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WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

Prospects Dim for WTO Work Programme as July Deadline Approaches

The prospects for reaching a Doha Round "work programme" by the end of this month are growing increasingly dim, WTO Director-General Roberto Azevêdo told members last week.

"Considering everything I have heard from members over the last three weeks, I see very little prospect of delivering a detailed and substantive work programme by the end of July," Azevêdo said at an informal meeting of heads of delegation, held at the global trade body's Geneva headquarters.

Several members that spoke at the 8 July meeting echoed that sentiment, sources say. Despite the slim chances of finishing such a programme in time, the Director-General urged delegations to continue their work, setting their sights now on how to best achieve a successful outcome at the WTO's Tenth Ministerial Conference this December in Nairobi, Kenya.

"Success in Nairobi remains the ultimate target of our work," Azevêdo said, noting that the upcoming ministerial meet should show "real and definite progress" in implementing the decisions reached at the WTO's last ministerial in Bali, Indonesia nearly two years ago.

The Nairobi gathering should also deliver for developing and least developed countries, while also "delivering outcomes that allow us to conclude the [Doha Round]," he said.

At an event held last week in Nairobi, Kenyan Cabinet Secretary for Foreign Affairs and International Trade Amina Mohamed also highlighted the importance of having a successful WTO ministerial conference at the end of this year, reiterating that this is the first such meeting for the global trade body in Sub-Saharan Africa.

[The ministerial conference] shall neither fail nor shall it be subject to a low-ambition exercise, nor subject to end-game dramatic episodes that have characterised some other ministerial meetings," she said at [the event](#), which was hosted by the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD). [*Editor's note: ICTSD is the publisher of Bridges.*]

Agriculture divisions

The news that the work programme deadline will likely go unmet at this stage is of little surprise, many say, given the deep disagreements across a range of issues, particularly those involving agriculture.

The US and China, for example, are in the midst of a heated standoff over domestic agricultural support. While the US says that the 2008 draft Doha deal on agriculture is unacceptable, given that developed country members would need to make agricultural support concessions while large developing countries would not have to face significant cuts, China says that the US' demands for a cap on its overall trade-distorting domestic support (OTDS) is not workable.

In recent weeks, some new proposals or papers have been tabled in an attempt to move the discussions forward. Norway, for example, released a "non-paper" on 6 July that proposes an alternative approach to proposed new disciplines in agricultural support.

The informal paper, a copy of which has been seen by Bridges, does not mention any limits on overall trade-distorting domestic support or product-specific support. It does, however, include potential formulas for reducing total aggregate measure of support (AMS), non-product-specific "de minimis" levels, and "blue box" payments.

The Norway document, as well as an Australia-Canada non-paper that was circulated late last month, are both set to come up during a 22 July meeting of the Committee on Agriculture's Special Session, which is tasked with the farm trade talks, sources say. (See Bridges Weekly, [25 June 2015](#))

Both in agriculture and in other areas of the talks, such as non-agricultural market access (NAMA), the difficulty in advancing proposals has led to some members submitting suggested approaches anonymously, which have in turn been criticised for being of unclear origin.

Other documents that have been circulated in recent weeks include a "matrix" document by Canada that reportedly listed the status of different issues, such as agriculture, NAMA, services, and rules, with a view to helping countries discuss possible "horizontal" trade-offs.

Questions for Nairobi

The slow pace of the work programme discussions have sparked renewed questions over the WTO's negotiating function, and whether some of the differences among the membership run too deep to yield a meaningful Doha outcome at all.

While the July date for a work programme had been mandated by a November 2014 decision from the WTO's General Council, revising an early December 2014 target, some say that the fact that this potential missed deadline is not being considered an emergency is itself cause for concern. (See Bridges Weekly, [27 November 2014](#))

"Things have been so far apart for so long there's not even scope for a credible crisis," one official commented to Bridges.

Some have said, however, that there is still the chance of a turn-around. "Things can change quickly: it's a political stand-off," one source said.

With sights now set on Nairobi, the question of what exactly constitutes a "successful" ministerial is also the subject of some debate, as well as what compromises and reductions in Doha-related ambition would be necessary to get there.

