from a human rights perspective.

In more technical sessions, researchers cautioned against claims of a clear causal link between speculation and the 2007/08 food price spikes, and discussed the transparency of sanitary and phytosanitary measures. In one panel session organised by the International Food Policy Research Institute, experts presented the findings of the organisation's research project on agricultural subsidies. The studies indicate that Doha Round ceilings could potentially constrain EU domestic support by the end of the implementation period (2013/14), and could also limit US subsidy spending, especially in a low-price environment. On the other hand, countries such as Japan or Brazil would probably not have to change current policies to comply with a Doha deal. Developing countries such as China and India could find that product-specific support limits constrain their current subsidy policies in the years ahead.

### Climate change

A session on Tuesday morning was devoted to the linkages between climate change and trade, an issue that is getting particular attention in the run-up to a major meeting in Copenhagen later this year, when climate negotiators will try to hammer out a global deal to reduce carbon emissions.

The session, which was co-organised by Friends of the Earth Europe and the Centre for International Environmental Law, focussed on the question of whether WTO law could be considered a barrier to effective responses to climate change. The panellists – Peter Wooders of the International Institute for Sustainable Development, Benjamin Simmons of the UN Environment Programme, Hannes Schloemann of WTI Advisors, and Clive George of the University of Manchester – generally agreed that current world trade law is not blocking the implementation of effective climate-change measures. “More importantly,” Wooders added after the session, there was consensus that WTO law “can’t be used as an excuse” for a lack of progress toward cutting emissions of greenhouse gases.

The panellists noted that one major area of contention concerns the possible unilateral implementation of Border Carbon Adjustment (BCA) policies, whereby a country that strictly regulates its carbon emissions would impose charges on goods imported from countries whose policies it considered to be less stringent. Experts continue to disagree over whether BCAs might be justified, and how they might impact international trade flows. Neither the UNFCCC nor the WTO is holding negotiations on the issue, which threatens to present a barrier to progress in Copenhagen.

“The trade and climate change debate has really accelerated in the past 12 to 18 months and it will keep growing,” Wooders added. But there needs to be a shift in thinking, he said: analysts should spend more time identifying the ways in which the WTO can be proactive on climate change issues, not worrying about potential conflicts between the trade and climate agendas.

### Trade finance

Trade finance – loans tied directly to trade transactions – was the subject of a session that brought together Korean Trade Minister Jong-Hoon Kim; Jean Rozwadowski, the Secretary General of the International Chamber of Commerce; and Lamy, among others.

Developing countries rely heavily on trade finance to help fund their participation in the global market. But many banks have been short on cash since the onset of the financial crisis last year, and exporters have struggled to obtain the loans they need to ship their goods overseas. Roughly 90 percent of world trade is financed by short-term credit, Lamy said at the session on Tuesday.

A meeting of experts on the subject held at the WTO earlier this month concluded that the situation is “starting to stabilise,” but that liquidity is still scarce in some regions, namely Africa and Central Asia, and in some countries in Central America, Eastern Europe, and Southeast Asia.

Many countries, including Korea, China and other Asian nations, rapidly injected liquidity into the economy following the onset of the crisis, Korean Trade Minister Kim said at Tuesday’s session. Korea’s EXIM Bank gave US\$11 billion to commercial banks, he added, while the country’s central bank doled out US\$10 billion to companies. Such quick responses have no doubt helped contribute to a partial recovery, the minister noted, but key characteristics of the financial markets have yet to be addressed at the international level. In the absence of systemic reform, similar crises could occur in the future, he said.

### More information

The website for this year’s WTO Public Forum is available [here: http://www.wto.org/english/forums\\_e/public\\_forum09\\_e/public\\_forum09\\_e.htm](http://www.wto.org/english/forums_e/public_forum09_e/public_forum09_e.htm)

ICTSD reporting.

## IN BRIEF

### World Bank Chief Calls for Shift in Multilateral System

Robert Zoellick, president of the World Bank, warned against over-confidence in the US dollar and called for a new approach to managing global trade in a speech in



Washington on Monday. The world is in the midst of an upheaval as momentous as the collapse of the Soviet Union and the French Revolution, he said in a speech at the School for Advanced International Studies at John Hopkins University. The massive economic shift has been brewing for 20 years, he said.

Power relations and international cooperation will change during this new upheaval, he added. While some assume that China and India will emerge as new world superpowers and that the United States will see its influence diminish, Zoellick argued that 2010 will bring a lot of uncertainty for China.

