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EUROPEAN UNION

EU Pushing for TTIP Talks' Completion, Hefty Trade Agenda in 20161

DISPUTES

WTO Appellate Body Grants China Victory in EU Fasteners Case4

GLOBAL ECONOMY

IMF Lowers Global Growth Forecasts for 2016, 20177

DISPUTES

EU Challenges Colombia at WTO Over Import Measures for Spirits9

AGRICULTURE

India Approves New US\$1.14 Billion Crop Insurance Scheme...11

TRADE AGREEMENTS

EU, India Discuss Trade Issues as Speculation Builds Over Negotiations Reboot12

EVENTS & RESOURCES

Events13

Resources15

EUROPEAN UNION

EU Pushing for TTIP Talks' Completion, Hefty Trade Agenda in 2016

The upcoming year is expected to be a busy one for EU trade negotiations, with the 28-nation bloc aiming to conclude talks for a trade and investment deal with the US before the end of the Obama presidency, while setting in motion various other processes with countries around the globe – all amid an uncertain economic and political landscape.

During a speech in Berlin late last week, EU Trade Commissioner Cecilia Malmström outlined plans to advance the bloc's existing and new trade agenda, stressing that one of the key areas for making progress would be the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) negotiations with Washington.

"The EU is ready to finish this agreement under the Obama Administration. We have the political and human resources to do that. However, the US must also be prepared to commit if we are to get a result," said Malmström.

Washington and Brussels have held eleven negotiating rounds to date since the talks first began in 2013. Following the latest round in October 2015, US officials also confirmed their interest in finishing the negotiations before US President Barack Obama leaves office. (See Bridges Weekly, [29 October 2015](#))

Obama's term is slated to end in January 2017. Elections for his successor will be held in early November 2016, with the primaries to determine the respective party nominees set to begin in less than two weeks' time and run through the summer.

To date, the two trading partners have exchanged initial and revised services offers, as well as initial and revised goods offers. They have also made progress on regulatory discussions, and are planning to exchange initial public procurement offers early this year.

"The Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership or TTIP negotiations are essential. Almost five million jobs in the European Union depend on our exports to the United States," Malmström said.

China investment pact, other deals in focus

Malmström also outlined various other priorities for the bloc's trade agenda in 2016, such as finishing the "fine tuning" on the EU-Canada trade pact reached in 2014 – including on the controversial provisions in the pact involving investor protections. (See Bridges Weekly, [2 October 2014](#))

Another key goal for the 28-nation bloc is advancing negotiations with Japan for a trade agreement, which is one of the EU's largest trading partners in Asia, surpassed only by China. Those negotiations have been underway since 2013. (See Bridges Weekly, [27 March 2013](#))

"We will continue to make progress this year," Malmström noted, without specifying whether this would mean reaching a completed deal in that timeframe. A [programme document](#) issued separately by the Netherlands' Presidency of the Council of the European Union has indicated that it is "possible" that the EU-Japan trade talks could be completed sometime during the six-month Dutch presidency, which is now underway and will last from 1 January to 30 June 2016.

China will also be in focus for the EU this year, both due to the ongoing debate over its market economy status (for more, see related story, this edition) as well as the continued negotiations over a bilateral investment deal, which have been underway for over two years. (See Bridges Weekly, [24 October 2013](#))

The day following Malmström's speech, negotiators from the EU and China [confirmed](#) that they had agreed upon the scope of the planned investment deal, which they say would establish a "genuine right to invest" and also provide a guarantee against discrimination. Other areas that the proposed pact would address include regulatory challenges involving transparency and licensing and authorisation procedures, as well as rules involving environment and labour, an EU press statement said.

"The negotiations for an EU China investment agreement would improve conditions for EU investors on the ground and can be a support to China's domestic reform efforts," said Malmström. "We will also continue to pass the message that, in light of China's continuing economic uncertainty, those reforms are more necessary than ever."

According to [EU statistics](#), only 2-3 percent of European investments overseas are based in China, with the Chinese investor presence in the EU even lesser, despite some recent gains.

New trade negotiations with Australia, New Zealand, the Philippines, and potentially Indonesia are also set to be on the horizon, the EU trade chief said, noting also the goal of updating the bloc's deal with South Korea and possibly begin investment talks with Hong Kong and Taiwan. These processes would begin, she said, "when conditions are right."