What development-focused outcomes might be possible for Nairobi is another open question. For example, members exchanged views at a 9 July meeting over whether an outcome on cotton might be possible for the December event.

New Zealand Ambassador John Adank, who is the outgoing chair of the WTO's farm trade talks, [told members](#) that a possible cotton outcome could potentially serve as part of a wider outcome within the area of export competition. Duty-free, quota-free market access for cotton exports from least developed countries (LDCs) is another possibility.

Whether the WTO's Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) – one of the deliverables from the 2013 Bali conference – will be in force by Nairobi is another key question. To take effect, two-thirds of the WTO's 161 members must approve the agreement domestically and then submit their "instruments of acceptance" to the global trade body. Only eight of the 108 members needed for this threshold have submitted their TFA "instruments" so far.

Coming up

The next meeting of the Trade Negotiations Committee (TNC), which is tasked with the overall Doha Round talks, is now scheduled for 24 July. A meeting of the General Council, which is the organisation's highest decision-making body outside of the ministerial conference, is slated for 27-28 July, after which the WTO will then go on its annual August break.

What might come of those meetings remains still unclear, sources say. Some options that have been raised, for example, would be that the Director-General give an oral report on the talks so far. Another suggestion that has been raised is giving some "interim points" for the second half of the year.

Some members, such as the EU, have warned against announcing a broad work programme just for the sake of saying one has been achieved, if there is actually nothing meaningful to report.

"I would share strongly [Azevêdo's] assessment on what an empty, light weight, so-called work programme – because it will not be a work programme as we have defined it – would do in terms of the chances of success that we have for Nairobi," said EU Ambassador Angelos Pangratis last week.

"It could easily reduce the credibility of our process, it could become an obstacle to progress and I think it is something that we can all agree that we should avoid," the EU official added.

ICTSD reporting.

SERVICES

TISA Participants Review Progress, Plan Next Steps at Stockholding Session

Negotiations for a planned agreement to liberalise services trade continued to make steady progress last week, sources say, with participants also conducting a highly-awaited "stocktaking" exercise to see where the talks stand and how to proceed.

The 6-10 July meeting on the Trade in Services Agreement (TISA), as the proposed deal is known, included a regular negotiating round as well as the above-mentioned stocktaking meeting, the latter of which involved a review of all negotiating topics, from offers to proposals to draft text.

The past week also saw Mauritius formally join the services talks, bringing the number of participants to 25, when including the 28-nation EU as one party. Mauritius is the first African country to join the TISA initiative and had confirmed its intent to request a seat at the negotiating table this past March. (See Bridges Africa, [11 March 2015](#))

The group now includes Australia, Canada, Chile, Chinese Taipei, Colombia, Costa Rica, the EU, Hong Kong, Iceland, Israel, Japan, Korea, Liechtenstein, Mauritius, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Switzerland, Turkey, the US, and Uruguay.

These participants account for over 70 percent of global services trade, according to the [European Commission](#). China's pending application, which was submitted in September 2013, has not yet been formally approved, and no indication has been given on when or if this will occur.

Reviewing proposals

Since the launch of the talks, TISA participants have been discussing a series of proposals for "new and enhanced disciplines" to include in the agreement, such as financial services, air and maritime transport, transparency, telecommunications, and government procurement, to name a few.

The large number of disciplines suggested in these proposals – reportedly 17 in all – had proven somewhat difficult to manage in earlier rounds, sources say. With that in mind, one of the key goals of the stocktaking exercise was to review how far along the discussions on these various proposals have advanced, what support each has, and potential next steps.

Of these disciplines, financial services and domestic regulation are advancing well, with sources noting that there has been significant convergence in what should be in those annexes, though details still need fine-tuning.

Other annexes that are also reasonably far along include telecommunications services, Mode 4, and e-commerce. Mode 4, in trade jargon, refers to the movement of natural persons – in other words, when someone from one country is in another's territory for the purpose of supplying a service. E-commerce and Mode 4 are two areas that are particularly significant for many developing countries' services trade interests.

