

# BRIDGES WEEKLY

Global trade news from a sustainable development perspective

VOLUME 17, ISSUE 30, 19 SEPTEMBER 2013

## WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

Azevêdo Jump-Starts WTO  
Talks as Bali Ministerial  
Approaches ..... 1

## BIOFUELS

Biofuels: European Parliament  
Votes to Cap Food-based Fuel  
Sources ..... 4

## INVESTMENT

De Gucht: EU-China  
Investment Talks Could Set  
Stage for Trade Deal ..... 6

## PREFERENTIAL AGREEMENTS

EU, Russia Trade Ties Under  
Strain over Ukraine Pact ..... 8

## RENEWABLE ENERGY

China Announces Anti-Subsidy  
Duties on US Solar-Grade  
Polysilicon ..... 10

## IN BRIEF

Russia Signs On to ITA ..... 12

## EVENTS & RESOURCES

Events ..... 13  
Resources ..... 15

## WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

# Azevêdo Jump-Starts WTO Talks as Bali Ministerial Approaches

New WTO Director-General Roberto Azevêdo has jump-started negotiations in Geneva by launching an intensive series of meetings aimed at narrowing gaps ahead of the global trade body's ninth ministerial conference, delegates say.

Officials told Bridges that the chief of the global trade body, who took office on 1 September, has leapt into the driving seat three months ahead of the Bali meeting, where WTO members are hoping to sign off on a set of deliverables from the Doha Round of trade talks.

The new Director-General has said that success in December will be his "first priority." (See Bridges Weekly, [12 September 2013](#))

The hands-on approach seemed already to be paying dividends, trade sources say, with negotiators cautiously hopeful about the chances of progress.

"There's optimism that there's a deal there to be done," one delegate told Bridges.

### Three tiers of talks

Azevêdo is organising a series of meetings at three different levels, addressing the full range of outstanding issues for Bali, negotiators say.

Firstly, a senior officials meeting is scheduled for today, with participation from capital-based negotiators.

Secondly, around three dozen Geneva-based ambassadors from a cross-section of negotiating interests and coalitions have been meeting regularly, accompanied by no more than one technical official each. The consultations – dubbed "room E" meetings after the WTO room where they are held – are nonetheless open to any country that asks for an invitation, trade sources said.

Lastly, a meeting of the Trade Negotiations Committee (TNC), which is tasked with the overall Doha Round talks, has been slated for Monday morning.

### Whittling down issues

Negotiators told Bridges that they expect the cycle of talks at different levels to then



International Centre for Trade  
and Sustainable Development

begin again, with consultations in room E among ambassadors, discussions at senior official level, and then another meeting of the TNC.

Through the meetings, Azevêdo is "trying to whittle down the number of open issues quite rapidly," said one source that spoke to Bridges.

The consultations are intended to help categorise issues into those requiring more engagement at a technical level, those that could benefit from discussions at the level of ambassadors, and those for which ministerial engagement would be required.

The WTO chief is trying to persuade members to identify realistic "landing zones" where consensus might reasonably be found, another source said.

### **"Room E" meetings on agriculture, trade facilitation**

A meeting was called in "room E" format yesterday to look at a proposal to cap agricultural export subsidies and similar measures. (See Bridges Weekly, [May 2013](#)) Similar discussions were held last Thursday and Friday on other outstanding agricultural trade issues and on "trade facilitation" – a potential deal to ease red tape and administrative requirements on border crossings, which has been touted as the centrepiece of any Bali package.

New Zealand Ambassador John Adank, who chairs the agriculture negotiations, has been present in the discussions – effectively "co-chairing" some meetings with Azevedo, sources said.

Although the meetings have dealt with the full range of topics for Bali, a proposal to provide increased flexibility to developing countries when building food security stockpiles and for domestic food aid has nonetheless dominated the discussions on agriculture.

### **Small farmers and food security**

The proposal was first put forward by the G-33 group of developing countries with significant populations of small farmers last November. (See Bridges Weekly, [14 November 2012](#))

While many developed countries and some developing countries expressed concern that the initial proposal could lead to significant trade distortions, possibly undermining food security elsewhere, the chair of the agriculture negotiations has sought to identify common ground between members through a series of consultations in the first half of the year. (See Bridges Weekly, [25 July 2013](#))

A new unofficial "non-paper," prepared by a small subset of G-33 members, has proposed three options for a Bali deal in this area. The submission – a copy of which has been seen by Bridges – proposes an "understanding" on government stockholding programmes for food security purposes; a "decision" interpreting existing clauses in the Agreement on Agriculture on how to take into account price inflation when calculating farm subsidies; and a "peace clause" or due restraint mechanism that would commit WTO members to refrain from bringing legal disputes in this area.

