



Bridges Weekly Trade News Digest

Weekly trade news from a sustainable development perspective

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Contributors to this issue of Bridges Weekly Trade News Digest© are Ahmed Abdel Latif, Jacob Chodash, Benjamin Cote, Bonnie Magnuson and Paige McClanahan. Jonathan Hepburn contributed reporting. Editor: Paige McClanahan. Director: Ricardo Meléndez-Ortiz.

LEAD STORIES

Doha Pessimism Dominates as 'Stocktaking' Announcement Nears

WTO Director-General Pascal Lamy is set to make a long-anticipated announcement regarding an end-March 'stocktaking exercise' on the Doha Round trade talks when he addresses a meeting of the WTO's General Council on Tuesday. The proposed exercise is meant to assess whether the eight-year-old trade talks can be brought to a conclusion before the end of 2010, an outcome that trade officials say is increasingly unlikely.

"Stocktaking? There's no stock to take!" one delegate, frustrated with the slow pace of the talks, exclaimed to Bridges. Another official complained that negotiators have just been "going through the motions" over the past few weeks of negotiations, without engaging in any true give-and-take. "It's not looking good for 2010," a third official said.

The negotiating committees on the critical areas of industrial goods, services and agriculture have all held meetings since the beginning of February, but to little avail.

The negotiating committee on industrial goods talks, which met during the first week of February, narrowed some gaps in members' views on non-tariff barriers to trade, but negotiators completely sidestepped the main area of contention in the talks: whether participation in sector-wide tariff-cutting deals should be voluntary or mandatory. Meanwhile, the negotiations on services liberalisation apparently saw "no movement" at all, according to a source close to the talks.

Even the talks on trade facilitation – usually the golden boy of the Doha Round talks – moved at a glacial pace during a first official meeting of 2010. There "was not much advance" during the week of talks that began on 8 February, one source said.

Another groaned that there are “still so many brackets,” or areas of divergence, that must be worked through.

Meanwhile, the agriculture talks have also been largely treading water. Delegates have only discussed issues of controversy in informal consultations with the chair of the talks, Ambassador David Walker of New Zealand, at the New Zealand Mission; the touchy subjects have not been broached in any formal meetings. Official talks have largely centred on the technicalities of the Special Safeguard Mechanism, a tool that would allow developing countries to raise tariffs to protect domestic producers from import surges and price depressions. Some delegates have complained that the new demands on the SSM put forward by the G33 developing country group have taken the talks backwards, not forwards.

“You don’t have to be a rocket scientist to figure out that there’s not much movement” in the negotiations as a whole, said one informed trade source, who added that “there are no political signals” to indicate that a Doha deal could be wrapped up soon.

Many delegates say that the US, which still lacks an official ambassador to the WTO, is the primary drag on the pace of the negotiations. More than a year after US President Barack Obama took office, several critical trade posts remain unfilled thanks to partisan political point-scoring on Capitol Hill. One source argued, however, that delegates might be putting too much focus on the US stance, pointing out that the EU also lacks ambassadorial representation at the WTO at the moment.

Where to go from here?

DG Lamy is expected to hold a Green Room meeting on 18 February to gauge members’ views on how the end-March stocktaking should proceed. When he announced the possibility of such an exercise late last year, Lamy did not specify whether the gathering would involve trade ministers or lower-level officials.

Lamy is expected to clarify this point at the General Council meeting on Tuesday, but so far the DG has given no clear indication of what he

intends to say, sources report. At this point, however, a high-profile meeting of ministers appears to be almost out of the question.

ICTSD reporting.

OTHER NEWS

Brazil to Announce List of US Goods for Sanctions, Takes First Step to Cross-Retaliates

Brazil has announced that on 1 March it will release a substantive list of retaliatory duties to be imposed on US goods. The retaliation results from a dispute between the United States and Brazil over the subsidies that the US provides its cotton farmers.

