



# Bridges Weekly Trade News Digest

*Weekly trade news from a sustainable development perspective*

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## LEAD STORIES

### Opponents of EU Aviation Carbon Law Agree on Possible Countermeasures

Countries that oppose an EU rule requiring airlines to surrender carbon permits for the emissions they produce during all flights taking off or landing in the 27-country bloc now have an agreed set of options for retaliation. The 22 February announcement by Russian officials is the latest salvo in an ongoing row over the Brussels plan that some fear could escalate into a 'trade war.'

The law's opponents – a group of over 20 countries that includes the US, China, India, and Russia – met in Moscow on 21 and 22 February to discuss possible responses to the inclusion of aviation in the EU carbon scheme. Tensions over the controversial Brussels plan had built up quickly in advance of the Moscow gathering, with the EU holding firm in its stance ahead of the growing opposition.

The set of [options](#) agreed at this week's Moscow meeting include barring airlines from participating in the Brussels plan; filing a formal complaint at the UN's civil aviation body – the International Civil Aviation Organization, or ICAO; imposing levies or charges on EU airlines as a countermeasure; and stopping talks with EU carriers on new routes.

The basket of options also includes the option for countries to assess whether the EU Emissions Trading System (ETS) "is consistent with the WTO Agreements and [take] appropriate action."

While the European Court of Justice ruled in December that the inclusion of aviation in the EU ETS was indeed compatible with international law, the court did not examine WTO law, as the

WTO's own adjudicative system has exclusive jurisdiction in this area. (See Bridges Weekly, [11 January 2012](#))

It will be up to each country to choose which of these measures they wish to use, Russian deputy transport minister Valery Okulov told reporters on Wednesday.

"Every state will chose the most effective and reliable measures that will help to cancel or postpone the implementation of the EU ETS," Okulov said.

The announcement follows reports on Tuesday that Russia would consider a ban on its airlines participating in the EU Emissions Trading Scheme, along the lines of a Chinese ban announced earlier this month (see Bridges Weekly, [8 February 2012](#)).

Under the EU Emissions Trading System, airlines are required to buy permits for 15 percent of the carbon they emit; permits for the remaining 85 percent will be provided to them for free.

Such a requirement, which entered into force on 1 January, would add approximately €1.5 to the cost of a trip from London to New York, or about €2 to a trip from Beijing to Frankfurt, according to EU officials.

Carriers will have to surrender permits for 2012 carbon production by 30 April 2013.

Airlines that fly to the 27-country EU bloc without complying with the scheme will face a fine of €100 for each tonne of carbon dioxide emitted and for which they have not paid allowances. Persistent offenders could face a blanket ban from all EU airports.

The nations opposing the inclusion of aviation in the ETS have already backed a working paper at the ICAO asking that foreign carriers not to be subject to the EU scheme (see Bridges Weekly, [2 November 2011](#)).

The next meeting of the group of objectors will be hosted in Saudi Arabia this summer.

## **BASIC countries lambast "unilateral" measure; EU remains steadfast**

Ahead of this week's meeting, the environment ministers of the BASIC group – Brazil, India, China, and South Africa – issued a [joint statement](#) on 14 February condemning the EU aviation emissions policy, claiming that Brussels was "jeopardising international efforts against climate change" by acting unilaterally.

In response, EU Climate Commissioner Connie Hedegaard noted that Europe had already tried to work through the ICAO in an attempt to find a multilateral solution to curbing emissions from aviation.

"Everybody knows that Europe has been fighting for a multilateral system. Everybody knows that other parties blocked that," she said.

However, Hedegaard urged the opponents of the ETS to take their complaints to the ICAO, where talks could help to diffuse the tensions over the scheme.

"Nobody has an interest in a trade war," the EU climate chief stressed.

China is currently the only nation to have taken concrete action against the Brussels plan, having banned its airlines from taking part in the scheme.

The United States, for its part, has continued to threaten unspecified action if the measures are enforced. While the US House of Representatives passed a bill in October that would make it illegal for US airlines to comply with the EU scheme, the legislation still requires Senate and presidential approval to become law (see Bridges Weekly, [14 December 2011](#)).

Meanwhile, the Indian government has asked its airlines to rebuff any mandatory requests from the EU for emissions data, which is necessary to calculate emissions payments.

## **Airlines caught in the middle**

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) – a trade body that represents over 230 commercial airlines – has also been a vocal

opponent of the EU's decision to include aviation in its carbon scheme. Airlines have become wedged between conflicting domestic laws, association chief Tony Tyler stressed, noting that Chinese airlines are in an "intolerable" situation because of their country's disagreement with the EU over the plan.

Speaking last week at a Singapore summit, Tyler insisted that the aviation industry can "ill afford to be caught in an escalating political or trade conflict over the EU ETS," advocating instead for an ICAO-orchestrated solution.

IATA has also called for the EU to suspend the airline component of the carbon scheme. A suspension, the organisation argues, would allow the ICAO to develop a global framework ahead of its next assembly in the third quarter of 2013, without other states feeling "under duress from Europe."

IATA officials were also present at this week's Moscow meeting, according to Reuters.

### **EU carbon market struggling**

As challenges to the EU aviation rule mount, the carbon market that underpins the entire ETS is facing its own set of difficulties. The market has become saturated with excess carbon permits, with the price of carbon dropping drastically as a result.

Carbon prices currently sit at around €8 per tonne, compared with its 2008 peak of nearly €30 per tonne. Many policymakers and analysts consider the current price of carbon to be well below the amount necessary to stimulate the levels of desired investment in green technologies.

In response, EU parliamentarians are expected to vote this month to increase pressure on the European Commission to remove some carbon allowances in order to increase the price of carbon. The current wording of the text does not specify an exact amount of allowances to be removed, asking only that the Commission implement measures that may include withholding the "necessary amount."

ICTSD reporting; "Moscow air talks to debate measures against EU: draft," REUTERS, 17 February 2012; "EU politicians agree compromise text on CO2 allowances," REUTERS, 16 February 2012; "EU climate chief: would see merit in airline CO2 talks at UN," REUTERS, 15 February 2012; "EU airline charge hurts climate fight - China, India," REUTERS, 14 February 2012; "EU vows to keep airline-emission levies as China-India opposition mounts," BLOOMBERG, 13 February 2012; "Emissions trading: Cheap and dirty," FINANCIAL TIMES, 13 February 2012; "Airlines urge UN deal to avert carbon trade war," REUTERS, 12 February 2012; "Nations agree options to fight EU airline CO2 rule," REUTERS, 22 February 2012; "Russia leads attack against EU airline CO2 law," REUTERS, 22 February 2012.