Zoellick's more controversial statements were about the future of the US dollar. It would be a mistake for the US to trust that the dollar will continue to be the largest reserve currency, he argued. Other currencies, such as the euro and the Chinese renminbi, have shown their resilience in the financial crisis, and will be on the rise. But he maintained that the US dollar would still be an important currency but that its ultimate strength will hinge on decisions made in Washington.

"Will the United States resolve its debt problems without a resort to inflation? Can America establish long-term discipline over spending and its budget deficit? Is the country restoring a healthy financial sector capacity for innovation, liquidity, and returns, without producing the same risk of big bubbles and institutional breakdown?" Zoellick put forth. "The dollar's value will also depend on the extent to which we see the return of a dynamic, innovative private sector economy."

Zoellick also commented on the state of the current and future trading system. He questioned the Bretton Woods trading system's ability to satisfy global demand, explaining that while leaders have generally avoided widespread protectionism since the 1930s, there is more of a temptation to protect during times of crisis. Thanks to the

slow-moving Doha Round of negotiations, whose agenda is now nearly a decade old, it is not being given enough focus when facing new challenges. Once a Doha Round deal has been struck, he said, the world needs to move on to a new agenda.

The new global trading system that Zoellick envisions would maintain liberalisation, encourage open regionalism counter crisis-driven protectionism, expand trade in services, and help the poorest countries seize trade opportunities.

"The Bretton Woods system was forged by 44 countries at a time that power was concentrated in a small number of states," he said. "The great waves of decolonisation were just stirring; the few developing countries were seen as objects, not subjects, of history. That world is long past. The new realities of political economy demand a different system."

ICTSD reporting; "World Bank head sees dollar's role diminishing," NEW YORK TIMES, 28 September 2009.

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## EU Ministers to Meet over Milk Crisis

Less than two weeks after the start of a European dairy farmers' strike, Sweden's agriculture minister said that he would meet with other European agriculture ministers in Luxembourg on 5 October to discuss the ongoing milk crisis. The European Milk Board welcomed the news of the meeting, saying that it will provide ministers with a much-needed push to reform dairy policies.

Dairy farmers said they would halt their protests until the EU meeting, but threatened to resume if a satisfactory resolution was not reached.

"The politicians are moving. We will pause with one aspect of the farmers' revolution. We will pause the delivery stop for now," President of the French APLI Pascal Massol said in a statement.

"If there are no serious and clear political decisions being taken to overcome the catastrophic situation of the dairy market, we will immediately start again," he added.

Over 60,000 European dairy farms stopped or reduced milk deliveries on 18 September to protest a decline in prices and plans to do away with production quotas. Farmers dumped 350,000 litres in protest to follow through with the boycott. According to the European Milk Board, the delivery boycott caused the market to react, triggering an increase in spot prices.

The EU already provides heavy farm subsidies, but by July 2009 European milk prices had fallen 25 percent from the previous year. Dairy farmers claimed prices were too low to cover production costs. Industry groups are now pushing the EU to force an increase prices to 40 eurocents per litre of milk. They have also demanded that excess supplies of milk be bought quickly to make a widespread price increase possible.

In November 2008, the EU agreed to raise daily output quotas by 1 percent each year before getting rid of them altogether. The decision dissatisfied dairy farmers, who demanded in a statement in February that the quota increases be "released for production only as and when required."

To appease the upset dairy farmers, France and Germany have published a draft with new regulations for struggling farmers, which has been approved by 18 EU member states. The publication, presented by EU commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development Mariann Fischer Boel to the European Parliament, proposes short-term changes to the quota-buying schemes and temporary aid of €15,000 for each member-state's dairy sector. It also contains suggestions for long-term measures to improve the dairy industry.

But the European dairy sector largely remains unreformed, despite some recent efforts to 'decouple' support from production levels of other agricultural products in the EU. In January of this year, Brussels re-introduced export subsidies for some dairy and poultry products; the payments had been suspended for two years (see Bridges

Weekly, 28 January 2009, <http://ictsd.net/i/news/bridgesweekly/38827/>). The move, which put in place 50 percent export subsidies for dairy products, drew harsh criticism from exporters outside the 27-member EU.

Export subsidies have long been one of the most controversial trade-distorting measures employed by rich countries. Many farm-exporting nations expect that a Doha Round agreement at the WTO would do away with such subsidies by 2013, which would coincide with an EU commitment made in 2005. Draft modalities of a Doha trade deal include such a provision, but so far negotiators at WTO headquarters in Geneva have been unable to finalise the accord, which would cut tariffs and subsidies around the globe.