The EU is already beginning preparations for launching talks with Australia and New Zealand. The Commission had noted last year that such negotiations will aim to take "into account EU agricultural sensitivities." (See Bridges Weekly, [5 November 2015](#), [19 November 2015](#), and [15 October 2015](#))

Brexit question, other concerns

Overall, the EU as a bloc is also facing a host of challenges as 2016 gets underway, ranging from migration issues to questions over rule of law in Poland, with European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker conceding last week that the Union is living "in difficult times."

Indeed, one of the major questions looming over the European Union this year is whether the United Kingdom will choose to remain one of the bloc's 28 member states – and what the implications would be of a "Brexit" if it does not.

UK Prime Minister David Cameron has committed to holding an in-out referendum domestically by the end of 2017, following a renegotiation of the UK's EU membership terms.

In that context, Cameron outlined last year a series of proposed reforms to his country's relationship with the EU, specifically relating to the areas of economic governance, competitiveness, sovereignty, and immigration. The UK premier also has noted, with relation to competitiveness, that he backs the European Commission's new trade and investment strategy that was released late last year. (See Bridges Weekly, [3 December 2015](#) and [5 November 2015](#))

Speaking to reporters last Friday, Juncker said that an upcoming February summit is very like to lead to an agreement with Cameron.

"I am quite sure we will have a deal – not a compromise, a solution, a permanent solution – in February," [said](#) the Commission chief.

Whether the deal will indeed be enough to avert a "Brexit" – which some officials from major trading partners, such as the US, have warned could be damaging to the UK's trading relationships – remains up for debate. Cameron, for his part, has said that leaving the bloc would not be "the right answer" for his country, though if the vote is in favour of leaving his government will find a way to "make it work."

ICTSD reporting; "Juncker confident of deal to keep Britain in Europe," FINANCIAL TIMES, 15 January 2016; "Juncker 'quite sure' Brexit can be avoided," POLITICO, 15 January 2016; "'Brexit' negotiations still face difficulties: European Commission," AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE, 14 January 2016; "David Cameron: Brexit 'is not the right answer' for Britain," THE TELEGRAPH, 10 January 2016.

DISPUTES

WTO Appellate Body Grants China Victory in EU Fasteners Case

The WTO's highest court ruled on Monday that an EU review of earlier anti-dumping duties on Chinese-made iron and steel fasteners – such as screws, nuts, and bolts – was insufficient to bring the measures in line with global trade rules.

The WTO dispute ([DS397](#)) was launched in 2009, when Beijing requested consultations with the 28-nation bloc on the anti-dumping duties, which at the time ranged from 26.5 to 85 percent. (See Bridges Weekly, [5 August 2009](#)) At the time, China argued that both the EU's Basic Anti-Dumping Regulation and its fasteners anti-dumping measure violated WTO rules.

When dealing with non-market economies (NMEs), the EU's [Basic Anti-Dumping Regulation](#) says that determining "normal value" – in other words, the product's price domestically or production cost – allows for using an "appropriate market-economy third country." Normal value is used in the calculation of dumping margins, which is the difference between normal value and export price.

The regulation originally provided that in the case of imports from non-market economies, the duty shall be specified for the supplying country concerned rather than for each supplier. It also stated that an individual duty will only be specified for exporters that demonstrate that they fulfil certain criteria.

In the original fastener investigation, EU authorities chose to use India as this third country, with Pooja Forge, a producer of fasteners based in that country, used to help determine these margins. A dispute panel found in favour of China in December 2010, with the Appellate Body later agreeing in July 2011 that elements of the Basic Anti-Dumping Regulation and the fastener investigation violated certain trade rules, though for different reasons. (See Bridges Weekly, [30 March 2011](#))

Following the result, the EU adopted a new regulation, which featured changes such as removing the list of substantive criteria that exporters need to demonstrate in order to receive an individual duty in the old regulation.

The new regulation also provided that "suppliers which are legally distinct from other suppliers or which are legally distinct from the State may nevertheless be considered as a single entity for the purpose of specifying the duty," as well as those factors that can be taken into account in applying the regulation.