## **OTHER NEWS**

### **Trade Issues Come to the Fore as US Hosts Chinese Vice President**

Washington and Beijing's often contentious trade relationship again found itself in the spotlight last week, with the much-anticipated visit of Chinese Vice President Xi Jinping – expected to take the helm of the Chinese government next year – to the US. Trade dominated the agenda of the weeklong trip, which saw the resolution of a five-year conflict regarding Beijing's restrictions on the importation and distribution of foreign films.

#### **Movie deal**

The US and China have long been at odds over the latter's policies regarding foreign film imports – a disagreement that was addressed with other trade barriers for audiovisual services in a 2007 WTO dispute, billed in the press as a fight between Hollywood and Beijing.

"US studios and independent filmmakers cite China as one of their most important world markets, but barriers imposed by China and challenged by the United States in the WTO have artificially reduced the revenue US film producers received from their movies in the Chinese market," said US Trade Representative Ron Kirk.

“This agreement will help to change that, boosting one of America’s strongest export sectors in one of our largest export markets,” Kirk continued.

China imposes an import quota of 20 foreign films per year, which has previously limited Hollywood’s access to China’s entertainment market. Under the deal announced by US Vice President Joe Biden on 17 February, China will now allow an additional 14 foreign films per year in enhanced formats such as IMAX or 3D, along with the 2D counterparts for these films.

The revenue-sharing component of the agreement also raises the cut that foreign film companies will get from box office ticket sales from the current 13 to 17 percent to 25 percent.

This week’s agreement only addresses part of the WTO dispute and does not take the form of formal WTO ruling implementation.

In the *China – Publications and Audiovisual Products* case([DS363](#)) at the WTO, Washington argued that Beijing’s requirements for copyrighted publications and audiovisual products – books, journals, video games, music, DVDs, and the like – to be imported and distributed via a handful of state-approved or state-run middlemen violated China’s commitments at the global trade body.

The US also claimed that these rules encouraged piracy that severely hampered the ability of US producers of such products to make money in China.

China lost an Appellate Body ruling in December 2009; the parties then agreed that China would implement the decision by 19 March 2011, only for Washington to later challenge Beijing’s compliance efforts with the ruling. Despite China arguing that it was making “tremendous efforts” in this area, the two sides have spent the latter half of 2011 working to resolve their differences (see *Bridges Weekly*, [30 March 2011](#)).

The deal will be reviewed after five years, according to the White House announcement; if it is not working as expected, the US could bring the issue back to the global trade arbiter. Other issues that had been addressed in the WTO dispute,

however, continue to await implementation in China. No formal statements are available at this point as to whether the US will continue to pursue the option of retaliatory measures for these elements of the dispute.

The US has a US\$12 billion global trade surplus on films and other audiovisual products, according to the White House.

### **Trade tensions lurking in the background**

With the US election year in full swing, campaign trail rhetoric from both sides has repeatedly targeted Washington’s fractious trade relationship with Beijing – a tension that was not lost on officials on either side during Xi’s visit.

The two countries have sparred repeatedly in recent years, on issues ranging from Beijing’s valuation of its currency and protections of intellectual property rights to both countries’ support of their respective renewable energy sectors.

The US trade deficit with China also widened in 2011 to a record US\$295.5 billion, according to trade [data](#) released earlier this month by the US government, adding to existing tensions.

Just one day prior to his meeting with Xi, Obama submitted a budget proposal request for the 2013 fiscal year that asked Congress for US\$26 million in new funding to ensure that Washington would have the “capacity to bring additional trade cases that will level the playing field against countries around the world, including China,” according to White House officials.

The economic and trade issues between the two countries featured prominently during the Chinese Vice President’s discussions last week with both the US President and Vice President.

After meetings with both officials, Xi told a [business audience](#) last week that China “has taken steps” to address US concerns regarding the current trade imbalance, intellectual property rights protection, indigenous innovation, and the investment environment.

In light of these efforts, Beijing hopes “that the US side will adopt the same positive attitude and take credible steps as soon as possible to address Chinese concerns on lifting restrictions on high-tech exports to China and providing a level playing field for Chinese companies investing in America,” he continued.

Meanwhile, Biden emphasised at the same event that “competition can only be mutually beneficial if the rules of the game are understood, agreed upon, and followed,” while noting improvements in “areas of concern.”

The contentious currency issue also came up during Xi’s visit, with Obama and Biden both telling the Chinese Vice President that the yuan – also known as the renminbi – still remains “substantially undervalued,” despite recent appreciation.

Critics of Beijing’s currency policies argue that the undervaluation of the renminbi acts as the equivalent of an export subsidy by making Chinese goods cheaper than their foreign counterparts.

ICTSD reporting; “Chinese leader Xi, Biden promote trade, in LA,” ASSOCIATED PRESS, 18 February 2012; “U.S. Films Win China Access as Xi Wraps Tour with Import Vow,” BLOOMBERG, 19 February 2012; “Obama attacks Chinese business practices,” FINANCIAL TIMES, 15 February 2012; “Obama eyes more money for China trade enforcement,” REUTERS, 13 February 2012.

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## WIPO Ctte Advances Draft Text on Genetic Resources Amid Controversy

Members at a World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) meeting dedicated to genetic resources agreed this week to work on a single text for a future instrument. However, it was not all smooth sailing as major disagreements between countries and a walk-out by an indigenous peoples group threatened to derail the talks.

“A text [on genetic resources] will not to be adopted or agreed upon at this stage,” meeting Chair Wayne McCook of Jamaica reassured participants, adding that this is only the beginning of the drafting process.

The 20th [session](#) of the WIPO Intergovernmental Committee on Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge, and Folklore (IGC) was held from 14-22 February in Geneva, Switzerland.

The Committee was created in 2000 amid concerns by biodiversity-rich countries and indigenous peoples regarding the misappropriation of their genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge.

