

# BRIDGES WEEKLY

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## WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

### Azevêdo: WTO Preparations for Bali Ministerial Entering "Last Mile"

Preparations for the WTO's upcoming ministerial conference have continued to intensify in Geneva over the past couple of weeks, sources say, as negotiators race to conclude the terms of a draft package by mid-November.

WTO members are hoping to formally agree upon a three-pronged package of deliverables from the overall Doha Round of trade talks when they meet in the Indonesian island province of Bali in December. The proposed package would include an agreement on trade facilitation; select elements relating to agriculture; and issues of relevance to developing and least developed countries.

Though negotiations throughout most of this year had been worryingly slow, WTO Director-General Roberto Azevêdo reported to members on Friday that the pace has improved in recent weeks, with the degree of engagement "now several orders of magnitude higher."

"Now we are defining landing zones," he said at a meeting of the Trade Negotiations Committee, which is tasked with the overall Doha Round negotiations. "We have made significant progress in all three areas. It is a transformation."

Despite this progress, however, officials both publicly and privately have said that the next two weeks are likely to be a "crucial period" in the Bali preparations, with much work still remaining if they hope to achieve a successful outcome at the ministerial.

"We are approaching zero hour," the Director-General told members. "There is simply no more time to keep engineering new and complex solutions."

#### Trade facilitation

Negotiators have been whittling down the remaining brackets in the draft trade facilitation text over the past couple of weeks, sources say, even working throughout the weekend. Recent discussions have been conducted in small groups, touching upon both sections of the current text.

Section I of the trade facilitation text deals with specific commitments that members will take to ease customs and border procedures in order to expedite trade flows. Some of the difficult issues that reportedly remain unresolved include, for instance, consularisation, the use of customs brokers, pre-shipment inspections, and transit.



International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development

Some sources have also reported progress in customs cooperation, which has traditionally been a tough subject in the trade facilitation talks. While part of Section I of the trade facilitation text, the topic – which focuses on the exchange of information on various customs aspects in order to improve trade flows – has lately been dealt with as its own pillar, officials say.

Section II of the trade facilitation draft text, which deals with implementation flexibilities for developing and least developed country members, reportedly remains difficult. Developing countries have long argued that they need clear assurances that they will receive the necessary support to implement some of the new commitments being negotiated for the final trade facilitation deal. Otherwise, they warn, these may prove difficult and costly to put into practice.

Developed countries, meanwhile, have insisted that commitments under a trade facilitation deal must be legally binding in order to yield the intended benefits. While these countries have pledged to provide assistance to developing countries in implementing their new commitments, how to translate those pledges into language is the tricky area, sources say.

### **Agriculture, Monitoring Mechanism becoming clearer**

Talks on the three agriculture proposals on the table – two from the G-20 coalition of developing countries, and one from another developing country group known as the G-33 – have also seen signs of progress in the past few weeks, officials reported on Friday.

With regards to the G-33 proposal on public stockholding for food security, details of how the proposed “peace clause” – in other words, a due restraint mechanism that would prevent WTO members from launching disputes in this particular area – are reportedly becoming clearer, sources say, though topics such as how long this interim solution will last remain under discussion.

Meanwhile, consultations on two separate G-20 proposals – one on export competition, the other on the administration of tariff rate quotas – have also seen some progress, sources say, with the latter being particularly advanced, despite lingering differences over its special and differential treatment (S&DT) aspect.

With regards to development-related issues, progress has reportedly been made on the terms for the so-called Monitoring Mechanism, which would review the functioning of provisions in WTO rules for S&DT treatment in favour of developing countries and potentially suggest improvements.

For instance, members have now agreed that this mechanism will meet twice a year or more, if needed, one official familiar with the talks confirmed. Progress has also been made on the relationship between the mechanism and other WTO technical bodies. Some of the more difficult issues, specifically regarding the types of recommendations that the mechanism would be able to make, will still require additional work in the coming days, one official noted.

