



Doha Round Updates

Lamy outlines what is needed to conclude round this year

Geneva, February 2nd



DG Pascal Lamy

Director-General Pascal Lamy, as chairperson of the Trade Negotiations Committee, told WTO ambassadors on 2 February 2011 that bilateral and small group discussions on resolving key differences need to catch up with work among the full membership on refining texts. "Acceleration, texts, convergence is now the name of the game," he told an informal meeting of the committee, which oversees the Doha Round negotiations in all subjects. Noting that the mood has improved

for producing revised drafts by Easter (late April), Mr Lamy said he cautioned ministers at the recent World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland: "Atmospheric improvement is good and important, but we will not advance on air alone." He said he told ministers that while the negotiations have to be "multilateral" (among the full membership), possible breakthroughs have to be tested in a second leg, "plurilateral" or bilateral discussions among small groups or pairs of members. "This leg also has to move faster and deeper to transfer the required energy onto the multilateral leg. And this needs to happen now. Not tomorrow or the day after tomorrow. Now," he said. "The mood music can be good but we need the two legs on the dance floor."

Lamy on the rise in food prices: "Trade is part of the answer, not part of the problem"

Berlin, January 22th

Director-General Pascal Lamy, in his opening address to the Berlin Agriculture Ministers' Summit on 22 January 2011, said that "trade plays or can play a better role in addressing the rise in food prices and tackling food insecurity. Trade is part of the solution, and not part of the problem."

Lamy: Sports equipment typifies new global production pattern

Munich, February 5th

Director-General Pascal Lamy, in his speech at the annual meeting of the World Federation of the Sporting Goods Industry on 5 February 2011 in Munich, said that a "significant change in the international trade landscape is the spread of globally-integrated production chains... This new global reality forces us to re-examine how we analyse and measure 'international trade'". He called on the sports equipment industry and the business community in general "to press your governments for a conclusion of the Doha Round this year".

Geographical indications talks produce first single draft

Geneva, January 13th and 27th

For the first time in over 13 years of talks, WTO intellectual property negotiators have started work on producing a single draft text for setting up a multilateral geographical indications register for wines and spirits. A draft on notification — the first of six broad topics of the system to be discussed — was circulated by chairperson Darlington Mwape at an informal meeting of the full membership on 13 January 2011. The second of six key areas has been added to the emerging single draft negotiating text and was circulated to WTO intellectual property negotiators at an informal meeting of the full membership on 27 January 2011.

Members ready to move forward on environment negotiations

Geneva, January 10th

On 10-14 January 2011, WTO members reviewed the various proposals on the table covering the Doha mandate related to environment. The discussions indicated that members were ready to move forward in revisiting previous proposals and working on new ones.

WTO and Global Governance

World trade statisticians set up plans to improve trade figures

Geneva, February 2nd- 4th



Panel Discussion at the Global Forum on Trade Statistics

About 200 statisticians from developed and developing countries participated in the Global Forum on Trade Statistics 2011. They discussed responses to policy makers' demands for more accurate statistics on trade in goods and services and defined plans for producing trade statistics in the future. All participants agreed that trade figures should be improved to better reflect the direct relation between global value chains, trade in goods and services, employment and the growing interdependence of economies. Statisticians also highlighted the need to improve the relevance of international trade statistics by integrating existing trade information more closely with its economic, social, environmental and financial dimensions.

Coming events

- 21-22 March
Annual 2011 Session of the IPU Conference on the WTO -
WTO Headquarters,
Geneva

Lamy: Doha will oil the wheels of world commodities trade

Geneva, January 31st

Director-General Pascal Lamy, in his inaugural address to the UNCTAD Global Commodities Forum in Geneva on 31 January 2011, said that “through the Doha Round, WTO Members have an opportunity to dismantle even more of the artificially-created barriers that hinder commodity trade”. He added that “for food trade, the climate crisis makes a properly functioning transmission belt (between demand and supply) even more imperative”.

Other WTO News

China offers USD 200,000 to WTO training programme for developing members

February 1st

China has donated USD 200,000 (about CHF 194,000) to the Doha Development Agenda Global Trust Fund (DDAGTF) within the framework of the WTO Aid for Trade Initiative. With this new contribution, China’s overall participation to the WTO trust funds has reached CHF600,000 (about USD621,000). This donation will finance technical assistance programmes and training activities for developing Members and more specifically to least developed Members. The aim is to enhance their ability to participate effectively in the Doha Round negotiations and ensure they fully benefit from the results achieved during these negotiations

WTO shows strong support for Afghanistan’s membership

Geneva, January 31st

On 31 January 2011, at the first Working Party meeting on Afghanistan’s accession, WTO members carried out a first review of Afghanistan’s trade regime. The Working Party Chair, Ambassador Boudewijn J. Van Eenennaam (Netherlands) said that trade co-operation and integration can play a strong role for Afghanistan in the promotion of welfare with considerable potential for enhancing peace and security. He stated that Afghanistan faced particular challenges as a landlocked least-developed country (LDC) rebuilding itself after decades of conflict and added that it was essential to take full account of these factors in the negotiations.

Aid for Trade: Facilitating development through trade in the Caribbean

Barbados, January 27th

Member states of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) gathered on 25-27 January 2011 in Barbados to assess how Aid for Trade (AfT) can facilitate the development of the small vulnerable economies of CARICOM. The conference was sponsored by the CARICOM

Secretariat, the World Trade Organization (WTO), and supported by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).

Germany donates EUR 150,000 for food, animal and plant health standards

January 13th

Germany has offered EUR 150,000 (approximately CHF 188,000) to the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF). Germany’s overall contribution to WTO trust funds has now reached CHF17 million. This programme was set up to help developing countries improve their expertise and their capacity to analyze and implement international standards on food safety and animal and plant health. The STDF is a joint initiative of the World Trade Organization, the World Health Organization, the World Bank, the World Organization for Animal Health, and the Food and Agriculture Organization.

Dispute Settlement Body Updates

WTO establishes single panel on Dominican safeguard measures

Geneva, February 7th

At its meeting on 7 February 2011, the Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) established a single panel to examine safeguard measures imposed by the Dominican Republic on imports of plastic bags and tubular fabric from Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador. In the dispute over US import measures on Chinese truck tyres and vehicles, and following a joint request from both parties, the DSB agreed to postpone the delay within which they could appeal the report to 24 May 2011.

Korea files dispute against United States

Geneva, January 11th

On 31 January 2011, Korea requested consultations with the United States under the dispute settlement system concerning anti-dumping measures on corrosion-resistant carbon steel flat products from Korea.

Trade Policy Reviews

TRADE POLICY REVIEW: JAMAICA 18 and 20 January

TRADE POLICY REVIEW: JAPAN 15 and 17 February

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FEATURED MEDIA

Latest podcast: 15.02.2011: Trade Policy Review: Japan

Latest video: 09.02.2011: Interview with former WTO Director-General Peter Sutherland

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