



Bridges Weekly Trade News Digest

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LEAD STORIES

Doha Talks Need 'Serious Acceleration' to Meet 2010 Deadline: Lamy

WTO Director-General Pascal Lamy warned delegates at the WTO's General Council meeting on Tuesday that they will need to dramatically pick up the pace of their negotiations if they want to wrap up a global trade deal by the end of next year. The meeting also shed some light on the organisation's upcoming ministerial conference, which is set to kick off at the end of next month.

Addressing delegates in his opening remarks, Lamy was frank in his assessments of the progress that has been made in the talks since he last briefed the General Council at the end of July. The director-general, usually an unabashed cheerleader of the talks, struck an uncharacteristically sombre tone.

"It will be difficult to get to 2010 without a serious acceleration of the pace," Lamy told the gathering, referring to the deadline that world leaders have set for a successful conclusion of the Round. "We need to see real negotiations emerge, not only informal consultations and discussions, but real exchanges among members," Lamy continued. "We need to do so in a manner which is inclusive and leaves no interest behind."

But Lamy acknowledged that the talks "have seen some progress" on trade facilitation, and that there had been "serious engagement" on the procedural issues of templates and scheduling in the negotiations on agriculture and industrial goods.

The DG also reported briefly on his recent consultations on two intellectual property issues over which WTO members remain squarely at odds: the extension of 'geographical indication' (or

GI) protections to all products, and the relationship between the Convention on Biological Diversity and the WTO's Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property (TRIPS Agreement).

The meeting, which Lamy chaired on 8 October, resulted in little movement, the director-general said. "The discussion was highly technical and detailed. However, differences still remain on the substance," he reported.

Ministerial details slowly emerge

The WTO's upcoming ministerial conference, which is set to take place in Geneva from 30 November to 2 December, was a major item on the General Council's agenda.

Ambassador Mario Matus of Chile, the current chair of the General Council, briefed delegates on the consultations he has held with WTO members on how the meeting – which will focus on the organisation's 'regular work' and will not serve as a Doha Round negotiating session – should unfold.

Chile's trade minister, Andrés Velasco, will chair the ministerial conference, Matus told the delegates, while the trade ministers of Egypt, Indonesia and Switzerland will serve as vice chairs. At this point, there seems to be consensus that three items should be included in the ministerial agenda, Matus reported: TRIPS non-violation complaints, e-commerce, and a recently circulated proposal entitled 'Strengthening the WTO'.

The latter proposal has already generated a wide base of support, having attracted 18 sponsors that range from the EU and the United States to Brazil, India, Mexico and Uruguay. The proposal – which would have the General Council "establish an appropriate deliberative process to review the organisation's functioning, efficiency and transparency and consider possible improvements"—has been generally well received by other members, Matus said.

The new document has quickly generated buzz among trade observers.

"This is a very interesting development," said Aaron Cosbey, Associate and Senior Advisor on Trade and Investment at the International Institute for Sustainable Development. "The members understand that they cannot tie any and all progress to the outcome of a Doha Round that may never have an outcome," he wrote in an email message. "This is the first sign of a road ahead for making progress on anything outside of Doha. It may herald more substantive roads in future. And it is a welcome sign of organisational maturity."

The sponsors of the paragraph-long proposal indicated that they would like it to be included in the chair's summary that is to be released at the end of the three-day ministerial meeting. At this point, that summary is the only 'outcome document' expected from the meeting, Matus reported. An official ministerial declaration is still a possibility, a trade source said, but at this point such a document appears unlikely.

Lamy also weighed in, offering a bit of clarification on the scope of the meeting.

"It is our hope that ministers will come to Geneva to address and interact on a few key themes, regarding the WTO and the multilateral trading system, the 'big picture' so to say," Lamy told the delegates. "It is time that ministers are given the opportunity to engage in a more wide-ranging systemic debate and to provide the WTO with guidance for the next few years."

"However, and there seems to be some confusion on this point, this does not mean that ministers' statements or indeed their discussions cannot address the issue of the Doha Round or indeed specific negotiations," Lamy continued. "On the contrary, it would seem rather odd if the elephant in the room remained nameless." To that end, he said, the Doha Round work programme will officially be on the agenda for discussions in 'working sessions' at the ministerial conference. Outside the conference, though, key countries are already planning meetings for their ministers, where Doha Round negotiations will be the main item on the agenda. Brazil is reportedly organising such an invitation-only gathering for the weekend before the conference kicks off (see Bridges Weekly, 7 October 2009, <http://ictsd.net/i/news/bridgesweekly/56551/>).