For all three options, the proponents have set out draft legal language that would address their concerns.

### **Peace clause**

One delegate familiar with the discussions told Bridges that the complex discussions in this area were now focusing primarily on options for a possible due restraint mechanism.

"It seems now that the only game in town for the G33 proposal is a peace clause," the source said, while acknowledging that negotiations in this area were also likely to be difficult.

Another concurred, adding that discussions among members were now focusing on whether the mechanism would be legal or political in nature; whether it would function automatically, upon fulfilment of certain conditions, or through some combination of the two; its scope or coverage; transparency requirements; safeguards; and how long it would apply for.

Members shared a general understanding that the duration of the mechanism would be directly proportionate to the extent and depth of conditionalities imposed on it, the source added.

### **Proactive approach "a gamble"?**

While Azevêdo's proactive engagement might involve risks, the approach seemed to have paid off so far, one delegate said.

"India and the US are speaking to one another, at very senior political levels, about Bali," the source observed. Differences between the two countries were widely seen as having contributed to a breakdown in talks aimed at clinching a Doha Round deal five years ago.

"We're doing business, that's the good news," said another, who also broadly welcomed the new trade chief's active role in the talks.

Sources said that the outcome of today's senior officials meeting is likely to determine the shape of future discussions, and immediate prospects for achieving progress on the package of measures on the table for Bali.

ICTSD reporting.

---

## BIOFUELS

---

# Biofuels: European Parliament Votes to Cap Food-based Fuel Sources

The European Parliament voted last week to cap the use of controversial biofuels made from edible agricultural crops, amid concerns over their environmental impact and effects on food prices.

The measure, which [passed](#) narrowly by a 356-327 margin, imposes a six percent cap on food-based biofuels to be blended in the EU transport fuel mix. Such biofuels, also known as first-generation biofuels, are based on agricultural crops such as rapeseed, sugar, and corn. These biofuels are then mixed with conventional transport fuel to create the final mix.

First-generation biofuels were heavily favoured during the EU's original mandate to source 10 percent of ground transport fuel from renewable resources by 2020. However, the European Parliament has since revisited the legislation following pressure from environmental groups and new scientific research about biofuels' potential impacts.

### Environmental concerns

Last week's vote indicates a change in European fuel policy goals, following the release of scientific evidence finding that some biofuels could be more environmentally damaging than conventional fossil fuels. Liberal French MEP Corinne Lepage, who led the parliamentary debate, praised the vote as being "in favour of correct accounting of greenhouse gas emissions."

In addition to capping first-generation biofuels, parliamentarians have also called for a 2.5 percent target of so-called "advanced" non- food based biofuels – made from sources such as seaweed and agricultural waste products – to be added to the 2020 renewable fuel mix targets.

However, development agencies such as Oxfam have warned that the use of advanced biofuels is not likely to be feasible "within the next twenty years," due to technical obstacles. (See Bridges Weekly, [19 September 2012](#))

### Lukewarm response

The six percent cap has been reluctantly greeted by both the biofuel industry and environmental groups as a compromise. The European Parliament's environment committee had originally approved draft legal measures that would cap the food-based biofuel used in transport at 5.5 percent, but later loosened the cap to 6 percent in negotiations. (See Bridges Weekly, [18 July 2013](#))

Both green groups and development agencies have said that the cap does not fully resolve environmental concerns or ethical questions regarding the use of foodstuffs as fuel. The plan, while "avoiding the worst case scenario... [is] still guilty of neglecting the needs of both the people and the planet," Oxfam's biofuel expert Marc Olivier Hermann [commented](#) following the vote.

Biofuel industry lobbies, such as the European Biodiesel Board, have in turn [called](#) for the EU to show consistency in its legislation, while asking for a higher biofuel cap, warning that any uncertainty in future biofuel regulation could pose difficulties for investors.