Other areas that have advanced, but to a lesser degree, reportedly include maritime transport, transparency, and environment services. Government procurement, an EU proposal, is in the early stages of discussion, sources say, being comparatively new.

Talks on a proposal backed by the US on competitive delivery services is considerably less advanced and will require more fine-tuning and discussion if it is to gain more support, sources say. Meanwhile, a proposal submitted by Turkey on healthcare services last year is unlikely to move ahead, given that the majority of TISA participants have said that they do not wish to engage on the subject within the trade deal.

TISA participants have now agreed to give all participants until 31 July to submit new proposals on new topics. Sources say that only one such proposal is expected, specifically from the US on the subject of state-owned enterprises (SOEs).

Market access

Discussions on market access continued during last week's TISA meeting, with sources noting that three participants – Mexico, Peru, and Canada – provided updates on their previous offers. Mexico, for example, reported provided an update on telecommunications services, given recent changes to the country's telecommunications market.

TISA participants are reportedly aiming to have completed offers from all participants in early autumn. To date, Pakistan and Paraguay have not yet tabled initial offers, and some of the existing offers from other participants are not complete.

Uruguay and Mauritius, being newer to the group, may take longer to submit their own initial offers, some sources suggested. Uruguay became a TISA member in February of this year. (See Bridges Weekly, [19 February 2015](#))

Another stocktaking

Along with the push to complete market access offers and eventually have participants submit revised offers, the coming months are expected to give participants a chance to refine the proposals on new and enhanced disciplines further, to the point where they can begin "stabilising" some of these areas.

Other key topics that are set to come up include discussions on dispute settlement provisions, as well as how to set up the agreement so that it can be "multilateralised" upon reaching a critical mass of participants.

TISA participants have not put a formal deadline on the talks, sources say. The group is set to meet two more times this year, in October and December, with trade officials then aiming to hold another stocktaking exercise in early 2016.

ICTSD reporting.

GLOBAL ECONOMIC GOVERNANCE

BRICS Leaders Eye Increased Coordination at Russia Summit

Leaders from the BRICS countries – Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa – confirmed plans to begin financing infrastructure projects through their new development bank by early 2016, while also releasing an “economic partnership strategy” document to be reviewed every five years.

Meeting in the Russian city of Ufa from 8-9 July, leaders also confirmed that they will be directing their ministers or Sherpas to look into the potential feasibility of putting together a “trade, economic, and investment cooperation roadmap” through 2020.

In the years since the group began holding its annual summit, its members have been dogged by questions over whether they can form a true alliance, given the wide disparity in political circumstances and varying economic situations and interests.

These questions have grown particularly given Russia's strained ties with many of its Western trading partners in the wake of the Ukrainian crisis, including the various economic sanctions it has faced as a result, as well as Moscow's demotion from the G-8 coalition, now the G-7.

Leaders from the group have countered that the BRICS can provide a new approach, one that builds on the emerging economy perspective. The five countries together make up 40 percent of the global population and one-fifth of its economic output.

“BRICS can be a beacon of hope in a world of economic and political turmoil and upheaval because our initiatives are not only geared toward the member countries, but also toward the whole world, especially emerging countries,” said Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, according to a [translated version](#) of his remarks.

This year's summit came immediately ahead of a meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), a group that includes two BRICS countries – China and Russia – as well as Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan. India and Pakistan are working to accede to the organisation.

An informal joint leaders' meeting of these two groups was also held in Ufa, together with leaders of the new Eurasian Economic Union. The latter entered into force at the beginning of this year, and includes Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, and Armenia. (See Bridges Weekly, [5 June 2014](#))

Bank, currency pool

A year ago in the Brazilian city of Fortaleza, leaders had confirmed the launch of a new international development bank that would support infrastructure and sustainability projects in the BRICS and other emerging and developing economies. (See Bridges Weekly, [17 July 2014](#))

Last week, leaders said that this New Development Bank will begin financing its first investment projects in early 2016. A proposal has also been made for the bank to cooperate with both current and new financial institutions, they added, including the new Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB). (See Bridges Weekly, [2 April 2015](#))

The BRICS bank will be headquartered in Shanghai, with the bank's rotating presidency first going to K.V. Kamath of India. The vice presidents of the bank will come from the other four BRICS countries. A meeting of the bank's Board of Governors was held just ahead of the summit.