A WTO panel ruled in August that Brazil should be allowed to impose retaliatory duties on US\$830 million worth of trade with the United States. That ruling came on the heels of a 2008 Appellate Body decision that concluded that US cotton subsidies contravene WTO rules. But the subsidies remain in place, thanks in large part to the US agriculture lobby, which wields significant influence on Capitol Hill.

“What Brazil is doing is to take all the internal steps necessary to apply these sanctions,” said Brazilian Foreign Minister Celso Amorim. “We prefer a non-contentious path but we cannot bow down just because another country is stronger. The idea is not to retaliate but we need a specific policy proposal,” added Amorim.

Of the US\$830 million worth of trade that Brazil can sanction, US\$560 million will be detailed in the list of goods to be released in March. The other US\$270 million will be applied in the form of ‘cross-retaliation measures’, which would target services as well as intellectual property rights (IPRs).

Leading US trade associations are calling on the White House to intensify efforts to reach a negotiated solution. In separate letters to the administration and Congress, dated 28 January

and 4 February respectively, these groups urged engagement with the Brazilian government and for the US to “act swiftly to present alternatives” in order to avoid retaliation.

Brazil's leading industrial sectors have also favoured a negotiated compromise and have expressed concerns that they might lose their American suppliers and be forced to import at a higher price from other nations, given that the United States is the largest source of Brazil's imports.

Cross-retaliation, which is allowed under WTO rules, can be a powerful retaliatory tool. By restricting or suspending IPRs, a relatively small country can inflict economic damage upon a larger country without making its consumers suffer from higher prices. In a recent ICTSD publication, Professor Frederick Abbott of Florida State University College of Law addressed the multiple complex practical and legal questions raised in the context of designing and implementing a cross-retaliation programme.

On 11 February Brazil's president, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, approved legislation that allows the suspension and limitation of the IP rights of citizens or companies domiciled in countries that violate WTO rules. The legislation, which effectively enables cross-retaliation, comprised the following measures: (a) suspension and limitation of IP rights; (b) alteration of the rules and procedures that secure IP protection, mainly provided by the Brazilian Patent Office and the Ministry of Agricultural for plant variety; (c) alteration of the measures to apply IP rights; (d) temporary prohibition of royalty remittances from licensing and technology transfer and (e) additional tax application to remuneration of IP owners.

However, additional administrative action is still needed before Brazil can be in a position to effectively implement the cross-retaliation.

If Brazil follows through with the duties on IP rights and services, many believe that the measures would target the economically and politically strong US pharmaceutical industry. By suspending or breaching the IP rights of pharmaceutical companies, Brazil would be able to

seize royalty payments or even produce cheaper generic versions of the targeted drugs. Jose Gomes Temporao, Health Minister of Brazil, has compiled a “list of medicines” that could face retaliation. However, he cautioned that “a decision must be made, slowly, by the entire government.”

The threat of cross-retaliation is not new to international trade disputes. Cross-retaliation has been authorised twice before: once between Ecuador and the EU and again between Antigua and the United States. However, the Brazilian cotton case may be the first time that cross-retaliation will be put into action.

Brazilian officials claim that the United States seems unwilling to address Brazilian grievances at the heart of the dispute, despite public statements by US Trade Representative Ron Kirk that he is interested in avoiding Brazilian retaliation.

ICTSD reporting; “WTO Panel Allows Brazil to Cross-Retaliates on IP, Services in US Cotton Row,” ICTSD, 9 September 2009. “Brazil to Announce Trade Sanctions List Against U.S. March 1” MARKET NEWS INTERNATIONAL, 10 February 2010. “Lula Sets Law for Brazil to Retaliate on U.S. Patents,” BLOOMBERG, 11 February 2010.

Western Nations Fall Short of Aid Promises to Developing World: OECD

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) estimates that most of the world's major donors will keep their aid promises for 2010, according to statements made by OECD Secretary-General Angel Gurría at a Paris press conference this morning. However, some large donors will fall far short of their pledges, causing a substantial shortfall in aid commitments, according to the OECD.