In addition to the restrictions on first-generation biofuels, EU lawmakers also signed off on legislation that requires energy companies to account for indirect greenhouse gas emissions created in the production of first-generation biofuels.

The new legislation would effectively eliminate the use of many first-generation biofuels – particularly palm, rapeseed, and soy oil – due to concerns over the carbon emissions released indirectly in their use. Some industry groups, however, argue that these claims are based on “uncertain science.”

### **Indirect land use change**

According to the new legislation, the environmental impact of biofuel production will be measured by taking into account the effects of land use change, the environmental cost of extending farmland into forested areas, and the impact of propagating and harvesting first-generation biofuel crops.

These calculations will be aimed at determining the emissions impact of indirect land use changes, which have been previously unaccounted for in assessing the renewable nature of first-generation biofuels. Critics have argued that these indirect emissions effectively negate any advantages that biofuels have over fossil fuels.

### **Next steps**

A vote to start negotiations with the European Council failed to pass during last week's plenary in Strasbourg. EU member states will now have to determine a common position of their own; if it differs from that of EU lawmakers, Parliament will be required to hold a new vote on the proposal.

ICTSD reporting; “Food price fears push EU lawmakers to put a lid on biofuels growth,” REUTERS, 11 September 2013.

## INVESTMENT

## EU-China Investment Talks Could Set Stage for Trade Deal, Officials Say

Talks for a Brussels-Beijing investment deal could kick off later this autumn, EU officials confirmed this week, with EU member states set to tackle the subject at a meeting in Luxembourg in October. The proposed pact, if enacted, has been touted as a potential stepping stone toward a future trade agreement.

A bilateral investment deal would replace the current agreements that China has individually with 26 EU member states. Proponents say that the pact would help reduce barriers to investment in the Asian economic powerhouse, while protecting European investments abroad. Just last year, European companies invested €17.5 billion in China, while Chinese companies invested only €2.8 billion in the EU – representing less than three percent of each side's total FDI outflows.

Brussels and Beijing had agreed last year to launch the investment talks "as soon as possible," with the European Commission formally announcing in May its request for a mandate from the EU's 28 member states. (See Bridges Weekly, [30 May 2013](#)) Officials now say they have the necessary backing, with the European Council expected to sign off on the negotiating terms next month.

The European Parliament will also have to sign off on any final deal, once negotiated.

"We are ready and China says it is also ready," EU Trade Commissioner Karel De Gucht said in Brussels on Tuesday regarding the investment talks, in comments reported by Reuters. He added that he is "sure" that an EU-China trade pact will follow over time.

Chinese officials have also stressed in recent weeks the importance of deepening their economic ties with the EU, despite their differences. "Broader economic co-operation is in the interests of both sides," Chinese Ambassador to the EU Wu Hailong wrote in an op-ed published by European Voice, noting the potential for deeper Sino-European ties to help advance the EU's economic recovery.

"At present, our mode of cooperation is trade-led. It should be transformed into an approach driven by both trade and investment," he added.

### Trade MEPs: Market access must be on the table

EU trade parliamentarians, however, have [warned](#) that China must agree to put its market access rules up for negotiation, and be ready to remove any burdens toward a level playing field between state-run Chinese firms and their private European counterparts. The Parliament's trade committee, in a non-binding resolution agreed on Tuesday, also called for "the highest possible level of transparency" in any such talks, as well as parliamentary oversight.

In addition, trade MEPs requested that the EU's "cultural exception" rule – a policy where audiovisual goods and services are excluded from some trade disciplines, on the grounds that these are different from other products – be protected in the negotiations. The cultural exception has been a famously contentious topic for the 28-country bloc, resurfacing most recently ahead of this summer's launch of Brussels' trade talks with Washington.

The full Parliament is expected to vote on a resolution setting out its demands next month, ahead of the European Council meeting where ministers are expected to sign off on the Commission's negotiating mandate.

### **Trade ties**

Though FDI between the two sides is famously low, both sides have a deep trading relationship. The EU is China's largest trading partner, and China is Europe's second-largest following the US. Bilateral goods trade between them now reaches over €1 billion daily, amounting to €435 billion last year alone, according to European Commission [data](#).

