

# Bridges Weekly Trade News Digest

*Weekly trade news from a sustainable development perspective*

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## LEAD STORIES

### Criticism Grows as 'Buy American' Rules Written into Law

'Buy American' provisions in the US\$ 787 billion stimulus bill that was signed into law yesterday by US President Barack Obama have sparked sharp rebukes and threats of legal challenges from US trading partners. But Washington maintains that the domestic-sourcing requirements are in line with its international trade commitments and that the measures will create vital manufacturing jobs at home.

The Senate and the House of Representatives both approved the final compromise version of the bill late last week, with members of Congress voting largely along party lines, Democrats in favour and Republicans opposed.

(For background on the bill's passage through Congress, please see Bridges Weekly, 12 February 2009,

<http://ictsd.net/i/news/bridgesweekly/40503/>, and Bridges Weekly, 4 February 2009, <http://ictsd.net/i/news/bridgesweekly/39776/>.)

The controversial 'Buy American' provisions require the purchase of US-made iron, steel and manufactured goods for all building or public works projects that are funded by the massive spending bill. The legislation provides roughly US\$ 48 billion for transportation projects and another US\$ 30 billion in infrastructure improvements and other spending. It is the dispensing of those funds that would be subject to the 'Buy American' requirements.

However, the law allows the purchase of foreign products under three scenarios: if US goods are not available in sufficient quantity or quality; if the use of domestic material would increase the cost of a project by more than 25 percent; or if an

agency head deems it “in the public interest” to use foreign materials.

The legislation also states that the domestic-sourcing provisions must be implemented in a way that does not violate Washington’s obligations under international trade rules. Thus, products from NAFTA members Canada and Mexico would in theory be safe from the restrictions, as would goods from countries that have signed bilateral trade deals with the US. Moreover, products from the EU, Japan, Korea, Switzerland and a handful of other countries that, like the US, have signed the WTO’s Agreement on Government Procurement, or GPA, would also be exempted from the ban.

And in a final exemption that was added in the last round of negotiations on the draft legislation, lawmakers added a provision ensuring that the ‘Buy American’ requirements would “not apply to least developed countries to the same extent that it does not apply to the parties of...international agreements.”

### **Criticism from abroad and at home**

But that US pledge not to violate its trade commitments provided little comfort for countries such as China and Brazil, whose exports would not be protected from discrimination under existing world trade laws.

In a swift and forceful reaction to the new US legislation, Brazil indicated earlier this week that it may challenge the ‘Buy American’ rule at the WTO’s Dispute Settlement Body.

"It's a complex legal analysis, but we're doing it," Brazilian foreign minister Celso Amorim told a Brazilian television network on Monday, Reuters reported.

"(Going to the WTO) is a real option," he added.

"It's a bad sign...It's not positive at a moment when the world economy is trying to revive," Amorim said.

The outcry from China was also strident. A story in the government-run Xinhua news service

lambasted the “potential protectionism embedded in the [domestic sourcing] provisions.”

“‘Buy American’ has become particularly sensitive in a time that the world is facing sagging economy and slumping trade, echoing the Great Depression in the 1930s when a wave of tit-for-tat protectionism choked global trade and prolonged the economic pain,” the story said.

For its part, though, the White House has said that it is confident that measures have struck the right tone.

“I think where we ended up with the ‘Buy American’ provision is the right compromise that respects the ‘Buy American’ laws that we have had on our books for many, many years, while also ensuring that the language doesn't create unnecessary trade disagreements in a time of economic crisis,” Obama spokesman Robert Gibbs told reporters last week.

The new law will no doubt be on the agenda during Obama’s upcoming visit to Canada on 19 February, his first trip outside the US since taking office four weeks ago. The Canadian government has already signalled its unease with the domestic-sourcing provisions in the US stimulus bill.

"Our intent and our resolve is to see that there is no increase of that 'Buy America' act ... that's the territory that we'll be marking out and I'm sure the prime minister will be sharing some of those things with the president," Canadian Trade Minister Stockwell Day told a Canadian television network on Sunday.

Ottawa has also expressed its unease over promises that Obama made on the campaign trail to re-open some sections of the North American Free Trade Agreement, a subject expected to be broached at the meeting on Thursday.