The OECD has projected that Official Development Assistance (ODA) will grow by 35 percent from 2005 through 2010, pushing aid to developing countries to record levels. Gurría called this a “very, very brisk rate of increase for a

six-year period” but noted that it occurred largely over a period of strong global economic growth.

Gurriá commended donors, noting that aid continued to increase over 2009 “even in the face of the crisis.” Aid has not fallen as other financial flows have. Sixteen donors have managed to meet their aid commitments, although seven have not.

“We are encouraging all member countries to meet their commitments. It is more needed than ever before,” Gurriá said. “Aid is only part of the solution...But it is a very important part of the solution.”

At the G8 Summit in Gleneagles, Scotland in 2005, G8 leaders promised that their countries would together increase aid to developing countries by approximately US \$50 billion a year by 2010, US \$25 billion of which would go to Africa.

Also at Gleneagles, the 15 EU countries that are also members of the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) established a minimum ODA target of 0.51 percent of each country’s gross national income (GNI) as a halfway point towards their eventual goal of 0.7 percent by 2015.

Overall, the OECD tallied a US \$17 billion gap between what donors promised and what they delivered. Gurriá said that this situation was “not at all satisfactory.”

The nominal shortfall is actually US \$21 billion, but US \$4 billion of that total is due to national economies shrinking and thus is not counted in the tally of donor commitments that were made in percentage terms.

“The shortfall is focused on Africa,” Gurriá said, “because many of the countries that have a shortfall had focused their aid to Africa.” Africa is likely to get only about US \$12 billion of the promised US \$25 billion.

Nine EU countries are expected to meet or surpass the 0.51 percent goal, according to an OECD [press release](#): Sweden (ODA of 1.03 percent of GNI), Luxembourg (1 percent), Denmark (0.83 percent), the Netherlands (0.8

percent), Belgium (0.7 percent), the UK (0.56 percent), Finland (0.55 percent), Ireland (0.52 percent), and Spain (0.52 percent).

Six EU countries, however, will not reach their commitments: France (0.46 percent), Germany (0.40 percent), Austria (0.37 percent), Portugal (0.34 percent), Greece (0.21 percent), and Italy (0.20 percent).

Other countries set individual goals for themselves at Gleneagles. The US, Canada, New Zealand and Australia are all predicted to meet their commitments. Norway will maintain its ODA pledge of 1 percent of GNI, and Switzerland is likely to surpass its commitment of 0.41 percent and donate 0.47 percent of GNI.

Japan is likely to be the largest underperformer. It had promised to increase ODA by US \$10 billion more than 2004 levels, but the OECD estimated it would fall US \$4 billion short based on 2008 levels.

The major donors of the OECD are the 24 members of its Development Assistance Committee (DAC). The full table of the DAC members’ commitments and performance is available [here](#). The table does not include data on Korea because it joined the DAC on 1 January 2010 or on the Commission of the European Communities.

ICTSD reporting.

Ecuador to Rejoin Trade Negotiations with EU

With the resolution of the long-standing banana trade dispute between the EU and a group of Latin American countries in December, trade officials cleared the way for Ecuador’s president, Rafael Correa, to announce at the beginning of February that his country will re-enter regional trade negotiations with the EU.

The EU and the Andean Community (Comunidad Andina de Naciones or CAN) have been working on a bi-regional trade agreement since 2006. Bolivia pulled out of the negotiations in 2007,

when its leftist leader Evo Morales withdrew in protest over the EU's stance on intellectual property rules and the privatisation of services. Peru and Colombia have remained in the negotiations all along.

Ecuador has been absent from the negotiations toward an 'Association Agreement' since July 2009, when it pulled out of the talks, denouncing them as 'biased.' The proposed deal is supposed to have three components – a Free Trade Agreement (FTA), an economic cooperation agreement, and a forum for political dialogue – but Ecuador criticised the EU for being principally concerned with the FTA and disregarding the other issues.