The EU later also conducted a review investigation, ultimately deciding to continue imposing anti-dumping duties on certain fasteners, while making some changes to the actual dumping rates. However, a panel ruled in August 2015 that this was not enough to achieve compliance with the 28-nation bloc's WTO commitments. (See Bridges Weekly, [9 September 2015](#))

This week's Appellate Body ruling came following appeals from both parties of the compliance panel report. The ruling upheld the bulk of the compliance panel findings, many of which dealt with the availability of information regarding Pooja Forge's products in determining normal values for Chinese producers, along with finding that there had not been an objective assessment of whether the Indian firm had shown "good cause" for some of its information being treated as confidential in the anti-dumping proceedings.

The Appellate Body did disagree with one of the panel's rulings of compliance, specifically finding that the EU actually had violated WTO anti-dumping rules in not reflecting in its anti-dumping determination a proper assessment of tax differences and other costs that Chinese producers say they are subject to and had therefore requested adjustments for.

"The measures have negative effect on exports from China around US\$1 billion and more than 100,000 jobs from thousands of fastener producers in China," said an e-mailed statement from China's Head of Department of Treaty and Law at the Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM).

NME context

Notably, the long-running dispute concerns how the EU conducts anti-dumping investigations and procedures in cases involving goods from non-market economies—currently a hot-button topic in trade circles, given a key upcoming deadline at the WTO for determining whether China will continue being treated as an NME.

China joined the WTO in December 2001, with the terms of its accession protocol including provisions on how to deal with issues of price comparability when determining subsidies and dumping, which is in turn related to China's market economy status and therefore the methodology used in anti-dumping investigations.

"Once China has established, under the national law of the importing WTO Member, that it is a market economy, the provisions of subparagraph (a) shall be terminated provided that the importing Member's national law contains market economy criteria as of the date of accession," the protocol reads, with subparagraph (a) referring to the methodology used in determining price comparability under Article VI of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and the Anti-Dumping Agreement.

That subparagraph outlines two alternative scenarios: one if the Chinese producers under investigation "can clearly show that market economy conditions prevail" in the industry in question with regard to a product's manufacturing, production, and sale – and the other scenario should producers be unable to prove such conditions exist.

In the case of the latter, importing WTO members can then use a methodology "that is not based on a strict comparison or costs in China."

"In any event, the provisions of subparagraph (a)(ii) shall expire 15 years after the date of accession," the protocol notes under subparagraph (d). China will reach the 15-year mark this upcoming December, setting the stage for a major debate among WTO members over whether or not this language means that China will be accorded with market economy status automatically at the global trade body.

Last week, the European Commission decided to delay whether to start classifying China as a non-market economy for its own trade remedy investigations, with the decision now slated for the latter half of 2016 – a surprise for many trade watchers, given that an answer from Brussels had been expected this month.

Such a shift in EU policy and practice, if agreed, would likely be significant for the WTO-wide debate on the subject.

"We will come back to it later because the [Commission] president very clearly concluded that this issue has to be looked at from all important angles given the subject's importance for international trade, but also for the EU's economy," said European Commission First Vice President Frans Timmermans on 13 January following a debate on the subject.

Next steps

The two trading giants already have in place a bilateral understanding on how to proceed with the fasteners dispute, with either side able to ask that the WTO's Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) adopt the Appellate Body recommendations and rulings within a 30-day period.

Chinese officials have urged that the EU bring its measures into compliance, warning that otherwise Beijing will need to take further action.

"China is urging the EU to comply with the latest rulings made by the Appellate Body and withdraw the illegal anti-dumping measures on fasteners from China as soon as possible. Otherwise, China reserves its rights to take further steps under the WTO dispute settlement mechanism," the MOFCOM statement said.

Given that the Appellate Body found the EU's measure to still be against trade rules, China may now ask for authorisation to "suspend concessions or other obligations," the understanding notes, while the EU will have the right to object to the level of suspension requested.

Objections to either the level of suspension or on the grounds that Article 22.3 of the Dispute Settlement Understanding – which relates to compensation and the suspension of concessions – would mean that the case would go to arbitration, with both sides agreeing to help the arbitrator reach a decision within 60 days.