EU hosts 'G14'

Even as the ministerial preparations pick up speed, trade officials continue to engage on Doha, both according to the WTO's official negotiating schedule and in their own bilateral and plurilateral closed-door meetings.

On the latter front, this week the EU hosted officials from the so-called G14 countries for a Doha Round negotiating session. The meetings were intended to provide impetus to the talks, a European delegate explained to the General Council, adding that the results of the consultations would be integrated into the broader multilateral process. But several delegations intervened on Tuesday to express their displeasure at the lack of transparency in such meetings. Lamy seemed sympathetic.

"We need to ensure greater transparency over bilateral discussions so that every member feels it is part of an overall process," Lamy told the delegates.

The EU is expected to brief delegates on the outcome of the G14 sessions at an informal meeting of the Trade Negotiations Committee on Friday morning. The G-14 is made up of Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Egypt, the EU, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, South Africa and the United States.

More information

The full text of Lamy's speech to the General Council is available here: http://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news09_e/tnc_chair_report_20oct09_e.htm.

The 'Strengthening the WTO' proposal can be viewed here: <http://ictsd.net/downloads/2009/10/strengthening-the-wto-proposal.pdf>

ICTSD reporting.

OTHER NEWS

US Seeks More Protection for 'Sensitive' Farm Products at WTO

The US has informally suggested that it be allowed to protect an additional two percent of agricultural tariff lines as 'sensitive', trade sources said, a move that sparked immediate resistance from exporting countries already concerned about the extent of market access exceptions in the WTO's troubled Doha Round of trade talks.

While lesser tariff cuts for sensitive products would have to be accompanied by expanded quotas, exporting countries have seen them as a tool that importers are likely to use to reduce the degree of market opening. Under the current draft text, developed countries would be allowed to designate up to four percent of tariff lines as 'sensitive' – although towards the end of last year, Canada demanded an additional two percent of tariff lines, and Japan demanded as much as four percent more (see Bridges Weekly, 10 December 2008, <http://ictsd.net/i/news/bridgesweekly/35976/>).

In the recent consultations, the US reportedly suggested that the greater flexibility requested by Canada and Japan could be made more widely available. However, exporting countries present at the meeting underscored that, if agreed, the additional sensitive product allowance for these two countries would not be "a general option for all," one negotiator said.

Delegates also warned that the US idea, which was reportedly floated unofficially at a small group meeting last week, would send the wrong signal at a time when negotiators are still struggling to get the talks out of first gear. The suggestion "got a negative reaction," one official said, warning that it would be likely to provoke resistance from developing countries in particular.

Another source observed that the US suggestion on sensitive products would sit oddly with their repeated demands during the Doha Round for greater agricultural market access in the larger developing countries.

Negotiations on sensitive products have proven to be particularly tense, with lengthy discussions among around a dozen importing and exporting countries last year ultimately leading to a complex compromise proposal that has been incorporated into the draft text currently under negotiation (see Bridges Weekly, 21 May 2008, <http://ictsd.net/i/news/bridgesweekly/22269/>).

Consultations

While the chair of the agriculture talks convened small-group consultations on various market access issues last week (see Bridges Weekly, 14 October 2009, <http://ictsd.net/i/news/bridgesweekly/56765/>), negotiators reported that these had led to little real progress, with members mainly reiterating established positions. Progress remained difficult in the absence of real engagement from the US, which has yet to clarify its objectives or appoint senior personnel, one source said.

The chair, Ambassador David Walker of New Zealand, was expected to convene further consultations on negotiating issues during the week of 16 November. These are due to cover questions such as the controversial 'special safeguard mechanism' that developing countries will be able to use to shield producers from price depressions or import surges, and the 'special products' that these countries will be able to shield from tariff cuts on the basis of food security, livelihood security and rural development criteria.

The mid-November talks are also due to continue discussions on the data that WTO members will need to provide when formally presenting their commitments as part of an eventual Doha deal. Sources reported that talks this month in this area had been constructive, with progress on identifying the data that will have to be submitted.