Last December, the WTO's Dispute Settlement Body supported the claims of many banana-exporting Latin American countries – including Ecuador – that the EU illegally discriminates in favour of bananas from African, Caribbean, and Pacific (ACP) countries. A deal was struck that will gradually cut the extra tariffs on non-ACP countries from €176 per tonne to €114 per tonne by 2017.

President Correa celebrated the deal, saying, "[The EU] obeyed [the WTO] and the banana problem has been solved, the agreement is already signed, they will lower tariffs and given that, we are going to resume [talks] with the EU."

In addition to the banana deal, the EU agreed to work with Ecuador on an agenda of various topics to be covered by the agreement after the negotiations are completed. This bargaining agreement will provide for a partnership that includes political affairs beyond just the "simplicity of free trade," said President Correa.

Ecuador intends to resume negotiations with its own agenda rather than joining in on the agreements the EU has so far reached with Colombia and Peru. It has specific subjects it wishes to discuss, such as immigration issues and limited the free trade agreement to certain products.

Roberto Aspiazu, executive director of the Ecuadorian Business Committee, said it is very important to restart negotiations as quickly as possible so as to speed up the entry of Ecuadorian

goods into the European market. The talks should resume in mid-March.

Reactions from the other Andean Community countries were mixed. Peruvian Foreign Trade Minister Martin Perez said that Ecuador's decision to rejoin will slow the process of Peru's negotiations with the EU.

"We'll have to become a bloc and that will cause certain delays in the implementation and activation of the accord," Perez said in Lima last week.

Colombia had announced previously that it hoped negotiations would be finalised by mid-February, a now-impossible deadline.

Bolivia's decision to remain outside the negotiations will doubtless have ramifications for the process of Andean integration. When the EU continued bilateral negotiations with Colombia and Peru after Ecuador and Bolivia first pulled out, Bolivian President Eva Morales said that the move "seriously weakened" the Andean integration process.

Andean integration has recently seen progress on another front, however. Ecuador's Board of Foreign Trade and Investment announced that it was lifting a seven-month safeguard on 1,346 Colombian goods on 5 February, the day after President Correa's announcement about resuming negotiations.

Diplomatic relations between Colombia and Ecuador have been suspended since March 2008 after the Colombian army attacked a Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) guerrilla camp located on Ecuadorian territory.

ICTSD reporting; Puentes Quincenal, Vol. 7, No. 3; "Ecuador May Rejoin Peru, Colombia in EU Trade Talks," BUSINESS WEEKLY, 9 February 2010.

IN BRIEF

EU to Halt Special Tariff Benefits to Sri Lanka

The EU will temporarily suspend special trade preferences for Sri Lankan imports out of concern over the country's weak implementation of certain human rights conventions, the European Trade Commission announced on Friday.

The EU had categorised Sri Lanka as one of the 16 countries in its Generalised System of Preferences – Plus (GSP+) scheme, which cuts duties for selected imports from certain 'vulnerable' developing states that agree to ratify and effectively implement 27 human rights and governance treaties. The GSP+ programme offers deeper cuts than the EU's standard GSP initiative, which provides preferential import duties to 176 developing countries and territories.

Although Colombo has signed all of the required treaties, it will lose the GSP+ benefits because Brussels says that the country has not effectively implemented three 'core human rights conventions': the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the Convention against Torture and the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The EU's withdrawal of benefits has been a long time coming. In 2006, the Sri Lankan Supreme Court ruled that treaties such as the ICCPR have to be implemented by the legislative power to have internal effect. Following that decision, Sri Lanka's parliament followed suit and passed the ICCPR Act. But in an investigation with which Colombo decided not to cooperate Brussels found that the ICCPR Act did not include provisions corresponding to all rights covered by the covenant, such as the right to life.