The previous session of the IGC, held in July of last year, saw a renewal of the committee’s mandate, setting the ambitious goal of engaging in text-based negotiations to reach agreement on an international legal instrument(s) for the effective protection of genetic resources, traditional knowledge, and traditional cultural expressions.

In addition, the IGC was asked to submit texts to the WIPO General Assembly this year that will consider progress made and decide on whether to convene a Diplomatic Conference (See Bridges Weekly [28 July 2011](#)).

This past week’s session focused solely on genetic resources, an area in the IGC’s work that has not witnessed the same progress as the two other areas, namely traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions.

### Single document as a basis for discussions

At the outset of the session, a group of three facilitators was asked to assemble all country and group proposals and interventions on GRs in order to have one document as a basis for discussions.

On 17 February, facilitator Ian Goss of Australia presented a document prepared “without prejudice” to existing proposals in order to “present one single document in a coherent way identifying commonalities in texts and proposals.” This consolidated document then proceeded to



form the basis for the work throughout the rest of the week.

### Debates over negotiating text

The week's deliberations were marked by strong differences over the scope of protection under a GR instrument.

For one, developed countries such as the EU and the United States proposed that any time "intellectual property rights" are mentioned in the document the terminology be changed to "patents."

Some developing countries, however, felt this was a backtracking from the original text proposals on the table. Speaking to Bridges, the delegation of Bolivia reiterated its position that the term "intellectual property rights" must be kept, since "this provides a wider scope of protection and includes other kinds of protection – such as geographical indications – that either directly or indirectly have to do with GRs."

### Mandatory disclosure requirement subject of disagreement

Developed and developing countries also found themselves at odds on the issue of a mandatory requirement in patent applications disclosing the origin of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge. According to proponents, such a measure would prevent erroneous patents from being granted and ensure that adequate access and benefit sharing provisions are in place.

Japan and the United States were staunchly opposed to such a measure, citing the lack of evidence on the matter and the potential burden it may cause for inventors and patent examiners. Meanwhile, some developing countries – such as South Africa and Namibia – felt that a call for studies on these issues was "only meant to delay the process."

Both Japan and the United States submitted a new [proposal](#) with Norway and Korea for a joint recommendation that proposes the creation of databases regarding genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, instead of a mandatory disclosure requirement. The

recommendation would act as a non-binding instrument if adopted. It was not included in the facilitator's consolidated document.

However, the proposal was met with resistance by many developing countries. "We believe that a non-binding instrument would not ensure the effective protection of genetic resources," said the delegate from the Philippines during the plenary.

It was ultimately agreed to discuss the proposal further at the next IGC, as several countries indicated that they not had enough time to review it in detail.

### Controversy over indigenous participation

Yesterday, the International Indigenous Forum – comprised of various indigenous peoples organisations – expressed frustration over the lack of inclusion of their proposals in the negotiating texts. A handful of indigenous representatives staged a walk-out from the IGC, which they argued "has systematically ignored our rights, as Indigenous Peoples and as Nations with internationally recognised collective rights."

"We withdraw our active participation in the work developed by this Committee until the States change the rules of procedure to permit our full and equitable participation at all levels of the IGC," the Indigenous Forum added in a statement.

"I express regret at the withdrawal of the Indigenous Forum," Chair McCook said, adding that no changes have been decided upon in this session on the rules of procedure, and in particular regarding indigenous participation.

"We remain open to the Indigenous Forum participation in line of rules of procedure," he added.

After consultations with the Chair, the Forum released a statement in which they decided to reconsider their announced withdrawal. They said that they would continue to work with the IGC under the condition that their participation be more inclusive.

In their statement, the Forum also proposed the creation of a specific category “Indigenous Peoples,” set apart from other observer organisations.

The next [session](#) of the IGC is scheduled for 16-20 April 2012 and will focus on traditional knowledge.

ICTSD reporting, “WIPO Members Work Through Differences In Genetic Resources Document,” IP WATCH, 19 February 2012.

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## Disputes Roundup: India Challenges Turkish Cotton Safeguards; DSB Election Stalls

Last week saw India take its complaints about Turkey’s safeguard duties on cotton yarn to the next level by formally initiating WTO dispute proceedings between the two countries. Meanwhile, the 2012 chairmanship of the organisation’s Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) remains in limbo, with members unable to reach consensus on who would replace Norway’s ambassador in the role.

### New Delhi targets Ankara cotton yarn tariffs

Two of the world’s top cotton producers entered the first phase of WTO dispute settlement on 13 February, when India requested consultations with Turkey over the latter’s safeguard measures on cotton yarn imports ([DS428](#)).

India alleges that Turkey’s re-introduction of extra safeguard duties on cotton yarn violates WTO safeguard rules in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and the specialised Safeguards Agreement. The measures could cost India around US\$600 million per year in exports, one Indian official told Reuters.

“[T]he measures at issue have a serious adverse impact on the export of cotton yarn from India,” New Delhi said in the consultation request.

As part of its WTO commitments, Turkey agreed to limit its cotton yarn duties to five percent. However, its tariffs applied on Indian cotton yarn

in the form of safeguard measures are as high as 15 to 20 percent.

Safeguard rules allow countries to increase duties beyond agreed upon limits when an increase in imports caused by unforeseen events threatens to cause serious injury to domestic producers.

Ankara first levied safeguard import duties on cotton yarn imports from 2008 to 2011. Provisional safeguards were then applied while Turkey conducted a review on whether to continue the initial safeguards; the initial safeguards were then extended last year.

New Delhi claims that Ankara should not have used provisional safeguard measures as a means of extending the expired final safeguard measures, citing WTO law in this regard. India further argued that the extension of the original safeguard measures is no longer necessary.

India made a similar consultation request in 2009, also against Turkey. At the time, Ankara argued that its 2008 safeguard measures were a justified response to surging imports that threatened its domestic industry. Turkey noted that its cotton yarn imports increased by 63.6 percent in 2005, 46.9 percent in 2006, 119.7 percent in 2007, and 32.1 percent in the first half of 2008.

Ankara also stressed that, although consumption of cotton yarn was on the rise during this period, Turkey’s employment and production in this sector were steadily declining because of the import spikes.

This previous consultation request never led to the formation of a WTO panel, however.

Turkey, which produced 3.1 million bales of cotton in 2011 [according](#) to the National Cotton Council of America, has waived its safeguard tariff on cotton for many developing countries that do not contribute significantly to imports.