Though their economies are heavily intertwined, the two sides have also been at loggerheads over various trade issues this past year, particularly due to disagreements involving solar panels and telecommunications. While the two sides reached an eleventh-hour arrangement to resolve their solar trade row in August, a potential European Commission probe into telecommunications imports could be forthcoming, should bilateral negotiations on the subject fail. (See Bridges Weekly, [23 May 2013](#))

China has already inked trade deals with both Iceland and Switzerland – two European, though non-EU, countries – this year. (See Bridges Weekly, [18 April 2013](#) and [11 July 2013](#)) The EU, for its part, is in the process of negotiating a series of trade deals with various countries, including a possible pact with Japan, as well as agreements with several Southeast Asian economies.

ICTSD reporting; "EU ready for talks with China on pact paving way for free trade," REUTERS, 17 September 2013; "EU 'Ready' To Discuss Free Trade Pact With China: Official," ECONOMYWATCH, 18 September 2013; "EU and China need each other, EU trade chief says," EU OBSERVER, 17 September 2013; "Broader economic co-op serves both interests of China, EU: official," XINHUA, 9 September 2013.

---

## PREFERENTIAL AGREEMENTS

---

# EU, Russia Trade Ties Under Strain over Ukraine Pact

Tensions have been on the rise in recent weeks between Brussels and Moscow, as both vie to formalise deeper trade ties with various Eastern European countries – particularly Ukraine – ahead of the EU-hosted Eastern Partnership Summit in November.

The summit, being held in the Lithuanian capital of Vilnius, is meant to mark an occasion for the EU to ink association agreements with several former Soviet-bloc countries – namely Armenia, Moldova, and Ukraine. In Kiev's case, the association agreement also includes a trade deal that was already initialled by the two sides last year.

The move by the 28-member bloc to establish trade pacts with their Eastern European partners, however, has come under fire by Russia, with Moscow warning that these deals could jeopardise the efforts that those same countries are making to join a separate Russian-led customs bloc that also includes Belarus and Kazakhstan.

"I don't want there to be any illusions... Practically, for our Ukrainian partners, entry into the Customs Union will be closed," Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev told deputy premiers last week.

Trade analysts and officials have noted that joining the customs union and clinching trade deals with Europe could be legally incompatible, as they would involve signing onto two conflicting sets of tariff rules.

### **Russia warns against EU deals**

Signing these deals could also lead to Moscow taking specific trade measures as a response, Russian officials – including President Vladimir Putin – have said over the past weeks.

"We are preparing to toughen customs administration in case Ukraine takes this suicidal step and signs the association agreement with the EU," Sergei Glazyev, a senior economic adviser to the Russian President, told RIA Novosti in August.

Russian officials have warned that an EU-Ukraine deal could lead to a flood of European imports across Russian borders, given the close trade ties Moscow already has with Kiev.

Moscow reportedly imposed customs checks on Ukrainian imports in August that were blamed for delaying the passage of goods over several days. Russia also announced an import ban on Moldovan wine last week, citing food safety concerns. The move has since been denounced as unfounded by EU officials.

Kiev, however, has stressed that it plans to move ahead with its EU plans, with Ukrainian Prime Minister Mykola Azarov urging Moscow last month to accept Kiev's planned trade pact with Brussels as a "reality." Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich later said that the decision on which trade bloc to join will be put to a popular vote, according to RIA Novosti.



Armenia, for its part, announced earlier this month that it has decided to join the Russian-led customs union, leaving the possibility of an EU association agreement in doubt. Brussels has since asked Yerevan to provide additional information as to its plans.

### **Barroso, Füle: Any Russian pressure "unacceptable"**

EU officials have called for Moscow to ease its stance on the Eastern Partnership, urging Russia not to penalise its Eastern European neighbours if they choose to sign onto their association agreements with Brussels in November.

"Today, countries like Ukraine are more than ever seeking closer ties to the European Union, attracted by our economic and social model," European Commission President José Manuel Barroso said in his State of the Union address to the European Parliament last week. "We cannot turn our back on them. We cannot accept any attempts to limit these countries' own sovereign choices."

"Let me be clear: the development of the Eurasian Economic Union project must respect our partners' sovereign decisions," Štefan Füle, the European Commissioner for Enlargement and Neighbourhood Policy, [told](#) EU parliamentarians in Strasbourg last week. MEPs later backed a resolution urging Russia to abandon any efforts to pressure the four countries.

"Any threats from Russia linked to the possible signing of agreements with the European Union are unacceptable," Füle continued, flagging the potential misuse of energy pricing and artificial trade obstacles as examples.