Bananas: deal closer?

The EU is due to meet this Friday with Latin American banana exporters in a bid to clinch a deal, sources said. Bananas have been one of the most controversial issues in the Doha talks, with African, Caribbean and Pacific countries seeking slower and gentler liberalisation, and Latin

American countries seeking accelerated and deeper cuts in tariffs.

Reportedly, the EU is eager to reach agreement ahead of the next General Council meeting, scheduled for 17-18 December. Alternatively, announcing an accord ahead of the upcoming WTO ministerial conference in Geneva, from 30 November to 2 December, could provide a still more welcome boost to the organisation's deliberations, one source said.

However, internal differences amongst Latin American countries are believed to be further complicating the talks in this area. While some have suggested that a multilateral deal may be close, countries such as Costa Rica have rejected this assessment (see Bridges Weekly, 14 October 2009, <http://ictsd.net/i/news/bridgesweekly/56765/>). Sources said that other Central American countries may also be reluctant to rush to conclude an accord.

ICTSD reporting.

EU, South Korea Sign Free Trade Accord

The European Union and South Korea signed a free trade agreement last week that will do away with 'virtually all tariffs' on trade between the two major world economies, the European Trade Commission said in a statement. The deal is the biggest trade pact ever signed by the 27-nation bloc.

The EU's Trade Commissioner, Catherine Ashton, and South Korean trade minister Kim Jong-hoon initialled the deal in Brussels on 15 October, officially marking the end of negotiations on the deal.

Two-way goods trade between Europe and South Korea amounted to €65 billion in 2008. The EU is South Korea's second-largest trading partner, after China. The EU Trade Commission says the new deal will give European exporters an estimated €19 billion in new trade.

Deal addresses services, NTBs, duty drawback

The services trade is set to get a significant boost from the deal, the Commission said, as Seoul has agreed to significantly liberalise its telecommunications, environmental, legal, financial and shipping sectors.

The deal will also remove non-tariff barriers to trade (NTBs) – standards and regulations on goods such as pharmaceuticals, autos, and consumer electronics, among others. In the light of already-low tariffs on such products in South Korea, the removal had been a main demand of some EU member countries.

Beyond the deal to reduce behind-the-border measures, the free trade agreement (FTA) also provides for dispute settlement mechanisms for resolving disagreements over NTBs. The pact marks the first time that such a mediation mechanism devoted exclusively to non-tariff measures has been included in a European FTA.

In a key provision for the EU, the deal also includes special provisions that would speed up the consideration of trade disputes over motor vehicles and auto parts – a highly sensitive sector in Europe.

More generally, the agreement's dispute settlement mechanism allows parties to revert to pre-agreement 'most-favoured nation' tariff levels in certain cases of non-compliance. Some European countries had long insisted on such a mechanism, which is likely to be used predominantly for NTB cases in sectors such as automotive and consumer electronics.

The deal also clarifies rules governing intellectual property and allows either party to invoke a general safeguard clause in the case of a sudden surge in imports.

The signing of the deal last week marks the end of nearly two and a half years of bilateral negotiations, which hit several stumbling blocks along the way. Negotiators clashed repeatedly on a 'duty drawback' provision that would reimburse Korean manufacturers for tariffs they pay on cheap imported auto components when the cars produced from those products are exported to the

EU. The finalised text allows for such repayment, but with some limits: "in case of a significant increase of sourcing from countries that have not concluded [a free trade agreement] with Korea...a special clause allows for a cap of the refundable duties at a level of 5 percent," according to a fact sheet from the Commission.

The Commission will present the finalised text to EU member states in early 2010; it expects the deal to enter into force later that year, assuming the pact wins the approval of the European Presidency and the European Parliament.

The agreement is the first FTA signed by the EU since the bloc launched its 'Global Europe Strategy' in 2006. When it was announced, the strategy marked a shift from a strictly multilateral policy to a global trade policy that includes a focus on free trade accords, particularly with emerging Asian economies. The strategy has also spurred European negotiations with India and seven Southeast Asian countries; those talks are still in progress. Trade observers say that significant chunks of the EU-South Korea deal will be used as a template for the ongoing negotiations.