ICTSD reporting; "EU Milk Strike Joined by More Than 60,000 Farmers, Group Says," BLOOMBERG, 18 September 2009; "EU ministers to meet for extra milk crisis talks," AP, 23 September 2009; "Milk Crisis Precipitates Meeting Of EU Agriculture Ministers," NAMNEWS, 24 September 2009; "European dairy farmers suspend milk protest," REUTERS, 25 September 2009; "EC proposes measures to help dairy sector," FOODBEV, 17 September 2009.

## WTO IN BRIEF

### Geneva Referendum Approves WTO Extension

Geneva citizens approved a proposed extension of the World Trade Organization's headquarters in a referendum on Sunday. The measure passed with a 62 percent majority vote.

The outcome of the referendum was met with cheers at the WTO, which has had to move 100 of its employees to a different building in the centre of Geneva because of space constraints.

"The result of this referendum allows us to advance beyond this important stage of the project of renovation/extension of the WTO headquarters in Geneva," said Director-General



Pascal Lamy in a statement. "The WTO will continue to work with the authorities of the host country. The debate on this referendum has brought us closer to the Geneva population and we intend to pursue our efforts in this respect," he added.

Those who objected to the US\$126 million plan argued that an extension of the WTO's William Rappard Centre would damage the surrounding park and lakeside promenade. "The capitalist cancer of WTO is attacking the lung of Geneva," read one protestor's poster.

The building, which was constructed in 1926, sits on the banks of Lake Geneva; on a clear day, Mont Blanc can be seen in the distance.

But supporters claimed that a rejection of the referendum would send a bad message to other international organisations based in Geneva, which bring millions of dollars to the local economy. They also added that a rejection of the proposal could drive the WTO to shift its headquarters elsewhere – Hong Kong and Singapore were rumoured to be possible alternatives.

The extension, which is to be built on the current WTO parking lot, will accommodate an additional 300 employees, on top of the organisation's current staff of 800. According to the WTO website, architects, landscapers, and security will work together to ensure that the future perimeter of the building will not encroach access to the surrounding Barton Park. Other renovations include increasing infrastructure by modernising electricity and plumbing, as well as compacting the centre's indoor capacity.

Approximately half of the renovation plan will be funded through interest-free loans, to be paid back within 50 years, while the remainder of the plan will be paid by Swiss citizens.

Geneva competed against Bonn, Germany for the WTO headquarters in 1995, and won after presenting the WTO with a package that included many tax breaks and special privileges, such as more gas stations with tax-free fuel, and more resident permits for diplomats' family members. More information

The WTO's website on the planned extension is available [here: http://www.wto.org/english/thewto\\_e/cwr\\_e/renovation\\_e.htm](http://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/cwr_e/renovation_e.htm)

ICTSD reporting; "Geneva citizens OK expansion of WTO's headquarters," AP, 27 September 2009; "WTO extension passes vote hurdle," SWISSINFO, 27 September 2009.

## EVENTS & RESOURCES

### Events

#### Coming Up: 30 September – 7 October

29 September – 3 October, Dubrovnik, Croatia. 5<sup>TH</sup> DUBROVNIK CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF ENERGY, WATER AND ENVIRONMENT SYSTEMS. The conference is dedicated to the improvement and dissemination of knowledge on methods, policies and technologies for increasing the sustainability of development, taking into account its economic, environmental and social pillars, as well as methods for assessing and measuring sustainability of development, regarding energy, transport, water and environment systems and their many combinations. Sustainability being also a perfect field for interdisciplinary and multi-cultural evaluation of complex system, the Dubrovnik Conference has during the first decade of the 21st century become a significant venue for researchers in those areas to meet, discuss, share, and disseminate new ideas. Visit <http://www.sdewes.fsb.hr/> for more information.

5-6 October, Paris, France. WORKSHOP AND POLICY DIALOGUE ON TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADE: PROMOTING GOOD PRACTICES IN SUPPORT OF OPEN MARKETS. Technical regulation, standards and conformity assessment requirements must be met by a large and growing proportion of internationally traded goods. This is also a field in which many developing countries seek to build stronger technical capacity. As a follow-up to a similar workshop held in Berlin in 2005, the Trade

Committee of OECD is hosting this one-and-a-half day event to promote dialogue among trade officials, regulators, standards developers and users from OECD and non-OECD countries on market-access issues related to development and use of these measures and to strengthen the knowledge base for work programmes in the WTO and other forums. Participants will take stock of developments in the field and exchange views on orientations for good practice that support open markets. Topics include the role of standardisation on the global climate change and green growth policy agenda, good regulatory practice applications and how regional trade agreements address TBT-related barriers to trade. For more information see the event's website [www.oecd.org/trade/tbt09](http://www.oecd.org/trade/tbt09) or contact [barbara.fliess@oecd.org](mailto:barbara.fliess@oecd.org).