Russia's import ban on Moldovan wine, he argued, does not appear to have "any food safety reasons that would justify this." Füle, together with Agriculture Commissioner Dacian Cioloș, is currently examining whether to increase the quota of Moldovan wine imports into the EU, among other measures, as "signs of solidarity" that EU officials would extend to other countries also facing "undue pressure."

Russia also imposed border checks last week on trucks and goods coming from Lithuania, the current holder of the EU presidency and a former Soviet-bloc country.

Lithuanian officials have since complained to the European Commission that such measures are in violation of Russia's WTO commitments. Moscow joined the global trade body just a year ago; should Vilnius wish to challenge the border checks at the WTO, the complaint would need to be filed by the Commission.

"In our view, there appears to be no justification for such action by the Russian authorities which substantially disrupts trade," said EU Trade Commission spokesman John Clancy on Tuesday, in comments reported by Reuters. He added that Brussels expects Moscow to withdraw such "unjustified restrictions" immediately.

ICTSD reporting; "Russia Moves to Restrict Imports if Ukraine Signs EU Deal," 18 August 2013; "EU rejects Russian pressure on Ukraine, seeks trade ties," 11 September 2013; "EU warns Russia over trade 'threats' to ex-Soviet bloc," BBC NEWS, 12 September 2013; "EU calls on Russia to stop extra border checks from Lithuania," REUTERS, 17 September 2013; "Ukraine PM tells Russia to accept 'reality' of EU trade deal," REUTERS, 28 August 2013; "Russia's Medvedev warns Ukraine over joining EU trade bloc," REUTERS, 9 September 2013; "Ukraine to Vote on EU/Customs Union Affiliation – Yanukovich," RIA NOVOSTI, 30 August 2013.

---

## RENEWABLE ENERGY

---

# China Announces Anti-Subsidy Duties on US Solar-Grade Polysilicon

China's Ministry of Commerce announced on Monday that it will be imposing provisional anti-subsidy duties on imports of US polysilicon, a material used in making solar panels, in a move expected to reignite a long-standing row between the two countries over renewable energy trade.

The duties are scheduled to take effect on Friday, and will be set at 6.5 percent – lower than the anti-dumping duties that Beijing announced in July following a separate investigation, which ranged from 53.5 to 57 percent. (See Bridges Weekly, [25 July 2013](#)) The anti-subsidy duties will only be imposed on two producers, according to Reuters.

These new duties are meant to rectify the "substantial damage" that the Chinese domestic polysilicon industry has suffered as a result of unfair US subsidies, the ministry [said](#), and were determined following an investigation that kicked off in July 2012. Washington officials had not publicly commented on the move as Bridges went to press on Thursday, though it had greeted the July anti-dumping duties with "dismay."

### EU-China deal in the background

The news of the Chinese duties comes just a month after Beijing resolved a separate row over solar trade with Brussels, with various Chinese producers signing onto a "price undertaking" agreement with the EU in order to avoid facing heavy anti-dumping duties. (See Bridges Weekly, [5 September 2013](#))

Under the terms of the EU-China deal, participating Chinese exporters have committed to respecting minimum import prices. Participating companies will be able to export up to 7 gigawatts per year of solar products into the EU without having to pay anti-dumping duties, as long as the price does not fall below 56 cents per watt. Non-participating Chinese companies will, however, be subject to the 47.6 percent average anti-dumping duty.

The US had been involved in preliminary discussions with both the EU and China on taking part in the deal, with US Trade Representative Mike Froman calling the solar trade row a "critically important issue." However, the final arrangement did not include Washington. Whether the new duties might lead to the US and China adopting formal negotiations to resolve their disagreements in the solar sector was unclear at the time of this writing.

### SolarWorld appeals year-old Commerce duties

Renewable energy support policies have long been a sensitive subject in Sino-US trade relations; just barely a year ago, the US Department of Commerce confirmed that it would be imposing both anti-dumping and anti-subsidy duties on imports of Chinese-made solar cells, in a move that was lambasted by Beijing officials.

SolarWorld, the US manufacturer that spearheaded the coalition behind the Commerce case, is now [contesting](#) the year-old solar duties at the US Court of International Trade, arguing that the final duties that the government agency had determined were actually too low. The appeal, filed this month, says that Chinese manufacturers did not show that they were "free of government ownership and control," and that the US Commerce

Department undervalued aluminium frames that are used in the production of these panels.