### **“Convergence” emerging on two LDC draft decisions**

Notably, two of the four elements being tabled for the LDC-specific part of the package have made significant strides over the past few weeks. Specifically, convergence has emerged around draft decisions regarding rules-of-origin and the operationalisation of the LDC services waiver, with members expected to soon transmit these to their ministers for agreement in Bali. (For additional detail on the LDC-related developments, see related story, this issue)

The long-expected proposal on cotton has also been circulated by the C-4, a group of four West African cotton-producing countries that includes Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, and Mali. Sources say that an initial meeting to discuss the C-4 proposal was held yesterday morning.

The divide over duty-free quota-free (DFQF) market access for LDCs remained unresolved at the time of this writing. DFQF has long been a tricky subject in WTO negotiations, due partly to fears of preference erosion among some of the LDCs themselves.

### **Last mile**

The negotiations are set to continue in the days ahead, with a General Council meeting – the WTO's highest-decision making body outside of the ministerial conference – planned for sometime early next month. At that stage, officials say they expect to know the main contours of the final Bali outcome.

"By the end of this final push, we have to make a collective determination about whether the Bali package will be achieved," Azevêdo stressed last week. "And we will have to prepare our report and any recommendations to the General Council in November."

The trade chief is also working with General Council Chair Shahid Bashir of Pakistan and the WTO secretariat to identify possible options on how to frame the ministerial outcomes. He urged delegations to spend the coming days considering how they view the final Bali documents, and urged them to intensify their work even further in the limited time remaining.

"The last mile is always the hardest," Azevêdo said.

ICTSD reporting.

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## FISHERIES

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# European Parliament Upholds Ban on Fishing Vessel Construction Subsidies

The European Parliament approved new spending rules last week for a fund dedicated to help support the bloc's fisheries industry. Parliamentarians voted on 23 October to allow the €6.5 billion European Maritime Fisheries Fund (EMFF) to be spent on the modernisation of engines and selective fishing equipment, but notably rejected a controversial proposal to reintroduce vessel construction subsidies.

While construction subsidies were banned in 2002 over concerns that Europe's fleet was already over capacity (see Bridges Trade BioRes, [23 January 2003](#)), a proposal to have them reintroduced scraped through the parliament's Fisheries Committee by 12 votes to 11. The proposal, however, did not survive last week's parliamentary [vote](#).

Proponents of overturning the ban on vessel construction subsidies – including the legislation's rapporteur Alain Cadec – argued that the EU's ageing fleet created risks for fishermen's safety and the marine environment. Critics, including Oceans2012 – a coalition of NGOs – [countered](#) that modernisation and vessel construction subsidies maintained or even increased overfishing.

A handful of other subsidies were approved by Parliament, however. Support for the replacement and modernisation of fishing vessel engines was among these measures, provided that the new engine is at least 40 percent less powerful than the engine it replaces. Parliamentarians also signed off on a proposal to make grants of up to €100,000 available to help young people enter the industry with small scale second-hand fishing vessels.

But the approved subsidies were also contested by critics, who argued that the payments would undermine the Common Fisheries Policy's (CFP) objective of improving the sustainability of fishing. The Green-European Free Alliance coalition voted as a bloc against the proposals, arguing that the subsidies will over-equip Europe's fisheries fleet.

"Proposals to reintroduce subsidies for funding for engine replacement and grants for purchasing boats for young fishermen...would essentially subsidise an increase in fishing capacity in the EU," argued Raül Romeva i Rueda, the Alliance's fisheries spokesman, in a [statement](#) published on the group's website. Rueda called it "a totally wrongheaded approach at a time when the CFP is looking to reduce, not increase, fishing capacity."

There was wider support for funding that would improve the management of the EU's fisheries. In an effort to reduce bycatch – non-target fish discarded by fishing vessels – funds will be available to subsidise the purchase of selective fishing equipment. Funds will also be used to gather better data about the health of the EU's depleted fish stocks. In May 2013, the European Commission [assessed](#) that 88 percent of stocks in the Mediterranean and Black Seas, and 39 percent of EU stocks in the North Atlantic for which sufficient information was available were being overfished.

Environmental organisations were broadly positive about the overall package. WWF, which follows fisheries subsidies closely, said rejecting the construction subsidies proposal was essential to helping ensure European fisheries remain sustainable.

