

BRIDGES WEEKLY

Global trade news from a sustainable development perspective

VOLUME 17, ISSUE 29, 12 SEPTEMBER 2013

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

Azevêdo Sets Bali Ministerial Success as "First Priority" 1

CLIMATE CHANGE

New Australia PM: Carbon Tax Repeal Tops Agenda 3

CLIMATE CHANGE

EU Offers Aviation Emissions Concession in Push for ICAO Deal 6

GLOBAL ECONOMY

G-20: Global Economy on the Mend, But More Work Remains . 8

IN BRIEF

Indian Parliament Approves Food Subsidy Scheme 10

EVENTS & RESOURCES

Events 11
Resources 13

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

Azevêdo Sets Bali Ministerial Success as "First Priority"

Achieving a successful result at this December's WTO ministerial conference in Bali will be his "first priority," new Director-General Roberto Carvalho de Azevêdo told the organisation's members in his inaugural speech on Monday. In his statement, the global trade chief outlined a "rolling schedule of meetings" that he has planned for the coming weeks in the hopes of reaching that goal.

The former Brazilian ambassador took office as WTO head on 1 September, barely three months before the organisation is set to hold its ministerial conference. (See Bridges Weekly, [5 September 2013](#)) WTO members have spent most of the past year racing to put together a three-pronged package of deliverables in time for the Bali event, pulled from the broader Doha Round negotiations.

The so-called "Bali package," as currently discussed, would have a trade facilitation agreement at its core, selected agriculture components, and issues of relevance to developing and least developed countries.

The Doha trade talks have already hit multiple snags during their 12-year history, before ultimately being declared at an impasse at the organisation's 2011 ministerial conference in Geneva. The fallout from the impasse, trade observers say, has damaged the WTO's credibility, a perception that the new Director-General acknowledged in his remarks.

"The WTO, as we know, has been defined by what we have been doing in the negotiating front," Azevêdo [said](#). "This is how the world sees us. There's no escaping it."

"People see us as good as Doha. That's the reality," he added.

Success in Bali has been touted as a way for the WTO to show it can still deliver results, particularly in the current global economic context. While recent [reports](#) from organisations have indicated signs of a recovery in advanced economies, many warn that there is still more to be done. For instance, the WTO is actually slated to revise its global trade growth estimates for both 2013 and 2014 downward from its earlier predictions, Azevêdo confirmed to reporters following his speech.

However, restoring faith and trust in the WTO, he warned, is not a task he can do alone. "I can suggest the direction, but we must choose this path together," he said.



International Centre for Trade
and Sustainable Development

"Rolling set" of meetings

Prior to the WTO's annual August break, outgoing Director-General Pascal Lamy had warned that the pace of the Bali negotiations – while somewhat improved – was still far too slow, a sentiment that was broadly echoed by trade officials, speaking both publicly and privately. (See Bridges Weekly, [25 July 2013](#))

Azevêdo hopes to jolt the process by holding "intensive consultations" with members in various formats and configurations, at the ambassadors' level. These will start this week, and will address all three topics that are on the table for Bali. This "rolling set of meetings," he said, will be designed to give all members a voice on the different issues, and are being planned in coordination with the chairs of the negotiating groups involved.

In order to resolve political disagreements, capitals will also be brought into the process, with the Director-General urging senior officials to be "ready to come to Geneva" over the coming weeks to move the negotiations forward. He will also continue his interactions with ministers during the preparations.

There will be regular meetings of the Trade Negotiations Committee – which is tasked with the overall Doha talks – in the coming weeks, which will be convened "as necessary." Azevêdo has also urged members to start identifying areas for possible trade-offs.

Azevêdo made his first international appearance as director-general last week, at the Group of 20 Leaders' Summit in St. Petersburg. Reporting to WTO members on the meeting, he noted that the group had called for all of the global trade body's 159 members to show the "necessary flexibilities" in order to achieve a Bali package.

The G-20, for its part, said it would be "ready to make significant contributions in these negotiations to achieve such results." (For more on the G-20, see related story, this issue)

Bali: Not the "end of the road"

Clinching a Bali package, the new Director-General said, is only a first step. Delivering on the rest of the Doha Round talks "must be part of any future agenda." However, details on what ideas he has for resolving the remaining Doha issues would be saved for another time.

