



Bridges Weekly Trade News Digest

Weekly trade news from a sustainable development perspective

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LEAD STORIES

EU Commissioners to Consider Energy Tax Overhaul

The European Union is set to consider a blanket energy tax that could make renewable fuels cheaper than traditional sources of energy. News of the potential policy shift broke last week when Reuters news agency obtained a draft European Commission document that outlines the proposed changes.

The proposed new tax, which would range from €4 to €30 per tonne of CO₂, could make a four percent contribution to the EU's climate goals, the document said. The tax would be phased in between 2013 and 2018.

Severe fiscal problems in Europe have opened up new political space for the introduction of new taxes, the document noted.

"The global financial and economic crisis has left deep strains on the public finances of most countries," said the draft document. "This...should play an important role in offering member states a basis...to shift the tax burden away from labour or capital."

Under the current EU tax regime – which generates roughly €240 billion in revenue each year – renewable fuels like solar power, biofuels and wind energy are more expensive than fossil fuels like coal and natural gas.

"Standard taxation rules discriminate against renewable energies," officials acknowledged in the Commission document.

The proposed tax would fundamentally change the way in which the European Union sets the value of its energy taxes. Currently, the taxes are based solely on the volume of the fuel in question;

the new policy would make the level of tax contingent on the fuel's energy density as well as the amount of carbon emissions associated with its use.

"What we would be considering doing is to restructure energy taxation so that there would be two elements to an energy tax, an energy component and a CO2 component. That's the basic philosophy of the idea," EU taxation spokeswoman Emer Traynor told journalists in Brussels last week, according to a report from the news agency Deutsche Presse-Agentur.

EU commissioners will discuss the proposed energy tax at a meeting on 23 June. The proposal will later be presented to the European Parliament and to member states, which would have to approve any changes before they could take effect.

20% vs. 30%

In related news, the European Commission has issued a new communication analysing how the bloc might move forward on climate change in light of the results of the major climate conference in Copenhagen last December.

The communication compares the potential impacts of two emissions reductions goals that have been under discussion in the EU: a 20 percent cut from 1990 levels, and a more ambitious 30 percent cut.

For now, it seems, the EU is sticking to its 20 percent target, which is the bloc's official policy. But the 30 percent goal – which was under serious consideration late last year – has not been set aside.

The communication acknowledges that the ongoing economic downturn has put "huge pressure onto businesses and communities" and "huge stress on public finances" across Europe. It also cites the "disappointment" of failing to achieve a binding international agreement in Copenhagen. "But the need for [climate] action is as valid as ever," it concludes.

The communication discusses "possible options to reach the 30 percent target," including through carbon taxes.

"The introduction of taxes that target CO2 emissions in sectors not covered by the ETS [Emissions Trading Scheme] represents a straightforward market-based instrument to incentivise lower emissions at the national or European level," the communication states.

The document also discusses ways to stem "carbon leakage" – the shifting of emissions to countries outside the EU that have relatively lax climate regulations. The communication cites three approaches on this front: supporting European industries through free carbon allowances; "adding to the cost of imports" from countries that do not adopt strict mitigation measures; and taking steps to "bring the rest of the world closer to EU levels of effort."

The second option – border carbon adjustment – is highly controversial within the EU, although such measures have not been ruled out. The communication cites several potential stumbling blocks to the implementation of BCAs, including logistical and political complications. The communication concludes that such a system "could at best only be envisaged for a limited number of standardised commodities."

Connie Hedegaard, European Commissioner for Climate Action, acknowledged late last month that border carbon measures remain a "tool in the toolkit," but stressed that the implementation of such policies could pose significant challenges. "How are we going to do it? If you think it through it is extremely complicated," she said, according to a report from DPA.

ICTSD reporting; "Exclusive: EU debt crisis boosts chance of energy tax overhaul," REUTERS, 1 June 2010; "Commission to propose EU 'green tax' on energy in late June," DEUTSCHE PRESSE-AGENTUR, 2 June 2010; "EU should impose 'carbon tax' on developing countries, study finds," DEUTSCHE PRESSE-AGENTUR, 31 May 2010.