The decision comes on the heels of a violent civil war between the Sri Lankan government and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). The clash, which claimed an estimated 70,000 lives, prompted a number of human rights complaints against the Sri Lankan government. Just last month, incumbent Sri Lankan President Mahinda

Rajapaksa defeated the former Sri Lankan Army commander, General Sarath Fonseka, in a national election. General Fonseka disputed the election results and was arrested following an announcement to he was prepared to give evidence in an international court on war crime charges against Sri Lanka, the BBC reported.

"There seems to have been little change in the country's human rights violations," an EU spokesperson told Sri Lanka's Daily Mirror, referring to the EU investigation covering the period from 2006-08.

But Colombo insists that the EU should reconsider.

"Sri Lanka remains hopeful that better sense will prevail upon member countries of the EU, who themselves have faced similar situations in their long history and are acutely conscious of the complexity of 'democracies fighting terrorism,'" said Ravinatha Aryasinha, Sri Lanka's ambassador to the EU. "Many of the concerns that had given rise to the European Commission's psychological impetus to review Sri Lanka's suitability for the continuance of the GSP+, have already been addressed on the ground."

The EU will not implement the suspension for another six months to allow Sri Lanka extra time to address the problems identified, and both countries expressed a strong interest in restoring GSP+ status.

"Sri Lanka will...continue her engagement with the EU in the upcoming 6 months," Sri Lanka's Foreign Ministry said in an official release. But the statement also warned that "the setting of unattainable targets and the shifting of goal posts will only hamper the efforts of the parties," and that "the engagement will also need to be sensitive to the sovereign prerogative of the people of Sri Lanka, to chart their nation's course."

The EU is Sri Lanka's primary export partner and is second only to India as an import partner, EU trade statistics [show](#). In 2008, Sri Lanka sent €1.24 billion in GSP+ -covered exports to the EU, with a particular emphasis on garments. If these items were imported under the standard GSP system, Sri Lanka would have paid an additional

€78 million in import duties, the EU stated last October.

ICTSD reporting; BBC “Fonseka to 'testify on war crimes'” 08 February 2010, The Daily Mirror, “EC considering latest developments, 16 February 2010.

WTO IN BRIEF

New Slate of Chairs Set for WTO Standing Bodies

At a General Council meeting on 22 February, WTO delegates are expected to acknowledge a new slate of chairs of the organisation's various councils, committees and working parties. Canada will take over from Chile as the chair of the General Council, while Nigeria will follow Canada as the chair of the Dispute Settlement Body. The full list, which is still unofficial, is provided below.

In other WTO business, the slate of chairs of the organisation's negotiating committees was renewed at an unofficial heads of delegation meeting on Wednesday morning. All of the current chairs will continue in their posts, with one exception: Karen Tan of Singapore, who has been serving as interim chair of the WTO negotiations on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS 'Special Session'), will be succeeded by Darlington Mwape of Zambia.

- General Council: Canada (Amb. John Gero)
- Dispute Settlement Body: Nigeria (Amb. Yonov Frederick Agah)
- Trade Policy Review Body: Turkey (Amb. Bozkurt Aran)
- Committee on Trade in Goods: Lesotho (Amb. Anthony Maruping)
- Committee on Trade in Services: Norway (Amb. Elin Johansen)
- Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights: Hong Kong (Amb. Martin Glass)
- Committee on Trade and Development: Indonesia (Amb. Erwidodo)

- Balance of Payments Committee: Lithuania (Mr. Raimondas Alisauskas)
- Committee on Budget, Finance and Administration: Finland (Mr. Parsi Vaaranmaa)
- Committee on Trade and Environment: Colombia (Amb. Eduardo Muñoz)
- Committee on Regional Trade Agreements: Panama (Amb. Alfredo Suescom)
- Working Group on Trade, Debt and Finance: Paraguay (Amb. Federico González)
- Working Group on Trade and Transfer of Technology: Egypt (Amb. Hisham Badr)

ICTSD reporting.