Improving the WTO's other key functions – such as reducing the heavy demands on the dispute settlement mechanism or strengthening the organisation's monitoring functions – are also important goals, he added. However, for the time being members must focus on "the here and now," specifically the Bali ministerial.

"The intermission is over," he concluded. "It's time the WTO was back at the centre of the world stage. The stakes couldn't be higher. We have to deliver – and if we work together, I know that we will."

ICTSD reporting; "WTO cuts 2013 world trade forecast to 2.5 percent," REUTERS, 7 September 2013.

CLIMATE CHANGE

New Australia PM: Carbon Tax Repeal Tops Agenda

Tony Abbott's Liberal-National Coalition won a landslide victory in the Australian federal election this weekend, ending the centre-left Labor Party's conflicted six-year rule. The incoming prime minister has promised to make the repeal of his country's controversial carbon tax one of the priority items on his agenda, with the corresponding legislation already in the drafting process.

"In three years' time the carbon tax will be gone, the boats will be stopped, the budget will be on track for a believable surplus, and the roads of the 21st century will finally be well underway," Abbott said in his election night [speech](#), referring to a range of policy issues that have been hot-button topics in Australia in recent months.

"From today I declare that Australia is under new management and that Australia is once more open for business," he continued.

The carbon tax was passed in 2011 during the government of then-Prime Minister Julia Gillard as part of the Clean Energy Act, despite her earlier promise during her 2010 election campaign not to introduce such a measure. (See Bridges Weekly, [9 November 2011](#) and [4 July 2012](#)) The tax took effect in July 2012.

Under the scheme, which targets Australia's largest emitters, carbon prices were initially fixed at A\$23 (€16.43) per metric tonne during their first year, rising annually at a rate of 2.5 percent. In 2015, the tax is scheduled to switch to a floating price emissions trading system (ETS), with many expecting permit prices to drop rapidly as a result.

The highly divisive measure was aimed at helping Australia – one of the world's largest per capita emitters – transition from relying heavily on coal toward gas and renewable energy. The revenue from the tax, supporters said, could in turn be used to fund investment into cleaner energy sources. Opponents, however, had warned that the costs of the measure could be debilitating for the Australian public.

Abbott has been one of the measure's most vocal opponents, despite having earlier supported such a measure when he was part of previous Prime Minister John Howard's government. Repealing the year-old carbon tax was one of Abbott's main election platforms, and national tensions on the subject ran famously high in the weeks ahead of the 7 September poll.

In an effort to preserve some version of the policy, Abbott's opponent – outgoing Prime Minister Kevin Rudd – had pledged to restructure the existing tax by transitioning to an ETS in 2014, a year ahead of what was previously scheduled, if he were to remain in office. (See Bridges Weekly, [18 July 2013](#))

His proposal, Rudd had said, would address the problem of high energy costs that Australian businesses and consumers have had to face since the carbon tax was enacted, while still tackling the climate change problem.

Road ahead for repeal: potential setbacks

According to a statement on the Liberal Party's website, the newly-elected Prime Minister will, on "day one," instruct his department and cabinet to draft legislation repealing the tax, which would be ready in a month's time. The Parliament could consider the new legislation when it convenes in October or November, which he says would allow time for the logistics of the repeal process to be sorted out.

"The last thing I want to do is rush the Parliament back for a photo opportunity before the substance of the work is there for it to do," he told Fairfax, an Australian radio station.

In addition, the Finance Minister would require the Clean Energy Finance Corporation – which was set up to provide loans, loan guarantees, and equity investments to facilitate clean energy innovation – to suspend its operations until legislation can be enacted to shut it down entirely.

Both Abbott's Coalition government and the Labor Party share the goals of reducing carbon emissions by five percent by 2020. However, the Coalition aims to enact in the carbon tax's place a "Direct Action Plan," which focuses mainly on soil carbon, and will involve the establishment of an emissions reduction fund.

Supporters argue that the Abbott plan will achieve the necessary emissions reductions without imposing the same level of costs on businesses as the carbon tax. Detractors, however, argue that Direct Action's currently proposed funding levels are too low for achieving the intended results, and question whether the measures will be as effective as the carbon tax in reducing emissions.

The Prime Minister-elect has said that, even if the emissions reduction target is not met through his programme, he will not be spending additional money on the scheme.