UNITAID Launches Patent Pool for HIV/AIDS Drugs

A “patent pool” that promises to spur innovation and lower costs for state-of-the-art HIV/AIDS treatment took a big step closer to becoming a reality on Tuesday, with a crucial procedural decision that sets up an entity that can negotiate with the makers of key drugs to secure access to their intellectual property.

After months of negotiations, the executive board of UNITAID, the international drug purchasing facility that has spearheaded the push for a drug patent pool, formally approved an agreement to set up a Medicines Patent Pool Foundation and provide it with US\$4.4 million in funds for its first year.

“What this means in practical terms,” explained Philippe Douste-Blazy, chair of UNITAID’s executive board, “is that formal negotiations with the patent holders can now begin. We expect the Patent Pool Foundation to have its first licenses within a year.”

Dousté-Blazy, a doctor and former French minister for health and foreign affairs, told Intellectual Property Watch that the decision “should save millions of lives of people living with HIV across the developing world.”

A patent pool brings together (“pools”) multiple patents belonging to different owners, and makes them available to third parties against the payment of a royalty.

UNITAID believes that pooling the patents for key HIV/AIDS drugs would make it simpler, and cheaper, for researchers and drug manufacturers other than the patent-holders to access important intellectual property. This would facilitate competition and hence, lower prices, since several different manufacturers could pay the royalty, and then access the intellectual property in the pool to make drugs for sale in developing countries. The ‘one-stop shop’ for intellectual property would also enable innovation, since it would become easier for companies to access the different patents needed to create new fixed-dose

combinations, included badly needed ones for children.

UNITAID wants the patent pool to focus initially on HIV/AIDS medicines that are expensive (the newer, ‘second-line’ medicines that receive patent protection in India, a major source of low-cost versions of older drugs) or unavailable (formulations that can withstand hot temperatures, as well as those for children). It wants the licence agreements with patent holders to cover both low- and middle-income developing countries – covering only the former might mean a market for generics too small to yield adequate price reductions.

Sources say that the statutes of the Medicines Patent Pool Foundation, which have been filed with the Swiss authorities, include provisions to prevent drugs created via access to the eventual pool from being diverted to developed country markets, where the companies that will be asked to license their patents make much of their money.

The Medicines Patent Pool Foundation will be a Swiss non-profit foundation, independent from UNITAID or its host, the World Health Organization. The reason for creating a separate legal entity, instead of having UNITAID house the patent pool, was that patent-holders might have been reluctant to license drugs to a UN-affiliated body. The UN’s various legal privileges and immunities might have made legal recourse difficult if they were unhappy with how their intellectual property was being used.

The three members of the foundation’s board that have been confirmed so far are Bernard Pécoul, the head of the Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative, Charles Clift, a well-known expert on intellectual property and health, and Paulo Teixeira, the former head of Brazil’s national AIDS programme.

Ellen ‘t Hoen, a senior adviser on intellectual property and the medicines patent pool with UNITAID, said that there was now a “complete green light” to transfer money to the new foundation, which will start operations in the weeks to come. But the creation of the Medicines Patent Pool Foundation allows negotiations to

start with pharmaceutical companies such as ViiV and Gilead; it is not the ultimate goal.

“What the world is waiting for is concrete results from the patent pool,” she said. “Now the hard work can start.”

ICTSD reporting.

OTHER NEWS

WTO Delegates Perform Cotton ‘Ritual’

WTO Director-General Pascal Lamy told trade delegates in a fax on 12 May that cotton has become a “litmus test” for the “development dimension” of the Doha Round. At a recent review of the issue's standing in WTO talks, some countries, such as Tanzania, alleged that no progress has been made since 2005.

Leonce Kone, the trade minister from Burkina Faso – a cotton-exporting Least Developed Country (LDC) – joined Geneva-based trade delegates in consulting with WTO Deputy Director-General Harsha Singh on 7 June. These consultations are part of the work of a Sub-Committee on Cotton, which was mandated in the General Council's July 2004 framework agreement to conclude the Doha Round. The committee's remit is to review “all trade-distorting policies affecting the sector in all three pillars of market access, domestic support, and export competition.”