"Today we have dodged a bullet as the proposal on the table would have made fish stock recovery measures agreed in the summer pointless," WWF's European Policy Office director Tony Long said in a [statement](#). "Funding for fleet renewal ended in 2002 and a reintroduction of these subsidies would have dangerously increased the capacity of the fleet, given boats a longer range and resulted in the destruction of the few remaining healthy fish stocks."

Long also lauded MEPs' decision to invest in fisheries data collection, control, and enforcement, which he says will allow for increased monitoring of illegal fishing and accurate monitoring of recovery rates for vulnerable fish stocks.

Last week's decision is the latest in a once-in-a-decade review of the CFP which began in 2011 and follows on from decisions on the core rules around subsidisation agreed in June of this year. (See Bridges Weekly, [6 June 2013](#)). The new rules that make up the reform package, proposed by the European Commission and approved with amendments by the European Parliament, will now be negotiated with EU member states.

ICTSD reporting; "Fisheries Policy reform: MEPs agree on rules for €6.5 billion EU aid fund," EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT NEWS, 23 October 2013; "Slim majority for vessel construction aid in fisheries committee," CFP REFORM WATCH, 10 July 2013; "Subsidies for vessel construction divide MEPs ahead of committee vote," CFP REFORM WATCH, 2 July 2013.

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## WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

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# ITA Expansion Talks Resume, Aiming to Clinch Final List in November

Negotiations to expand the list of products covered by the WTO's Information Technology Agreement (ITA) resumed in Geneva last week, following a three-month suspension. Members of the group are now hoping to finalise their product list in the coming weeks, sources say, with the goal of presenting an outcome at the global trade body's upcoming ministerial conference in December.

Talks to revise the ITA – a plurilateral pact that eliminates tariffs on a series of information and communication technology (ICT) products – kicked off last year, when Canada, Costa Rica, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, the Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu, Singapore, and the US presented a concept paper calling for talks to expand the pact's product coverage and membership. The group negotiating the expansion has since increased to 25 of the ITA's 50 signatories, with Albania and Colombia joining last week.

Negotiators had previously aimed to conclude their expanded product list by July, only for the talks to be derailed after some members took issue with the number of products that Beijing wanted excluded from the final list, due to their being "sensitive" products for the Asian economic giant. China is currently the world's top exporter of ICT goods, and serves as a manufacturing and assembly base for many of the products covered under the ITA. (See Bridges Weekly, [18 July 2013](#))

Participants in the expansion process then announced at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit earlier this month that they were ready to resume negotiations, following bilateral discussions with China to resolve some of these differences. (See Bridges Weekly, [10 October 2013](#))

### **Shorter list of "sensitive items"**

Following last week's meetings, the number of items that countries have deemed "sensitive" has been shortened, sources say. Participants are now also considering the option of "staging" some of these products – in other words, gradually phasing out tariffs on these products over a set time period – rather than excluding them from the expansion list entirely.

Under the terms of the proposed "staging," should participants decide to stage specific items, this process would not go beyond five years, and would be done in six equal annual reductions. For products that are particularly sensitive, however, this period could be extended for longer, sources say.

The group negotiating the expansion is now slated to have a revised list of products to add to the ITA by 4 November. This would then allow for them to start the next – and potentially final – round of talks during the week of 11 November, which would likely last for two weeks.

### **Changing trade landscape**

The original ITA was finalised in 1996, entering into force in the following year. In the seventeen years since, bilateral ICT trade has skyrocketed from US\$1.2 trillion annually to

over US\$4 trillion, according to some [estimates](#). However, no new products have been added to the current list's coverage, leading many to argue that the ITA should be updated to reflect the changes in today's trade.

The existing ITA fully eliminates tariffs on several categories of ICT products and subcomponents. A 2010 [report](#) produced by Copenhagen Economics for the European Commission notes that nearly 80 percent of ITA trade is in computers, telecommunications equipment, and semi-conductors and integrated circuits.

However, technological advances over the past two decades have caused some products, such as those traditionally considered to be semiconductor products, to no longer qualify for duty-free treatment under the current ITA. Trade in some ITA products as a share of total world trade, industry groups [warn](#), has fallen as a result.