This waiver does not hold for India, which has ranked second in the world in total cotton production since 2006 and generated 27 million bales in 2011. It has also ranked second in cotton exports each year during the same period except for 2008.

The two sides will now have 60 days to reach an agreement; otherwise, India can request a WTO panel to review the dispute.

### **Vietnam brings its second WTO complaint**

In other dispute-related news, Vietnam today brought the second dispute ever in its history as a WTO member ([DS429](#)).

The formal request for consultations concerns antidumping duties imposed by the United States on certain Vietnamese imports of frozen warm-water shrimp. It is a direct follow-up to Hanoi's first complaint last year about Washington's use of zeroing in calculating anti-dumping duties on similar shrimp imports ([DS404](#)).

The two countries will now have 60 days to resolve their differences through consultation before Vietnam can ask the DSB to establish a panel to hear the case. Further information on the dispute will be made available soon.

Vietnam is treated as a non-market economy by the US, a classification that makes it easier for trade partners to impose anti-dumping duties under WTO rules.

### **Elin Johansen elected as General Council Chair; replacement at DSB unresolved**

In a meeting last week, WTO members elected Ambassador Elin Johansen of Norway to succeed Nigeria's Yonov Frederick Agah as Chair of the General Council – the organisation's highest decision-making body outside of the ministerial conference. However, members have been unable to reach a consensus on electing a replacement for Johansen as head of the DSB.

The WTO General Council Chair and DSB head both serve one-year terms. Historically, the outgoing DSB chief has been voted in to the vacant General Council Chair post, as is the case of Johansen who has just finished her term as the DSB head. Therefore, whomever the members now elect to lead the DSB will likely replace Johansen as the General Council Chair in 2013.

This is the same year that Pascal Lamy's term as WTO Director-General will expire. The 2013 General Council Chair will play a central role in the election of his replacement.

The election subject did feature in the DSB's monthly gathering, which took place earlier today. However, no election was held, as Johansen, in her role as the new General Council Chair, is still consulting with countries in order to resolve remaining disagreements.

Although Johansen has finished her term as head of the DSB, she will continue to serve in this post until a successor is found.

ICTSD reporting; "India launches WTO cotton complaint against Turkey," REUTERS, 14 February 2012; "WTO fails to agree on dispute body head," EXPATICA SWITZERLAND, 14 February 2012. "WTO fails to agree on dispute body head," BUSINESS RECORDER, 15 February 2012.

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## **Trade Tensions Soar as EU Prepares to Vote on Canadian Oil**

Canada says it will not back away from a trade war with the EU if the bloc votes in favour of a motion to label oil from the vast Alberta oil sands deposits as "highly polluting." The communiqué raises the rhetoric between the trading partners to new heights just days ahead of the 23 February vote.

"Canada will explore every avenue at its disposal to defend its interests, including at the World Trade Organization," the letter from David Plunkett, Canada's ambassador to the EU, reportedly reads. The letter was obtained by green group Friends of the Earth Europe under freedom of information laws.

On 23 February, officials in Brussels will vote on the implementation of a new "tar sands" rank within the EU's fuel quality directive, an amendment that would assign oil such as Canada's a default greenhouse gas value of 107 grams of carbon per megajoule. Under the directive, consumers would have to be informed of the



greater environmental impact compared to conventional crude's 87.5 grams – making Canadian oil less desirable to environmentally conscious consumers.

Canada has questioned the scientific basis of the measure, arguing that it could amount to unfair discrimination by the EU.

Meanwhile, EU Climate Commissioner Connie Hedegaard defended the plans, telling *The Guardian* that “it is only reasonable to give high values to more polluting products than to less polluting products.”

“I of course hope the member states will follow the Commission [and vote for] this environmentally sound initiative,” she continued.

While Canada's oil reserves are third only to Venezuela and Saudi Arabia, the energy-intensive process required to extract the crude results in a high carbon footprint and the destruction of the physical environment.

Over 95 percent of Canada's resources are spread across the province of Alberta in oil sands deposits. Some environmental groups have charged that Canadian dependence upon the oil sands industry is at the core of Ottawa's controversial unilateral withdrawal from its obligations under the Kyoto Protocol.

### Free trade talks at risk?

Some trade observers have also raised concerns over the wider trade impacts the ranking could have, including on the ongoing EU-Canada Comprehensive Economic Trade Agreement (CETA) negotiations.

However, Rudy Husny – spokesman for Canadian trade minister Ed Fast, stressed that the matter “is not linked to our commitment to productive free trade discussions with the European Union.”

Ron Liepert, Alberta's Energy Minister, arrived in Brussels at the beginning of the month to present Canadian oil sands as a source of “secure energy” that is in danger of falling victim to unfair, discriminatory practices.

Ottawa has become increasingly hostile toward critics of the country's oil sand industry, with Joe Oliver, Canada's Minister of Natural Resources recently accusing foreign-funded “environmental” and other “radical” groups of attempting to block trade and derail the country's economy.

“Their goal is to stop any major project no matter what the cost to Canadian families in lost jobs and economic growth,” Oliver said. “No forestry. No mining. No oil. No gas. No more hydro-electric dams.”

### Nobel winners back proposed EU measure

Eight Nobel laureates earlier this month sent a letter to European leaders urging them to support the proposed “tar sands” rank. They reiterated the concerns of the members of the US Congress who spoke out in June 2010 against the US-Canada Keystone XL pipeline, a US\$7 billion dollar project that would have seen the transportation of 700,000 barrels of oil a day from the Athabasca Oil Sands to multiple refineries in the US.

The Nobel laureates also praised US President Barack Obama's recent blocking of the pipeline (see *Bridges Weekly*, [18 January 2012](#)).

The eight individuals, who include Archbishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa and Iranian human rights activist Shirin Ebadi, say they are driven by the concern that Canada's abandonment of Kyoto could set a precedent for wide-scale abandonments of conservation agreements. Indeed, experts say ranking oil imports will add to the pressure for Europe to move away from oil and natural gas dependency.

ICTSD reporting; “Canada threatens EU with trade complaint over labelling of oil sands as dirty oil,” ASSOCIATED PRESS, 21 February 2012; “Tone down demonization of environmentalists, May says,” EDMONTON JOURNAL, 16 February 2012; “Canada threatens trade war with EU over tar sands,” THE GUARDIAN, 20 February 2012; “Nobel winners urge EU leaders to back tar sands law,” REUTERS, 16 February 2012.