The consultations are intended to feed into a broader process that allows WTO members and donors to gauge progress on cotton – specifically with regards to trade, development, and the need for domestic reforms. Many developing country members used the 7 June meeting to express concern over the lack of attention that the issue has received in recent years.

Brazil, which is engaged in negotiations to settle a WTO dispute with the US on cotton, called developed country subsidies an unfair source of competition for developing country farmers, while

suggesting that consultations in the negotiations have backtracked.

A delegate from a cotton-growing African country told Bridges that the Sub-Committee on Cotton's meetings were “becoming a ritual, a tradition” that may not produce any real outcome.

The United States, the world's largest subsidiser of cotton, repeated on Monday its position that WTO agriculture talks in all other major areas should be resolved before negotiators turn to cotton. However, many developing countries insist that a reduction in subsidies, particularly on cotton, is necessary to address the development objectives of the Doha Round. The US will be paying nearly US\$150 million each year to Brazilian farmers to compensate them for the market-distorting effects of its subsidies. However, the US has yet to counter a proposal to eliminate subsidies at a faster rate for cotton, which was made by the Cotton-4 (C-4) group of West African producers.

Tanzania insisted that development assistance without cuts in domestic support would lead nowhere, a common refrain among other developing country members.

Director-General Lamy, in a letter to WTO ambassadors, reminded them of the growing amount of development assistance that is being offered on cotton, even during the global economic and financial crisis. According to the WTO, the disbursement of funds for cotton-related assistance has increased by 24 percent to US\$ 266 million from the last such report.

Brazil, India and China have emerged as contributors to a platform on South-South Cooperation on Cotton Sector Development. For China, this has meant support on agricultural research and development projects in Africa, private sector investment, interest free loans and training. On Monday, China committed to “enlarge the scale of ... and improve the efficiency of...aid” in the sector.

Pakistan, also a major producer of cotton, tabled a proposal to assist in agricultural research and development among West African producers

through the use of its domestic facilities on cotton.

Burkina Faso's Minister Kone, speaking on behalf of the C-4, summed up a sentiment shared by many developing country members in observing that the present rhythm of the negotiations does not provide grounds for optimism.

ICTSD reporting.

APEC Trade Ministers Pledge Firm Commitment to Doha

Trade ministers and other officials from 21 countries around the Pacific Rim gathered in Sapporo, Japan last week for the annual gathering of high-ranking trade officials from Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) countries. The ministers reiterated the bloc's commitment to furthering the WTO's Doha Round of global trade talks, and discussed progress on regional economic integration.

Ahead of the 5-6 June meeting, WTO Director-General Pascal Lamy voiced his concern that the APEC talks could detract from the political momentum of the Doha negotiations. Lamy, who attended the APEC gathering, stated that he was "watching this carefully because we know that we need a quantum of political energy in these trade issues and we need a large part of that to conclude the round," according to Indian newspaper The Economic Times.

The trade ministers may have assuaged Lamy's fears with an expression of their "strong commitment to the multilateral trading system and our unwavering determination to bring the Doha Development Agenda (DDA) to a successful conclusion as soon as possible." They also stated that they are "deeply concerned about the current impasse of the negotiations."

APEC ministers also discussed the Bogor Goals, which were set 16 years ago through the Bogor Declaration in Indonesia. The goals of this declaration are for APEC members to achieve free and open trade, with a 2010 deadline for

industrialised economies and a 2020 deadline for developing economies.

At this weekend's meeting, APEC members decided to begin assessing progress on the 2010 Bogor deadline. The trade ministers hope that a report summarising progress made by the 13 signatories will be ready in time for the APEC Japan Economic Leaders' Meeting in Yokohama this November.

Ministers also discussed the potential establishment of a Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific (FTAAP), which – if finalised – would help fulfil APEC's goal of deepening regional economic ties. The APEC Chair instructed officials to report by November on possible pathways to achieve the FTAAP, emphasising the importance of ensuring that "standards, technical regulations, and conformity assessment procedures do not create unnecessary obstacles to international trade."

