



WTO NEWSLETTER FOR PARLIAMENTARIANS



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Activities at the WTO

General Council: Doha and Aid for Trade towards the Millennium Development Goals

Geneva, 29 July



General Council, July 2010

Director-General Pascal Lamy, in his report to the General Council, touched upon the latest global trade developments and warned that despite the mild signs of recovery registered in many parts of the world, the upturn is still fragile and characterized by persistent unemployment and growing public finance difficulties in some economies. In this phase, the multilateral trading system needs to remain the insurance policy against the resurgence of protectionism. Looking ahead to the UN Summit on the Millennium Development Goals in autumn, the Director-General said that “the strengthening of the multilateral trading system through the conclusion of the Doha Round and Aid for Trade are the contributions that the WTO has to make” to meet the UN Millennium Development Goals.

World Trade Report calls for more cooperation among governments in natural resource trade

Geneva and Shanghai, 23 July

This year, the World Trade Report 2010, launched simultaneously in Shanghai and Geneva, examines the characteristics of trade in natural resources, the policy choices available to governments and the role of international cooperation, particularly of the WTO, in the proper management of trade in this sector. With natural resources trade flows accounting for about 24% of global merchandise trade, governments need to engage in more intense cooperation to address the resulting challenges. During the launching ceremony in Shanghai, Director-General Pascal Lamy said that “well designed trade rules are key to ensuring that trade is



Director-General Lamy at the launch of the World Trade Report 2010 in Shanghai



Launch of WTR in Geneva

advantageous, but they are also necessary for the attainment of objectives such as environmental protection and the proper management of natural resources in a domestic setting.”

“China’s WTO membership is “win-win”

Shanghai, 22 July

Director-General Pascal Lamy, at a flag-raising ceremony to inaugurate WTO Day at the Shanghai 2010 World Expo, said that since putting in place reform measures, China has “lifted hundreds of millions of people out of poverty, and that it “is poised to soon become the world’s second largest economy”. At the same time, China’s entry has “brought enhanced credibility and made us much more a ‘World’ Trade Organization,” he added.

WHO, WIPO, WTO join forces to put access-to-medicines under the microscope

Geneva, 16 July

A symposium held by the World Health Organization (WHO), World



Margaret Chan, WHO Director-General; Pascal Lamy, WTO Director-General; and Francis Gurry, WIPO Director General

Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and World Trade Organization (WTO) kicked off a closer, factual look at a range of issues affecting how poorer populations can obtain the medicines they need. The heads of the three organizations underscored their determination to

continue to join forces to pursue shared policy goals on public health, intellectual property and trade. They felt that their organizations are now well placed to support well-informed policymaking on the pressing of issue of access to medicine.

First quarter of 2010 sees trade value rise by about 25%

Geneva, 2 June

The value of world merchandise trade was around 25% higher in the first three months of 2010 than in the same period of 2009, according to WTO figures. Global exports rose by 27%, while imports rose slightly less, at 24%.

Public Forum 2010 The Forces Shaping World Trade

The Public Forum, that will be held on 15-17 September, will be an opportunity to take stock of the latest international developments that impact on the multilateral trading system. The Forum will look at the different actors that seek to influence the WTO, assess the factors and issues shaping world trade and brainstorm on the way forward. In the run-up to this year’s Public Forum, the WTO invites you to participate in a video contest to tell us your views about the key forces shaping world trade. Find out more on our [website](#).

Coming events

- **14-16 September** Trade Policy Review – The Gambia
- **15-17 September** WTO Public Forum
- **19 September** WTO Open Day
- **20-22 September** Trade Policy Review – Honduras
- **29 September 1 October** Trade Policy Review – United States
- **4-6 October** Trade Policy Review – Benin, Burkina Faso and Mali
- **12-13 October** WTO General Council
- **11-13 October** Trade Policy Review – Sri Lanka

Photo WTO Forum 2008

International view

Trade opening has much to contribute to the protection of the environment

5 June

On the occasion of World Environment Day on 5 June 2010 Director-General Pascal Lamy said “we simply cannot proceed with business as usual – if our planet is to be preserved for future generations, we must protect our resources, our planet’s biodiversity and our environment at large”. He explained how trade has much to contribute to the fight against climate change as it allows a more efficient allocation of resources, increased accessibility to environmentally friendly products and technologies, and the creation of demand for higher environmental standards. He noted that “the leaders that founded our organization were adamant that sustainable development lies at the very core of our mission”.



Director-General Pascal Lamy

WTO-OECD-UNCTAD: Despite crisis, G-20 governments largely resist protectionist pressures

16 June

In a joint report on G-20 trade and investment measures, the WTO, OECD and UNCTAD noted the imposition of fewer trade restrictions but warned “they are accumulating”. In a separate report to WTO members on trade-related developments, Director-General Pascal Lamy confirmed this trend but urged governments to remain “vigilant” and to give priority to “exiting current restricting measures”. The OECD and UNCTAD also released a separate report on G20 investment measures.