"We are exhausting all avenues to engage well-established international trade law in countering China's illegal trade aggression, which continues to siphon clean-energy business and jobs from the US economy," said Gordon Brinser, president of SolarWorld Industries America Inc., in a statement.

While the solar row has been particularly high-profile, the US and China have also sparred over other types of renewable energy support, most notably with wind power. (See Bridges Weekly, [10 October 2012](#), [8 June 2011](#), and [19 December 2012](#), respectively)

ICTSD reporting; "China to slap anti-subsidy duties on U.S. solar material," REUTERS, 16 September 2013; "China levies 6.5% tariff on U.S. Solar-Panel Materials," THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, 16 September 2013; "China Targets US Solar Imports With New Trade Duties," FORBES, 16 September 2013.

---

## IN BRIEF

---

# Russia Signs On to ITA

Russia is now the 78<sup>th</sup> member of the WTO's Information Technology Agreement (ITA), officials announced last Friday, a year after the country joined the global trade body.

The ITA is a plurilateral pact aimed at liberalising trade in information and communication technology products. As part of its accession protocol when it joined the WTO in August 2012, Moscow agreed that it would join the deal. (See Bridges Weekly, [25 July 2012](#))

The news "marks an important step forward for Russia's information technology sector," WTO Director-General Roberto Azevêdo [said](#). Russia's information technology exports amounted to US\$0.99 billion in 2012, according to WTO data, with imports reaching US\$20.21 billion that same year.

A subset of the ITA's current members have spent much of the last year working toward expanding the coverage of the information technology pact, which entered into force in 1996. The pact, these members said, needs to be updated in order to reflect the new products and growth in trade within the sector since that time.

Whether Russia would join in the ITA expansion negotiations was unclear at the time of this writing. Members currently involved in the discussions, however, say that they hope that all ITA participants eventually agree to the expanded product list.

Though the WTO's upcoming ministerial in Bali in December has been floated as a possible end date for ITA expansion talks, these were temporarily suspended in July due to differences between China and many of the WTO members involved, leaving the Bali goal in doubt. (See Bridges Weekly, [18 July 2013](#))

ICTSD reporting.

---

## EVENTS & RESOURCES

---

# Events

### Coming soon

20 September, New York, US. TWENTIETH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (CSD). This event, hosted by the UN Division for Sustainable Development, will be the final session for the commission. The meeting will discuss the lessons learned from the CSD, and is aimed at allowing for a smooth institutional transition into a replacement high-level political forum. Topics addressed will include, but are not limited to, keeping sustainable development issues high on the international agenda and reviewing existing commitments, funding, and implementation. More information is available at the event [website](#).

20 September, London, UK. TAXATION FOR DEVELOPMENT: WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM LATIN AMERICA. This event, hosted by the Overseas Development Institute (ODI), will focus on the Inter-American Development Bank's recent book, "More Than Revenue: Taxation as a Development Tool," and its implications beyond Latin America. The book argues that countries in Latin America and the Caribbean have made great strides in boosting tax collection in recent years, but they need a new generation of fiscal and tax reform to reduce income inequality, improve the economy, and strengthen local governments. Featuring Vicente Fretes Cibilis – IADB Division Chief of Fiscal and Municipal Management – as the main speaker, this conference will focus on what lessons can be learned from Latin America as other countries work to implement taxation as a tool for development. To register, or for more information, visit the ODI's [website](#).

23-25 September, Bangkok, Thailand. APEC PATHFINDER DIALOGUE ON COMBATING CORRUPTION AND ILLICIT TRADE. This conference, sponsored by the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Forum, will focus on the issue of illicit trade and ways to combat this activity and its effects on global economies. Representatives from roughly 45 countries, along with various international agencies, will meet to seek common ground from which to launch a comprehensive response to these threats. Organisers hope to facilitate dialogue and create communication networks among anti-corruption and anti-crime agencies from the countries in attendance. For more information please visit the event [website](#).

### WTO Events

An updated list of forthcoming WTO meetings is posted [here](#). Please bear in mind that dates and times of WTO meetings are often changed, and that the WTO does not always announce the important informal meetings of the different bodies. Unless otherwise indicated, all WTO meetings are held at the WTO, Centre William Rappard, rue de Lausanne 154, 1211 Geneva, Switzerland, and are open to WTO members and accredited observers only.