But Obama signalled in an interview with Canadian television yesterday that Ottawa should not be too concerned about the ‘Buy American’ provisions, stressing that his administration understood the dangers of protectionism.

“Canada is one of our most important trading partners. We rely on them heavily. There’s US\$

1.5 billion worth of trade going back and forth every day between the two countries and it is not in anybody's interest to see that trade diminish," he said.

Criticism of the 'Buy American' requirements was not limited to foreign governments. US business groups also slammed the proposal on the grounds that it might launch a trade war that could ultimately limit their access to markets overseas.

"The 'Buy American' provisions in the stimulus bill will signal to our trading partners around the world that the United States is returning to the bad old days of protectionism and economic nationalism. Rather than stimulate the economy, these provisions will lead to retaliation from abroad and cost precious jobs in the United States," Gary Shapiro, president of the Consumer Electronics Association, said last week.

"The promise that the 'Buy American' provisions keep with the letter of World Trade Organization commitments is a meaningless gesture – it contradicts recent statements by both President Obama and G-20 leaders to avoid protectionism," he added.

But the provision generated enthusiasm among US labour groups, which welcomed the 'Buy American' requirements wholeheartedly. Thomas Gibson, president of the American Iron and Steel Institute said the domestic-sourcing requirements would "lead to thousands of jobs in the manufacturing industry."

But trade analysts disagree as to whether the domestic purchasing requirements will actually create any new US manufacturing jobs. A recent study by the DC-based Peterson Institute for International Economics found that, under some scenarios, the import bans could in fact lead to a net loss in jobs across the sector. However, an earlier study by the Alliance for American Manufacturing, a coalition of labour groups, concluded that the 'Buy American' requirements will create 77,000 new jobs in the manufacturing sector.

### **Trade Adjustment Assistance gets a boost**

In another win for union interests, the stimulus bill updates and expands the existing Trade Adjustment Assistance, or TAA, programme, which offers training and income support for displaced workers.

The new version of the programme increases funding for training courses and extends coverage to include workers in the services sector, as well as workers who lose their jobs because of plant relocations to countries with which the US does not have a free trade agreement. The new provision also raises the health coverage tax credit and guarantees TAA coverage for workers who lose their jobs because of unfair import surges.

The Emergency Committee for American Trade, which fights for US business interests on Capitol Hill, applauded the expansion, saying that programmes like TAA are "vital to ensure that American workers have the skills, tools, training and resources to re-enter the workforce when adjustment is required."

ICTSD reporting; "Brazil may challenge 'Buy American' at WTO," REUTERS, 17 February 2009; "Obama's stimulus clears House, goes to Senate," 13 February 2009; "FACTBOX – Trade dominates Canada-US issues for Obama visit," REUTERS, 17 February 2009; "FACTBOX – 'Buy American' in US stimulus bill," REUTERS, 13 February 2009; "Recovery package gets congressional approval," WALL STREET JOURNAL, 14 February 2009; "'Buy American' meets formidable challenge," XINHUA, 16 February 2009.

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### **EU, Andean Nations Struggle Forward in Trade Talks**

Intellectual property, a potential regional customs union, human rights, and bananas triggered heated debate last week in Bogota during the first round of negotiations toward a free trade agreement between the European Union and Andean nations Colombia, Ecuador and Peru.

The meeting was hailed as a success by leaders of government and business, who noted that significant progress over the week-long session may allow for negotiations to close by September, with FTA completion by the end of 2009.

The first round of negotiations ensured that Brussels would consolidate tariff treatment to certain products produced by the South American nations under the Generalised System of Preferences Extended (GSP+), established a Working Group for Capacity Building Trade of the Andean countries, and led to agreements regarding customs and facilitation of trade.

But some challenges remain as the nations work independently to advance domestic priorities. Officials from Ecuador expressed a desire to further refine market access conditions for bananas, while the Colombian negotiator Santiago Pardo indicated that he was satisfied with the current arrangements for fruit exports to European shores.

Peruvian representatives were similarly pleased with an EU willingness to exclude from the negotiations agricultural and food products currently receiving subsidies, although officials from Lima expressed concern that the EU has recently taken a “much stronger” position on intellectual property, specifically with regards to pharmaceutical data exclusivity and medical patent protection.