However, while the initial steps from the executive branch are set to be swift, pundits warn that getting the repeal legislation through the new Australian Parliament may be easier said than done.

While Abbott's coalition is set to hold a strong majority in the Australian lower house, political analysts say that the Senate – where Labor and Greens are expected to block any attempts to abolish the tax – is likely to pose a larger hurdle, given the closer margin in that chamber.

New senators are set to take office next July, leaving Abbott the choice to either try pushing the legislation through the current Senate, or to wait and take his chances with the new one. The final results of the Senate election are set to be known in a week's time.

Anticipating the Senate pushback, the Prime Minister-elect has already warned lawmakers that they should be ready to back the repeal, or at least not block it.

"I expect that the Parliament will respect the mandate of the people and repeal the carbon tax," Abbott said, warning that to oppose his new government's mandate in this area would be "reprehensible."

EU impact?

The Australian carbon tax, upon its switch to an ETS, would have been linked to Europe's own cap-and-trade scheme. (See Bridges Weekly, [12 September 2012](#)) The EU system dates back eight years, and is the cornerstone of the 28-country bloc's climate policies.

However, the ETS has struggled with persistently low permit prices, causing many to call for reforms of the EU system and prompting questions over its long-term viability. (For more on the EU scheme, see related story, this issue)

Proponents of the EU scheme had hoped that opening their system to Australian businesses could provide a much-needed boost for the carbon market. Linking the two schemes would allow lower-priced European permits to be available for purchase in Australia. Australian permits, meanwhile, would not be available in Europe until three years after the schemes are linked.

ICTSD reporting; "Abbott government begins process to repeal carbon tax; says pressure on Labor to honor mandate," ABC NEWS, 8 September 2013; "Coalition's plans to remove the carbon price will cost more than \$6bn," THE GUARDIAN, 6 September 2013; "Coalition's Direct Action funding won't rise if 5% emissions target not met," THE GUARDIAN, 2 September 2013.

CLIMATE CHANGE

EU Offers Aviation Emissions Concession in Push for ICAO Deal

The EU has offered to modify the controversial aviation component of its Emissions Trading System (ETS), in the hopes of pushing other countries to agree to work toward a global market-based system when the UN civil aviation body meets in Montreal later this month.

The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) is scheduled to hold its General Assembly from 24 September to 4 October. At that time, they are set to consider a potential timetable for developing a global aviation emissions deal by 2016, which would take effect by 2020.

"Finally. Not perfect but progress within reach on a global [market-based mechanism] to curb emissions from aviation," EU Commissioner for Climate Action Connie Hedegaard said on social media site Twitter, upon hearing that the proposed timetable would be on the ICAO agenda. "Still work to be done before ICAO Assembly."

Under the original EU scheme, airlines landing in or taking off from any of the EU's 28 member states – as well as Iceland, Liechtenstein, and Norway – were required to surrender carbon permits for the emissions they produce. The aviation component of the ETS took effect on 1 January 2012, and required airlines to buy permits for 15 percent of those carbon emissions, with the remaining 85 percent initially being provided to them for free.

Brussels then announced last November plans to "stop the clock" for one year on enforcing the inclusion of aviation into its Emissions Trading System (ETS) for flights to and from non-European countries, in the hopes of buying time for ICAO to put together a global deal. Before the suspension, carriers would have had to purchase and surrender their permits by 30 April 2013. (See Bridges Weekly, [14 November 2012](#))

Various non-EU countries had slammed the original measure, arguing that charging for emissions even for the portions of flights not in the 28-country bloc's airspace. A group of opposing countries, which included the US, China, and India, had agreed last year on possible countermeasures that they could take against the EU scheme; some of these countries then went on to either boycott the Brussels policy, or to pass national legislation that would shield their domestic airlines from having to comply. (See Bridges Weekly, [22 February 2012](#), [28 March 2012](#), and [5 December 2012](#), respectively)

Give-and-take

The European Commission's new offer, which was made public last week, would only subject airlines to emissions for the portion of the flight that took place within EU airspace, lasting through 2020. The EU will enact this change if ICAO is able to agree on a global market-based mechanism.

"This is a multilateral negotiation where you give and take," European Commission for Climate Action spokesman Isaac Valero-Ladrón said in a statement. "We should not miss the bigger picture: a global deal means more emissions covered in the long term."