Pressure grows in Washington

The United States struck a similar free trade accord with South Korea in April 2007, but the pact has yet to be approved by lawmakers (see Bridges Weekly, 16 September 2009, <http://ictsd.net/i/news/bridgesweekly/55271/>).

The agreement has languished in Congress, largely due to opposition from the auto and beef industries.

But the signing of the European deal could put some pressure on the administration of US President Barack Obama to push the deal through.

"We have concluded our negotiations with the EU, which has almost a similar economic size as the United States," South Korean Ambassador to the United States Han Duk-soo said in Washington last week.

"President Obama will visit Korea in November and we hope we will make some progress before that," Han added.

More information

The full text of the EU-South Korea FTA is available at http://ec.europa.eu/trade/issues/bilateral/countries/korea/pr191009_en.htm

ICTSD reporting; "EU-Korea trade deal puts pressure on Obama to act," REUTERS, 15 October 2009.

Major Economies Find 'Substantial Agreement' on Climate Financing, but Hurdles Remain

High-level officials from 16 industrialised nations plus the European Union focused on climate change at a two-day meeting of the Major Economies Forum in London earlier this week. Pressure is mounting as a major year-end climate meeting in Copenhagen draws near, but the multilateral talks on how to slow the world's emissions of climate-warming gases continue to be marked by deep divisions.

"There are now fewer than 50 days to set the course for the next few decades, so as we convene here we carry great responsibilities, and the world is watching," British Prime Minister Gordon Brown told the officials on Monday. "I believe agreement at Copenhagen is possible, but we must frankly face the fact that our negotiations are not getting to agreement quickly enough."

But while the meeting brought no major breakthroughs, the officials did find some new common ground. A communiqué issued after the meeting said that there was "substantial agreement" that "significantly scaled up financing will be important" in any climate deal, media sources reported. Financing from developed countries to support poorer nations' mitigation and adaptation efforts is a commitment under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Developing countries have repeatedly stressed that rich nations have so far failed to deliver on financing; they insist that their ability to contribute to future mitigation is contingent on fulfilment of this commitment.

Officials at the London meeting further agreed that all countries except the poorest will provide regular inventories of their national emissions, with the qualifier that such "transparency mechanisms" would "respect the sovereignty of countries." The communiqué called on G20 finance ministers to "advance these discussions" further at their meeting in St. Andrews in Scotland, that is scheduled for 6 and 7 November.

"There was a universal view that we need to get an agreement in Copenhagen – not an agreement at any price, but that we've come a long way and we intend to translate that into an agreement by the end of the year," Ed Miliband, Britain's Energy and Climate Secretary, told journalists after the meeting closed on Monday.

The landscape of the negotiations seemed on the brink of a significant shift earlier this week. Indian media reported on Tuesday that the country's government was in a deadlock over a new proposal that would have New Delhi dramatically alter its stance in the talks. Indian environment minister Jairam Ramesh reportedly wrote a confidential letter to the Indian Prime Minister on 13 October suggesting that the country abandon its support of the Kyoto Protocol and withdraw from the G77, the developing country negotiating bloc.

But the proposed shift, which would have brought India more in line with the stances of the major rich-country parties in the talks, met with fierce opposition within the government. In a statement issued on Tuesday, Ramesh took a step back.

"India is working, and will continue to work, closely with our partners in the G77 and China in articulating a common position on this issue, while also engaging with other countries to our benefit," Ramesh said. "I have never at any stage considered or advocated abandoning the fundamental tenets of the Kyoto Protocol," he added.

The Major Economies Forum comprises Australia, Brazil, Britain, Canada, China, Denmark, the European Union, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Russia, South Africa, Sweden and the United States. The countries of the MEF account for

roughly 80 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions.

More information

A full transcript of Prime Minister Brown's speech is available here:
<http://www.number10.gov.uk/Page21033>

ICTSD reporting; "Major Economies Forum narrows divergence on climate change negotiations," XINHUA, 19 October 2009; "Stance on climate change splits government," LIVEMINT, 20 October 2009.

IN BRIEF

EU Ag Commissioner Proposes €280mil in New Dairy Subsidies

Following weeks of protests by dairy farmers across the EU, the European Agriculture Commissioner proposed on Monday injecting €280 million into the troubled European dairy sector.