Local media reported major disagreements on services and responsibility on the fight against drug trafficking; however, the details of such differences were not disclosed. Additionally, the development of a customs union was challenged by Peru, which rejected the deal, stating that such an arrangement “was too much to ask” in the absence of the Andean member state Bolivia. Bolivia was absent from last week’s meeting, having expressed strong opposition regarding the creation of an FTA with the European trading bloc.

### **Complications on several issues**

Although officials were generally optimistic, the talks were not without their detractors. Trade

analysts have criticised the EU negotiations as repeating the mistakes of a nearly identical agreements that Colombia and Peru each signed with the United States. Some observers say that those deals harm Andean intellectual property interests. Other critics spoke out against a lack of transparency in the decision-making process.

Alejandra Alys, Executive Coordinator of the Peruvian Network for Globalisation with Equity, additionally lamented that ambitious EU demands may ultimately result in further erosion of Andean integration. Similarly, Bolivian Deputy Minister of Foreign Trade Pablo Guzmán Laugier noted that Brussels’ position was less flexible than it has been in the past.

Moreover, Guzmán criticised negotiators for eliminating the discussion panel on ‘asymmetry’ in the talks – the panel that would consider how requirements for the two parties should differ in strength according to their respective levels of development. In Guzmán view, this asymmetry is one of the most important aspects of the talks, as it “guarantees that the agreement will not be a simple FTA.”

Regarding issues outside of trade, Germán Umaña, a professor at the Universidad Nacional de Colombia, argued that human rights have been overlooked in the negotiations. The same view was expressed by a senator for the Liberal Party of Colombia, Cecilia Lopez, who has said that she believes that the agreement implicitly approves of questionable EU migration policies.

Representatives within the fruit industry have also criticised preliminary versions of banana trade agreements, saying that they are step down from the short-lived agreement reached between the EU and Latin American banana exporters at the WTO mini-ministerial meeting in Geneva last summer. However, because that meeting ultimately collapsed, the EU says that the offer it made as part of the negotiations is now invalid.

Additionally, representatives of the EU-CAN Alliance on Access to Medicines were frustrated by requests from Brussels to extend protection of pharmaceutical data exclusivity to 11 years, to stretch patent terms and to implement harsher penalties for intellectual property violations.

Industry experts say that such changes would significantly impact the availability of generic medicines. Germán Holguín, Coordinator of the Alliance, said that the EU proposal was unacceptable because it goes beyond the standards of free trade agreements with the US.

### Is Peru first in line?

Antonio Cardoso, head of the European Commission delegation in Lima, suggested that the completion of a Peru-EU trade agreement would be likely come before talks toward parallel deals with Colombia and Ecuador are finalised. Cardoso noted that the Peruvian government has been eager to complete negotiations as soon as possible.

However, officials from Brussels have stated that negotiations will respect the political procedures and desired pace of the various states, and the government of Ecuador consequently issued a statement emphasising that negotiations with the EU will respect limits imposed by the new Ecuadorian Constitution, as well as national policies and priorities.

Yet politically, the first round of the talks has not been without its hurdles for Lima, as relations between Peru and Bolivia have continued to deteriorate. In light of Bolivia's continued – and loud – opposition to engaging with Brussels, Peru has accused Bolivia of attempting to impose its views on all Andean Community members.

The next round of EU-Andean talks is set to be held in Lima next month.

ICTSD reporting.

## IN BRIEF

### G-7 Finance Ministers Vow to Co-operate, Resist Protectionism

Finance ministers and central bankers from the group of seven world economic powers meeting

in Rome this week declared their joint commitment to keeping trade lines and avoiding protectionism amidst the ongoing international economic crisis.

The agenda of the two-day gathering focussed on measures that the countries could take to improve transparency and market functioning in their domestic economies.

In a joint statement released at the end of the meeting, the ministers said that they remain “committed to avoiding protectionist measures, which would only exacerbate the downturn,” and expressed their desire to “work towards a quick conclusion to the Doha round” of trade talks at the WTO.

The G-7 includes Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States.

Timothy Geithner, making his G-7 debut as US Treasury Secretary, reassured officials that US President Barack Obama's US\$ 787 billion plan to revive the US economy would not violate any of Washington's obligations under international trade agreements (see related story, this issue). Geithner also acknowledged that the US was the source of much of the financial drama in recent months.

