

# BRIDGES WEEKLY

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## DISPUTES

# With US Election in the Background, Washington and Beijing Spar at WTO

Trade tensions between Washington and Beijing flared up rapidly this week, as the two sides lodged WTO challenges against each other on Monday just weeks ahead of the US presidential election. In what represents the latest in a long-running series of disputes between the two trading giants, Washington launched proceedings over Chinese automobile and auto parts export subsidies, as Beijing filed its own complaint over US anti-dumping and countervailing measures on various Chinese exports.

## Chinese export subsidies harm US automobile industry, says Obama

US President Barack Obama announced Washington's decision at a presidential campaign rally in the automobile manufacturing state of Ohio, condemning the Chinese subsidies as a danger to US jobs. "These are subsidies that directly harm working men and women on assembly lines in Ohio and Michigan and across the Midwest," Obama [said](#). "We are going to stop it. It is not right, it is against the rules, and we will not let it stand."

Between 2002 and 2011, the US consistently remained China's largest export market for auto parts. According to [US figures](#), the value of China's exports of autos and auto parts increased during this period from \$7.4 billion to \$69.1 billion, with China rising from the world's sixteenth largest auto and auto parts exporter to its fifth largest during the same time period.

Washington argues that this rapid expansion was aided by a complex system of unlawful export subsidies. Certain municipalities in China, US officials [say](#), are designated as auto and auto parts "export bases" through which funds – such as grants, tax preferences, and interest rates – are provided by the Chinese authorities to support manufacturers.

Republicans in the US however, have quickly accused Obama of playing politics by using the trade action as a ploy to win votes in Midwestern swing states. In a statement, Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney criticised the move, arguing that the damage had already been done. "Campaign-season trade cases may sound good on the stump, but it is too little, too late for American businesses and middle-class families."



International Centre for Trade  
and Sustainable Development

Indeed, WTO law prohibits retrospective remedies or damages. Thus, even if the US were to win the dispute, Beijing may only be asked to withdraw existing subsidies, but would not be asked to offset already-caused damage.

The Chinese government last night followed suit, issuing its own statement condemning the action. "In the midst of an election race, the United States chose to announce this move in Ohio, an automobile production area, showing that the US took this step against China out of considerations of electoral politics," said the Chinese Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM) in a statement, citing an unnamed official.

Allegedly unfair Chinese trade practices have become a political lightning rod in this current election cycle, as both presidential contenders continue to spar over who will be "tougher" on handling Beijing and "levelling the playing field" for US workers. While Romney has argued that his opponent has not taken a strong enough stance on the subject, particularly on Beijing's currency practices, Obama contends that the White House has taken China to the WTO at twice the rate of the previous administration.

The China rhetoric has taken on added significance in recent weeks, as new poll numbers released by The New York Times and CBS on Friday indicate that Romney's earlier edge against Obama on who would best restore the US economy and increase jobs is now disappearing. Political ads from both sides over the past few days have largely focused on the China issue, drawing notice from pundits and news media alike.

The White House has denied that the WTO case is politically motivated, pointing out that as many as seven other complaints against China have been brought to the Geneva-based trade arbiter during Obama's term.

The most recent of this series of trade quarrels concerned a US complaint over anti-dumping and countervailing duties imposed by China on certain US-produced automobiles (see Bridges Weekly, [11 July 2012](#)). Other spats have included a WTO complaint regarding China's restrictions on exports of rare earths – with the EU and Japan filing identical complaints – and US Commerce Department investigations into allegations that Beijing is illegally subsidising its solar panel producers and dumping their products on the US market (see Bridges Weekly, [27 June 2012](#) and [23 May 2012](#), respectively).

### **China challenges US legislation on countervailing duties**

Beijing, for its part, launched its own WTO case against Washington on Monday, challenging US anti-dumping and countervailing measures said to cover 24 types of products exported to the US market, worth US\$7.2 billion. The exports concerned include paper, steel, tyres, magnets, chemicals, kitchen appliances, wood flooring, and wind towers, according to a WTO [statement](#); the full consultation request was not publicly available at the time Bridges went to press.