The APEC ministers also reiterated their commitments against protectionism. In a joint statement, they mentioned that they would extend until at least 2011 APEC leaders' commitment to a "standstill" on implementing new barriers to trade. The ministers also agreed to avoid, if possible, implementing new protectionist measures, even if they did not violate WTO rules.

The ministers also agreed to improve transparency in trade, strengthen intellectual property rights, and make it 25 percent "cheaper, easier, and faster" to conduct business in the region by 2015, according to the APEC Chair's statement.

The 21 APEC countries are Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, China, Hong Kong (China), Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Peru, the Philippines, Russia, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand, the United States and Vietnam.

Trans-Pacific Partnership talks on the sidelines

Ministers from the eight APEC countries involved in the Trans-Pacific Strategic Economic Partnership (TPP) talks met separately over the weekend, at a gathering hosted by Deputy US

Trade Representative Demetrios Marantis. The ministers discussed the progress made towards the TPP deal, which – if implemented – would phase out all tariffs among signatories by 2015. They also considered expanding the group of countries involved in the talks.

The TPP currently covers Brunei, Chile, New Zealand and Singapore. Four countries are actively negotiating entry into the free trade zone: Australia, Peru, the United States and Vietnam. Several other countries have expressed interest in doing the same.

Proponents say that a successful TPP could serve as a framework for a broader trade deal across the Asia-Pacific region. However, some APEC countries have chosen instead to focus on their own free trade deals with the existing Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), rather than taking part in a new binding agreement.

The next TPP negotiating round will take place the week of 14 June in San Francisco.

ICTSD reporting; “Asia-Pacific ministers claim progress in free trade talks,” AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, 7 June 2010; “Regional pacts must not sap Doha talks: WTO chief,” THE ECONOMIC TIMES, 6 June 2010; “APEC trade ministers vow to press on with Doha,” REUTERS, 6 June 2010.

IN BRIEF

Despite Positive Atmosphere, Climate Talks Move Slowly

A more constructive and upbeat tone has characterised the climate meetings taking place in Bonn, Germany from 31 May to 11 June. Climate officials are scattered across four negotiating arenas, the most prominent of which is the negotiation toward a new global climate deal.

However, progress in those particular talks has been slowed by ad nauseum repetition of countries' long-held positions and a lack of progress on the difficult issues. Negotiators seem

almost unwilling to tackle their substantive differences, especially those generated by the particular positions of the United States.

The Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action (AWG-LCA), the group working towards a new global deal for climate change, has proceeded this session with a new text prepared by their chair - a promising start according to many delegates and observers. Yet the approach to the discussions by the chair remains tentative. The chair has posed a series of questions to the parties for each section of the text, an approach that some observers have said does not dig far enough into the heart of the most significant outstanding issues.

The chair repeatedly asked parties to "speak out of the box" and work on whittling down their differences rather than restating positions and ideas. However, little progress has been made in the discussions thus far and many of the more controversial issues remain unresolved. The chair intends to present a more focused text by the end of the session, which parties will then negotiate in two forthcoming intersessional meetings before the end-of-the-year Conference of the Parties (COP) in Cancun, Mexico. Some experts say the most sensitive issues - including intellectual property, border measures, and sectoral approaches (agriculture and bunker fuels) are likely to remain bracketed until December's COP.

It remains an open question as to whether negotiators will be able to secure a comprehensive, legally binding agreement at the Cancun COP. The question of the "legal form" of the eventual agreement is still a subject of debate. Mexico is lobbying hard to get parties focused on a strong outcome and the positive pace at this mid-year meeting in Bonn could increase optimism among those countries, including the EU and China, that have recently stated publicly that they do not expect a deal until the following year.

US positions hinder progress

Sources say the United States has taken an increasingly conservative position on most topics up for discussion in Bonn. In many cases - including the discussions on technology and

developed country mitigation commitments - the US position has even held back progress.