The bank is set to hold US\$50 billion in initial capital, which is set later to double to US\$100 billion. China, with a planned contribution of US\$41 billion, will have the largest voting rights in this bank, at nearly 40 percent.

The Contingent Reserves Arrangement (CRA), a US\$100 billion currency pool, was another outcome of the Fortaleza meeting that is now entering into force. The CRA, Russian President Vladimir Putin said last week, will "make it possible to timely and adequately respond to financial market fluctuations."

The emergence of these new structures, as well as the AIIB, have sparked questions over how these initiatives will interact with other regional or multilateral development banks. They have also drawn renewed attention to the issue of governance and quota reform at the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

While a series of IMF reforms were agreed in 2010, the failure of the US Congress to ratify these changes has meant that these have not been put into action.

At the Spring Meetings of the IMF and the World Bank, the Fund's policy-setting body called upon the IMF Executive Board to seek "an interim solution that will meaningfully converge quota shares as soon as and to the extent possible to the levels agreed under the 14th Review." (See Bridges Weekly, [23 April 2015](#))

"We remain deeply disappointed with the prolonged failure by the United States to ratify the IMF 2010 reform package, which continues to undermine the credibility, legitimacy, and effectiveness of the IMF," BRICS leaders said last week, warning that this has in turn prevented an increase in the Fund's quota resources and the reallocation of quotas and voting power.

Economic partnership strategy

The strategy adopted at the Ufa meeting outlines a series of different "purposes." These include, for example, promoting mutual trade and investment, while enhancing and diversifying trade and investment cooperation.

The group also included in these aims the improvement of macroeconomic policy coordination; working toward more inclusive growth; ensuring a better quality of growth; and achieving more interaction and cooperation with countries and organisations outside of the BRICS.

Building on these purposes and a list of basic principles, the strategy document then outlines various "priority areas" for cooperation, including trade and investment; manufacturing and minerals processing; energy; agricultural cooperation; science, technology, and innovation; financial cooperation; institutional, physical, and people-to-people connectivity; and cooperation in information and communication technology (ICT).

Regarding trade, leaders highlighted the need to boost intra-BRICS trade and investment, adding that this cooperation "should be commensurate with the potential and make ample use of the capabilities of its members and contribute to growth and sustainable development of their economies," while outlining various goals to be pursued in this respect.

Promoting “value-added” trade within the group is of “particular importance,” leaders added, referring to the outcomes of a planned Joint Trade Study.

The BRICS economies also “reaffirm[ed] the value, centrality, and primacy of the multilateral trading system,” including strengthening the rules-based system under the WTO.

Furthermore, the leaders said, they urged other countries to resist any form of trade protectionism, while highlighting the need for coordination and cooperation in the WTO context to both develop a “post-Bali” work programme and conclude the Doha Round. (For more on the WTO talks, see related story, this edition)

Regarding agricultural cooperation, the BRICS countries have highlighted the need for cooperation to improve global food security, outlining five priority areas in that respect. This includes, for example, developing a general strategy to ensure that the most vulnerable have access to food, including through “an effective public food stockholding policy.”

In the area of energy, the strategy document says that the promotion of sustainable energy production and consumption is essential for the economic development of the group’s members. To that end, the BRICS are encouraged to improve the use of clean energy sources, increase energy efficiency, promote universal energy access, and mutually assist each other in diversifying their energy supplies.

The strategy will be reviewed by the BRICS sherpas every five years, with the option of doing so sooner if necessary. These sherpas will also provide annual reports on the implementation of the strategy to BRICS leaders.

ICTSD reporting; “BRICS summit give Putin a chance to show Russia not isolated,” REUTERS, 6 July 2015; “New BRICS bank to look at local, international borrowing: president,” REUTERS, 9 July 2015; “China parliament ratifies BRICS Bank agreement,” REUTERS, 1 July 2015; “BRICS nations launch new bank, currency pool,” DEUTSCHE WELLE, 9 July 2015; “BRICS vow to coordinate actions to protect their economies,” REUTERS, 9 July 2015.