More important than the individual measures targeted by the consultation request, however, is the attack on the underlying US legislation which all the challenged US trade remedy investigations have been based upon. In a statement, the Chinese Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM) explained that Beijing's complaint targeted legislation passed by the US Congress back in March which preserved the Commerce Department's authority to impose countervailing duties on subsidised goods from non-market economies (NMEs), such as China and Vietnam. (See Bridges Weekly, [7 March 2012](#)) The law had become necessary after the US Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit had denied Commerce the ability to impose countervailing duties against NMEs.

The new law retroactively allows for the imposition of such anti-subsidy duties on products from NMEs, despite this original ruling in favour of China. A remanded case against this second law is currently pending in the US Court of International Trade.

In the WTO case, China objects to this legislative process. "This practice puts Chinese enterprises in an uncertain legal environment, in violation of the relevant rules of the WTO transparency and due process," ministry spokesman Shen Danyang said.

Underlying the challenge to the US measures is the long-running dispute over Washington's continued classification of China as a non-market economy and the resulting higher anti-dumping and countervailing duties. (See Bridges Weekly, [25 July 2012](#))

China has also long complained that US rules have led to "double remedies" being applied by Washington, with both anti-dumping and countervailing duties being charged on the same product over essentially a single violation. In March 2011 the WTO Appellate Body handed an unexpected victory to China, harshly criticising the US practice of double remedies.

Should the parties in both complaints be unable to reach a resolution after 60 days of talks, the respective complainants will have the right to ask that a WTO panel be established to hear their individual cases.

ICTSD reporting; "U.S. launches auto case against China, Beijing fires back," REUTERS, 17 September 2012; "China says U.S. auto trade complaint driven by election race," REUTERS, 18 September 2012; "Poll Finds Obama is Erasing Romney's Edge on Economy," NEW YORK TIMES, 14 September 2012.

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## BRUSSELS

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# EU: Food, Climate Fears Prompt Biofuel Rethink

Top EU officials confirmed on Monday that the 27-country bloc is rethinking its controversial policies on biofuels, in the face of criticism from environmental and aid groups concerned with the impact on climate and the price of food.

Proposed new legislation would cap the share of food-based biofuels at five percent of transport fuels, said a joint statement from Connie Hedegaard, European Commissioner for Climate Action, and Günther Oettinger, her counterpart on energy.

"It is wrong to believe that we are pushing food-based biofuels," the commissioners said, in a bid to rebut claims made in a recent [report](#) from the development agency Oxfam. "In our upcoming proposal for new legislation, we do exactly the contrary: we limit them to the current consumption level, that is five percent up to 2020."

As part of a broader push to scale up renewable energy in the EU, national governments must currently ensure that ten percent of energy in the transport sector comes from renewable sources by 2020, according to mandatory targets set out in the Renewable Energy Directive three years ago. The greenhouse gas intensity of road transport fuels must also be cut by six percent under separate legislation known as the Fuel Quality Directive, with both goals widely expected to be reached largely through increased reliance on biofuels.

The announcement came as the bloc's energy ministers met informally in Cyprus to discuss the future of EU policy after 2020. It confirmed press [reports](#) last week that the Commission had proposed a new ceiling in a leaked draft, a copy of which has also been seen by Bridges.

### **Price spikes spark French action plan**

The French agriculture ministry last week unveiled an [action plan](#) aimed at tackling rising cereal prices, which also proposes a 'pause' in the development of 'first-generation' biofuels, such as ethanol and biodiesel made from maize, sugar, or oilseeds. The statement also calls for farm ministers from the G-20 group of major economies to meet in mid-October to tackle high and volatile food prices.

The UN Food and Agriculture Organization released [figures](#) earlier this month showing that food prices remain high but steady, and along with other Rome-based agencies issued a [statement](#) calling for biofuel mandates to be "adjusted" when global markets come under pressure and food supplies are endangered.