The proposed new subsidies would be drawn from the EU's 2010 budget and distributed to member states according to their dairy production levels, EU Agriculture Commission Mariann Fischer Boel told agriculture ministers at a Monday morning meeting in Luxembourg.

European dairy producers have been struggling this year, as dairy prices have plummeted but production costs have stayed high. Angry at the lack of government controls, some frustrated farmers have halted deliveries and dumped millions of litres of milk into their fields.

But even as she announced the proposed new government aid, Commissioner Boel made it clear that European agricultural producers should not expect any more emergency interventions in the future, as further allocations would risk running afoul of EU financial disciplines.

"There will be no possibility for any delegation to come and ask for more money now," Boel told

journalists after the Monday meeting. "And I say this as I see some other sectors of agriculture facing some problems."

But the potential new subsidies face one more hurdle: the European Council of Finance Ministers will rule on the €280 million proposal at a meeting on 19 November. If the finance ministers approve it, the promise of aid will become binding.

At their Monday meeting, the EU's 27 agriculture ministers also considered a proposal to give the European Commission, the EU's executive arm, more power to intervene in times of crisis, as well as a proposal to allow member states greater freedom to restructure their milk sectors. In another move to prop up dairy prices, the Commission plans to continue special purchases of butter and skimmed milk powder through at least February 2010. Earlier this month, Boel laid out other potential response measures, including a proposal that would allow EU member states to dole out payments of €15,000 to their domestic dairy farmers (see Bridges Weekly, 7 October 2009, <http://ictsd.net/i/news/bridgesweekly/56547/>).

The European Milk Board, which has lobbied hard for government action to stabilise the dairy sector, lauded the politicians for showing "concrete movement" at Monday's meeting. But subsidies may not be the smartest approach, said EMB's vice president, Sieta van Keimpema.

"It makes no sense when ministers talk about money, which then flows into the milk sector in the form of subsidies with little impact," van Keimpema told the EU Observer. "Flexible production controls represent no extra burden to the taxpayer and can be an effective way of creating milk prices which are fair both to producers and consumers," she added.

Meanwhile, other European agriculture sectors are also struggling. French farmers blocked off Paris's famous Champs-Élysées during morning rush hour on Friday of last week, burning tyres and straw to protest low wheat prices, which recently dropped below the farmers' costs of production. If the proposed €280 million dairy subsidies are

approved, the wheat farmers will have little chance of getting any help at all from Brussels.

More information

To read Fischer Boel's 19 October statement to EU agriculture ministers, please see <http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/09/482&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

ICTSD reporting; "Farmers block off Champs-Élysées in Paris, Burn Tires," BLOOMBERG, 16 October 2009; "Milk farmers to get controversial EU aid of €280 million," EUOBSERVER, 19 October 2009.

WTO IN BRIEF

US Group Launches Doha Round 'Turnaround' Campaign

A Washington-based advocacy group has launched a multi-city campaign to 'turn around' the WTO's Doha Round of trade talks, which the organisation says "will hurt us economically, increase the flood of unsafe imports and undermine efforts to re-regulate the banks and stabilise our economy."

The campaign will include demonstrations in national capitals around the world and could bring protestors to Geneva for the WTO's upcoming ministerial conference, said Lori Wallach, Director of Public Citizen's Global Trade Watch, the group behind the campaign, on a conference call with journalists on Monday.

"The economic crisis highlights the threats posed by WTO-style globalisation and deregulation to jobs and economic security. Critical to economic recovery here and worldwide will be a re-write of the current rules of the global economy," Wallach said in a statement.

The first day of the WTO's upcoming seventh ministerial conference happens to fall on the 10-year anniversary of the street protests in Seattle that shut down the WTO conference that was

meant to launch the Doha Round talks. The campaign organisers have seized on this inauspicious timing – which the WTO secretariat insists was a complete coincidence – and hope to use it as an opportunity to "celebrate the spirit of Seattle."

"When the WTO scheduled their seventh ministerial on the exact day of the ten-year anniversary of the protests in Seattle, people across the country that work with us were geared up," said Andy Gussert, National Director of The Citizen's Trade Campaign. "They heard this as a rallying cry and were calling out, 'let's do something'."