ICTSD reporting; "Brussels delays deciding on status of China as 'market economy'," FINANCIAL TIMES, 13 January 2016; "EU delays decision on China market economy status," AFP, 14 January 2016.

GLOBAL ECONOMY

IMF Lowers Global Growth Forecasts for 2016, 2017

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) [revised downward](#) its global growth forecasts for both this year and next, with growth now set to hit 3.4 percent in 2016 and 3.6 percent in 2017. The news of the lower estimates comes amid continued concern over slowdowns in China and other emerging markets and the potential ramifications for the global economy more broadly.

"Despite the modesty of the reduction we see in general growth prospects and the promise of improvement in coming years, downside risks to our central scenario have intensified," said Maurice Obstfeld, IMF Economic Counsellor and Director of Research, in a related [blog post](#) following the publication of the newest World Economic Outlook.

"We may be in for a bumpy ride this year, especially in the emerging and developing world," he added.

The revised figures do suggest that 2016 and 2017, with their expected growth of 3.4 and 3.6 percent respectively, are still improvements over last year's 3.1 percent growth, despite being lower than earlier predictions.

The Fund has attributed the bulk of the change in forecasts to the situation in emerging and developing economies. That said, advanced, emerging, and developing economies are all set to see some accelerations in growth over the coming two years.

Specifically, advanced economies are set to grow at an average rate of 2.1 percent for both 2016 and 2017, while emerging market and developing economies are slated to see growth rates of 4.3 and 4.7 percent for those two years, respectively.

In a [speech](#) given in Paris a few days prior, IMF Managing Director Christine Lagarde similarly noted the challenges that emerging and developing countries – together making up 85 percent of the world's population and nearly 60 percent of global GDP. These countries, she explained, are now facing a "new reality."

"Growth rates are down, and cyclical and structural forces have undermined the traditional growth paradigm. On current forecasts, the emerging world will converge to advanced economy income levels at less than two-thirds the pace we had predicted just a decade ago. This is cause for concern," she said.

The figures, released in the semi-annual World Economic Outlook, are themselves a downward revision from this past October. The IMF's policy steering committee had already warned during its Annual Meetings that same month that global growth was modest and uneven, with many potential risks ahead. (See Bridges Weekly, [15 October 2015](#))

The news also comes as the World Economic Forum's Annual Meeting gets underway, with the high-level event taking place from 20-23 January in the Swiss ski resort town of Davos-Klosters.

With this year's meeting being held under the theme "Mastering the Fourth Industrial Revolution" – specifically in reference to the effects of rapidly evolving changes in digital

technology – the potential dangers facing the global economy are widely expected to draw significant attention during the four-day meet.

China slowdown in focus

While advanced economies such as the US, Japan, and the euro area countries are set to see some growth increases, the IMF warned that these would be slightly less than previously forecast, and that risks for such countries remain, such as the potential diminishing of the American manufacturing sector as a result of the improved strength of the US dollar.

The estimates are less promising for some emerging and developing country economies, most notably China, the world's largest exporter and [this year's president](#) of the G-20 coalition of developed and emerging economies.

"One downside risk is that China's economy could encounter rough patches where growth slows more than expected, directly affecting trade partners while disturbing foreign exchange and other financial markets worldwide," said Obstfeld.

Lagarde, during a 12 January speech at the Banque de France, noted the potential long-run benefits of China's attempts to rebalance its economy toward a growth path that is more sustainable, while also suggesting that in the near-term such changes are set to have "spillover effects" that could hit trade and commodity demand, among other areas.

Other risk factors for the global economy, according to the Washington-based institution, include further increases in geopolitical tensions that could, in turn, have adverse effects ranging from decreased tourism to trade flow disruptions.

"In advanced economies, currently projected growth rates are too low rapidly to reduce high unemployment and other legacies of recent crises, or to spark strong growth in real wages. In emerging and developing economies, currently projected growth rates substantially slow convergence to higher incomes," said Obstfeld in his blog for the Fund, outlining a series of general actions that could help supporting aggregate demand, economic efficiency, and the international safety net.

The IMF official noted, however, that along with these general recommendations, country-specific policy actions will also be key moving forward.