France also proposes retreating from the original target of ensuring ten percent of transport fuel comes from renewable energy by 2020, suggesting a new cap of seven percent instead of the five percent figure mentioned in the leaked Commission proposal.

### **"Carbon sinks"**

The draft proposal says that the Commission aims "to start the transition to biofuels that deliver substantial greenhouse gas savings when also estimated indirect land-use change emissions are taken into account."

Green groups and aid agencies say that current EU policies on transport and renewable energy intensify pressure on land, inadvertently pushing farmers to release more greenhouse gases into the atmosphere as they plough up 'carbon sinks' such as peatbogs, or cut down tropical forests.

While the European Commission has introduced sustainability criteria in a bid to ensure that only sustainably-produced biofuels count towards current targets, critics claim that these have not helped curb indirect pressure to expand farming into areas that currently store carbon.

[Studies](#) on the question, such as the one produced for the European Commission by David Laborde from the International Food Policy Research Institute, have not to date translated into policy change at the EU level.

"Finally, the Commission has got round to dealing with this," said Marc-Olivier Herman from Oxfam's EU Advocacy Office in Brussels. However, he added that he thought the move was still "too little, too late."

### **Greenhouse gas emissions: new threshold**

The draft Commission proposal is clear that, after 2020, "biofuels should only be subsidised if they lead to substantial greenhouse gas savings" when their indirect effects are accounted for, and if they are not produced from crops used for food or feed.

According to the proposals, biofuels produced in new installations that have started operations from 1 July 2012 onwards would have to represent a 60 percent saving on greenhouse gas emissions in order to qualify under current EU targets under the Renewable Energy Directive. However, this would still exclude carbon emissions from indirect land-use change (ILUC).

"These new proposals will probably hit the European biodiesel sector hard," Professor Alan Swinbank of the University of Reading told Bridges. He noted that rapeseed oil producers were already only just able to meet current thresholds set at 35 percent.

Producers will also have to take into consideration the extent to which biofuels indirectly generate greenhouse gas emissions, under a proposed amendment to the Fuel Quality Directive. The Commission's draft sets out figures quantifying the relative importance of these effects for different crops.

### **Diversion risk**

While the draft proposals scale back support for so-called first-generation biofuels, they seek to boost production of 'advanced' biofuels made from municipal waste, algae, or forest residues.

These would be counted as representing four times their energy content in calculations under the Renewable Energy Directive, the draft says, with other types such as ligno-cellulosic biofuels counting as twice their energy content.

Technical obstacles nonetheless mean these fuels remain won't be brought to market any time soon. "Advanced biofuels aren't even feasible in the next twenty years," cautioned Ruth Kelly, the lead author of Oxfam's new report.

"There's still a lot of questions" noted Nuša Urbančič, programme manager for clean fuels at the Brussels-based NGO 'Transport & Environment'. For example, the inclusion of forest residues could perversely incentivise extra felling, unless relevant terms were carefully defined in proposed legislation.

Swinbank agreed with the concern. "It's going to have to be policed very carefully," he said, noting that EU businesses were already trading biofuel feedstocks across borders in order to take advantage of varying subsidy rules in different EU countries.

### **"Irresponsible U-turn"**

Although the draft states that "existing investments should be protected," industry groups have reacted angrily to the proposed changes.

In a statement emailed to Bridges, European biofuel producers, farmers, and commodity groups described the move as an "irresponsible U-turn" and "a masterpiece of irresponsible policy making."

"No more than 3 years after the EU's commitment to reducing GHG emissions, enhancing energy independence and to create sustainable growth and jobs the Commission effectively wipes out a nascent industry that arose as a response to the European climate and energy policy," said the statement, which was signed by the European Biodiesel Board, E-pure (the European renewable ethanol association), EU farm group COPA-COGECA, and commodity associations COCERAL and FEDIOL.

The groups said that the industry had made investments amounting to €14 billion, and was estimated to provide direct jobs to 100,000 European citizens.