## WTO Events

An updated list of forthcoming WTO meetings is posted at [http://www.wto.org/meets\\_public/meets\\_e.pdf](http://www.wto.org/meets_public/meets_e.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.

2 October: COMMITTEE ON MARKET ACCESS

5 October: NEGOTIATING GROUP ON TRADE FACILITATION

5-6 October: COUNCIL FOR TRADE IN SERVICES

6 October: WORKING PARTY ON GATS RULES

7-9 October: TRADE POLICY REVIEW BODY - CHILE

## Other Upcoming Events

12-16 October, Geneva, Switzerland. UNECE TIMBER COMMITTEE WEEK. The Timber

Committee week will focus in particular on the impacts of the economic crisis on the forest sector and the opportunities for the sector's recovery and long-term development through its enhanced contribution to a green economy. Like many other sectors, the forest sector in UNECE countries has been badly hit by the economic crisis, which caused falling prices, reduced income, mill closures, job cuts and budget reductions. Yet the forest sector can make a significant contribution to the global effort to address both the socio-economic crisis and growing environmental challenges. The sector has strong potential to contribute to a greener economy and a more sustainable society by promoting the sustainable use of wood for wood energy, green building and other green products and services. For more information and to register, please visit <http://timber.unece.org/index.php?id=125>

14-16 October, London, United Kingdom. FIFTH INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED AND UNREGULATED FISHING. This conference, hosted by Chatham House, will bring together experts and policy-makers working on issues related to illegal fishing from around the world to explore the latest initiatives, regulations and research in fisheries governance and trade in illegal fish products. Building on the success of previous meetings, the agenda will contain sessions on the new EU IUU fishing regulation, the economic implications of IUU fishing, addressing IUU fishing in Africa and the Asia-Pacific region, controlling & monitoring IUU fishing and fisheries governance. To kick off the conference, Chatham House and WWF will be hosting a screening of the film "The End of the Line: How Overfishing is Changing the World and What We Eat" on 14 October from 6.00 to 8.30 pm at Chatham House. The film will be followed by a discussion with panellists from industry, government and civil society. The Forum and film screening are open to all. However, pre-registration is essential and must be received by Friday 2 October to guarantee admission. To register, please contact Tim Eaton at [tea@chathamhouse.org.uk](mailto:tea@chathamhouse.org.uk) and let us know which event(s) you would like to attend. More information on the forum is available at <http://www.chathamhouse.org.uk/events/view/-/id/1218/>.

22-23 October, Washington DC, USA. DIALOGUE ON FORESTS, GOVERNANCE, AND CLIMATE CHANGE. Jointly organised by Chatham House, the Rights and Resources Initiative and the World Resources Institute, this is the second in a series of meetings aiming to promote learning and frank discussion on the key issues facing forests and forest communities as the world scales up efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change. The meeting will focus on the international implications of the Waxman-Markey bill now working its way through the US Congress, as well as the preliminary steps by the UNREDD and FCPF to establish REDD Readiness in developing countries to date. The meeting is open to all, and there is no charge for admission. However, preregistration is essential, and you must register by the end of Friday 15 October to be guaranteed admission. To register, please send your name and affiliation to Lucy Ellinas at [climateforest.registration@chathamhouse.org.uk](mailto:climateforest.registration@chathamhouse.org.uk)

26-28 October, Geneva, Switzerland. THE 2009 BRIDGES CHINA DIALOGUE. CHINA AND GLOBAL SUSTAINABLE RECOVERY: TRADE, ENERGY CONSERVATION AND LOW-CARBON INITIATIVES. Against the backdrop of the current recession, China's economic and political landscape is of paramount importance in facilitating a speedy global recovery. The 2009 Bridges China Dialogue will bring together experts from government, business, academia and civil society organisations for an in-depth discussion and examination of China's market dynamics and policy implications with regards to a global sustainable recovery. For information on panels, speakers and attendance, please visit the meeting's website: [www.bridgeschina.com](http://www.bridgeschina.com)