EVENTS & RESOURCES

Events

Coming up this week

18-19 February, Paris, France. 9TH OECD GLOBAL FORUM ON COMPETITION. This meeting will focus on state aids and subsidies and collusion and corruption in public procurement. Participants will also discuss a peer review of competition law and policy in Brazil. The GFC provides an opportunity for policy dialogue between OECD member countries and non-members. The discussion benefits from the input of the Competition Committee, whose work has already generated substantial results in many countries, such as the voluntary adoption of 'best practices', substantial analytical convergence, the establishment of strong networks of enforcement authorities, and enhanced co-operation in international merger reviews, cartel investigations and other cases. For more information, please see http://www.oecd.org/pages/0,3417,en_40382599_40393118_1_1_1_1_1,00.html.

18-19 February, Geneva, Switzerland. AD HOC EXPERT GROUP MEETING UNITED NATIONS LDC IV: KEY DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES FACING THE LDCs. The Secretary-General of the United Nations

Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) is convening this meeting in preparation for the Fourth UN Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDCs). The discussion will analyse the economic performance of the LDCs in order to identify discernable structural changes that have taken place since the adoption of the 2001 Brussels Programme of Action. The meeting is also meant to reflect on a new generation of LDC-specific international support measures with a view to accelerating process of this group of countries towards graduation from the category. The meeting's discussions will feed into a document that UNCTAD is preparing in the run up to LDC IV. For more information, please refer to <http://www.unctad.org/Templates/Meeting.asp?iItemID=2068&lang=1&m=18891&year=2010&month=2>.

21-27 February, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. FOURTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON COMMUNITY-BASED ADAPTATION. Community-Based Adaptation (CBA) recognises that communities already possess much of the knowledge and skills required to cope with the expected impacts of climate change. By building on their knowledge and skills, communities can increase their resilience to climate change. This conference aims to share and consolidate the latest developments in CBA planning and practice in different sectors and countries amongst practitioners, policymakers, researchers, funders and the communities at risk. It will disseminate lessons learnt both at the conference and through conference proceedings. Ultimately the aim is to share knowledge and experiences to help those most vulnerable to climate change. For more information contact: Saleemul Huq or Hannah Reid; e-mails: saleemul.huq@iied.org or hannah.reid@iied.org or visit <http://beta.worldbank.org/events/4th-international-conference-community-based-adaptation-dar-es-salaam-tanzania>.

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.

18 February: Dispute Settlement Body

18 February: Workshop on Environmental Goods and Services

22-23 February: General Council

Other upcoming events

24-26 February, Bali, Indonesia. ELEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE UNEP GOVERNING COUNCIL/GLOBAL MINISTERIAL ENVIRONMENT FORUM. The Governing Council constitutes the annual ministerial-level global environmental forum in which participants gather to review important and emerging policy issues in the field of the environment. The largest global environmental gathering since Copenhagen, the forum will be attended by environment ministers from over 100 countries, civil society representatives, heads of UN agencies, scientists and environmental experts. The Ex/COP for the Stockholm, Rotterdam and Basel Conventions is expected to convene immediately prior to this meeting. For more information, visit <http://www.unep.org/gc/gcss-xi/> or contact Mr. Jamil Ahmad: tel: +254 (0)20 7623431/7623411; fax: +254 (0)20 7623929/7623748; email: unep.gcss-xi@unep.org.

25 February, Jakarta, Indonesia. TRADE KNOWLEDGE NETWORK (TKN) SOUTHEAST ASIA'S RESEARCH WORKSHOP ON TRADE, ENVIRONMENT & FOOD SECURITY. This research workshop is intended to serve as a discussion forum enabling TKN Southeast Asia to gather input from relevant policy-makers and other stakeholders in the region. The event is expected to involve relevant ASEAN-related bodies, its member government representatives in Jakarta, the Association's dialogue partners, international organisations,

industries, professional experts, and non-governmental organisations. For more information, please contact the TKN Southeast Asia Coordinator at: achandra@iisd.org.