### **Feed costs**

However, not all industry groups shared the pessimism.

"In the dairy sector, we've had some concerns that the obligation to produce biofuels could lead to increasing demand, and increase the price of feed," said Joop Kleibeuker, Secretary General of the European Dairy Association, in comments to Bridges.

"The proposals that are now on the table could soften this," he added, noting that feed prices had also been recently pushed higher by the impact of the US drought on the maize harvest.

Experts told Bridges that the draft policy reforms proposed by the Commission, if tabled in their current form, could still take time to be agreed by the EU institutions. "I can imagine it'll be at least a year to get through Council and Parliament," warned Swinbank.

ICTSD reporting; "Study: Biofuels mandate could increase EU CO2 emissions," EURACTIV, 17 September 2012; "Exclusive: EU to limit use of crop-based biofuels - draft law," REUTERS, 10 September 2012.

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## PREFERENTIAL AGREEMENTS

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# Virginia Talks Yield Progress on TPP, Though Deadline Remains Elusive

The fourteenth round of negotiations for the proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) Agreement drew to a close on Saturday in the US state of Virginia, marking the last session before Canada and Mexico can officially begin taking part in the talks. While officials reported progress in various areas, negotiators have also indicated that they are no longer eyeing end-2012 as their deadline for finalising the pact.

Of the 29 chapters being negotiated, those involving market access, customs, rules of origin, technical barriers to trade, sanitary and phytosanitary standards, cross border services, telecommunications, and government procurement were among those where the talks reportedly saw progress during the meetings in Virginia, [according](#) to the Office of the US Trade Representative (USTR). However, as in the last round of talks in July, no chapters were reported as being completed.

The talks are now said to be entering a potentially difficult stage, according to an unnamed senior US negotiator quoted by Reuters. "As we move through the process, you naturally start moving to the more sensitive issues and that's the part of the process we're at now," the source said.

Negotiating areas that are expected to be difficult among the nine current members, which represent a range of diverse interests, include the role of state-owned enterprises in the pact – a long-time sticking point between Vietnam, Malaysia, and the US – and intellectual property rights. Disagreements between Washington and Canberra over market access for sugar imports from Australia are also expected to slow the process, US industry officials have claimed.

The proposed trade pact – billed as a "21st century deal" by its proponents – aims to slash tariffs and other barriers to goods and services trade and investment; the goods covered will represent some 11,000 tariff lines. Negotiators also plan to incorporate into the pact issues involving regulatory coherence; competitiveness and business facilitation; small- and medium-sized enterprises; and economic development and governance, according to an outline released late last year.

Current TPP members include Australia, Brunei, Chile, Singapore, New Zealand, Malaysia, Peru, the US, and Vietnam. Canada and Mexico, which were formally invited to join the discussions in June, will be permitted to participate in the talks next month, bringing the total number of TPP countries to eleven.

### **End-2012 deadline extended**

Observers had long speculated that the previous end-2012 deadline was unfeasible, given the various difficult topics left to be resolved in the negotiations. Still, as recently as July – when the last TPP negotiations were held in San Diego, California – US officials had said that they still hoped the deal could be completed by that time. (See Bridges Weekly, [11 July 2012](#))

However, signals that the 2012 deadline might be abandoned emerged earlier this month during the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) leaders' summit in Vladivostok, Russia. The annual APEC leaders' meet has traditionally served as an opportunity for ministers and leaders from the TPP countries to meet on the sidelines to review progress of the negotiations, as all TPP countries are members of the 21-country APEC regional group. (See Bridges Weekly, [12 September 2012](#))

At the end of the Vladivostok meet, the TPP [ministers' report](#) and [leadership statement](#) both omitted a mention of the 2012 deadline, though TPP leaders said that the progress achieved during the past year's negotiating rounds made them "confident" that the agreement could soon be within grasp. However, they acknowledged the potential difficulties associated with reaching consensus among a widely diverse group of countries.