2-3 November 2009, Bangkok, Thailand. ASIA-PACIFIC TRADE ECONOMISTS' CONFERENCE. Under the heading "Trade-led growth in times of Crisis," the conference will be an opportunity for trade researchers and policy makers to discuss implications of the global economic crisis for trade in the Asia-Pacific region. The conference will feature panel discussions led by eminent trade specialists and presentations by researchers on a wide range of

trade-related issues, including trade governance, trade facilitation, trade liberalisation in services, and trade and development. The conference will celebrate the 5th anniversary of the Asia-Pacific Research and Training network on Trade (ARTNeT) and is organised by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), in collaboration with the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Regional Centre in Colombo, and the World Trade Organization (WTO). The conference brochure can be viewed at <http://www.unescap.org/tid/artnet/mtg/ARTNeT%20conference-1.pdf> with organizational details listed on the Conference website [http://www.unescap.org/tid/artnet/artnet\\_conference.asp](http://www.unescap.org/tid/artnet/artnet_conference.asp). Please register by writing to [artnetontrade@un.org](mailto:artnetontrade@un.org) (no registration fee).

24-25 November, Geneva, Switzerland. INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON RISK ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT. Risk permeates all aspects of life. A professional management of uncertainty is essential for the resilience and effectiveness of all organizations, be they governmental or business. The conference is organised to promote an exchange of experience on the use of risk assessment and management techniques in: technical regulations; standards; conformity assessment; accreditation; metrology; and market surveillance. The conference will benefit from input from academia, governmental authorities, international standards organizations, conformity assessment bodies and business associations. For more details, please visit [http://www.unece.org/trade/wp6/documents/2009/2009\\_ConferenceRisk.htm](http://www.unece.org/trade/wp6/documents/2009/2009_ConferenceRisk.htm)

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## Resources

IS WORLD TRADE LAW A BARRIER TO SAVING OUR CLIMATE? By Friends of the Earth Europe and the Centre for International Environmental Law, September 2009. As the UNFCCC climate negotiations progress and the WTO ministerial approaches, the nexus between climate-related measures and trade rules becomes

even more significant. This presents challenges and opportunities for both the climate and trade regimes. This report addresses the relationship between multilateral climate change rules and WTO rules; and the relationship between WTO rules and domestic climate-related measures, including labels and standards, fuel efficiency schemes, border carbon adjustments, and green climate subsidies. The publication can be accessed in full at [http://www.ciel.org/Publications/ClimateTradeReport\\_foee-ciel\\_sep09.pdf](http://www.ciel.org/Publications/ClimateTradeReport_foee-ciel_sep09.pdf)

TRADE AND THE ENVIRONMENT: FUNDAMENTAL ISSUES IN INTERNATIONAL LAW, WTO LAW, AND LEGAL THEORY. By Erich Vranes. Oxford University Press, January 2009. The relevance of the WTO legal system for environmental protection is a central topic in general international law, WTO law and international environmental law. It has spurred the discussion on fragmentation in international law in recent years. This book analyses these issues by examining the 'horizontal' interaction between WTO law and 'other' international law; the 'vertical' relationship between WTO law and domestic law; and the contents and the interrelations between fundamental provisions of WTO law. For more information and to purchase this book, visit <http://ukcatalogue.oup.com/product/9780199562787.do>

GETTING BACK ON THE RAILS, CHRISTIAN AID'S NEW REPORT ON THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND DEVELOPMENT. Report by Christian Aid, October 2009. This report examines the different parts of the private sector and the ways in which they can contribute to development. The authors argue that developing country governments must be able to make the right policies, introduce the right regulations, and build the right institutions to strengthen the private sector's contribution to development. They further maintain that foreign donors must stop forcing Washington Consensus policies - deregulation, liberalisation and privatisation - onto developing countries through their private sector development strategies. To access the report, visit

<http://www.christianaid.org.uk/images/getting-back-on-the-rails.pdf>

INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND CLIMATE CHANGE. Policy brief by South Centre, 22 September 2009. The Waxman – Markey bill recently passed by the US House of Representatives envisages certain measures to restrict carbon dioxide emissions and requires the president to levy a charge on imports of carbon-intensive products from countries that do not adopt similar climate change measures. US importers would have to buy carbon 'allowances' for such products, purportedly to maintain a level playing field between domestic and overseas producers. The bill is directed particularly at emerging economies such as China, India, Brazil and South Africa. The policy brief is available at [http://www.southcentre.org/index.php?option=com\\_docman&task=cat\\_view&gid=45&Itemid=68](http://www.southcentre.org/index.php?option=com_docman&task=cat_view&gid=45&Itemid=68)