While some of the items on the list have been rendered obsolete, new products have also entered the market. Advocates say that a revised product list could help address these "next generation" technologies, and some estimates place the expansion of the ITA as generating an additional US\$800 billion in bilateral trade and US\$190 billion to global GDP.

### **Push for new signatories**

Since its adoption in 1996, the number of signatories to the agreement has ballooned from 29 participants to 78, if counting EU member states individually. Counting the EU collectively, this means that 50 of the WTO's 159 members have signed onto the deal, accounting for approximately 97 percent of global IT trade.

As a plurilateral pact under the WTO, the benefits of the ITA extend to all of the global trade body's 159 members, though only participants to the pact are required to take on its tariff elimination commitments. Current ITA signatories are therefore aiming to bring even more WTO members into the agreement, particularly emerging economies that are producing some of these next-generation products.

For instance, Brazil, Chile, Mexico, and South Africa are among those to demonstrate a strong increase in trade in ICT goods over the past several years, but are not yet ITA signatories. Russia, which has become a major ICT importer, joined onto the ITA earlier this year. (See Bridges Weekly, [19 September 2013](#))

ICTSD reporting.

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## WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

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# WTO Ministerial: Services Waiver, Rules of Origin Advance

Negotiators are making progress on two of the four topics being tabled as specific outcomes for the WTO's poorest members, officials announced last week. The news of these "draft decisions" comes as negotiators work to conclude the terms of a package for the global trade body's upcoming ministerial conference, which is scheduled for 3-6 December in the Indonesian province of Bali.

The 159-member organisation is aiming to finalise its Geneva-based preparations for a Bali deal in the coming days, with negotiations focusing on three main areas: trade facilitation; elements relating to agriculture; and development issues, including those of interest to least developed countries (LDCs). (For more on the overall talks, see the lead story in this week's issue).

Specific discussions on which items could form an "LDC-package" have been underway since May, after the WTO's LDC Group tabled its original proposal highlighting four topics that they wish to see considered for Bali. These four include a decision on how to implement duty-free, quota-free market access; the adoption of simple and flexible preferential rules of origin; a submission in the area of cotton; and the operationalisation of the services waiver agreed at the WTO's last ministerial conference.

The LDC Group has since been working to flesh out individual proposals dealing with these four specific topics, with Danish Ambassador Steffen Smidt serving as the facilitator for these consultations.

### **"Convergence" on rules of origin**

The language for a draft decision on rules-of-origin is now reaching convergence, WTO Director-General Roberto Azevêdo told members at Friday's meeting of the Trade Negotiations Committee (TNC), which is tasked with the overall Doha Round negotiations. Members will soon be able to transmit this document to their ministers for agreement at Bali, he said.

The LDC group had tabled a revised version of their original rules-of-origin proposal earlier this autumn, which was reportedly well-received by members at the time. The draft decision released on Friday – a copy of which has been seen by Bridges – includes some modifications from this proposal, following consultations with members.

Rules of origin specify how much processing must take place locally before goods are considered to be the product of the exporting country. They are often considered to be overly restrictive and inflexible, making it difficult for LDCs to take full advantage of the preferences they are granted.

Currently, these rules are designed on a unilateral basis without any harmonised standard, which critics say creates additional problems for the WTO's poorest members, forcing them to adapt to a range of rules depending on the intended export market.

The draft decision presented on Friday sets out the technical aspects of preferential rules of origin and discusses different ways to determine when substantial or sufficient transformation has taken place in the place of origin. The draft decision also details a



series of provisions related to transparency and cumulation – the latter of which allows two or more parties to a preferential scheme to jointly fulfill the relevant local processing requirement.

Whether a product is eligible for any preferences offered under a trade agreement depends on the level of transformation achieved. In this context, the draft decision suggests a percentage benchmark as one way to determine transformation. This would be derived from the value of the materials used in making the products.

Considering their limited productive capacity, LDCs wish to keep the threshold level of “value addition as low as possible,” allowing foreign inputs to make up to 75 percent of a product’s value in order to qualify for preferential treatment.