Washington is also reportedly blocking the establishment of a financing system by insisting that there be no decision-making board directing any climate-related fund. In many cases, the US continues to promote the elements of the Copenhagen Accord, despite the document's non-consensual status.

Washington is also pushing to simply make use of the instruments and institutions already existing under the Convention, rather than establishing new ones to scale up the global response. This approach is consistent with the US insistence on nationally led climate action, rather than a more robust "top down" international approach to climate change - despite the widespread belief that the current tools have proven to be slow, inadequate, and limited.

Figueres makes an appearance

The Bonn talks got a breath of fresh air with the presence of Christiana Figueres, the former Costa Rican climate negotiator who will replace Yvo de Boer as head of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. Figueres will assume her new post on 8 July.

"Governments will meet this challenge, for the simple reason that humanity must meet this challenge," Figueres said in an interview with The Associated Press on the sidelines of the Bonn meeting.

"We just don't have another option."

ICTSD reporting; "New climate chief: 'no option' but to take action," THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, 9 June 2010.

US, Developing Countries at Odds over Potential Treaty for the Blind

Delegates at the World Intellectual Property Organization continued their work to establish a new mechanism to help the visually impaired gain access to books and other reading materials at

consultations on 26 and 27 May. Those discussions will be ramped up at the next meeting of the WIPO Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights (SCCR), which will take place later this month.

Visually impaired persons have complained in recent years about the extremely low number of books that are available to them in accessible formats, even in the richest countries. This "book famine" is amplified by the fact that because copyright exceptions are national in scope, one book might be transcribed into Braille by several specialised organisations in different countries, even if those countries have a common language.

In May 2009, Brazil, Ecuador and Paraguay, joined later by Mexico, submitted to the SCCR a draft treaty proposal (WIPO document [SCCR/18/5](#)), prepared by the World Blind Union (WBU), to facilitate trade in copyright-protected works in formats accessible to persons with print disabilities to ease restrictions by copyright law.

Building on this proposal, Ecuador, acting on behalf of the co-sponsors, tabled a proposal for a timetable for the adoption of the suggested WIPO treaty. The timetable envisages negotiations of the text during the next three sessions of the SCCR, a diplomatic conference in 2011, and the potential adoption of the treaty in the spring of 2012.

Several countries – including Argentina, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Honduras, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay and Venezuela – took the floor to reaffirm their support for a WIPO treaty and to express their support of the timetable presented by Ecuador.

In another important development, the US presented a draft proposal for a "Consensus Instrument," as opposed to a treaty. The instrument would call on WIPO member states to allow Braille versions of published works that are made pursuant to an exception, limitation, or other special provision of the member's copyright law to be imported and exported without the authorisation of the owner of the copyright. Importation and exportation would also be allowed through trusted intermediaries for any other special format copy of a published work made pursuant to a similar provision.

The US delegation indicated that the draft “Consensus Instrument” reflected its willingness to come up with “pragmatic solutions” to meet the needs of people with print disabilities.

Brazil, however, said that the US proposal did not go far enough. The Brazilian delegation reiterated that, because its treaty proposal was drafted by the WBU, it reflects the interests of the parties that stand to benefit from a new policy. According to Brazil, a “Consensus Instrument” falls short of the main objective of the draft treaty as it would not be a legally binding instrument. After outlining specific shortcomings of the US proposal, Brazil concluded, “[...] Brazil, Ecuador, Mexico and Paraguay are not in a position to favour any ‘consensus instrument’ that will fall short of the aspirations of visually impaired persons and of our own pledges to granting them the right to read.”

Knowledge Ecology International (KEI) and other NGOs that support the treaty proposal stressed that non-binding recommendations do not go far enough to address the problems raised by copyright restrictions faced by people with print disabilities.

At the meeting’s close, the chair of the consultations indicated that there was a strong support for an international treaty. He also noted that delegations had demonstrated flexibility in their approaches, as well as a renewed engagement to move forward on the matter during the next SCCR meeting, which will be held from 21 to 25 June.

ICTSD reporting.