ICTSD reporting; "China's economic turmoil sends ripples of anxieties across G20," FINANCIAL TIMES, 18 January 2016; "Davos Takes a Fresh Look at Emerging Markets," THE NEW YORK TIMES, 19 January 2016.

DISPUTES

EU Challenges Colombia at WTO Over Import Measures for Spirits

The EU filed a WTO challenge last week against Colombia, citing tax and regulatory measures that it claims adversely affect imported spirits, such as whiskies, liqueurs, and cordials.

According to the consultations request (DS502), spirits sold in Colombia are subject to either a national excise tax on consumption or a local charge derived from the "fiscal monopoly over spirits." The tax and the charge are both determined based on a beverage's degree of alcohol – with any beverage with more than 35 percent alcohol per volume prompting an increase in the tax or charge.

Colombia primarily produces spirits such as rum and aguardiente, which have 35 percent or less alcohol per volume, while the EU alcoholic beverage exports to Colombia are made up primarily of whiskies, liqueurs, and cordials, which all tend to fall above this alcohol threshold.

Brussels therefore argues in its consultations request that the fiscal regime, while "on its face origin neutral," actually leads to an "unjustified imposition of a higher fiscal burden on like or directly competitive and substitutable imported spirits than the one applied on domestically produced spirits such as rums and aguardientes."

The European Union claims that as a result of such policies, Colombia is in violation of certain provisions of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade's (GATT) article relating to national treatment on internal taxation and regulation.

Another issue raised by the 28-nation bloc in its complaint is the use of several alleged "marketing restrictions connected to the administration and implementation of the fiscal monopolies over the introduction and sale of spirits in the departments," which it claims run contrary to certain GATT provisions. Departments, in Colombia, refers to the 32 different regional areas that the country's territory is divided into.

"The EU's concerns about discrimination in the Colombian market are longstanding," said a [press release](#) from the European Commission, adding that the measures at issue lead to increased "cost of doing business" in the Latin American country.

Furthermore, the EU noted, Colombia had committed to "ending the discrimination" under the bilateral [free trade agreement](#) between the two sides by 1 August 2015. The EU has a trade deal with both Colombia and Peru that has been provisionally applied since August and March 2013, respectively. Ecuador completed talks to join the trade pact the following year, though the internal procedures for applying the agreement have not yet been completed. (See Bridges Weekly, [24 July 2014](#))

According to EU figures, the bloc's exports of spirits to Colombia were worth €43 million in 2014, making up over three-quarters of the South American country's total spirits imports.

Colombia's consumption of spirits, however, is mainly of rums and aguardientes, which the EU says made up 83 percent of domestic consumption in 2013.

The EU press release also suggested that some other trading partners – such as Mexico, Costa Rica, and the US – are also affected by the Colombian measures cited in the consultations request, though those countries have not yet filed their own disputes on the subject.

“These measures raise the cost of doing business in Colombia and place EU spirits at a competitive disadvantage on the Colombian market,” the press release said.

Under WTO rules, the two sides must hold consultations for a minimum of 60 days in an effort to reach a mutually agreed solution. Otherwise, the EU will have the right to ask that a WTO dispute panel be established to hear the case.

ICTSD reporting.

AGRICULTURE

India Approves New US\$1.14 Billion Crop Insurance Scheme

Following two successive years of drought, India's cabinet has now approved a major new crop insurance scheme, a government [statement](#) confirmed last week.

"This is the biggest-ever government contribution to crop insurance," said Prime Minister Narendra Modi in an online [letter](#) addressed to farmers. With a budget of INR 77.5 billion (US\$1.14billion) by 2018-19, the scheme will more than double current crop insurance spending.

The government also [said](#) it hopes to raise participation levels dramatically, from 23 percent of total crop area currently to a target of 50 percent.

To do so, farmers' premiums will be heavily subsidised by the government. For food grain and oilseed crops in the monsoon "kharif" season - from July to October - farmers will pay premiums of two percent of the sum insured, while for crops in the "rabi" winter season from October to March, premiums will be set at 1.5 percent.

For horticultural and cotton crops, the premium has been fixed at up to five percent for both seasons.

"What this means is that farmers will get almost 80 percent subsidy in insurance premiums," [observed](#) Ashok Gulati, Infosys Chair Professor for Agriculture at the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER) in New Delhi.