The EU has long called for a global aviation emissions deal, ultimately deciding to incorporate aviation into its ETS after determining that the ICAO talks were not moving fast enough.

EU ETS fix: "Overhaul" proposal likely this autumn

Meanwhile, options are also being considered for ways to overhaul the ETS as a whole. The system has struggled in recent years with an oversupply of carbon permits, which – combined with the EU's overall economic difficulties – has kept the prices of such permits dangerously low.

A plan to "backload" millions of permits passed the European Parliament in July, though the proposal still needs to be approved by EU member states – a process that is slated to begin this autumn. Countries like Poland, which has a large coal sector, are expected to oppose the move. (See Bridges Weekly, [4 July 2013](#))

Delaying these permit auctions, however, is only meant to prop up the carbon market long enough for the EU to determine broader structural reforms to the ETS. Hedegaard said late last month that an overhaul proposal from the European Commission will likely be made in the coming weeks.

One option that is gaining traction, officials have said, is a "flexibility mechanism" that would effectively tie permit prices to industrial activity in the bloc. Other possibilities might involve cancelling some permits or finding other ways to boost permit prices.

The EU scheme is also scheduled to be linked to Australia's own ETS, once the latter transitions from a fixed-price carbon tax to a floating-price emissions trading scheme in 2015. The linkage has been touted as another way to boost carbon prices, given the expected demand by Australian businesses for the cheaper-priced European permits – in Australia, permits are currently at A\$24.15, or €16.95, compared to the EU average of €5 per tonne.

The Australian system, however, may not last until 2015, with Prime Minister-elect Tony Abbott already beginning his efforts to repeal the carbon tax within days of winning his country's federal election. Should his efforts succeed, the linkage plans would be scrapped. (For more on the Australian carbon tax, see related article, this issue)

ICTSD reporting; "EU Narrows Down Carbon-Market Overhaul Options, Hedegaard Says," BLOOMBERG, 28 August 2013; "EU offers fresh concession in airline emissions scheme," FINANCIAL TIMES, 5 September 2013; "EU offers retreat on aviation emissions," EUROPEAN VOICE, 5 September 2013; "Europe Offers U.S. a Deal, Hoping for Global Rules on Airline Emissions," THE NEW YORK TIMES, 5 September 2013; "ICAO Emissions Deal Moving Closer," AVIATION WEEK, 4 September 2013.

GLOBAL ECONOMY

G-20: Global Economy on the Mend, But More Work Remains

The global economy is in better standing than it was a year ago, members of the Group of 20 major industrialised economies said during their annual meeting in St. Petersburg, Russia on 5-6 September. However, more work remains, given the fragile nature of the recovery and concern over slowing growth in emerging markets.

The state of the global economy was meant to be the main theme of the event, which was held under the Russian presidency. However, the ongoing conflict in Syria overshadowed most of the proceedings, despite not being on the official summit agenda.

When the group gathered in Mexico City a year ago, fears of a continued Eurozone crisis and impending US "fiscal cliff" had dominated the high-level discussions. (See Bridges Weekly, [7 November 2012](#)) In comparison, this year the global economy appears to be on the mend, a result that officials attributed largely to a "coordinated" response by G-20 members.

"For the first time in three years, instead of an urgent discussion to address the European financial crisis, we see a Europe that has emerged from recession," US President Barack Obama told reporters following the [meeting](#).

However, G-20 leaders warned in their final declaration, "our work is not yet complete," a sentiment that Russian President Vladimir Putin, who hosted this year's meeting, particularly stressed. Actions that the group has pledged to take include an initiative on growth and jobs, as well as a plan to tackle tax evasion by multinationals.

"The most difficult and time-consuming discussions related to the evaluation of the situation of the global economy," Andrei Bokarev, head of the Russian Finance Ministry's international department, told Reuters.

Recent data has confirmed that the global recovery is indeed underway, but at different speeds. Advanced economies have shown signs of improvement, according to recent OECD [data](#). Growth in emerging economies, however, has started to lose momentum, which the G-20 attributed partly to volatile capital flows and domestic structural challenges.

"Our most urgent need is to increase the momentum of the global recovery, generate higher growth and better jobs, while strengthening the foundations for long-term growth and avoiding policies that could cause the recovery to falter or promote growth at other countries' expense," G-20 leaders said.