Christine Lagarde, French Finance Minister, said the G-7 recognised that protectionism could take multiple forms in the banking, financial, and economic domains.

“The important thing is to coordinate very closely our respective national actions within our relaunch plans,” said Lagarde. “But there were no accusations or criticism against this or that plan, this or that country, so we are all on the same line,” she added.

This week's meeting comes in the run-up to a summit of the G-20 in London in April, which will bring together the G-7 as well as Australia, Brazil, China, Brazil, India, Mexico and several other emerging economies.

Marco Annunziata, chief economist at Italian bank Unicredit, said that the upcoming G-20 meeting will be important in reinforcing the ambitions of the G-7.

"The G-20 will be far more important because the G-7 countries cannot resolve the crisis on their own. They need the help of the emerging economies," Annunziata said.

ICTSD reporting; "G7 pledges to avoid protectionism," Guy Dinmore, Financial Times, 14 February 2009; "G7 urges action, but future uncertain," Taipei Times, 16 February 2009; "G7: Italy hosts Finance Summit," ANSA, 13 February 2009.

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## GlaxoSmithKline Promises Cheaper Medicines in the Developing World

GlaxoSmithKline has launched an initiative to reduce the prices of pharmaceutical drugs by 75 percent in the world's 50 poorest countries, the company's CEO, Andrew Witty, announced in a recent speech at Harvard University. The British pharmaceutical company, which ranks second in global sales, also vowed to make its patented products and processes available for research and development into neglected diseases.

"We have the capacity to do more, and we can do more," Witty said.

With the exception of HIV/AIDS, GSK will open its patent protection for neglected diseases that include diabetes, heart disease, asthma, malaria, genital herpes, hepatitis B and tuberculosis. In addition, the company plans to reduce the price of the drugs by at least 75 percent, and to donate 20 percent of the profits it earns in least-developed countries, or LDCs, to bolster health care facilities in poor regions.

GSK has also invited researchers to join the Tres Cantos tropical disease research facility in Spain for an open-source alliance on the rapid development of medicines for neglected diseases.

UNITAID, the international drug purchasing company, welcomed GSK's initiative.

"Sharing knowledge and technologies and putting them at the service of global health is key to truly

expanding treatments for all populations," said Dr. Philippe Douste-Blazy of UNITAID.

UNITAID announced last July the establishment of a 'patent pool' in which patent holders and drug makers, including generic manufacturers, can voluntarily share information and cross-license specific medicines. The hope is that such co-operation will stimulate competition and ultimately bring prices down. The UNITAID pool will start with HIV therapies and will target low- and middle-income countries.

Medecins Sans Frontieres called GSK's action a step in the right direction, but urged the company to provide more information with regard to the terms of any licenses attached to the patent pool, as these terms are of critical importance.

But GSK has argued against the need to provide information on licensing regarding HIV and AIDS because they believe that there is sufficient innovation in that specific area.

But Michelle Childs of MSF disagrees. "In the field of HIV/AIDS treatment, the gap between what is needed and what is available is large," she said. MSF called on GSK to collaborate with UNITAID and make relevant intellectual property available through a voluntary patent pool for AIDS medicines.

"While any lowering of prices is welcome, this is by no means a panacea," Childs said of GSK's promise to make drugs more affordable.

"Experience has shown that competition among multiple generic producers is the tried and tested way to drive prices down."

"The limitations of company discounts are particularly evident when they are restricted to least-developed countries only, and exclude middle-income countries – countries such as China, where in the absence of competition GSK charges over US\$ 3,000 for the antiretroviral lamivudine," Childs added.

ICTSD reporting.



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## Gregg Refuses Obama's Offer to Lead Commerce Department, Citing Policy Split

Republican Senator Judd Gregg has turned down US President Barack Obama's offer to serve as Secretary of Commerce, saying that his views on certain policy questions differ too greatly from those of the administration.

"I have found that on issues such as the stimulus package and the census, there are irresolvable conflicts for me," Gregg said in a written statement released last week.

"For me, I just realised as these issues started to come at us and started to crystallise that it really wasn't a good fit, and that I wouldn't be comfortable doing this and that it wouldn't be fair to him [Obama] to be part of the team and not be able to be 100 percent on the team," Gregg later told reporters.

The Commerce Department oversees a range of programmes, including the national census, small business development, and promotion of US exports.