In an article for the Indian Express, Gulati said that if farmers had to pay market-based risk rates, these would be closer to 10 to 12 percent for kharif crops, and 8-10 percent for the rabi season.

With controversy over farm subsidies continuing to hinder progress in updating global rules on trade at the WTO, the new announcement appears to follow similar moves in the US to refocus agricultural domestic support around subsidised insurance schemes. (See [Bridges Weekly](#), 15 January 2015)

Gulati argued that the level of subsidy was "not out of line with international practices," citing support levels in the US and China as examples.

ICTSD reporting; "A harvest-time gift," INDIAN EXPRESS, 18 January 2016.

TRADE AGREEMENTS

EU, India Discuss Trade Issues as Speculation Builds Over Negotiations Reboot

The EU and India held a stocktaking meeting in Brussels on 18 January to discuss various pending issues that have been stumbling blocks in their long-running trade talks, which have been stalled since 2013.

The meeting, which reportedly addressed issues such as services market access, as well as potential tariff cuts on automobiles and wines and spirits, came amid growing speculation that the two sides may restart their negotiations for a bilateral trade deal, which if agreed would cover 1.7 billion people.

The discussions were "extremely positive" India's commerce secretary Rita Teautia [said](#) following the meeting, in comments reported by the Hindu, adding that both sides are intent on reaching "a balanced agreement."

Troubled talks

The two parties first launched talks on the bilateral free trade agreement in 2007, aiming to increase the volume of bilateral investment flows, while securing improved market access in goods, services, and public procurement, among other objectives.

After 16 rounds of talks, the negotiations stalled in mid-2013, with multiple efforts since then to restart them ultimately failing to bear fruit. Plans to hold a summit between the two trading partners in mid-2015 were cancelled, leaving unclear the future of the trade talks. (See Bridges Weekly, [19 March 2015](#))

A subsequent attempt to reboot the talks last summer was also scuppered, in this case due to a disagreement resulting from an EU-imposed ban on over 700 generic pharmaceutical products from India, which Brussels attributed to concerns over a particular producer, GVK Biosciences, and the way it conducted its clinical trials.

The two parties have also struggled to get past their differences on issues such as automobile and wine tariffs, with the EU urging India to reduce these further. The two sides have similarly disagreed on subjects such as geographical indications, insurance, and intellectual property rights, among other issues. India, for its part, has pushed for improved services market access from the 28-nation bloc.

Trade between the two sides increased significantly over the past decade, from €28.6 billion in 2003 to €72.5 billion in 2014, according to EU [statistics](#). Specifically, trade in commercial services between the two parties grew fourfold to €23.7 billion in 2013 from €5.2 billion in 2002.

ICTSD reporting; "India, EU hold stock-taking meet on outstanding issues on FTA," THE HINDU, 19 January 2016; "India, EU to resume free trade pact talks," BUSINESS STANDARD, 8 January 2016; "Free trade agreement with European Union: India may relax tariffs on spirits, auto parts," THE ECONOMIC TIMES, 19 March 2015; "Generic drugs ban prompts India to free EU trade talks," FINANCIAL TIMES, 5 August 2015.

EVENTS & RESOURCES

Events

Coming Soon

20-23 January, Davos, Switzerland. RELEASE OF E15 POLICY OPTIONS SUMMARIES AT WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM ANNUAL MEETING 2016. During this year's World Economic Forum (WEF) Annual Meeting, the E15 Initiative – convened by the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD) and the WEF – will release both a synthesis report and comprehensive set of policy options focused on how to strengthen the global trade and investment system for sustainable development. Syntheses of these policy options will also be made publicly available during the event. A series of sessions are planned in tandem with the release of these outputs; a full event schedule is available at the ICTSD [website](#). More information about the E15 Initiative is available [here](#).

27 January, London, UK. THE EU AS A GLOBAL POWER: AN INTERNATIONAL AGENDA FOR EUROPE. This Chatham House event, organised in association with the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung UK & Ireland Office, will feature a panel discussion on the expected challenges for the EU – both internally and with its international partners – in the years ahead. Panellists will look at both foreign policy and security, among other topics. More information, including an initial list of speakers, can be found at the event [website](#).