"Standstill" commitment extended

Back in June, the Geneva-based WTO warned that trade restrictions were again on the rise among G-20 members, and that the pace of rolling back existing measures was not fast enough to prevent these from accumulating. (See Bridges Weekly, [20 June 2013](#))

Trade officials, including former WTO Director-General Pascal Lamy, have warned that the introduction of such protectionist measures could have damaging effects on global economic growth, and have urged G-20 members to remove such policies.

G-20 leaders agreed in St. Petersburg to extend to 2016 their “standstill commitment” against raising or imposing new barriers to trade and investment in goods and services, a pledge that dates back to the 2010 summit in Toronto. (See Bridges Weekly, [30 June 2010](#)) Members also reiterated their earlier promise to “rollback” any new measures that may have arisen.

Bali ministerial, bilateral deals in focus

The group also issued a public call to WTO members to show new flexibilities in their preparations for their upcoming ministerial conference, which will be held in the Indonesian island province of Bali this December. The global trade body's 159 members has been feverishly working to clinch a deal on select items from the Doha Round of trade talks in time for the high-level gathering, in what many say is a crucial test for the credibility of the multilateral trading system.

“A successful outcome at the WTO Ministerial Conference (MC9) in Bali in December 2013... would be a stepping stone to further multilateral trade liberalisation and progress in Doha Development Agenda negotiations,” leaders said in their summit declaration.

“We call on all WTO members to show the necessary flexibilities in order to bridge existing gaps and deliver positive and balanced results at [the ministerial],” they added.

Monetary policy

Monetary policy in advanced economies – particularly the US, along with the EU and Japan – was once again under scrutiny during this year's meeting, this time amid news that the US Federal Reserve could soon be slowing down QE3, its controversial quantitative easing programme that had led officials in some emerging economies – most notably Brazil – to warn of a “currency war.” (See Bridges Weekly, [20 February 2013](#))

The impending changes to the QE3 programme have again sparked fears among developing economies that they could suffer “spillover” effects as a result, leading the BRICS countries – Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa – to issue a joint statement calling for the normalisation of monetary policies to be “effectively and carefully calibrated and communicated.”

“Unconventional” monetary policies, such as QE3 and similar efforts in the EU and Japan, have “bought time” for global policymakers, International Monetary Fund (IMF) Managing Director Christine Lagarde [said](#) at a separate event in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, last week. This time should be used to carry out reforms in order to facilitate future growth, she said, urging countries to “use this time wisely.”

The pace of retreating from these “unconventional” policies will also vary depending on the context, the IMF chief said, with Frankfurt and Tokyo likely requiring more time before starting their own exits.

More information

The G-20 official communiqué, action plan, and annexes are all available [here](#).

ICTSD reporting; “G20 says economy recovering but no end to crisis yet,” REUTERS, 6 September 2013; “Emerging market pain dominates G20 economy talks,” REUTERS, 5 September 2013; “G-20 Leaders Agree to Continue Stimulus Plans,” THE NEW YORK TIMES, 6 September 2013.

IN BRIEF

Indian Parliament Approves Food Subsidy Scheme

India is set to roll out an ambitious US\$19.5 billion food subsidy scheme that will provide 67 percent of its citizens the legal right to cheap grain, following the approval last week of a new Food Security Bill in the upper house of the Indian parliament.

The bill, which has been under debate in the country's parliament, cabinet, and food ministry for two years now, will entitle poor citizens to five kilograms of subsidised grain from state-run "fair price shops" – part of a nationwide public distribution system aimed at tackling widespread food insecurity and malnutrition.

The scheme now awaits final approval from the country's president, Pranab Mukherjee, before it can become law. Mukherjee passed an earlier version of the bill as an "ordinance" in July of this year. (See Bridges Weekly, [11 July 2013](#))

The bill has sparked widespread debate and controversy, both within India and overseas. While economists such as Nobel laureate Amartya Sen have welcomed the new legislation, other experts have warned that inefficiencies and leakage in the existing distribution scheme could mean that as much as 40 percent of subsidised food may not reach intended beneficiaries.

The bid to expand food subsidies across the population has also helped prompt calls for greater flexibility in WTO rules on domestic food aid and public food stockpiling programmes in developing countries.