DISPUTES

Mexico Appeals WTO Compliance Report in Tuna Labelling Dispute

Mexico has asked the WTO's highest court to review certain aspects of an earlier panel's findings over whether a revised version of the US' "dolphin-safe" tuna labelling policy is in line with global trade rules, citing questions regarding facts of law and legal interpretation.

The move comes after the US filed its own appeal in the case, challenging a compliance panel's findings that the revised Washington scheme had not been sufficiently changed to comply with WTO rules. While both appeals were filed in June, Mexico's became publicly [available](#) in early July. (See Bridges Weekly, [16 April 2015](#) and [18 June 2015](#))

The high-profile dispute dates back several years, with the WTO's Appellate Body finding in 2012 that the original US dolphin-safe labels for tuna discriminated unfairly against imported tuna from Mexico. The US revised the regulations in 2013, in light of the ruling. However, Mexico then challenged that these changes were insufficient to remove the scheme's problematic elements. (See Bridges Weekly, [16 May 2012](#) and [18 July 2013](#))

The revised US regulations modified the requirements for tuna to qualify for a dolphin-safe label. Under the changes, all tuna, regardless of where it is caught or the nationality of the fishing vessel, must obtain a certification proving both that no nets were intentionally "set" on dolphins and that no dolphins were killed or seriously injured through "setting."

In comparison, the previous policy had distinguished between tuna caught in different areas, with tuna caught inside the Eastern Tropical Pacific (ETP) not being eligible for the label. However, with regard to required documentation, tracking, and verification requirements also involved in obtaining the dolphin-safe label, the regulations still differ depending on whether the tuna was caught inside or outside the ETP.

Mexican fishermen predominantly fish for tuna in the Eastern Tropical Pacific, using purse-seine nets which are temporarily set on dolphins to attract the tuna that swim below. However, Mexico's tuna fleet has been found to comply with international standards, including the Agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Program.

Following a challenge from Mexico over whether the US' changes were enough to bring the measure in line with WTO rules, a compliance panel said this past April that the Appellate Body's 2012 ruling confirmed the US' ability to treat fishing methods differently, given the varying levels of harm these methods cause dolphins. According to this panel, this meant the US could exclude tuna caught by setting from the label.

Nevertheless, the same panel found that aspects of the amended regulations, particularly the remaining differences in the certification, tracking, and verification requirements, still discriminated unfairly against Mexican tuna.

Mexico's appeal

In its notice of appeal, Mexico has cited specifically the panel's findings under two WTO agreements – the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Agreement – as those which it would like the Appellate Body to review.

For one, Mexico City has specifically taken issue with the panel's finding that only parts of the amended regulations on tuna were inconsistent with the trade rules, arguing that the US measure in its entirety is WTO-illegal.

Regarding the WTO-consistency of disqualifying tuna caught by setting from accessing the label, Mexico disagreed with the panel's finding that the Appellate Body had previously ruled on this issue, and that these eligibility criteria were applied even-handedly.

Mexico argues that the panel failed to make an objective assessment in reaching its factual findings on the injury dolphins suffer from setting and other fishing methods, as well as these methods' relative level of harm. These findings were used in affirming that the US is entitled to disqualify tuna caught by setting from receiving the label.

In turn, Mexico has requested the Appellate Body to find that the detrimental impact of the amended tuna measure does not stem from only a legitimate regulatory distinction, and the policy violates the non-discrimination requirements outlined in the TBT Agreement.

In a separate part of the appeal relating to the eligibility criteria, Mexico has also asked the Appellate Body to find the amended tuna measure failed to pass the chapeau test of GATT Article XX, namely that the label is applied in a manner which would constitute "a means of arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination between countries where the same conditions prevail" or is "a disguised restriction on international trade."