However, they note that the choice of a single rule should not preclude preference for product-specific rules where these are in the interest of LDCs – for example, in the clothing sector.

On cumulation provisions, the LDC Group maintains that these should be considered as a feature of non-reciprocal preference schemes. They say that cumulation is of secondary importance to liberal rules of origin, which would allow them to source their inputs from the most competitive producer, irrespective of origin.

#### **Draft decision: Services waiver**

The second draft decision presented on Friday involves the “operationalisation” of the LDC services waiver, which was agreed by trade ministers at the last WTO ministerial conference in 2011. The result comes just weeks after the LDC Group submitted its proposal on the subject.

The waiver announced in 2011 would make it possible for members to grant least developed countries greater access to their services markets. The waiver would be valid for 15 years upon its adoption.

Though the move was touted as a significant win for LDCs at the time, some trade analysts have warned that whether the waiver actually provides economic benefit will depend on how it is put into practice. (See Bridges Daily Update #4, [18 December 2011](#))

According to the terms of the new draft decision, which has been seen by Bridges, WTO’s Council for Trade in Services (CTS) will be instructed to launch a process aimed at promoting “the expeditious and effective operationalisation” of the waiver, including a periodic review.

A high-level meeting would take place six months after LDCs submit a collective request identifying sectors and modes of supply of particular interest. Developed and developing countries “in a position to do so” would then be expected to indicate where they could provide preferential treatment to LDC services and services providers.

In the draft decision, LDCs are also encouraging members to extend to them any relevant commitments that they have already made in their respective preferential trade agreements, and to eliminate market access limitations.

The group has also underlined the need for increased technical assistance and capacity building, such as through the Aid for Trade initiative, in order to overcome their supply side constraints in this area.

### **Cotton proposal submitted**

Discussions on LDC topics are now set to switch gears to the controversial topic of cotton, after Africa's four largest cotton producers – Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, and Mali, collectively known as the C-4 – tabled a provisional proposal on the subject last week.

According to a copy of the proposal seen by Bridges, the C-4 is requesting that cotton imports from LDC markets be granted DFQF market access from 1 January 2015 onwards. The group has also called for the elimination of cotton export subsidies, and is requesting that the WTO secretariat circulate a compilation of any trade-distorting domestic support from all cotton stakeholders over the past decade.

The current C-4 proposal has set 31 December 2014 as a deadline for the General Council to find a definite solution on the cotton issue, which has long been a difficult subject in trade circles. Under the terms of the proposal, the General Council would be expected to periodically review the proposal's implementation throughout the coming year.

The proposal would also require that a link be made between the development aspects of the cotton issue and the WTO's Aid for Trade Initiative.

West African producers have long lobbied for a change in the WTO's rules on cotton, arguing that developed country subsidy schemes have kept global cotton prices low, hurting their cotton-dependent economies.

The global cotton market has experienced some notable changes in recent years, however, such as a decline in developed country subsidies to their domestic producers. Cotton prices today, though lower from the all-time peak seen in 2011, also remain high by historical standards. Given these conditions, some analysts say that any cotton deal may have a limited impact on world prices.

### **DFQF talks ongoing**

Meanwhile, consultations on another sensitive LDC topic – duty-free, quota-free market access – continue underway, sources say. However, trade observers warn that achieving a Bali outcome in this area will be especially difficult, given that the topic has proven divisive even within the LDC Group, as some members fear the possibility of “preference erosion.”

Many LDCs benefit from non-reciprocal preferences, which are granted primarily by developed countries. Applying DFQF to all LDCs, however, could effectively result in some of these countries losing some of the competitive advantages that such preferences have provided. Lesotho and Haiti are among those that have openly questioned what DFQF might mean for their markets. The US has also reportedly raised concerns on the subject, having previously argued that DFQF should be agreed when the rest of the Doha Round topics are resolved.

DFQF market access was one of the items under consideration for the “LDC package” that was originally proposed for an early harvest at the 2011 ministerial, before the overall Doha talks were ultimately declared at an impasse.

ICTSD reporting.