"[We] recognise the challenges of negotiating this ambitious, next-generation trade agreement in a manner that appropriately balances our diversity," the leaders said, adding that negotiating teams should find "pragmatic, creative, flexible, and mutually-acceptable solutions" to overcome unresolved issues.

Officials have since referred to 2013 as having the potential for major advances in the trans-Pacific negotiations. "If we can work as smart as we have worked hard, and we are willing to make some of these difficult decisions, 2013 could be a pivotal year for us," USTR Ron Kirk told Bloomberg in an interview ahead of the talks.

However, what impact the new additions of Canada and Mexico might have on the pace of the talks has yet to be seen, with officials of current TPP countries having in the past expressed concern that new entrants could slow the negotiating process.

With the eurozone crisis showing little sign of abating, officials from various APEC countries have lately stressed the need to focus on the Asia-Pacific region as a possible source of growth.

"All of us want to get this [TPP] agreement done because all of our economies are operating in a world now in which we realise there are just a few very bright lights in terms of economic activity," Kirk commented to Bloomberg.

The next round of talks is scheduled for 3-12 December in Auckland, New Zealand.

ICTSD reporting; "Obama Envoy Kirk Says 2013 Key for Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement," BLOOMBERG, 2 September 2012; "Asia-Pacific trade talks entering delicate phase: U.S.," REUTERS, 12 September 2012; "'Momentum' but no deadline in Trans-Pacific trade talks: U.S.," REUTERS, 15 September 2012; "US taking tough line on Australia sugar – industry aid," REUTERS, 14 September 2012.

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## RUSSIA

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# EU Calls on Russia to Live up to WTO Commitments

Recent tensions between Brussels and Moscow have taken on a trade dimension, with EU Trade Commissioner Karel De Gucht urging Russia to amend what the EU views as a series of restrictive trade practices. De Gucht reminded the recently-acceded country that it was now a part of the WTO and, as such, is required to operate under the established multilateral trade rules.

Russia's long-awaited entrance into the WTO owed much to the support of a European Union eager to avoid the barriers that resulted from trading with a non-member country. However, the two sides have been at odds over several issues since Russia's formal accession last month.

According to EU Trade Commissioner Karel De Gucht, Russia has been finding ways to close its markets to competitors, in violation of WTO rules. According to De Gucht, these and other measures have stood in the way of "significant market opening ... due to take place under Russia's WTO commitments."

Moscow had also provoked Brussels by announcing in March a ban on the import of live animals from the EU. The EU trade chief [called](#) the situation a "clear case of a regulatory measure acting as a tool of trade protection."

"This is the wrong signal to send at a time when liberalisation is supposed to be moving forward," the trade commissioner said.

De Gucht says the livestock issue and additional conflicts involving cases of anti-dumping and other trade defence measures are not starting Russia off on the right foot with the global trade body. De Gucht has expressed his willingness to use the WTO's dispute settlement mechanisms if Russia does not begin to follow multilateral trade rules.

"Russia should understand that Europe takes [the dispute settlement mechanism] very seriously and that we will not hesitate to enforce our rights when they are violated," he said.

Reiterating his full intent to continue discussions, De Gucht commented to Reuters that if Russia refuses to change its position, the Commission "will use whatever means necessary to come to a result...in line with the WTO."

### **Gazprom probe fuels fire**

In the latest row between the two WTO members, the European Commission recently opened an antitrust investigation into the business practices of Gazprom, Russia's oil and gas monopoly. The Commission – the executive arm of the European Union – is looking into whether Gazprom is using its market dominance to block competition and boost prices in central and eastern Europe.

The Commission is investigating the gas giant's system of setting its prices under long-term contracts that are directly linked to oil prices. According to the EU, Gazprom's actions are obstructing competition and the free flow of gas.



Europe buys a quarter of its gas from Gazprom, which is more than 50 percent owned by the Russian Government.

However, Russian President Vladimir Putin has been quick to dismiss the possibility of a trade war with the EU, while saying the recent rhetoric from Europe is designed to shift the blame over who is responsible for the current economic woes in the eurozone.