India, along with other developing countries in the G-33 coalition, has argued that food bought at administered prices under these schemes from resource-poor, low-income farmers should not have to count towards limits on trade-distorting subsidies at the global trade body. (See Bridges Weekly, [14 November 2012](#))

However, developed countries and some developing countries have cautioned against changing rules in ways that could allow countries to provide unlimited amounts of support to farmers in a manner that could harm producers elsewhere, potentially also undermining food security in other parts of the world.

The question has taken on added urgency as countries seek to negotiate a successful outcome for the WTO's upcoming ninth ministerial conference, due to be held in Bali, Indonesia in three months' time.

ICTSD reporting; "Rajya Sabha passes food security Bill," REUTERS, 3 September 2013; "Food Ministers to discuss Bill on October 3," THE HINDU, 9 September 2013. "Two-day meeting of state food ministers in national capital on October 3-4," TIMES OF INDIA, 8 September 2013.

EVENTS & RESOURCES

Events

Coming soon

16-27 September, Geneva, Switzerland. UNCTAD MEETING ON GLOBAL VALUE CHAINS. The 18 September afternoon session of UNCTAD's annual Trade and Development Board (TDB) will discuss key findings and policy implications of the 2013 World Investment Report (WIR), "Global Value Chains: Investment and Trade for Development." The meeting will address policy recommendations for countries on whether and how to participate in global value chains (GVCs). The meeting will also consider specific measures to support the development benefits of GVCs, including the promotion of synergistic trade and development policies and institutions. The meeting is open to the public. To register, please e-mail diaeinfo@unctad.org. More information is available [here](#).

18 September, Washington, US. MANAGING EXPECTATIONS: CHALLENGES FACING ABENOMICS. This event, co-sponsored by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace and the US-Japan Research Institute, will focus on the recent parliamentary elections in Japan, and the economic reforms being enacted by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. In this context, Kosuke Motani, chief senior economist for the Japan Research Institute and senior advisor to the Development Bank of Japan, will offer his views on Japan's economy and Abenomics. For a full list of speakers, or to register for this event, please click [here](#).

19 September, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. ICTSD DIALOGUES WORKSHOP ON TRADE POLICY, CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY. This workshop, organised by the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD) aims to strengthen the capacity of governmental and non-governmental agencies and their staff so they can analyse and assess the trade and climate change governance scenario, formulate negotiation positions, and identify strategic options to inform policy-making. Participants will be introduced to a range of methodological tools during the meeting. Sessions will involve a mix of presentations, debates, and case discussions to allow for an interchange between participants and facilitators. More information is available [here](#). To register, contact Joachim Monkelbaan at jmonkelbaan@ictsd.ch.

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.

16 September: Committee on Trade and Development – Dedicated Session on RTAs

17 - 18 September: Committee on Regional Trade Agreements

17 + 19 September: Trade Policy Review Body - Viet Nam

Other Upcoming Events

22 September, New York, US. ADVANCING REGIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS ON POST-2015: A DIALOGUE BETWEEN CIVIL SOCIETY, GOVERNMENTS, AND UN

REPRESENTATIVES. This dialogue, organised by the UN Non-Governmental Liaison Services (UN-NGLS) in partnership with the Post-2015 Development Planning Team of the Executive Office of the Secretary-General (EOSG), aims to provide civil society and member states the opportunity to have a meaningful exchange on critical regional issues and policy recommendations for the post-2015 development agenda. The event is being held ahead of the UN General Assembly Special Event on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The discussions will be webcast at webtv.un.org and live-streamed on the World We Want platform. More information is available [here](#).

27 September, Geneva, Switzerland. BRIDGES CHINA DIALOGUE 2013: INNOVATION FOR SUSTAINABLE GROWTH. This annual event is being organised by the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD) in collaboration with the Swiss Chinese Chamber of Commerce and the Swiss Bankers Association, among various other partners. This year's meeting is focused on "Innovation for Sustainable Growth," and will address China's rise as a technology power and its national innovations strategy to upgrade its technology and industry. As China has signed an FTA with Switzerland, participants will also examine the new opportunities and challenges in the areas of financial, trade, investment and R&D cooperation between China and Europe. For more information, please visit the official event [website](#).