## IN BRIEF

## Russia, Ukraine Tensions Linger as EU Summit Approaches

Russian trade with Ukraine will not be halted if Kiev signs a bilateral pact with the EU during a high-level summit next month, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said on Monday, in comments seemingly meant to mitigate tensions between the trading partners.

Relations between Kiev and Moscow have grown increasingly strained in recent weeks, given the former's plans of inking a landmark association deal at the EU's upcoming Eastern Partnership summit in the Lithuanian capital of Vilnius. The EU is also hoping to sign association agreements with Georgia and Moldova during the November meeting.

At the same time, Russia has been aiming to bring Ukraine, Georgia, and Moldova into its own customs union with Belarus and Kazakhstan, and has said that inking deals with the EU could complicate these efforts.

Despite Lavrov's assurances, he also warned that Moscow will not be giving any additional benefits to its Eastern European neighbour should Russia be faced with a massive influx of competing products from the 28-country EU bloc.

The official made his comments following a meeting with Ukrainian Foreign Minister Leonid Kozhara in the Russian city of Rostov-on-Don. Kozhara has said that Moscow will always be a "strategic partner" for his country, while reiterating Kiev's hopes of developing deeper ties with its Western neighbours.

EU parliamentarians have recently [said](#) that the Vilnius summit will be "historic turn" for the bloc's economic and political ties with these countries. Lawmakers have also said that the EU should act to protect its Eastern European neighbours from any undue pressure from Moscow, welcoming a proposal by the European Commission to liberalise trade in Moldovan wine following Russia's recent move to limit imports of the product over alleged food safety concerns.

ICTSD reporting; "Lavrov Warns Ukraine Over EU Deal," THE MOSCOW TIMES, 28 October 2013; "Russia Not to Sever Trade Ties With Ukraine over Association With EU," XINHUA, 28 October 2013; "Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov: Trade Ties with Ukraine Won't Be Severed Over Association with EU," KYIV POST, 28 October 2013.

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## EU, Japan Report Progress at Third Negotiating Round

Trade negotiators from the EU and Japan reported progress following their third round of talks last week, as the two sides aim to advance negotiations for a bilateral trade pact.

Meeting from 21-25 October in Brussels, the two sides focused primarily on proposals for the text of the proposed pact. Topics addressed included trade in goods and services, technical barriers to trade and non-tariff measures, dispute settlement, and rules of origin, among other issues, [according](#) to the European Commission.

EU trade ministers formally gave the green light to launch the bilateral talks with Japan last December, with the first round of negotiations kicking off this past April. (See Bridges Weekly, [5 December 2012](#) and [27 March 2013](#), respectively)

A deal between two of the world's largest economies, which together account for one-fifth of world trade, could provide a major boost in growth and jobs for both sides, analysts says. Some estimates suggest that a bilateral deal could boost EU exports to the Asian island country by 33 percent, with Japanese exports to the EU rising by 23.5 percent.

Analysts say that non-tariff barriers, particularly on automobiles, are likely to be among the trickier subjects for Brussels and Tokyo to resolve. Notably, the European Commission has been authorised to suspend negotiations after one year if Japan is deemed to not be following through with pledges to lower non-tariff barriers.

The next round of negotiations will take place early next year, officials say.

ICTSD reporting, "Progress at Third Round Of EU-Japan Trade Talks," RTT NEWS, 25 October 2013.

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## EVENTS & RESOURCES

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# Events

### Coming soon

7 November, Washington, US. CHINA'S ECONOMY IN TRANSITION. This event, sponsored by the Carnegie Endowment's Asia Program, will focus on China's recent internal and external rebalancing, in light of the recent decrease in Beijing's current account surplus and increased focus on investment for growth. At this event, speakers will discuss China's future policy choices and the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) study on China's state of rebalancing. For registration and more information, visit the event's [website](#).

7 November, London, UK. CAN ECONOMIC AND MONETARY UNION CONTINUE TO FUNCTION IN ITS PRESENT FORM? This workshop, sponsored by Chatham House as part of the European Economic Governance Project, will focus on whether the eurozone is sustainable within its present arrangements, along with recent trends in capital movements. Lastly, the event will conclude with a discussion on the prospects for countries that are legally required to join the enlarged eurozone and adopt the euro. Attendance is by invitation only. For more information, please visit the event's [website](#).