The GATT Article XX exceptions outline a set of justifications under which WTO members may enact measures that would otherwise be illegal under international trade rules so long as these are used to fulfil greater public policy objectives. These policies must meet the requirements outlined in the "chapeau" mentioned above, and include, among others, policies deemed necessary to protect human, animal, or plant life or health, as outlined under paragraph (b), or for natural resource conservation, under paragraph (g).

Certification questions

In its appeal, Mexico has also raised questions over two of the panel's factual findings regarding the US measure's requirement that independent observers certify tuna caught inside of the ETP, while not requiring the same for tuna caught outside that area.

Mexico argues that having captains self-certify whether tuna is dolphin-safe outside of the ETP might not be a reliable method, due to a potential "economic conflict of interest."

Mexico also claims that the panel should not accept US' justification for differing requirements on the basis that the dolphin-tuna association in ETP is unique, arguing that this association also happens elsewhere, such as in the Indian Ocean.

Therefore, Mexico City is asking the Appellate Body to revise the panel's earlier reasoning to include the above-mentioned issues, in finding that these varying certification requirements create gaps in the dolphin-safe designation and are not applied in an even-handedly manner, thereby violating the TBT Agreement's non-discrimination requirement.

Next steps

The Appellate Body generally reviews questions relating to law or legal interpretation and not the factual findings in panel rulings. The two parties in the case have already committed to help WTO judges circulate their report within 90 days from the notification of an appeal.

ICTSD reporting.

RENEWABLE ENERGY

US Commerce Department to Keep Chinese Solar Import Duties in Place

The US Department of Commerce has completed an "administrative review" of duties on Chinese-made solar products, confirming that it will be keeping the 2012 duties in place, though at revised levels. The move comes as Beijing continues to face questions from some trading partners over the fairness of its trade practices regarding the solar energy sector.

The results were announced by the US agency last week, and addressed both anti-dumping and countervailing duties. While the former aims to address instances where goods are sold abroad at prices below their normal value, the latter aims to tackle instances where producers received unfair government support.

The duties at issue cover crystalline silicon photovoltaic products, including cells, modules, laminates, and panels from Chinese companies. The 2012 duties under review had fuelled a heated row between the US and China, and have repeatedly come under scrutiny in the years since their enactment. (See Bridges Weekly, [10 October 2012](#))

The administrative review concluded last week yielded mixed results for Chinese manufacturers. Yingli Green Energy Holding Co., for example, is now facing a 0.79 percent anti-dumping duty, a significant drop from the 24.28 percent rate under the 2012 decision.

Some other companies, such as JinkoSolar, are set to face 9.67 percent duties, also down from 24.28 percent, while some other companies will face a 239 percent anti-dumping rate, lower than the 249.96 percent from before.

Regarding countervailing duties, most of these are now set at 20.94 percent, showing some slight increases from the October 2012 rates.

While SolarWorld Americas, which had backed the original anti-subsidy and anti-dumping complaints that led to the 2012 investigation, welcomed the news as a "strong victory" for US solar manufacturers, industry groups representing downstream producers that use these goods in their solar energy projects have harshly criticised the result.

"Uncertainty is sure to continue with more trade litigation, and all solar companies are paying the price. We urge SolarWorld to negotiate a reasonable solution with international manufacturers which can be implemented by the governments of the United States and China," [said](#) Jigar Shah, the president of the Coalition for Affordable Solar Energy (CASE).

The administrative review focused only on the 2012 duties, and not on separate anti-dumping and countervailing duties on Chinese solar products that were confirmed earlier this year.

Those resulted from two separate investigations launched by the US Commerce Department in 2014 to determine whether some companies were attempting to avoid the 2012 duties by moving some of their production to Taiwan. (See Bridges Weekly, [30 January 2014](#) and [29 January 2015](#))

EU investigations underway

Along with the ongoing row with the US, the EU and China have repeatedly found themselves at loggerheads on renewable trade support practices, with a past disagreement on the subject potentially about to resurface.