As part of the campaign, the group has created an online petition directed at US President Barack Obama. Part of the letter reads as follows:

"The economic crisis has painfully demonstrated that the current rules of the global economy have failed us. Time is overdue to turnaround the WTO. We supported your campaign commitments to create a new trade policy that works for all of us, not just the special interests. That is why we are calling on you to replace Bush's more-of-the-same WTO expansion agenda. We're ready to fight for a WTO turnaround plan we hope you will lead."

All eyes are on the United States this autumn as delegates struggle to wrap up the long-stalled trade talks, which were launched in November 2001 with the goal of helping developing countries grow through trade. The Obama administration has yet to truly engage in the talks, Geneva-based delegates complain, and Washington's hesitance is holding up the Round.

More information

The website for the new campaign is <http://www.wtoturnaround.org/> ICTSD reporting.

Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan to Join WTO on Separate, But Coordinated, Terms

Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan will no longer seek to join the WTO as a single customs union, trade officials from the three countries said last week. But they still plan to closely coordinate their accession talks, the officials added, and the countries will wait until all of their negotiations have been completed so that three former Soviet states can join the global trade body simultaneously.

Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin stunned trade observers in June when he announced that Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan would seek membership in the WTO as a single customs union (see Bridges Weekly, 10 June 2009, <http://ictsd.net/i/news/bridgesweekly/48333/>). The three countries will become a customs union as of 1 January 2010.

But current WTO members, whose consensus approval is required for any new country to join the global trade body, were less than thrilled about the idea. There is no precedent for a customs-union bid to join the WTO, and no one was sure exactly how such an accession would work. One thing was certain, though: a joint bid would slow down the accession process, perhaps considerably.

During a series of accession talks last week, officials from Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan announced a change in strategy. They will still form their customs union at the beginning of the year, but they will enter the WTO as individual states. Each country will maintain its own working party on accession – the official forum in which the bidding country hammers out a deal with current WTO members – but outside those negotiating rooms, the three countries will harmonise their commitment levels on goods tariffs.

Addressing an informal meeting of trade officials at the WTO on 15 October, a representative of the European Union said that the bloc ‘welcomed’ the new approach.

A customs-union bid would have ‘inevitably’ entailed “a further delay in the prospects for WTO accession, at least for Russia and Kazakhstan,” the EU representative said, adding, “especially if this is going to imply any reopening – whether one calls this ‘adjustment’ or ‘renegotiation’ - of any formalised or stabilised prior accession-related commitment.”

Russia, by far the largest economy outside the WTO, has been negotiating its entry into the WTO since 1993, as has Belarus. Kazakhstan launched its accession talks three years later.

But even with individual bids, the countries’ ultimate membership in the global trade body will require significant more work. Russia continues to face opposition on its meat quotas as well as its export duties on goods like oil, gas and timber products. And the three countries’ vow to harmonise their tariff schedules for goods will no doubt slow the talks, as Kazakhstan has reportedly already agreed to limit import duties on some 3,000 goods at levels below what Moscow has deemed acceptable. Negotiating a compromise on that front will no doubt require many further hours of negotiations.

ICTSD reporting.

EVENTS & RESOURCES

Events

Upcoming Events: 21-28 October

22-23 October, Washington DC, US. 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

22-24 October, Geneva, Switzerland. GLOBAL CHALLENGES AT THE INTERSECTION OF TRADE, ENERGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT. The conference will consider how trade rules may increasingly impact firms in the energy industries as well as manufacturers of energy-intensive traded products and providers of cross-border energy services. Topics to be covered at the conference include import, export and production restrictions on energy goods and services; energy transport and transit rules; environmental policies and their impacts on energy trade and investment; and energy subsidies and pricing. There is no charge for attending the conference, but advance registration is required by 19 October. The Centre for Trade and Economic Integration (CTEI) at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (IHEID), Geneva, has organised the event. Additional information about the conference, including the full program and instructions for registering, is available at: http://www.graduateinstitute.ch/ctei/home/ctei_events/energy_conference.html

26-27 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 sustainable 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. For information on panels, speakers and attendance, please visit the meeting's website: www.bridges-china.com

WTO Events

An updated list of forthcoming WTO meetings is posted at 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.