28 January, Washington, US. GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT IN A DIGITAL WORLD. Organised by the Brookings Institution, this event will feature a discussion on the impact that the advent and evolution of new technologies has had on international development opportunities. The meeting will feature as its main speaker Deepak Mishra of the World Bank, who will present the organisation's 2016 World Development Report, which focuses this year on the digital technology issue. More information, including a full list of panellists and details about registration, are available [here](#).

WTO Events

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

22 January: Informal Committee on Trade and Development – Session on Aid for Trade

25 January: Dispute Settlement Body

Other Upcoming Events

29 January, Geneva, Switzerland. TALKING DISPUTES – AB REPORT ON THE US-TUNA II (MEXICO) (Art. 21.5) DISPUTE. This event, organised by the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD) and WTI Advisors, will examine the recent findings of the Appellate Body in the compliance proceedings over the US-Mexico dispute on dolphin-safe tuna labelling. The meeting will feature a presentation on the Appellate Body's key findings, followed by an expert discussion. Registration is mandatory. More information is available at the ICTSD [website](#).

8 February, online. LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND. Organised by the Overseas Development Institute, this event will feature Dutch Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation Lilianne Ploumen, together with various experts and senior government officials, to discuss the way forward following the adoption last September of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Among the topics for discussion are how to identify those people most in need, as well as how to support those same needs, as governments and other actors work to meet the SDGs by 2030. More information about the event is available [here](#).

10 February, London, UK. THE IMPACT OF INEQUALITY ON TRANSATLANTIC ECONOMIC GROWTH. This Chatham House event will focus on the income inequality problems facing various developed economies, particularly the US and the EU member states, and review what implications may have on these countries' potential growth in the years ahead. The event will feature as its speaker Martin Wolf, Financial Times Associate Editor and Chief Economics Commentator. Please note that the meeting is by invitation only. To learn more, visit the Chatham House [website](#).

15-16 February, London, UK. NINTH INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED AND UNREGULATED FISHING. Organised by Chatham House, this two-day forum will focus on the latest developments in fisheries governance and trade, with participants expected to include policy-makers, researchers, and representatives from both industry and civil society. For more information, visit the Chatham House [website](#).

30-31 March, Washington, US. FIRST CONFERENCE ON GLOBAL VALUE CHAINS, TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT. This conference is being organised jointly by the Centre for Economic Policy Research (CEPR) and the World Bank, with the goal of spurring debate and additional research on the relationship between global value chains, trade, and development. More information can be found at the [CEPR website](#); a call for papers is also underway.

Resources

THE CHINA (SHANGHAI) PILOT FREE TRADE ZONE AND AUSTRALIA. Published by the Export Council of Australia (2015). This report aims to clarify the implications of the Shanghai Free Trade Zone (SFTZ) may be for Australian businesses, featuring a detailed guide for Australian companies on how to build on the opportunities provided by the SFTZ. Along with [the report](#), there is also a related App available for [Apple](#) and [Android](#) devices.

MITIGATING DROUGHTS AND FLOODS IN AGRICULTURE. Published by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) (January 2016). This publication reviews the policy challenges that are expected to result from climate change-related droughts and floods, particularly with regards to agriculture. The report, part of the "OECD Studies on Water" series, also provides a series of related recommendations to address such challenges. The report is available [here](#).

THE EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK EXPLAINS ITS CLIMATE AGENDA. Published by viEUws (January 2016). This video, released by viEUws.eu, features an interview of Jonathan Taylor, European Investment Bank (EIB) Vice-President responsible for Environment and Climate Action. During the interview, which is conducted by journalist Sonja van Renssen, Taylor outlines the priorities the EIB has in the area of climate finance and lending. The full video can be accessed [here](#).

THE INVISIBLE BARRIERS TO TRADE – HOW BUSINESSES EXPERIENCE NON-TARIFF MEASURES. Published by the International Trade Centre (ITC) (2015). This study reviews businesses across 23 developing countries, focusing specifically on how non-tariff measures (NTM) affect them. The surveys included participation from over 11,500 exporters and importers. To learn more about the report, or to download it in PDF form, visit the ITC [website](#).

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PONTES

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<http://www.ictsd.org/bridges-news/pontes>
Portuguese language

桥

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