Two years ago, Brussels reached a "price undertaking" deal with various Chinese solar exporters that exempted the latter from steep anti-dumping and countervailing duties, in exchange for a commitment to respect a minimum import price. (See Bridges Weekly, [5 September 2013](#))

However, in May the European Commission confirmed that it would be undertaking a "partial interim review" of the benchmark used as a reference for the price undertaking deal. Another probe was announced that month to see if Chinese exporters are skirting the existing duties through re-routing part of their production processes through Taiwan and Malaysia. (See Bridges Weekly, [7 May 2015](#))

Three Chinese producers were also [removed](#) from the price undertaking agreement earlier this year, with the Commission citing lack of compliance with the deal's terms. These companies, together with those which did not participate in the original price undertaking deal, do face the anti-dumping and countervailing duties determined in 2013.

Along with the above-mentioned probes, another key issue that is set to come up between the EU and China in the months ahead is the expiration of both the price undertaking agreement and the anti-dumping and countervailing duties. These are all set to expire on 7 December of this year, unless an expiry review is requested by European industry.

Australia decision forthcoming

Separately, an announcement is also expected from Australian investigation authorities this Saturday on whether Chinese-made crystalline silicon photovoltaic modules or panels have been dumped onto the Australian market.

The investigation was [launched](#) by the Australian Anti-Dumping Commission in 2014, with a recommendation from the agency expected in October of that year. This period was then [extended](#) through 18 July 2015.

While a "statement of essential facts" [released by the agency](#) in April found evidence of dumping, it deemed that the evidence of injury to Australian producers was "negligible." At the time, the Anti-Dumping Commission had requested that the investigation be terminated in light of this finding. (See Bridges Weekly, [16 April 2015](#))

However, the Australian-based Tindo Solar company has since [claimed](#) that the Chinese government has influenced domestic prices and costs for these PV modules and panels, such that selling prices in China are unsuitable in determining normal values. This, in turn, prompted the Commission to review whether a "particular market situation" exists in China, and [extend](#) the investigation further.

ICTSD reporting; "China Solar Adjustment Boosts Jinkosolar," BARRONS, 10 July 2015; "US reviews 2012 China trade tariffs," PVTECH, 9 July 2015; "U.S. Revises Tariffs and Duties on Chinese Solar Imports," BLOOMBERG, 9 July 2015.

EVENTS & RESOURCES

Events

Coming Soon

20-24 July, New York, US. INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATIONS ON THE POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA. UN member states are set to meet again to continue their negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda, as well as the associated Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). and stakeholders will gather to negotiate the terms of the sustainable development post-2015 outcome document. Topics on the agenda include the post-2015 declaration; goals and targets; means of implementation; and follow-up and review. To learn more, visit the UN's sustainable development [website](#).

21 July, Geneva, Switzerland. MULTIPLE PATHWAYS TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: INITIAL FINDINGS FROM THE GLOBAL SOUTH. The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) will host a panel discussion on various different pathways for sustainable development, building on initiatives undertaken by China, Bolivia, South Africa, and Thailand. The UN agency has been working with these four countries over the past two years to document their experiences, as part of a broader effort in sharing approaches and lessons learned on the various different tools, visions, and models that are being used in an effort to promote sustainable development and eradicate poverty. To see the full invitation, visit UNEP's [website](#).

22 July, London, UK. EU-US TRADE POLICIES: COMPETITION OR COOPERATION? This Chatham House discussion will be led by speaker Pascal Lamy, current President Emeritus of Notre Europe – Jacques Delors Institute and former Director-General of the WTO. Lamy will introduce potential areas for trade cooperation and competition between Washington and Brussels as part of the US Project's series on US and European Perspectives on Common Economic Challenges. Attendance to this event is by invitation only. To learn more, click [here](#).

WTO Events

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

20 July: Dispute Settlement Body

22 + 24 July: Trade Policy Review Body – Dominican Republic

23 July: Working Party on the Accession of the Republic of Liberia

24 July: Trade Negotiations Committee

27-31 July: Geneva Week (Non-resident Members and Observers)

27-28 July: General Council

Other Upcoming Events

15 + 16 September, Manila, Philippines. EVALUATION LEARNING EVENT: THINK SUSTAINABLE, ACT RESPONSIBLE. Hosted by the Asian Development Bank, this learning event discusses the need for international evaluation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the momentum toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), currently under negotiation. Sustainability discussions will focus on macroeconomic and fiscal sustainability, project and investment sustainability, and environmental sustainability, building off of various recent thematic studies. To learn more, click [here](#).