21 October: COMMITTEE ON ANTI-DUMPING PRACTICES – INFORMAL GROUP ON ANTI-CIRCUMVENTION FOLLOWED BY THE WORKING GROUP ON IMPLEMENTATION

21 October: COMMITTEE ON ANTI-DUMPING PRACTICES – WORKING GROUP ON IMPLEMENTATION FOLLOWED BY THE REGULAR COMMITTEE

21-22 October: COMMITTEE ON ANTI-DUMPING PRACTICES

22-23 October: GLOBAL CHALLENGES AT THE INTERSECTION OF TRADE, ENERGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

23 October: TWELFTH ROUND OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL'S CONSULTATIVE FRAMEWORK MECHANISM ON COTTON

23 October: DISPUTE SETTLEMENT BODY

23 and 28 October: COUNCIL FOR TRADE-RELATED ASPECTS OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS - SPECIAL SESSION

26 October: COMMITTEE ON CUSTOMS VALUATION

26 and 28 October: TRADE POLICY REVIEW BODY – MALDIVES

26-30 October: GENEVA WEEK (NON-RESIDENT MEMBERS AND OBSERVERS)

27-28 October: COUNCIL FOR TRADE-RELATED ASPECTS OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

28 October: WORKING PARTY ON THE ACCESSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF LEBANON

Other Upcoming Events

29 October, Geneva, Switzerland. SIXIEME SYMPOSIUM DE LA HAUTE ECOLE DE GESTION DE GENEVE. La crise économique actuelle démontre, si cela était encore nécessaire, que le succès d'une organisation n'est pas lié uniquement à sa pure performance financière, mais aussi à sa capacité de créer de la valeur ajoutée durable et de s'intégrer dans le tissu collectif dans lequel elle opère. Le management durable est la clé de lecture qui permet d'appliquer concrètement dans les entreprises des approches destinées à assurer le succès économique tout en répondant aux engagements sociaux, environnementaux et éthiques vis-à-vis de la collectivité. C'est pourquoi le 6ème Symposium de la Haute école de gestion de Genève (HEG-Genève) consacré au Management durable s'adresse aux manager, cadre ou chef-fe de service qui désirent positionner stratégiquement leur organisation et connaître les nouveaux outils de gestion durable.
<http://www.hesge.ch/heg/symposium/2009/welcome.asp>

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 organisational details listed on the Conference website http://www.unescap.org/tid/artnet/artnet_conference.asp. Please register by writing to artnetontrade@un.org (no registration fee).

5-6 November, Geneva, Switzerland. CONFERENCE ON BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS FOR MOBILISING RESOURCES FOR IP AND DEVELOPMENT. The overall aim of the conference, which is being hosted by the World Intellectual Property Organization, is to support developing countries, with a particular focus on Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Africa, to access resources to promote the legal, commercial and economic exploitation of intellectual property in these countries. The conference will provide practical examples which show the development impact that can be achieved through the integration and use of IP in national development plans and in the context of the UN Development Assistance Framework and Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers. The conference will focus on three main IP-related thematic areas: aid for trade, science, technology and innovation for development, and 'the digital divide'. For registration and more information, visit http://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/2009/res_dev_ge/index.html

11-13 November, New Delhi, India. A BETTER FUTURE FOR HUMANITY IN THE 21ST CENTURY - INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY (IP) IN A CHANGING WORLD: NEW CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES. The event is organised by The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), in cooperation with the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, Ministry of Commerce and Industry of the Government of India and with the assistance of the Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI). The Forum will

provide an opportunity for a range of stakeholders engaged in promoting innovation, including high-level economic and technology policy-makers, heads of intellectual property (IP) offices, academics and the private sector to exchange experiences and ideas on topical IP issues. Emphasis will also be placed on examining ways to harness the potential benefits of using IP strategically to create opportunities for improved business competitiveness, market expansion and economic development. The Forum is open to WIPO Member States and WIPO-accredited international organisations engaged in innovation promotion. IP professionals, and representatives of the private sector and the research and academic communities are also invited to participate. Contact Sheetal Chopra at sheetal.chopra@ficci.com for registration information.