"Someone in the European Commission decided that [Russia] should share a part of this burden," the Russian president said.

ICTSD reporting; "Russia's Putin rules out trade war with EU over Gazprom," REUTERS, 9 September 2012; "EU warns Russia to play by WTO rules or face action," REUTERS, 7 September 2012; "EU: Gazprom must play by rules," UPI, 17 September 2012; "EU urges WTO-member Russia to end ban on animal imports," BUSINESS RECORDER, 23 August 2012; "EU Trade Chief Warns Russia EU Will Protect Interests in WTO," FOX BUSINESS, 7 September 2012.

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## INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

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# WIPO Expert Meeting Tackles Trademark Protection, Role of Internet Intermediaries

The changing digital landscape and the role of internet intermediaries in trademark protection and enforcement came into focus at a World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) meeting held earlier this week, ahead of the UN agency's Standing Committee on the Law of Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications (SCT) meeting.

The SCT, which kicked off its twenty-seventh session on Tuesday, had agreed in February to hold the information [meeting](#) in order to discuss the issue and explore possible solutions to trademark infringement on the web, as well as regulatory options in this field.

Internet intermediaries – such as Google, Ebay, Facebook, and Twitter – facilitate transactions between third parties on the web. Through internet intermediaries, illicit traders can offer counterfeit products to consumers or use protected signs without the trademark holder's consent. Numbers on just how much illicit trade is conducted in this way are often unreliable, however, with some experts just noting that the scale is "growing."

In his opening remarks, WIPO Director-General Francis Gurry said that much has changed since the adoption by WIPO of a joint recommendation on the protection of trademarks on the Internet in 2001.

Today, "challenges are more complex and difficult in the online world" and the debate on copyright and trademarks "is extremely heated," Gurry said.

### Diverging views on options for protection

At the WIPO meeting, experts from both the private sector and civil society debated several proposals for addressing the challenges of trademark protection on the web. At the

outset, Markus Kummer – emphasised the need to “preserve internet’s successful elements,” in particular its “user-centric-model,” the possibility to innovate “without permission” and the neutrality of internet intermediaries, which is “part of the internet’s open architecture.”

Severine Abis – member of the European Association of Trade Mark Owners – advocated for a process that would require a trademark owner to notify an internet service provider of a possible trademark violation, who in turn would ascertain the infringement and remove the material.

However, Terri Chen – Legal Director on Trademarks at Google – argued that “intermediaries are not in the position to be trademarks judges.” Google is both an internet intermediary and trademark holder for goods, such as Android phones, and services, such as YouTube.

Chen added that a balance is needed to ensure consumer protection – the aim of trademarks – does not stifle free speech rights.

Despite these diverging views, experts generally agreed that constructive cooperation is critical to tackling such challenges in the digital age.

“We need to keep open the dialogue to avoid litigation. The main issue comes down to trust and open communication [which] can build-up trust to reach the mutual objective of minimising infringements,” David Ho from e-commerce platform Alibaba.com said.

### **National versus global approaches**

The merits of regulatory action at the international level as opposed to the national level also featured prominently in the discussions. For one, Carole Aubert – Head of the Internet Unit of the Federation of the Swiss Watch Industry – stressed the global nature of trademark issues as the internet transcends national borders. One of her suggestions for action at the international level included a global trademark system with no country boundaries.

However, Konstantinos Komaitis – a policy advisor at the Internet Society – said that negotiations for a “traditional treaty or convention may be premature,” noting that the territorial and consumer-focused nature of trademarks is difficult to encapsulate in international law instruments.

Nick Ashton-Hart – Geneva representative of the Computer and Communication Industry Association (CCIA) – echoed the sentiment that “trademarks are national creatures,” and that “global regulation of national legal regimes presupposes that congruency exists at many levels, including that countries are at similar levels of development and have congruent public policy objectives.”