WTO IN BRIEF

US, EU Ink Deal to End Banana Dispute

The United States and the European Union have signed an agreement that should bring to a close their long-running dispute over trade in bananas, the Office of the US Trade Representative said on Tuesday. The announcement comes on the heels

of a related pact that was signed by the EU and a group of Latin American countries last week.

Under the agreement that was signed in Geneva on Tuesday, the European Union pledged to implement a non-discriminatory, tariff-only regime for its banana imports. (The Office of the USTR has posted the text of the agreement here.)

“I am pleased that we, together with the Latin American banana-producing countries, have taken one more significant step toward ensuring that the EU’s bananas import regime is consistent with its WTO obligations,” said US Trade Representative Ron Kirk.

“All the parties still have some distance to travel before we finally and conclusively settle the bananas dispute,” he added. “However, we are closer now than we have ever been and I am hopeful that we will be able to finally lay this longstanding dispute to rest in the near future.”

The deal, which was initialled in Geneva in December of last year, serves as a complement to the Geneva Agreement on Trade in Bananas, the pact that was signed by the EU and a group of Latin American countries last week.

The spat over the EU’s banana tariffs – one of the oldest disputes in the history of the multilateral trading system – dates to the early 1990s, when Latin American countries began complaining to the WTO that the EU was treating their banana exports unfairly. Bananas from African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries – many of which are former European colonies – have long entered the European market duty free, while bananas from Latin American exporters have been slapped with import tariffs.

The United States soon joined the Latin Americans in their suits against Brussels. The US is not a major banana exporter, but several large banana companies – Chiquita, Del Monte and Dole – operate in Latin America but are headquartered in the US.

Once the EU has implemented the provisions of the deals that it has signed with the US and the Latin American countries, all of those suits will be dropped.

ICTSD reporting.

WTO Reports Sharp Increase in Trade Flows for 1Q 2010

The WTO has released its trade statistics for the first quarter of 2010, showing a 27 percent jump in global exports and 24 percent increase in imports from the same period in 2009. Seventy economies were surveyed, representing approximately 90 percent of world trade, according to the WTO.

These figures – released on 2 June – are, for the most part, lower than the trade merchandise figures in the previous quarter, despite this overall increase from one year to the next. However, this quarter-to-quarter drop should be viewed as “a decrease, not really a slowdown,” whose cause could be any of several factors, according to Yann Marcus, a statistical officer at the WTO secretariat.

Part of this decrease, for instance, could be explained by the fact that the WTO does not seasonally adjust its quarterly data for inflation, Marcus said. He also mentioned that it is a bit too early to assess what might have occurred in the second quarter of this year.

Merchandise trade showed a sharp rise during the month of March, after falling off in January and February. While the US and Europe showed 20 percent and 18 percent increases in exports, respectively, they were easily outpaced by Africa and the Middle East, where exports jumped by 53 percent from the same period in 2009, and Russia, which saw a 62 percent increase.

The WTO credited the spikes in exports from Africa, the Middle East and Russia to increased Asian demand and rising commodity prices. According to data from the International Monetary Fund, all primary commodities – including crude petroleum, energy, food and beverages, and metals – showed large price increases, relative to the first quarter last year. These data, however, did not reflect changes in trade volume.

However, the CPB Netherlands Bureau for Economic Policy Analysis does release seasonally adjusted quarterly data on trade volume in their World Trade Monitor publication. Their findings showed that world trade volume increased by 5.3 percent from the fourth quarter of 2009 to the first quarter of 2010, following a previous increase of 6 percent in trade volume from the third quarter to the fourth quarter of 2009 – supporting the WTO’s conclusions that world trade has improved.

The economic recession had severe effects on trade in 2009. Global trade volume that year decreased by 12.2 percent, marking the largest decline since World War II, according to the WTO. However, the WTO’s annual data does not reflect the change in trade value, which, as in the case of the quarterly data discussed here, depends both on changes in commodity prices as well as trade volume.

The WTO states that the totals for Africa and the Middle East are usually underrepresented in these sorts of statistics due to poor data availability.