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 organisations, 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 organisations, conformity assessment bodies and business associations. For more details, please visit http://www.unece.org/trade/wp6/documents/2009/2009_ConferenceRisk.htm

30 November - 2 December, Geneva, Switzerland. SEVENTH WTO MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE. This three-day meeting will be a regular gathering of ministers to engage in a broad evaluation of the functioning of the multilateral trading system. It is not intended to serve as a Doha Round negotiating session. The general theme for the discussions will be 'The WTO, the Multilateral Trading System and the Current Global Economic Environment'. For more information, please visit http://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/minist_e/min09_e/min09_e.htm

Resources

KEEPING ILLEGAL FISH AND TIMBER OFF THE MARKET: A COMPARISON OF EU REGULATIONS. By Heike Baumüller, Duncan Brack and Katharina Umpfenbach (Chatham House), October 2009. In response to the global problem of illegal logging and fishing, and the failure of the international community effectively to address the problem, the European Union has moved to tighten its own regulations. This briefing paper highlights some of the main differences between the approaches that the EU has taken to curb illegal fishing and logging and prevent imports of illegal fish and timber products. The EU regulation to combat illegal fishing introduces comprehensive certification and traceability requirements for anyone wishing to import fish products into the EU, and provides for extensive enforcement measures that can be used by European authorities to ensure compliance with the regulation. The EU regulation on illegal logging establishes a licensing system with countries that have entered into voluntary partnership agreements (VPA) with the EU. An additional regulation is currently being developed to try to ensure that illegal timber from all countries is excluded from the EU market. For more information, please visit <http://www.chathamhouse.org.uk/publications/papers/view/-/id/782/>

SETTING THE NAFTA AGENDA ON CLIMATE CHANGE. By Jeffrey Schott and Meera Fickling. Peterson Institute, September 2009. After years of inaction, the three partners in the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) now recognise the imperative to start the long-term process of substantially reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The American Climate and Energy Security Act (ACESA) passed by the US House of Representatives in June 2009 cuts emissions, sets new standards for the use of renewable energy sources, and provides support to ease the transition to a low-carbon economy and to mitigate concerns about trade competitiveness of carbon-intensive industries and increased energy costs to consumers. This policy brief assesses the implications of the ACESA for North American trade and investment, particularly the free distribution of emissions permits, the

allocation of revenues generated by the limited auctioning of emissions permits, the impact of renewable portfolio standards on US-Canada electricity trade, and the international offset provisions. The full policy brief is available at <http://www.petersoninstitute.org/publications/intertitil.cfm?ResearchID=1277>

OPENING MARKETS FOR POOR COUNTRIES: ARE WE THERE YET? By Kimberly Ann Elliott. Center for Global Development Working Paper, 7 October 2009. Despite six decades of trade liberalisation, trade policies in rich countries still discriminate against the exports of the world's poorest countries. Preferential market access programmes were designed to spur larger and more diversified exports from developing countries, but product exclusions and burdensome rules undermined their usefulness, especially for the poorer countries. Most rich countries have made reforms since the UN Millennium Declaration in 2000 called for duty-free, quota-free market access for the least-developed countries. After the World Trade Organization ministerial communiqué called upon developing countries "in a position to do so" to also provide such access, key countries have moved toward that goal. But much remains to be done to achieve the goal of meaningful market access for the poorest countries, including reformed rules of origin that facilitate rather than inhibit trade. To access this working paper, please visit <http://cgdev.org/content/publications/detail/1422923>

VACANCY

WTO Accession Advisor / Dushanbe

IDEAS Centre, an independent, non-profit organisation dedicated to helping low-income countries to integrate into the world trading system, provides trade policy and negotiating advices to government of developing countries and delivers technical assistance to strengthen their capacities.

IDEAS Centre is a key partner of Tajikistan in its accession process to the World Trade Organization and in the framework of its project with the government is looking for an international expert on WTO with strong knowledge on accession matters for a two years position in Tajikistan (Dushanbe). The successful candidate would integrate in the WTO Unit within the Ministry of Trade and Economic Development to assist the head of the Unit with everyday assignments related to WTO accession as well as to coordinate with relevant stakeholders within the country.

The candidate should have substantial experience of WTO issues preferably within a government and be fluent in Russian. Good knowledge of Central Asia would be an asset.

If you are interested to apply, please send you CV and cover letter to info@ideascentre.ch