Obama announced earlier this month that he had offered Gregg the post (see Bridges Weekly, 11 February 2009, <http://ictsd.net/i/news/bridgesweekly/40490/>).

Gregg, a fiscal conservative and 16-year veteran of the Senate, would have been the third Republican member of the Democratic president's cabinet.

Gregg is the second of Obama's picks for the commerce post to withdraw from consideration before being confirmed by the Senate. Former New Mexico governor Bill Richardson turned down the offer in January amid a grand jury investigation into alleged misconduct with regard to the granting of state contracts.

The new US President is also still looking to fill the post of Secretary of Health and Human Services.

ICTSD reporting; "Gregg withdraws as Commerce pick," THE WASHINGTON POST, 13 February 2009.

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## EU Trade Commissioner Pushes for Economic Integration with African Nations

EU Trade Commissioner Catherine Ashton visited several nations in Southern Africa last week, where she held talks with key governmental leaders. Although the general purpose of the trip was to promote bilateral and regional trade relations, Ashton also hoped to make progress on a potential Economic Partnership Agreement, or EPA, between members of the South African Development Community (SADC) and the European Union.

"I want to engage with Southern African countries so that we can all gain more from our economic relationship," Ashton said.

Within the 15-member SADC, seven nations compose the 'SADC EPA' group that is in negotiations toward a partnership deal with the EU. This group, which comprises Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland and South Africa, hopes to ultimately create a free trade area between the two blocs.

Negotiations between Brussels and the SADC group have been ongoing since 2004, and an interim EPA was signed between Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland and the EU in 2007. However, that agreement left many issues unresolved, namely the reconciliation of various trade relationships between the EU and various African nations, some of which have signed their own agreements with Brussels.

Absent from the 2007 interim agreement was SADC member South Africa, which signed its own trade and cooperation agreement with Brussels ten years ago.

But the EU is still keen to expand trade relations with Africa's largest economy.

"I am particularly committed to discussing South Africa's concerns over our Economic Partnership Agreement," said Ashton, who spent two days of her trip in Cape Town.

Further complicating negotiations is the status of Angola, which has been granted permission to join the 2007 interim agreement, but which already enjoys substantial EU market access as a Least Developed Country.

The Southern African Customs Union, a four-nation bloc within the SADC, was evenly split over whether to join the 2007 pact with the EU. Both South Africa and Namibia refused initially, but Namibia eventually signed in the closing hours of discussion in December 2007 on the condition that future negotiations would address its concerns regarding service liberalisation.

Namibia's concern echoes the worries of some African countries, which are hesitant to agree to liberalisation of services. Brussels insists such easing of restrictions will create predictable and stable conditions for European investment.

During the visit, ministers and high-level officials from Namibia as well as other SADC nations got a chance to voice these concerns, planning to meet with Commissioner Ashton over the course of three days in Botswana and South Africa.

ICTSD Reporting; "Trading blocs to continue with EPA negotiations," AFRICA BUSINESS DAILY, 12 February 2009; "Namibia Revives EPA Discussions," NEW ERA (Namibia), 12 February 2009.

## WTO IN BRIEF

### WTO Farm Talks Restart As Members Await New US Trade Rep

The chair of the WTO agriculture negotiations has announced he plans to continue his recent series of consultations with negotiating groups, in a bid to restart the faltering Doha farm trade talks. But Members remain cautious about how much progress can be achieved in the absence of a new US Trade Representative, whose nomination has still to be confirmed by Congress.

The chair, Ambassador Crawford Falconer, told a 12 February meeting open to all Members that he planned to convene 'carousel' meetings to explore perceptions of the overall "balance" in his draft text, released in December 2008 (see Bridges Weekly, 10 December 2008, <http://ictsd.net/i/news/bridgesweekly/35976/>).

These consultations – which the chair also dubbed 'hub and spokes' meetings – would involve him speaking with each of the main negotiating groups in turn, and with some individual delegations such as the EU.

Falconer expressed hope that, after two 'rounds' of such consultations perhaps lasting about a month, a set of issues would then emerge that Members could discuss in small invitation-only meetings involving a cross-section of interests – known as 'room E' meetings, after the room at the WTO in which they are usually held. These would be interspersed by 'transparency' meetings to which all Members would be invited.