The WTO also warns that their quarterly and monthly figures will not add up to the annual figures found in their other publications. These figures are unadjusted for inflation, unlike their annual data.

ICTSD reporting.

EVENTS & RESOURCES

Events

Coming up this week

10 June, Bonn, Germany. CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR MULTI-STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AS PART OF REDD-PLUS READINESS PROCESSES. The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) will be hosting a panel discussion on the contribution that multi-stakeholder participation makes to the building of REDD-plus (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries)

strategies in tropical forest nations. The discussion will explore how stakeholder engagement can contribute to credible and implementable REDD-plus strategies. It will highlight past experiences of using forest governance and REDD readiness strategies, along with partnerships between government, civil society, and the private sector. For more information, please see <http://www.iucn.org>.

10-11 June, Busan, Korea. THE ECONOMICS OF ADAPTING FISHERIES TO CLIMATE CHANGE. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) will be hosting a workshop, with the support of the Governments of Korea and Canada, on how fisheries can develop strategies to adapt to climate change, while taking into account social and economic consequences. The workshop will consist of five sessions, whose topics include adaptation strategies for developing countries; the political economy of adapting fisheries to climate change; and the experiences of OECD member countries in identifying and responding to climate change impacts on fisheries, among others. For more information, or to register, please visit http://www.oecd.org/document/50/0,3343,en_2649_33901_44676402_1_1_1_37401,00.html.

14 June, London, UK. MULTIPLE FINANCIAL CRISES: IS THE SOLUTION MORE GLOBALISATION OR LESS? British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) Radio 4 presenter Evan Davis will be speaking at a forum hosted by the Chatham House. The topics discussed will include global trade imbalances, problems of sovereign debt in the eurozone, and the world's banking system, and whether these and other situations can be resolved with more or less global integration. For more information, or to register, please refer to <http://www.chathamhouse.org.uk/competition2010/>.

16 June, Geneva, Switzerland. MEETING ON FISHERIES, TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT. ICTSD and the UN Environment Programme will be co-organising this meeting, which will discuss the fisheries negotiations under the WTO Doha Round. The current crises facing the fisheries sector – primarily the depletion of fish stocks beyond their biological limit – are worsening

quickly. Given the environmental and economic implications of this, along with the effect on food security on a global scale, the development of policies to counter this situation is essential. The meeting will discuss these issues, and the opportunities provided by the possibility of facilitating market access for developing country exports, especially through Aid for Trade. For more information, or to see a detailed agenda, please visit <http://ictsd.org/i/events/dialogues/75670/>.

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.

10 June: Council for Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights – Special Session

14-15 June: Committee on Regional Trade Agreements

Other upcoming events

17 June, Brussels, Belgium. FOREIGN TRADE ASSOCIATION SEMINAR ON THE EU ANTI-DUMPING SYSTEM. The Foreign Trade Association (FTA) will be hosting this seminar, which focuses on the current status of the EU anti-dumping system, drawing on contributions from the European Commission, the UK government, the legal profession, and the retail and import industry. The EU's anti-dumping system has faced criticism in recent years from both EU retailers and importers, out of concern that the instrument unjustly protects European industry and might no longer be appropriate in today's global marketplace. For more information, or to register, please visit the FTA website at <http://www.fta-eu.org/>.

18 June, London, UK. COMPETITION POLICY IN THE NEW DECADE: MORE HARM THAN GOOD? The Chatham House will be hosting a conference on how an efficient competition regime can play a critical role in restoring and maintaining future stability and economic prosperity across the globe, despite recent scepticism caused by the economic crisis. Topics discussed at the conference will include whether competition policy can pave the way for increased prosperity in developed and developing economies, how to facilitate competitive behaviour by both the public and private sectors, and whether resisting protectionism and fostering national champions are necessary actions for good industry policy and for the public interest. Attendees will include policymakers, practitioners, and leading experts in this field. For more information, or to register, please visit <http://www.chathamhouse.org.uk/competition2010/>.