## IN BRIEF

### Anti-Counterfeiting Pact Referred to European Court of Justice

EU Trade Commissioner Karel De Gucht announced today that the controversial Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA) will be referred to the European Court of Justice – the EU's highest court – to verify its compatibility with the 27-country bloc's fundamental rights and freedoms, putting the pact's ratification process temporarily on hold.

ACTA is a plurilateral trade pact seeking to strengthen global standards for the enforcement of intellectual property rights in order to combat counterfeiting and piracy.

ACTA detractors fear that some of the agreement's provisions, which go beyond the minimum standards set by the WTO's Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS), may have a detrimental effect on access to medicines and fundamental freedoms in the digital environment.

The EU's signature of the treaty in January has sparked protests throughout the European continent. The mounting controversy has heightened speculation about whether the European Parliament will ultimately ratify the pact (see Bridges Weekly, [1 February 2012](#)).

Recently, several EU member states – whose signature and ratification are also needed individually for the agreement to be adopted by the EU as a whole – decided to put on hold their domestic procedures to leave room for further discussions on the pact (see Bridges Weekly, [15 February 2012](#)).

At present, the agreement has been signed by nine of its eleven negotiating parties, namely Australia, Canada, Japan, South Korea, Morocco, New Zealand, Singapore, the United States, and the EU.

ACTA will become legally binding only after Japan – the depositary of the agreement – receives six ratification instruments.

#### EU hopes referral will provide legal “clarity”; some not convinced

In a [statement](#) on Wednesday, De Gucht explained that the Commission is “planning to ask Europe's highest court to assess whether ACTA is incompatible – in any way – with the EU's fundamental rights and freedoms, such as freedom of expression and information or data protection and the right to property in case of intellectual property.”

The referral “will allow for Europe's top court to independently clarify the legality of this agreement,” he added.

In explaining this decision, the EU Trade Commissioner expressed his understanding for the concerns over the impact the treaty may have on fundamental freedoms. However, De Gucht stressed that “ACTA will change nothing about how we use the internet and social websites today, since it does not introduce any new rules.”

“ACTA only helps to enforce what is already law today,” the EU trade chief added.

The move drew criticism from some quarters, however. La Quadrature du Net – an advocacy group whose work centres on the rights of internet users – [claimed](#) that “this move aims to make the ACTA discussion a mere legal issue, when the main concerns are political by nature.”

“No legal debate can fix ACTA or give it a legitimacy that by design it cannot have,” it insisted.

Stressing that the debate about ACTA must be “based upon facts and not upon the misinformation,” De Gucht expressed his hope that the referral to the ECJ would bring about clarity that should “help support a calm, reasoned, open and democratic discussion” on ACTA at the European level.

The European Parliament is expected to vote on the agreement in June.

ICTSD reporting; “EU seeks legal opinion on global copyright pact,” REUTERS, 22 February 2012.

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## EU Parliament Approves Morocco Ag Trade Deal

An EU-Morocco trade deal that will significantly extend duty-free sales of agricultural and fisheries products between the two sides was approved by European lawmakers on Thursday 16 February, amid concerns that the pact could threaten the livelihoods of small-scale agricultural producers in both the North African kingdom and the 27-country bloc.

European Agriculture Commissioner Dacian Cioloș lauded the bilateral deal, praising the “new opportunities” it would provide for European producers.

The agreement also “paves the way for a real reinforcement in our relations with Morocco,” the EU farm chief added.

The reciprocal agreement will allow 70 percent of EU agricultural exports to enter Morocco duty-free within the next decade. For its part, the EU will lift all its current duties on 55 percent of imports from Morocco.

The pact also includes a handful of measures to limit the impact of granting improved access to unprocessed fruit and vegetables from Morocco. For instance, the deal will allow only moderate increases in import quotas for certain sensitive products, along with including seasonal import quotas to avoid oversupply within the EU market.

Fruits and vegetables currently account for 80 percent of total EU imports from the North African country.

### Union opposition

The deal has faced growing opposition in recent weeks, with critics arguing that the pact could damage the livelihoods of small-scale producers in Morocco and Europe.

Furthermore, Spanish farm unions insist that the deal would put 450,000 jobs at risk in a country that already has the highest unemployment rate in Europe, hitting 22.9 percent in December 2011.

The Spanish industry’s main lobby group, the COAG union, declared that it would challenge the deal at the European Court of Justice on the basis that imports from countries that do not adhere to EU labour and environmental standards cause market distortions.

“We will not stand idly by while the EU abandons Spanish fruit and vegetable farmers to their fate while allowing the uncontrolled entry of Moroccan produce grown at starvation wages,” COAG said in a [statement](#).

The days preceding the Parliament vote saw unrest build on the streets of Madrid, when upset farmers, including COAG members, gathered together on 14 February to pelt the European Parliament and Commission office in the Spanish capital with tomatoes in protest of the trade pact.

### Schulz: “Not an easy vote”

Although it was approved by a 369-225 margin, European Parliament President Martin Schulz acknowledged that “this was not an easy vote.”

“Morocco and the European Commission must now help in dispelling the concerns of many of my colleagues on the agreement especially for what concerns the rights of farmers, combating fraud, environmental protection, and food safety standards,” Schulz said.

In contrast, Green MEP Jose Bove warned that the farm trade deal was “unbalanced,” indicating that European farmers could not compete with Moroccan workers whose daily salary is five euros. He added that the agreement “is not in the interest of the average Moroccan citizen and not in the interest of the people of the Western Sahara.”

Morocco’s agriculture and fisheries minister Aziz Akhannouch promptly rejected these concerns, stating that many small farmers affiliated to large export cooperatives would benefit from the deal.

Farming accounts for 13 percent of Morocco's gross domestic output. In addition, the agricultural sector suffered major job losses last year for the first time since 2000.

The deal is expected to be formally adopted by EU ministers in the coming weeks before entering into force in May or June.