Falconer's consultations with negotiating groups so far this year had concentrated mainly on the right way to proceed in the talks at this stage. Now, however, substantive questions could be discussed, he said.

Trade sources acknowledged, however, that the talks could amount to 'treading water' until a new US Trade Representative is in post, briefed, and willing and ready to engage in trade negotiations. Some delegates suggested that it could take much of March for Obama's nominee, Dallas mayor Ron Kirk, to be briefed on trade policy issues after being confirmed by Congress (see Bridges Weekly, 14 January 2009, <http://ictsd.net/i/news/bridgesweekly/37799/>).

If this were to be the case, delegates said, it would be difficult for Members to reach agreement on more 'political' issues until at least 2 April, when twenty major trading powers are due to meet in London. Other negotiators suggested that little might be achieved in the negotiations until after the Indian elections in May.

However, others expressed cautious optimism that progress on technical issues could be achieved through the process outlined by the chair, as groups clarified their positions on complex



questions such as the 'special safeguard mechanism' that developing countries will be able to use to raise tariffs temporarily in the event of an import surge or price depression. Falconer himself indicated that the consultations could allow Members to discuss differences of opinion concerning his December text, as well as misunderstandings.

ICTSD reporting.

## EVENTS & RESOURCES

### Events

If you would like to submit an event, please email [bridges\\_weekly@ictsd.ch](mailto:bridges_weekly@ictsd.ch).

#### Coming up this week

22-26 February, Dhaka, Bangladesh. THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON COMMUNITY BASED ADAPTATION. The primary focus of this meeting, which is organised jointly by the Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS), International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), and RING Alliance of Policy Research Organisations, is to share new developments on community-based adaptation programmes, priorities and solutions with a view to integrating the lessons into national and international development programmes. A two-day visit to a community-based adaptation site is included and participation is limited. For further information please contact Dr. Saleemul Huq, email: [saleemul.huq@iied.org](mailto:saleemul.huq@iied.org) or visit, <http://www.iisd.ca/upcoming/linkagesmeetings.asp?id=5>

24 February, Geneva, Switzerland. JOINT CONFERENCE ON THE IMPACT OF GLOBALISATION ON TRANSPORT, LOGISTICS AND TRADE: THE UNECE WORK. This conference, which will take place during the annual sessions of the Committee on Inland Transport and the Committee on Trade, will examine ways in which stakeholders within the trade and transport communities may work together, particularly on issues of supply chain

competitiveness and measuring border crossing performance. Hosted at the Palais des Nations, the conference will highlight the resources available to governments and businesses through the conventions and recommendations of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe. For more information please contact: Ms. Martine-Sophie Fouvez; e-mail: [infotransport@unece.org](mailto:infotransport@unece.org); and refer to the website: <http://www.unece.org/jointconference2009.htm>.

### 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.

18 + 20 February: Trade Policy Review Body – Japan

19 February: Dispute Settlement Body

25 February: Committee on Government Procurement

27 February: Committee on Trade and Development-Session on Aid for Trade

### Other upcoming events

2 March, Geneva, Switzerland. SECOND ANNUAL UPDATE ON WTO DISPUTE SETTLEMENT. The Centre for Trade and Economic Integration is sponsoring a presentation and debate on cases and developments in WTO dispute settlement during 2008. More specifically, the meeting will cover WTO dispute settlement body developments and an annual report of the appellate body. A roundtable discussion and Q&A with five experts on WTO dispute settlement, facilitated by Joost Pauwelyn of the Graduate Institute will finalise the

discussion. For more information please refer to [http://ictsd.net/downloads/2009/02/annual\\_ds\\_update\\_2009\\_rev-29-jan-2 .pdf](http://ictsd.net/downloads/2009/02/annual_ds_update_2009_rev-29-jan-2.pdf)

3-5 March, Geneva, Switzerland. MULTI-YEAR EXPERT MEETING ON COMMODITIES AND DEVELOPMENT. The goal of this meeting is to help commodity-dependent developing countries, in accordance with the Accra Accord, harness development gains from the current boom in commodity prices, and to deal with trade and development challenges related to commodity dependence. The meeting will also review and evaluate UNCTAD's contribution to assisting developing countries in the area of commodities. For further information please refer to <http://www.unctad.org/Templates/meeting.asp?intItemID=2068&lang=1&m=16434>.