18 June, Shanghai, China. SEMINAR ON FOSTERING CHINA-AFRICA COOPERATION FOR EQUITABLE DEVELOPMENT. Given the increasing role of large developing countries in global trade, finance, and investment, the prospect of South-South cooperation to foster growth and development in Africa has generated a growing level of interest. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) hopes to use this seminar as a forum for the exchange of views and ideas with the Chinese community on both the scale and patterns of economic cooperation between China and Africa, and how the partnership can be enhanced and managed for equitable development. The seminar will also include a discussion on the main findings of the 2010 Economic Development in Africa Report, with a focus on the theme "South-South Cooperation: Africa and the New Forms of Development Partnership." Attendees will include representatives from the private sector, government, civil society, and international organisations. For more information, please refer to <http://www.unctad.org/Templates/Meeting.asp?iItemID=2068&lang=1&m=19751&year=2010&month=6>.

22 June, Bern, Switzerland. INTERNATIONAL INTEGRATION AND MULTILATERAL COOPERATION AFTER THE CRISIS. Dr. Bernard Hoekman, Director of the International Trade Department at the World Bank, will be speaking at the World Trade Institute (WTI) of the University of Bern, as part of WTI's Distinguished Lecture Series. Dr. Hoekman will address in his lecture the question of whether development and growth strategies built around international integration remain appropriate, given the global financial crisis. He will discuss the possible policy lessons that can be drawn from the crisis regarding global integration strategies, and evaluate which paths for multilateral cooperation in trade will best internalize these lessons. For more information, please visit the WTI website at <http://www.wti.org>.

Resources

INTAL MONTHLY NEWSLETTER. By the Institute for the Integration of Latin America and the Caribbean. The INTAL Monthly Newsletter disseminates news on events and regulations concerning the evolution of integration processes in the different regional blocs, and publishes bibliographic reviews, publications on integration on the web and the programming and description of INTAL and IDB activities regarding integration. It is a monthly publication in three languages: Spanish, English and Portuguese. For the latest issue, please see http://www.iadb.org/intal/detalle_carta.asp?tid=5&idioma=ENG&carta_id=1168&cid=234#.

TRADE IN SERVICES: THE DOHA DEVELOPMENT AGENDA NEGOTIATIONS AND US GOALS. By William H. Cooper. Congressional Research Service, April 2010. This report, issued by the Congressional Research Service, aims to give background on the Doha Development Agenda (DDA) Negotiations to date, and give some insight into the reasons behind the negotiations' slow progress, such as the negotiating format. The paper also provides some background on the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) and on the Uruguay Round, to give context to the current DDA negotiations on foreign trade in

services. It looks into what some of the potential prospects are for the DDA round, and evaluate what the US' goals are in this process. To download this paper, please refer to <http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/142770.pdf>.

THE PROPOSED U.S.-COLOMBIA FREE TRADE AGREEMENT: ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS. By M. Angeles Villareal. Congressional Research Service, April 2010. The Obama Administration has lately shown an increased interest in passing US-Colombian Free Trade Agreement (CFTA), given its relevance towards economic – and therefore national – security. This report, by the Congressional Research Service, analyses the progress to date of CFTA, the current state of US-Colombia economic relations, the political situation in Colombia, and the issues for Congress to consider regarding the proposed CFTA. To download the document, please refer to <http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/142763.pdf>

UNPACKING THE ISSUE OF COUNTERFEIT MEDICINES. By K. M. Gopakumar and Sangeeta Shashikant. Third World Network, 2010. The World Health Organisation has recently been taking increased action against 'counterfeit medicines' through their International Medical Product Anti-Counterfeit Task Force (IMPACT). Their approach has prompted concerns that legitimate generic medicines may also be included in the broad definition of counterfeit medicines, which would have adverse effects on trade and access to medicine. This book provides readers with background on the counterfeit medicine issue, especially with regards to the WHO, and the concerns that arise upon using the term 'counterfeit,' among other topics. This publication also discusses IMPACT's work in detail, analysing both the pros and cons of the program. For more information, please refer to the Third World Network website, at <http://www.twinside.org.sg/>.