18 March, London, UK. GLOBAL FINANCIAL SERVICES: THE IMPACT OF REGULATION ON COMPETITIVENESS. As the global financial crisis shows early signs of receding, this is a key moment to ask what will be the likely future shape and structure of financial services firms. If moves to regulate the industry more tightly are successful, what impact will this have on financial firms' ability to do business? At this event sponsored by Chatham House, policymakers and financial services industry leaders from the major economies will discuss the role, structure and regulation of the financial services industry, and which forums, mechanisms and institutions will be effective in restoring confidence in its activities. For more information, please see <http://www.chathamhouse.org.uk/gfs/>.

Resources

HOGGING THE GAINS FROM TRADE: THE REAL WINNERS FROM US TRADE AND AGRICULTURAL POLICIES. By Timothy A. Wise and Betsy Rakocy. Global Development and Environment Institute, Tufts University, January 2010. This policy brief discusses the ways in which multinational livestock firms have benefited from US trade and agricultural policies. The authors discuss US and Mexican gains due to NAFTA as well as how the economic impacts of trade and agricultural policies in combination with US immigration and labour policies have helped create the low-wage labour upon which the firms rely. Their research focuses on the US multinational pork firm Smithfield, the world's largest pork producer, which is expanding operations in the US and Mexico. Smithfield has been implicated in significant violations of US labour law. This policy brief can be accessed at: <http://www.ase.tufts.edu/gdae/Pubs/rp/PB10-01HoggingGainsJan10.html>.

HARMONIZED TARIFF SCHEDULE OF THE UNITED STATES ANNOTATED. US International Trade Commission, January 2010. This publication provides the applicable tariff rates and statistical categories for all merchandise imported into the US. The harmonised tariff schedule is based on the international Harmonised System, the global system of nomenclature used to describe most world trade in goods. The statistical annotations enable interested persons to determine the classification of and the tariff rates applicable to imported goods with great depth and detail as well as the requirements for reporting statistical data on imports. To view this publication, please visit <http://www.usitc.gov/tata/hts/index.htm>.

FREE TRADE, FAIR TRADE, AND GENDER INEQUALITY IN LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. By Julie Steinkopf Rice. Sustainable Development, 30 March 2009. Fair trade is often viewed as an alternative to free trade that reduces global inequality and poverty. This paper examines whether fair trade is truly an alternative to the free market and as a consequence whether it can effectively advance gender equality and alleviate the poverty of women in less developed countries (LDCs). After a review of neoclassical economics and trade liberalisation policies, the paper examines how fair trade seeks to correct market imperfections, thereby making the free market more efficient in distributing wealth. The ability of fair trade to address the central issues related to trade liberalisation and women in LDCs is discussed, and the gendered structures of fair trade are identified. Whether fair trade can provide gender equality within global capitalist structures is a theoretical matter that requires further empirical inquiry. To access this publication, please refer to <http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/journal/122276379/abstract?CRETRY=1&SRETRY=0>.

CONTROLLING ILLEGAL LOGGING: CONSUMER-COUNTRY MEASURES. By Duncan Brack. Chatham House, January 2010. This briefing paper examines the measures taken by timber product consumer countries over the last few years to try to ensure that they exclude illegally produced timber from their markets. Without such measures to ensure timber products

are legally sourced, consumer countries contribute to the environmental problems of illegal logging. According to the paper, the bilateral voluntary partnership agreements negotiated between the EU and timber-producing countries to establish licensing schemes for legally produced timber is one of the methods for controlling the timber trade, although it will take a long time to implement. Broader measures could be implemented more quickly. The paper also highlights the implications of these measures for exporters of timber products to the consumer countries in question. This publication can be viewed at <http://www.chathamhouse.org.uk/publications/papers/view/-/id/825/>.