“There is no magic solution to counterfeit,” Ashton-Hart concluded. While the internet does facilitate market access, regulating the internet “is not a silver bullet,” he said.

Further analysis of this week’s WIPO discussions over trademarks and industrial design will be featured in next week’s Bridges edition.

ICTSD reporting; “Internet Providers, Trademarks Owners Need Collaboration And Trust, WIPO Panel Says,” IP WATCH, 18 September 2012.

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## EVENTS & RESOURCES

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# Vacancy

**The Overseas Development Institute's (ODI)** International Economic Development Group is currently recruiting for a Research Fellow and Research Officer, both based in London, UK. The International Economic Development Group aims to influence international economic policy relevant for prosperity in developing countries, and works around the themes of trade and trade policy; international finance; and growth. More information, including details about the two positions and the relevant application forms, is available at the ODI jobs [website](#).

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# Events

## Coming soon

19 September, London, UK. AFRICAN BANKING: CHANGING PERCEPTIONS, CHANGING PRACTICES. This event, sponsored by Chatham House, will focus on the economic growth and growing trade links with the West and emerging markets that have raised Africa's strategic significance in banking. At this event, the speakers will discuss how the rise in both local and Western banks' profits in sub-Saharan Africa has translated into financial institutions looking for new opportunities in African countries. For more information, visit the Chatham House [website](#).

21 September, Bloomington, US. CHINA'S EMERGING ROLE IN THE GLOBAL GOVERNANCE OF FOOD SECURITY. The lecture, sponsored by the Australian National University-Indiana University (ANU-IU) Pan-Asia Institute, will outline the major trends in food security governance at the global level. It will address the question of what constitutes food security in the Chinese context, and assess the extent to which China's current involvement in agricultural investments, food aid, and global policymaking is aligned with international norms and practices. For more information, visit the event [website](#).

24-26 September, Washington, US. GREENGOV SYMPOSIUM. The White House Council on Environmental Quality will present this symposium in partnership with the Association of Climate Change Officers. The event aims to bring together leaders from governments, the private sector, non-profits, and academia to identify opportunities to create jobs, grow clean energy industries, and curb pollution. The programme will focus on sustainability, clean energy, education and engagement, green facilities and, among other topics, greening the supply chain. To learn more, please visit the GreenGov [website](#).

24 September-16 November, online. NEGOTIATING CHANGE: FROM DURBAN AND BEYOND. This eight-week web-based course aims to develop participants' understanding of the climate change policy framework by building an appreciation of the science, causes, and impacts of climate change, the history of the policymaking process and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Framework. The course also considers the pertinent challenges currently facing diplomats and international decision

makers in making progress with what is currently on the negotiating table. The course targets mid-to-senior level government officers, as well as staff of intergovernmental/nongovernment organisations. It also targets entry-level and mid-career diplomats working in a multilateral setting. For more information, please visit the course [website](#).

### **WTO Events**

An updated list of forthcoming WTO meetings is posted [here](#). 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.

20 September: Committee on Agriculture

20 September: Committee on Budget, Finance and Administration

24-26 September: WTO Public Forum

### **Other Upcoming Events**

27 September, online. EMERGING ISSUES IN CLIMATE MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION. In this free monthly online seminar from the World Bank's e-Institute discusses major issues in development, World Bank experts will share the latest approaches on topics such as social entrepreneurship and green growth through online presentations. The goal of the series is to educate and foster discussion around pressing issues in development. For more information, visit the e-Institute [website](#).

27 September, Geneva, Switzerland. BRIDGES CHINA DIALOGUE: INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY OF A TRANSITIONAL CHINA. This will be the fifth instalment of ICTSD's annual dialogue focused on China's role in global sustainable development governance, particularly as the country enters a new period of transition in political, economic, social, and international spheres. This event, co-organised with Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) and Indiana University Bloomington's Research Center for Chinese Politics and Business, aims to provide an opportunity for all stakeholders to consider the implications of this transition period, and evaluate how Chinese entrepreneurs, governments, and civil society organisations contribute to sustainable development both within China and globally. For more information, please visit the Bridges China 2012 dedicated [website](#).