Parliamentarians and the WTO

DDG Singh cites important role of parliamentarians in the world trading system

Geneva, 24-25 June



From left to right: Patricia Francis, ITC Executive Director; WTO Deputy Director-General, Harsha V. Singh, and Vital Moreira, Chairman of the Committee on International Trade of the European Parliament

Deputy Director-General Harsha V. Singh, in a speech to the 21st Session of the Steering Committee of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO, briefed parliamentarians on the state of play of the negotiations and focussed on the wider scope of a successful conclusion of the Doha Round, in terms of the overall balance and fairness of the multilateral trading system, its contribution to the achievement of the MDGs and the possibility of addressing most of the key challenges facing the world today. DDG Singh was pleased to note that “the WTO’s relations with parliamentarians have grown and are now on solid footing. We meet regularly to exchange views and information on the benefits of keeping

markets open and creating greater opportunities through trade liberalization.” The focus of the meeting also went to the Aid for Trade initiative that was introduced by Ms Patricia Francis, ITC Executive Director. It was emphasised that the Aid for Trade initiative is not only about assistance, but it is mainly about empowering countries, giving them capacity to explore their own potential. In this context, national parliaments can greatly contribute to ensuring an effective implementation of the Aid for Trade agenda

South African Parliamentarians visit the WTO

Geneva, 21-22 July

A delegation of nine South African parliamentarians, accompanied by three staff members from Parliament, visited the WTO to be briefed on the WTO work programme, the on-going negotiations and to grasp a better understanding of the multilateral trading system. The group was welcomed by WTO Deputy Director-General Valentine Rugwabiza and H.E. Mr. Faizel Ismail, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of South Africa to the WTO. The visit culminated with a Roundtable discussion on the Doha Development Agenda that saw the participation of Sun Zhenyu, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the People’s Republic of China to the WTO, H.E. Ujal Singh Bhatia, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of India to the WTO, H.E. Darlington



South African parliamentarians with DDG Valentine Rugwabiza

Mwape, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Zambia to the WTO, Mr. Paulo Estivallet de Mesquita, Deputy Permanent Representative of Brazil to the WTO, and Mr. John Clarke, Deputy Permanent Representative of the European Union to the WTO.

Trade Policy Reviews

MALAWI 9 and 11 June

Since the last review in 2002, the WTO Secretariat review of the country’s trade policies found that Malawi has made progress in reforming its trade policy regime in the areas of customs procedures, competition policy, government procurement, and privatization of some state-owned enterprises.

CHINESE TAIPEI 5 and 7 July

The WTO Secretariat report on the trade policies and practices of Chinese Taipei found that an outward-oriented development strategy has brought rapid growth and prosperity to the Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu (Chinese Taipei), transforming it into a modern industrial economy and a leading exporter of information technology (IT) products. It concluded that their economy would improve with more flexibility and more competitiveness.

Negotiations

Lamy sees “new dynamic” emerging in negotiations

Geneva, 27 July



Director-General Pascal Lamy and General Council Chair John Gero at the Trade Negotiations Committee

Director-General Pascal Lamy reported to an informal meeting of the Trade Negotiations Committee that “after some months of impasse in negotiations, my own sense is that we are beginning to see signs of a new dynamic emerging”. He called on negotiators to “build on the new dynamic by expanding the small groups discussion to all areas,” adding that “somewhere around mid-October would be a good time to evaluate our progress”.

Negotiators discuss market-access barriers to autos, electronics and remanufactured goods

Geneva 15 July

The chair of the Negotiating Group on Market Access, Ambassador Luzius Wasescha, in closing a week of informal meetings, urged delegations to put forward more proposals and “solutions”, and expressed the hope for “something concrete” on non-tariff barriers before the end of the year.

Rules Group elects new chair

Geneva, 13 July

The Negotiating Group on Rules elected by acclamation Ambassador Dennis Francis (Trinidad and Tobago) as its new chair. In thanking delegations, Ambassador Francis said he saw his new task as “a significant challenge”, and pledged “to do everything I can to help move our work meaningfully forward”.

Chair urges agriculture negotiators to send in essential data

Geneva, 9 July

Agriculture negotiations chairperson David Walker urged members to use the upcoming summer break to supply the information needed for the Secretariat to compile data that will become part of the “modalities”.

Trade and Development

Lamy urges more trade finance for developing countries

Geneva, 9 June

Director-General Pascal Lamy, in his keynote address to the Global Commodities Finance Conference in Geneva, warned that lower-income developing countries, particularly in Sub Saharan Africa, continue to face “strong constraints” in trade finance despite

the return of liquidity to the bulk of trade markets. He said that concluding the Doha Round would significantly reduce “current distortions in the global commodities markets, particularly those that impact on developing countries”.

Showcase Aid-for-Trade: a call for case stories

The Secretariats of the WTO and the OECD are calling on governments, institutions, organizations, the academia, the private sector and other interested parties to share experiences on how Aid for Trade is working on the ground. The case stories will provide an important source of information for the Third Global Review of Aid for Trade next year. Send your contribution [here](#)

Dispute Settlement within WTO

In the spotlight of the Dispute Settlement Body:

- » 27 July Appellate Body amends the Working Procedures for Appellate Review
- » 20 July Panel established on clove cigarettes
- » 30 June WTO issues panel report on Airbus dispute

Mark your calendar...

14-16 September Panel meeting on US – COOL dispute open to the public

The Panel on the dispute US – Certain Country of Origin Labelling (COOL) Requirements has agreed to open its meeting with the parties on 14, 15 and 16 September 2010 with a session open for public viewing at the International Conference Centre (CICG) in Geneva. For more information, go to our [website](#).

We would like to hear from you:

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