ICTSD reporting: "EU Parliament Approves Disputed Morocco Farm Trade Deal," AFP, 17 February 2012; "Spanish Farmers Protest Over EU-Morocco Trade Deal," REUTERS, 14 February 2012; "Update 1— EU Parliament Approves Morocco Agriculture Trade Deal," REUTERS, 16 February 2012

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## Greenhouse Gas Emissions Initiative Launched in Washington

A US-led international initiative aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions was launched in Washington last week, with Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton emphasising the need for tackling "short lived" atmospheric pollutants. The initiative, however, has been panned by some environmental groups who say the plan is too narrow in scope and lacks the needed international co-operation offered by the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

The Climate and Clean Air Coalition – which will be operated under the auspices of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) – aims to implement simple, low-cost measures to reduce the three main drivers of climate change: black carbon (soot), methane, and hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs, refrigerants).

The partnership currently consists of six countries; the US, Bangladesh, Canada, Ghana, Mexico, and Sweden.

The targeted pollutants linger for a shorter time in the atmosphere than carbon dioxide, but can absorb many more times the solar energy than carbon dioxide.

Methane, which comes from decaying organic matter, stays in the air for only 12 years but absorbs around 20 times the energy of carbon dioxide. Soot remains in the air for just a matter of days, but when it falls to the ground on snow-covered areas makes snow and ice melt faster. The Economist reports that HFCs, emitted by refrigerators among other things, are 1,440 times more heat-absorptive than carbon dioxide.

The benefits from reducing of these greenhouse gases are not limited to climate change mitigation, but also may facilitate increased crop yields and improved quality of air, the latter of which comes with health-related improvements.

The delegates representing the Coalition were quick to emphasise the complementary nature of such an initiative with the UNFCCC.

"We know, of course, that this effort is not the answer to the climate crisis," Clinton clarified. "This coalition is intended to complement – not supplant – the other actions we are, and must be, taking."

This was echoed by the Swedish Environment minister Lena Ek.

"Only with a strong reduction of long-lived climate gasses we can halt climate change," she said, adding that it is a "coalition for action, not for talking."

But with the US regularly being accused of being a primary stumbling block in UNFCCC negotiations, some critics are dismissing the initiative as a public relations campaign. This perspective is fuelled further by the participation of Canada, which drew the ire of many countries by unilaterally withdrawing from the Kyoto Protocol last December.

Still, delegates of the coalition expressed their hope that others will join and expand the partnership as a separate and complementary initiative to the politically-charged climate negotiations over mandatory emission reductions under the UNFCCC (see Bridges Weekly, [14 December 2011](#)).

The initiative has a dedicated fund of US\$15 million, of which US\$12 million of new funding will come from the US. The plan hopes to expand on the work of two existing US-funded efforts: the Global Methane Initiative and the Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves which were both launched in 2010.

ICTSD reporting; “US Pushes to Cut Emissions of Some Pollutants that Hasten Climate Change,” NEW YORK TIMES, 15 February 2012; “Climate change: The other greenhouse gases,” THE ECONOMIST, 20 February 2012.

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## US, EU Clinch Organic Trade Partnership

Brussels and Washington have agreed to recognise each other's certificates for organic agriculture products, officials from both sides announced last week, in a move that could potentially pave the way for similar arrangements between other trading partners. The decision will enter into effect on 1 June of this year.

The trans-Atlantic agreement, inked on 15 February in Nuremberg, Germany, states that organic products certified in the United States or Europe can be sold as organic in either region.

“This is a significant step in strengthening our bilateral trade relations,” Ambassador Isi Siddiqui, the US Trade Representative's Chief Agricultural Negotiator, said.

“This agreement comes with a double added value,” European Agriculture Commissioner Dacian Cioloş added. “On the one hand, organic farmers and food producers will benefit from easier access, with less bureaucracy and less costs, to both the US and the EU markets, strengthening the competitiveness of this sector.”

“In addition, it improves transparency on organic standards, and enhances consumers' confidence and recognition of our organic food and products,” the EU official continued.

The partnership was similarly welcomed by the organic farm industry. “With the world's major

organic systems working together, the impact on agriculture will be as profound as the potential for trade is massive,” Matthew Holmes of the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM) said. IFOAM represents 750 organic organisations in over 100 countries.

Organic agricultural products have been in increasingly high demand in recent years, showing double-digit growth for over a decade; organic sales account for three percent of US food sales, according to statistics from the US Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Globally 1.6 million producers farm using organic methods, and approximately 80 percent of these are in developing countries, according to data released last week by the Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL, by its acronym in German) and IFOAM. Demand for organic products is primarily concentrated in North America and Europe, however.

### Increasing market access

Prior to the agreement, US and EU exporters wishing to ship to the other side of the Atlantic had to obtain separate certifications in order to comply with both sets of standards, which meant a second set of fees, inspections, and paperwork.

Under the partnership, Brussels will recognise the US Department of Agriculture's National Organic Program as equivalent to EU rules; in turn, Washington will allow products certified under EU organic regulations to be marketed as organic in the US.

Brussels and Washington also agreed to co-operate on the wider promotion of organic production, and to establish a common method of assessing the organics programmes of third countries.

The bilateral arrangement does include some exceptions, mainly as the result of differences between the two sets of standards regarding the use of antibiotics. While both sides generally prohibit the use of antibiotics in organic products, the US does allow them to control invasive bacterial infections in organic apple and pear



orchards, while the EU allows them for treating infected animals.

Due to these differences, EU agricultural products derived from animals treated with antibiotics cannot be marketed in the US; meanwhile, US crops produced using antibiotics cannot be shipped to the EU.

The agreement applies only to organic products originating from the EU and the US. However, should some of the organic ingredients come from a foreign source, the final product can still qualify so long as the final processing or packaging occurs within the EU or the US, and if the ingredients themselves are certified as organic by EU or US standards.

The US and EU are the world's largest organics producers, with the combined value of their organics sectors estimated at more than US\$50 billion, according to the Office of the US Trade Representative.

ICTSD reporting; "Organic farming industry heaps praise on US-EU trade pact," WESTERN FARM PRESS, 15 February 2012; "EU, US in Organic Food Pact," WALL STREET JOURNAL, 16 February 2012.