23 September: Council for Trade in Goods

23 - 27 September: Global Seminar on WTO Accessions

24 + 26 September: Trade Policy Review Body – Costa Rica

25 September: Dispute Settlement Body

26 September: Committee on Agriculture

26 September: Committee on Rules of Origin

26 September: Working Party on the Accession of Yemen

### **Other Upcoming Events**

1-4 October 2013. Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. TRAINING COURSE FOR ECONOMIES IN TRANSITION ON A NEW GENERATION OF INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT POLICIES. This course, conducted by the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) together with the Islamic Development Bank and the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of Bosnia and Herzegovina, aims to help policy makers and negotiators in developing countries and countries in transition participate as effectively as possible in international rule-setting for investment. The course will mainly focus on concrete options for designing and negotiating international investment agreements (IIAs) that effectively promote sustainable development and inclusive growth. Refer to UNCTAD's [website](#) for further details.

3 October 2013. Washington, US. AGOA & THE FUTURE OF US-AFRICAN TRADE RELATIONS. This event, sponsored by the Washington International Trade Association, will feature speakers from various agricultural and retail organisations who will discuss the potential renewal and update of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), a preferential scheme that expires in 2015. The Obama Administration, along with numerous Congressional leaders, has already stressed the importance of renewing AGOA, with the Office of the US Trade Representative set to conduct a review of the programme in the coming months. For registration or more information, please visit WITA's [website](#).

---

## Resources

INDIA'S AGRICULTURAL TRADE POLICY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. By Anwarul Hoda and Ashok Gulati for ICTSD. (September 2013) During the last six decades, India has boosted food grain production five-fold, and – despite massive population growth – turned a food deficit into a surplus. This paper examines how India's farm trade policy could help achieve public policy goals such as overcoming poverty, ensuring food security, and improving environmental sustainability, against the background of WTO rules and obligations. To access the publication, please click [here](#).

ECONOMIC REFORMS IN THE EURO AREA: FISCAL AND MACRO-STRUCTURAL CHALLENGES. By Jacob Kirkegaard for the Peterson Institute for International Economics (September 2013). This report examines how the euro area has moved from a successful stabilisation of its crisis to the challenge of fighting chronic stagnation. The author focuses on a series of upcoming policy challenges, such as those concerning financial sector reforms and the planned balance-sheet assessment and stress tests for banks. This paper advocates for a concentration on structural reform issues, including banking sector reforms, while leaving budgetary surveillance to EU procedures that are dedicated to that issue. It also offers several proposals to enhance the role of the Euro Group president in promoting country-specific recommendations. The full report is available [here](#).

POLICY OPTIONS FOR AGRICULTURAL INVESTMENTS AND GOVERNANCE OF MARKETS: IN SUPPORT OF SMALL- SCALE AGRICULTURE IN NIGERIA. By Aderibigbes Olomola of the International Food Policy Research Institute. Prepared for Oxfam and the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) (August 2013). This research report examines the role of policy in influencing corporate investment in agricultural land, production, and primary processing. It aims to address the following research questions: How do both women and men smallholders experience corporate investments in agricultural land production and primary processing? And how do policy and legislative environments shape corporate investments in agricultural land, production, and primary processing with regards to the interests of small-scale producers and the ecosystems on which they depend? To view the full report click [here](#).

HOW CAN THE PRIVATE SECTOR CONTRIBUTE TO DELIVERING CLIMATE JUSTICE? By Simon Anderson for the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) (September 2013). This report seeks to address the "unjust" distribution of climate change costs by putting a human-rights based approach at the centre of international development initiatives. The author argues that, on the global scale, private sector investments have made large contributions to mitigating greenhouse gas emissions, but are also failing to address fully the costs imposed on developing countries of adapting to climate change. The author then focuses specifically on Scotland, where business professionals are working to identify and evaluate a range of options for funds that could be put into climate justice programmes. The paper suggests that private sector companies develop scalable mechanisms with low transaction costs in order to ensure that their contributions achieve significant outcomes, following the Scotland example. The full report is available [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](http://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,  
Mara Case, James Henderson, and Jonathan  
Hepburn. 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