12-13 March, Brussels, Belgium. CONFERENCE ON CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND WATER. Many studies say that climate change is already affecting water sources in European basins. This conference -- organised by the European Water Partnership (EWP), the Dutch Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Water Management, and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the World Water Council and the Cooperative Programme on Water and Climate -- will demonstrate and promote good practices in Europe with regards to adaptation to climate change. For further information, contact Sandra Borst of the European Water Partnership tel: +31 70 3043711 to register, visit [www.ewp.eu](http://www.ewp.eu)

16-22 March, Istanbul, Turkey. 5TH WORLD WATER FORUM: BRIDGING DIVIDES FOR WATER. This forum will be an open, multi-stakeholder process that aims to raise awareness and understanding of water issues and propose concrete solutions addressing global challenges. Organised every three years by the World Water Council, this forum, which was last held Mexico City in March 2006, focusses on putting water firmly on the international agenda. For more information please refer to <http://www.worldwatercouncil.org/index.php?id=1842>.

13-16 April, Ooty, India. THE GRADUATE COURSE IN INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER. The central role of this four-day programme is to examine the role of Intellectual Property (IP) as a technology transfer tool using case studies, best practices, and interactive discussions. Faculty for this program is comprised of senior IP practitioners, decision makers, academicians, drawn from prominent public research institutions and global international organisations involved in IP Management. For further information please refer to <http://www.iprsonline.org/calendar/index.htm#feb>

16-17 June, Belfast, Ireland. SUSTAINABLE OCEAN SUMMIT: REDUCING RISK, INCREASING SUSTAINABILITY: SOLUTIONS THROUGH COLLABORATION. The Sustainable Ocean Summit (SOS) is the only international, cross-sectoral industry conference on business leadership and sustainable development of the marine environment. The meeting will bring together participants from the shipping, oil and gas, fisheries, aquaculture, mining, and maritime salvage sectors to define the global business agenda on oceans and to develop proactive policies and programmes to address the ocean sustainability challenges confronting the private sector. The conference, put on by the World Ocean Council (WOC), stresses that as activity in the ocean increases more collaborative efforts will be needed to achieve sustainable management of the sea. For further information, visit <http://www.oceancouncil.org/site/events.php>.

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## Resources

ONLINE UPDATE OF THE WORLD TRADE INDICATORS (WTI) 2008 DATABASE AND COUNTRY TABLES (TAAGS). 2009 February, the World Bank Institute. The World Bank Institute is pleased to announce the online update of the World Trade Indicators (WTI) 2008 database and country tables (TAAGs). The updated database now contains 305 trade-related indicators. It includes various tariff and trade flow indicators for 2008 as well as other data on

remittances. In addition the maximum tariff indicator is available including and excluding alcohol and tobacco. While the trade-at-a-glance (TAAG) country tables have also been updated, the Country Trade Briefs and the Overview Report will only be updated in occasion of the WTI 2009 release, planned for September 2009. The updated database is available at [www.worldbank.org/wti2008](http://www.worldbank.org/wti2008)

OPENING MARKETS FOR TRADE IN SERVICES. Edited by Juan Marchetti and Martin Roy, WTO, February 2009. This new publication highlights the key challenges and opportunities for the services sector in a globalised economy. The book, co-published by the World Trade Organization and Cambridge University Press, focusses on the unilateral action taken by countries across the world as well as the bilateral and multilateral liberalisation of trade in services. It explores the challenges, motivations and achievements of the growing number of preferential trade agreements between countries and of the global trade negotiations within the WTO. To access this book please refer to [http://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news09\\_e/publ\\_05feb09\\_e.htm](http://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news09_e/publ_05feb09_e.htm)

GLOBAL INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW. By Graham Dutfield, Uma Suthersanen, November 2008. This book reflects on intellectual property as it stands at the crossroads of these values. It considers the challenges presented by such developments as the commodification of persona, the commons, and life itself. Most significantly perhaps, the book examines the impact of intellectual property on the international stage, especially with respect to trade, development, economics and biological and cultural diversity. Intellectual property has moved into the mainstream of national economic and developmental planning; in the recent past it has also emerged as the central impetus in multilateral trade relations. To purchase this book please refer to <http://www.amazon.com/Global-Intellectual-Property-Graham-Dutfield/dp/1843769425>