1-3 October 2013, Geneva, Switzerland. WTO PUBLIC FORUM: "EXPANDING TRADE THROUGH INNOVATION AND THE DIGITAL ECONOMY." This annual WTO event aims to provide a platform for public debate across a range of trade issues and topics. This year's forum specifically looks at the future of trade in an era of innovation and digitalisation. Issues related to the upcoming WTO ministerial conference in Bali, Indonesia will also be on the agenda. More information can be found at the Public Forum [website](#).

Resources

EU PREFERENTIAL TRADE AGREEMENTS: COMMERCE, FOREIGN POLICY, AND DEVELOPMENT ASPECTS. Edited by David Kleimann for the European University Institute (EUI) (2013). This e-book is a compilation of the written contributions prepared by the speakers of an EUI conference entitled "Global Europe: The New Generation of EU Preferential Trade Agreements," which took place last year. Topics addressed by the contributions include the role of the WTO in international trade liberalisation; the role of the European Parliament in EU trade and investment policy; the domestic ratification of EU preferential trade agreements; domestic policy objectives in such trade deals; and more. To download the text, please click [here](#).

IMPLICATIONS OF GLOBAL VALUE CHAINS FOR TRADE, INVESTMENT, DEVELOPMENT AND JOBS. Published by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the World Trade Organization (WTO), and the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). (August 2013). This paper, prepared for last week's G-20 Leaders' Summit, contends that trade and investment openness are key components of policy reforms in G-20 countries. The report also outlines how both the costs of trade and investment protectionism and the benefits of multilateral opening are much higher than previously thought. While acknowledging recent advances in the area of global value chains, the organisations find that more work remains to clarify this topic. The report is available [here](#).

TOP 5 EU ENVIRONMENT PRIORITIES: ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW THIS AUTUMN. Published by viEUws (September 2013). In this video by the viEUws news agency, journalist Sonja van Renssen outlines the top five environment issues currently being discussed in the EU institutions. These include, for instance, shale gas, air quality policy, and resource efficiency, among others. To watch the video, please click [here](#).

EXPLORE THE TRADE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
WORLD FURTHER WITH ICTSD'S BRIDGES NETWORK

BIORES

Analysis and news on trade and environment for a global audience
<http://ictsd.org/news/biores/>
English language

BRIDGES AFRICA

Trade and sustainable development news and analysis on Africa
<http://ictsd.org/news/bridges-africa/>
English language

PUENTES

Latin America-focussed analysis and news on trade and sustainable development
<http://ictsd.org/news/puentes/>
Spanish language

МОСТЫ

CIS-focussed analysis and news on trade and sustainable development
<http://ictsd.org/news/bridgesrussian/>
Russian language

PONTES

Analysis and news on trade and sustainable development for the Portuguese-speaking world
<http://ictsd.org/news/pontes/>
Portuguese language

桥

Analysis and news on trade and sustainable development for the Chinese-speaking world
<http://ictsd.org/news/qiao/>
Chinese language

PASSERELLES

Africa-focussed analysis and news on trade and sustainable development
<http://ictsd.org/news/passerelles/>
French language

PUBLISHED BY



International Centre for Trade
and Sustainable Development
Chemin de Balexert 7-9
1219 Geneva, Switzerland
+41-22-917-8492
www.ictsd.org

Bridges Weekly Trade News is made possible
through generous contributions of donors and
partners including

DFID - UK Department for
International Development

SIDA - Swedish International
Development Agency

DGIS - Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Netherlands

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Denmark

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Finland

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway

Copyright ICTSD, 2013. Readers are encouraged
to quote and reproduce this material for
educational, non-profit purposes, provided the
source is acknowledged.

This work is licensed under the Creative
Commons Attribution-Noncommercial-No-
Derivative Works 3.0 [License](http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/3.0/).

Your support to BRIDGES and the BRIDGES series
of publications is most welcome; if interested,
please contact Andrew Crosby, Managing
Director at +41-22-917-8335.

Contributors to this issue are Sofia Alicia Baliño
and James Henderson. This edition of Bridges
Weekly Trade News Digest is edited by Sofia
Alicia Baliño.

The Publisher and Director is Ricardo Meléndez-
Ortiz. The Editor in Chief is Andrew Crosby.
Comments and suggestions are welcomed and
should be directed to the [editor](#) or the [director](#).

Price: €10.00
ISSN 1563-0