12-13 November, Santiago, Chile. UNCTAD REGIONAL DIALOGUE ON PROMOTING SERVICES DEVELOPMENT AND TRADE IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN (LAC). This event is being organised jointly by the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), together with the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the Latin American Economic System (SELA), and the University of Chile. The goal is to bring together regional stakeholders, along with various development partners and donors, in order to exchange views on the topic of promoting services sector development and trade-led growth. Participants will also work to identify elements of a Latin American agenda relating to policymaking and trade negotiations in services. More information is available on 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.

1 November: Committee on Budget, Finance and Administration

7 November: WTO Introduction Day

### Other Upcoming Events

16 November, Warsaw, Poland. CLIMATE AND HEALTH SUMMIT 2013. This conference, sponsored by the Global Climate and Health Alliance in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO) and a series of other partners, will be convened in parallel with the 19<sup>th</sup> session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 19) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). This event aims to coordinate action across all sectors to protect human health from the impacts of climate change. Conference

participants will also work to develop a roadmap for the international health community to work toward in the run-up to the 2015 climate conference in Paris. For more information, visit the event's [website](#).

2-6 December, Lima, Peru. UNIDO GENERAL CONFERENCE. This event, sponsored by the UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), will review the organisation's activities, including those related to energy and the environment, agribusiness, and least developed countries (LDCs). It will also include an industrial development forum and a discussion of the organisation's budget. For more information about the event, visit the [website](#).

23-28 January 2014, London, UK. MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA ENERGY 2014. This event, sponsored by the Chatham House, will assess geopolitical and market developments affecting oil and gas producers in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), in the context of shifting demand to growth economies and increasing competition from unconventional production. Sessions will also explore, among other topics, energy priorities and investment in North Africa, and the potential for hydrocarbon development in the Eastern Mediterranean region. For more information visit the event's [website](#).

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## Resources

MONTHLY STATISTICS OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE, VOLUME 2013 ISSUE 10. By the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). (October 2013) This report provides updated international statistics on the foreign trade of OECD members. It also reviews the most recent trends in trading patterns for these countries with the rest of the world. Statistics are broken down by economic groups, country, and region, and include seasonally adjusted series as well as calculated indicators. The full report is available [here](#).

OECD ECONOMIC SURVEYS: BRAZIL 2013. By the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). (October 2013) This review examines recent economic developments, policies, and prospects within Brazil. Chapters cover topics such as the productivity and competitiveness of Brazilian firms, income distribution, and the new middle class. The report also highlights the problem of inequality, and recent efforts to improve social programmes. For the full report, click [here](#).

THE PRESSURES OF RESOURCE SCARCITY. By Rob Bailey for the Chatham House. (October 2013) This report discusses the issue of resource scarcity, predicting that the markets for many resources are likely to remain tight as demand growth outpaces production and stocks work to recover. The author argues that government interventions in resource markets, such as biofuel mandates and export controls, have the potential to create additional problems. The paper says that development models must adapt to this new reality, outlining five priorities for achieving this goal. To learn more, click [here](#).

LOOKING LIKE AN INDUSTRY: SUPPORTING COMMERCIAL AGRICULTURE IN AFRICA, By Ishac Diwan, Olivier Gaddah, and Rosie Osire for the Center for International Development at Harvard University. (September 2013) This report examines how to make particular sectors, particularly agriculture, behave more like industry. The paper argues that the solution lies in finding business models that provide capital and access to missing markets in an aggregated fashion, thus forming high-productivity "islands of quality." Examples and a discussion of promising business models are provided. The full report is available [here](#).

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## PUENTES

Latin America-focussed analysis and news on trade and sustainable development  
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*Spanish language*

## МОСТЫ

CIS-focussed analysis and news on trade and sustainable development  
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*Russian language*

## PONTES

Analysis and news on trade and sustainable development for the Portuguese-speaking world  
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*Portuguese language*

## 桥

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*Chinese language*

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