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## EVENTS & RESOURCES

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### Vacancy

The Commonwealth Secretariat is seeking candidates to fill two temporary assignment positions at the Office of the Chief Trade Adviser (OCTA): Economic Trade Adviser and Legal Trade Adviser. Both positions are two-year assignments located in Port Vila, Vanuatu and are open only to nationals from Commonwealth member countries. Both positions will work on an OCTA project entitled "Strengthening the Office of the Chief Trade Adviser (OCTA) to support and build the capacity of Pacific Forum Island Countries in PACER+ negotiations." Interested candidates should have a background in economic research on international trade and policy issues on regional integration and at least seven years experience working at progressively senior levels

on economic issues related to trade. Interested candidates should contact James Lek, Human Resources, Commonwealth Secretariat at [j.lek@commonwealth.int](mailto:j.lek@commonwealth.int). The closing date to apply is 16 March 2012.

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is seeking candidates to fill the position of Trade and Green Economy Consultant. The position is a six-month assignment, starting 15 March 2012 and is located in Geneva, Switzerland. The position will contribute to the work of the Head, Trade, Policy and Planning Unit (UNEPETB) on trade and environment policy, including activities undertaken in the context of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD , or Rio+20). Interested candidates should have an advanced university degree in economics, law, international trade, environment policy, or in a related field and a minimum of three years of progressively responsible work experience on international trade and environmental policy matters. Interested applicants should contact the UNEP Economics and Trade Branch at [etb@unep.ch](mailto:etb@unep.ch) by 2 March 2012.

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## Events

### Coming soon

23-24 February, Geneva, Switzerland. FOURTH SESSION OF THE MULTI-YEAR MEETING ON SERVICES, DEVELOPMENT AND TRADE: THE REGULATORY AND INSTITUTIONAL DIMENSION. Held by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), this meeting aims to assist developing countries, especially least developed countries (LDCs), and countries with economies in transition, in establishing policies as well as regulatory and institutional frameworks and co-operative mechanisms to support strengthening of their domestic services capacity and their efficiency, competitiveness, and export capacity. This meeting will examine the latest developments in infrastructure services and attempt to further clarify key issues related to establishing best-fit regulatory and institutional frameworks in the infrastructure services sectors in developing and least developed countries. For

more information about this event, please visit UNCTAD's [website](#).

23-24 February, Casablanca, Morocco. MOROCCO INVESTORS' SUMMIT 2012: THE ULTIMATE GATEWAY TO DOING BUSINESS AND INVEST IN THE MAGHREB COUNTRIES. Hosted by the European Finance Convention, this event seeks to provide a forum and dialogue space for business professionals to share and discuss information related to doing business and/or investing in the Maghreb region. Topics to be considered at this event will include the Agadir Agreement & MENA markets integration; business opportunities in the Moroccan regions; agribusiness and fisheries, renewable energy and mining; large infrastructure projects; real estate and tourism; and banking, insurance, and other financial services. The event includes six detailed information sessions and a scheduled programme of expert speakers and presentations. To learn more about the summit, please visit the event's [website](#).

27 February-March 1, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY AFRICAN WORKSHOP ON UPDATING NBSAPS. This workshop aims to address various issues that countries in the African region may have encountered or will encounter while updating their national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs), with a focus on target setting, stakeholder engagement, and the development of country-specific plans for mobilising financial resources for the implementation of NBSAPs. In addition, the workshop will focus specifically on the economics of ecosystems and biodiversity as an important tool for biodiversity mainstreaming. For more information, please visit the event's [website](#).

28 February, Washington, US. DIALOGUE ON ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE GOVERNANCE. Sponsored by the Organization of America States (OAS) and the World Congress on Justice, Governance and Law for Environmental Sustainability, this event is the seventh part of a series of "hemispheric dialogues" on sustainable development themes. The series is intended to generate recommendations on institutions and governance

for sustainable development for both the Congress and the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD, or Rio +20). Future dialogues will address: biodiversity; improving the environmental performance of the private sector; and risk management and emergency legislation. For more details on this series of dialogues, please visit the event [website](#).

28-29 February, Paris, France. 2012 OECD GLOBAL FORUM ON DEVELOPMENT. Organised within the framework of the 50th anniversary of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Development Centre, the 2012 OECD Global Forum on Development will gather high-level experts from a range of stakeholder groups, including OECD and non-member governments, think tanks, and civil society organisations. Discussions will contribute to the new OECD Strategy on Development. Under the broader theme of building effective government institutions, the Forum will specifically address the issues of mobilising domestic resources and improving public governance, notably in relation to effective public expenditures. More information is available [here](#).

### 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.

24 February: Working Party on the Accession of Azerbaijan

28-29 February: Council for Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights

29 February: Workshop on Aid for Trade

29 February: Committee on Trade and Development – Session on Aid for Trade

29 February: Negotiating Group on Rules

### Other Upcoming Events

12-17 March, Marseille, France. **SIXTH WORLD WATER FORUM 2012**. Known as the world's largest meeting around water, the Forum mobilises creativity, innovation, competence, and know-how in favour of water. Focusing on the theme "Solutions for Water", the World Water Forum 2012 seeks to tackle the challenges the world is facing and to raise the profile of water high on all political agendas. The Forum has developed twelve priorities to work on, as well as three conditions of success to reaching this goal. Over 180 countries will be represented, with 25,000 participants expected to attend. For more details on this event, please visit its official [website](#).

15 March, Geneva, Switzerland. **DE-FRAGMENTING AFRICA: DEEPENING REGIONAL TRADE INTEGRATION IN GOODS AND SERVICES**. Held at the WTO, this event will present the findings of a new World Bank report that focuses on regional trade integration in Africa. The report shows how African countries are losing out on billions of dollars in potential trade earnings every year because of high trade barriers with neighbouring countries, and that it is easier for Africa to trade with the rest of the world than with itself. The report argues that three issues need to be addressed by African leaders to overcome the existing fragmentation and generate much-needed jobs and growth: improving cross-border trade; removing a range of non-tariff barriers to trade; and reforming regulations and immigration rules that limit the potential for trade in services. For more information, please visit the World Bank's [website](#).

21-26 April, Doha, Qatar. **THIRTEENTH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT (UNCTAD XIII) AND CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM**. This Conference will convene under the theme "Development-centred globalization: Towards inclusive and sustainable growth and development." The Conference's aim is to enhance the understanding of specific trade and development issues, especially after the fallout

of the economic crisis. In parallel with the Conference, UNCTAD has also partnered with the United Nations Non-Government Liaison Service and the Qatari National Human Rights Committee to organise a Civil Society Forum, where representatives from the private sector and civil society will explore different ways to strengthen partnerships with UNCTAD to boost the effectiveness of trade and development efforts. The Civil Society Forum will begin its work on 17 April. For more information on the UNCTAD XIII Conference and the Civil Society Forum, please visit the UNCTAD XIII [website](#).