21 September, London, UK. ANTICIPATING AND MITIGATING MAJOR DISRUPTIVE RISKS TO GLOBAL FOOD TRADE. This one-day research event, hosted by Chatham House, invites key stakeholders to discuss potential disruptions to global food trade, and the sector's vulnerabilities and trends. This meeting is part of a Chatham House research project to discover the possible choke points in global food trade. The challenges in commodity trading and transport are an important component of infrastructural, security, and climate issues facing today's global economy. To learn more, visit Chatham House's [website](#).

25 September, Boston, US. COUNCIL ON BUSINESS AND SOCIETY: ENERGY FORUM. Hosted by the Council on Business and Society and organised by an alliance of global business schools and various corporate partners, this international dialogue will focus on the new developments seen in the energy sector; what capabilities will help businesses navigate this energy transition smoothly; and how to incorporate and manage societal interests and requirements. To learn more about the forum, visit the Council on Business and Society's [website](#).

29 September – 1 October, Geneva, Switzerland. AD HOC EXPERT MEETING ON TRADE IN SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES. The UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the Commonwealth Secretariat will host a discussion on trade policy options to mainstream sustainable fishing practices, as well as the various international processes that relate to fish trade and fisheries conservation. To learn more about the event and for registration, click [here](#).

14-17 December, Nairobi, Kenya. TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT SYMPOSIUM. This biennial event, organised jointly by the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD) and the government of Kenya, will be held in parallel to the WTO's Tenth Ministerial Conference. The four-day event will include various high-level plenaries, press events, and private roundtables, among other features. A call for proposals is now underway for those interested in hosting partner sessions during the symposium. Further details can be found on the official event [website](#).

Resources

OIL AND GAS MISMATCHES: FINANCE, INVESTMENT, AND CLIMATE POLICY. By John Mitchell, Valérie Marcel, and Beth Mitchell. Published by Chatham House (9 July 2015). This report analyses three main developments that have the potential to affect future investment in oil and gas: price volatility, a changing financial environment, and the strengthening of policy to mitigate climate change. The report discusses key players such as China, the EU, and the US, and the global implications of their political commitments on climate change. To read the full report, visit Chatham House's [website](#).

SLOWER GROWTH IN EMERGING MARKETS, A GRADUAL PICKUP IN ADVANCED ECONOMIES. Published by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) (9 July 2015). The IMF's latest World Economic Outlook discusses the most recent global market trends, such as the projected 3.3 percent growth rate for 2015. Although growth has slowed for emerging markets, experts predict a rebound for these markets in 2016, as they react and adapt to global challenges. The report also finds that the global economy is still facing various near-term risks, such as increased financial market volatility and disruptive asset price shifts. Visit the IMF's [website](#) to download the full report.

FOURTH ETHIOPIA ECONOMIC UPDATE: OVERCOMING CONSTRAINTS IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR. Published by the World Bank (8 July 2015). This report finds that the Ethiopian economy continued its expansion in the 2014 fiscal year, with GDP growing at 10.3 percent. This report identifies the challenges and opportunities for the Ethiopian economy, suggesting that low oil prices could help with poverty reduction, while also predicting that growth will stay high in the short term and eventually decline in the medium term. The paper also highlights the potential – and difficulties – in growth and transformation through manufacturing, concluding with seven policy recommendations for this sector. To read the full update, click [here](#).

MAKING REGIONAL TRADE WORK FOR AFRICA: TURNING WORDS INTO DEEDS. Published by the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) (13 July 2015). The potential for regional trade agreements (RTAs) to boost trade integration and development in Africa has gained increased attention in recent years, the authors note, including by leaders in the continent. However, there has been a low rate of implementation of these RTAs, which has prevented this potential from becoming reality. The policy brief outlines some of the barriers in implementing such trade deals, while proposing some solutions. To read the full policy brief, visit UNCTAD's [website](#).

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