27 September, Washington, US. CHINA'S ECONOMIC SLOWDOWN AND ITS POLICY IMPLICATIONS. This Carnegie Endowment-hosted event will address the increasing concern that China's economic slowdown is intensifying. Speakers will discuss how, despite of the hope for a "soft landing," this slowdown is occurring at a particularly inopportune time for China, just as the next generation of leaders is being appointed. Speakers will also address China's economic prospects and policy options for the coming year. For more information, visit the Carnegie Endowment [website](#).

3 October, London, UK. NEW INVESTMENT STRATEGIES FOR A CHANGING WORLD. This event, sponsored by Chatham House, discusses the fact that prospects for economic growth in sub-Saharan Africa remain strong and, with investor confidence in high-income countries weak, businesses around the world are increasingly interested in investment opportunities in Africa. Helen Zille, the leader of the Democratic Alliance and the premier of the Western Cape, will argue that in a changing world, businesses need to redefine their interest and investment approaches in sub-Saharan Africa. The discussion will also centre on how South Africa is becoming an increasingly important partner of choice for countries

around the world seeking to engage in Africa. For more information, visit the event [website](#).

4 December, Ar-Rayyān, Qatar. CLIMATE COMMUNICATIONS DAY AT COP18. This event is hosted by Internews' Earth Journalism Network and the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED). It will bring together journalists, bloggers, and scientists to examine how the wealth of environmental and scientific data available can best be harnessed to explain the issues surrounding climate change. Among other topics, speakers at this official UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) side event will address climate change and social media, as well as how to make maps of climate change data. For more information or to register, visit the event [website](#).

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## Resources

US FARM POLICY AND RISK ASSISTANCE. By David Orden and Carl Zulauf for ICTSD (September 2012). The authors of this paper offer an analysis of the policy options available for managing risk to crops and revenue, and try to establish the extent to which these may distort markets by affecting trade or production. They find ground in the nature of agricultural risk for detailed discussions at the WTO and caution US policymakers that the pending Farm Bill will make it harder than before for the US to negotiate new limits on agricultural spending. For the full text, click [here](#).

GLOBAL FINANCIAL DEVELOPMENT REPORT 2013: RETHINKING THE ROLE OF THE STATE IN FINANCE. Published by the World Bank (September 2012). The report aims to contribute to financial sector policy debates, building on new data, surveys, research, and wide-ranging country experience, with an emphasis on emerging market and developing economies. Launched to coincide with the fourth anniversary of the Lehman Brothers collapse and the full onset of the worldwide financial crisis, the report looks at state-owned banks as well as at the roles of competition and transparency in financial development. The report also examines how financial systems around the world have fared during the global financial crisis and compiles data covering more than 200 economies. To download the full text, click [here](#).

PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS TO ENHANCE SPS CAPACITY: WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM THIS COLLABORATIVE APPROACH? Published by the Standards and Trade Development Facility and the Inter-American Development Bank (April 2012). This paper analyses the emergence, operation, and performance of selected sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS)-related partnerships between government agencies responsible for food safety, animal and plant health and/or trade and the private sector. It aims to raise awareness about the potential value and role of public-private partnerships in enhancing SPS capacity and to provide practical guidance to facilitate and promote PPPs for SPS capacity development. This publication is available [here](#).

THE COSTS OF NOT GRANTING RUSSIA PNTR. By Anders Åslund for the Peterson Institute for International Economics (September 2012). This article addresses Russia's accession to the World Trade Organization, pointing out that if WTO rules apply to US trade with Russia, recent studies suggest that the volume of US exports of merchandise and services to Russia could double over the next five years. The author argues that the United States might not benefit from all the concessions it has extracted from Russia in WTO accession negotiations because it has not granted Russia permanent normal trade relations (PNTR), also known as most favoured nation status, which the WTO requires. The full op-ed can be found [here](#).

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