23 April, Doha, Qatar. **HIGH-LEVEL EVENT ON WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT**. Gender inequalities persist in all countries and take the form of labour segregation, gender wage gaps, gaps in asset ownership and in access to technology and information, and huge differences in responsibility for house and care works. As a main event occurring during the UNCTAD XIII Conference, this event aims to promote policies that empower women to be full participants in economic and political life. Its purpose is threefold: to take the gender issue to a new level of political prominence; to yield new insights into the relationship between macro-economic policies, development, and gender; to launch a number of institutional initiatives to further the above objectives. The event will feature a high-profile, interactive roundtable and will be organised into four thematic sessions, bringing together policy leaders, UN agencies, academia, the private sector, and civil society. For more information, please visit the event's [website](#).

24-26 September, Geneva, Switzerland. **WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION PUBLIC FORUM 2012**. Convening under the theme "Is multilateralism in crisis?", the Public Forum is the WTO's largest annual outreach event. It aims to provide a platform for participants to discuss the latest developments in world trade and to propose ways of enhancing the multilateral trading system. The event regularly attracts over 1,500 representatives from civil society, academia, business, the media, governments, parliamentarians, and intergovernmental organizations. For more details about this event, please visit the WTO's [website](#).

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## Resources

**CARBON OFFSET PROJECTS IN THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR.** By Claudine Foucherot and Valentin Bellassen for CDC Climat Research (December 2011). In today's world, carbon offsetting projects are one of the economic tools available to reduce agricultural emissions by paying for metric tonnes of avoided carbon emissions. Provided in this report is a summary of emission reductions enabled by agricultural projects to date. The report covers most projects certified by quality assurance standards, including those set up by the Kyoto Protocol and those in the voluntary market. The authors of this study find that agricultural projects account for seven percent of the reductions generated by all carbon offset projects across all sectors for 2010. The report suggests focus be placed on three technologies to help reduce emissions further: bio-energies, methanisation of livestock waste, and soil carbon sequestration using no-till practices. For access to this climate report, click [here](#).

**BRIDGING THE GAP ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND GENETIC RESOURCES IN WIPO'S INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE (IGC).** By David Vivas-Eugui for ICTSD. Discussions on how to address concerns about the misappropriation of genetic resources and traditional knowledge have been high on the agenda of various multilateral forums, such as the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) the World Trade Organization (WTO), and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). In the past two years, WIPO's Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC) has witnessed an acceleration of its work, in particular on traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions. However, the gap in positions on genetic resources remains significant. Against this background, this issue paper examines at length the range of measures and options discussed in the IGC, especially biodiversity disclosure requirements and databases. It also

considers the binding or non-binding nature of the instrument(s) that might emerge from the IGC and their different implications. The paper makes recommendations regarding processes, substance, and existing research gaps that could contribute towards advancing the IGC's deliberations. The paper is available [here](#).

**THE IMPORTANCE OF BIODIVERSITY AND FOREST ECOSYSTEMS IN ECONOMIC GROWTH AND EQUITY IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN.** Published by the Organisation of American States - Department of Sustainable Development (OAS-DSD) (January 2012). This resource summarises and describes the fifth dialogue in the OAS-DSD series of hemispheric dialogues on a variety of sustainable development themes. This particular dialogue focused on institutional structures, policies, and procedures to facilitate effective forest governance and highlighted the importance of biodiversity and forest ecosystems in economic growth and equity in Latin American and the Caribbean. Participants deliberated on ways to strengthen these institutions and were called upon to outline recommendations for the improvement of livelihoods through market-based instruments for the sustainable use of forests. The results of this dialogue and the past discussions will contribute to the Rio +20 process via policy papers and recommendations. For more details, please visit OAS-DSD's [website](#).

**CAPITAL AND LABOR MOBILITY AND THE SIZE OF SUB-NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS: EVIDENCE FROM A PANEL OF MEXICAN STATES.** By René Cabral Torres for the Center for International Development at Harvard University (February 2012). In this paper, the author examines the relationship between government size and capital and labour openness, using a panel of 32 Mexican states over the 1996-2006 period. The author finds systematic effects of openness measures on the size of states' total government spending. The author uses subcategories of total government expenditure associated with welfare, education, health, and poverty alleviation programmes to analyse foreign direct investment (FDI) flows. The author also finds that FDI flows, a proxy for

capital openness, are not significant determinants of the state's social spending. However, labour openness, in the form of international migration, has a significant and even greater impact on some categories than on total spending. To view this working paper, please click [here](#).

CLIMATE CHANGE ISSUES IN 2012 INFORMATIONAL VIDEO. Released by the Foundation for International Environmental Law and Development (February 2012). In this informative video, the Foundation for International Environmental Law and Development's (FIELD) Executive Director Joy Hyvarinen talks about important climate change issues in 2012. She addresses issues such as international legal responsibility for climate change and FIELD's work in this area, and how a country might use the dispute settlement procedure to pursue responsibility for climate change damage in a conciliation commission under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change's (UNFCCC) Article 14. She also comments on how UNFCCC Article 4.9, which addresses the specific needs and special situations of the least developed countries (LDCs), offers a strategic opportunity for LDCs to define their specific needs under the UNFCCC. She also comments on the progress of the WTO's Doha Round. To watch this video, please click [here](#).

THE FUTURE OF THE COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY POST-2013: COPA-COGECA'S REACTIONS TO THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION'S COMMUNICATION. Published by Copa-Cogeca (February 2012). This publication focuses on the EU agricultural policy outlook after 2013 and delves into details about Copa-Cogeca's reactions to the European Commission's Communication. The report describes Copa-Cogeca's concerns over whether the EU agricultural sector can fulfil society's expectations in the coming years. The authors of the report believe that the past four major Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) reforms have led to a serious deterioration in EU farmers' competitive position. In addition, the authors argue that the Commission's new proposal to require farmers to provide additional environmental services, referred to as greening, will further increase farmers' costs and weaken their competitive

position. To view this publication, please click [here](#).