

Lamy was conferred the title of doctor honoris causa

Geneva, 5 June 2009



Pascal Lamy and Archbishop Desmond Tutu

In receiving the title of doctor honoris causa conferred by the University of Geneva in its 450th anniversary, Pascal Lamy was asked to express his views on human rights in the globalizing world. The Director General responded that "globalization and the opening up of trade can work in favour of universal human rights." However, he continued, the benefits are not automatic and can be reaped only under certain conditions. Globalization needs to be harnessed and regulated by policy and law, it needs to be subject to a global governance that is yet to be established.

illustrated how non-resident Members can use their regional representatives to influence WTO discussions bypassing the inconvenience of not having a mission in Geneva.

NEW

The WTO Newsletter for Parliamentarians is now available online. Explore the online session for parliamentarians at www.wto.org following the link Resources for... Parliamentarians.

Activities at the WTO

General Council: WTO to hold a "FIT" Ministerial Conference

Geneva, 26 May 2009

The General Council agreed to hold the 7th WTO Ministerial Conference in Geneva from 30 November to 2 December 2009. The Ministerial Conference is the topmost decision-making body in the WTO composed of representatives of all WTO Members. The Conference usually meets every two years, but the most recent one was held in Hong Kong in 2005.

As it was repeatedly pointed out, the Conference travels on a different track than negotiations, its focus being on good governance and a broader evaluation of the functioning of the multilateral trading system.

The agreed overall theme for discussion is "The WTO, the Multilateral Trading System and the Current Global Economic Environment." The topic will be complemented by sub-themes for Ministers to discuss upon. Members expressed the need to "demystify" these meetings, making them a more regular exercise. The 7th Ministerial wants to set a new model, breaking from past Ministerial-level meetings and asserting a more lean and economical cut to the event. Ambassador Mario Matus, who chaired the General Council meeting, summarized the idea behind the Ministerial in the acronym F.I.T.: Full participation, Inclusiveness, Transparency.

18th Geneva Week: a door of opportunity for non-resident delegations

Geneva, 25-29 May 2009

The 18th Geneva Week represents an opportunity for WTO non-resident Members and Observers to keep abreast of WTO's activities. Attendants are briefed on the state of the negotiations and are given the opportunity to engage in debates concerning topical issues of international trade and technical assistance. This year's edition saw the involvement of regional representatives who

Trade Policy Reviews

NEW ZEALAND 10 and 12 June

In its fourth policy review, New Zealand was praised for being one of the most open economies in the world enjoying stable growth, high living standards, low unemployment and contained inflation. In addition, its policy initiatives to counteract the crisis have not spilled into protectionism. Some concerns were raised on the relatively high tariffs on certain sectors, the strict SPS regime and certain aspects of state trading activities of some enterprises. While remaining committed to the multilateral trading system, New Zealand is building a network of FTAs to complement its trade strategy.

MOROCCO 24 and 26 June

The trade policy review of Morocco revealed an overall positive performance of the country's economy with a sustained GDP annual growth rate supported by strong internal demand and increased investment. Morocco is a net exporter of services with tourism and telecommunications recording a rapid expansion, but it was noted that the sector could further benefit from enhanced commitment under GATS. Morocco's involvement in numerous regional and bilateral agreements have resulted in substantial trade liberalization, but it also accounts for a higher degree of complexity of its trade regime, resulting in lower manageability and predictability.

Negotiations in Brief

Negotiating sustainable measures for fishing

Geneva, 8 June 2009

On the occasion of the first World Oceans Day, Director-General Pascal Lamy warned about the risk of over-fishing, which is being exacerbated by governments providing subsidies to the fishery sector amounting to US\$ 16 millions a year. These volumes of subsidies jeopardize the sustainability of the sector, endangering the livelihoods of the world's 43.5 million full-time fishers. The present round of negotiations aims at reforming these subsidies programmes to make fishing a sustainable industry. "A deal in the WTO now would mean richer oceans for future generations," ensures Mr Lamy.

Coming events

- **8-10 July**
Trade Policy Review – Guyana
- **27-29 July**
Trade Policy Review – Zambia
- **28-29 July**
WTO General Council
- **6 September**
WTO Open Day
- **22-24 September**
Trade Policy Review – Southern African Custom Union (SACU)
- **28-30 September**
WTO Public Forum

Photo WTO Forum 2008

Agricultural negotiations to pick up momentum

Geneva, 18 June 2009

Ambassador David Walker announced the return to a "multilateral" process for the agricultural negotiations. This will imply a process that is controlled by the full WTO membership. The proposed schedule for the coming weeks aims at reinvigorating negotiation talks, moving ahead the process in Geneva and closing the remaining gaps and outstanding issues before the summer break in August.

Dispute Settlement within WTO

Appointment of two new Appellate Body Members

Geneva, 19 June 2009

Mr Ricardo Ramírez Hernández of Mexico and Mr Peter Van den Bossche of the EC will join the seven-member Appellate Body for a period of four years, starting on 1 July 2009 and on 12 December 2009 respectively.

Announced public meetings of the Dispute Settlement Body

- » 29 and 30 June **Public hearing for the US- "Zeroing" case**
- » 30 June and 2 July **Public hearing for "Australia - Apples" case**
- » 9 July **Opening of meeting with the parties in the "EC- IT products" case**

Aid for Trade and Technical Assistance

Regional meeting on Aid for Trade for Asia and the Pacific Region

Siem Reap, 29 May 2009

At the Regional meeting on Aid for Trade for Asia and the Pacific held in Cambodia, Director-General Pascal Lamy spelled out the "5 golden rules" for WTO future work on Aid for Trade. First, ensure that Aid for Trade promises are kept to unlock the growth potential of developing countries. Second, keep monitoring and evaluating global Aid for Trade flows. Third, foster South-South cooperation. Fourth, spur private sector participation. Fifth, conclude the Doha Round of negotiations.

COMING UP

Second Global Review of Aid for Trade

6-7 July 2009

The Global Review represents an opportunity to revise and give added impetus to the ambitious mandate on Aid for Trade, which aims at supporting developing countries build the supply-side capacity and infrastructure that would allow them to join in the global economy and take full advantage of market opening. This year's key objectives can be recapped into four headings: from commitment to implementation,

mainstreaming trade into development strategies, ensuring sustained aid flows and assessing Aid for Trade effectiveness.

Outreach Activities for Parliamentarians

Parliamentarians workshop for ASEAN plus countries

Singapore, 10-12 June 2009

The WTO Secretariat teamed up with the Temasek Foundation Centre for Trade & Negotiations to organize a regional dialogue for 36 Parliamentarians from ASEAN plus countries in Singapore. The programme aimed at increasing the capacity of regional legislators to engage in international trade negotiations. This included a deeper understanding of the WTO, current and future negotiating issues in international trade and a sustained focus on the particular concerns of developing countries in the process. The meeting was formally opened by the Speaker of the Singapore Parliament. Other speakers included officials from WTO, Asian Development Bank, ASEAN, APEC and UNDP as well as three former Singaporean Ambassadors to Geneva.



Participants to the workshop for ASEAN plus countries

WTO receives the visit of US staffers

Geneva, 27 May 2009

A group of staffers from the US Senate and Congress were welcomed by Mr. Keith Rockwell and Mr. Bernard Kuiten (Information and External Relations Division) during a visit organized by the German Marshall Fund. The visit represented an opportunity to discuss important issues related to the WTO core business and the state of negotiations.



US staffers' visit to WTO

We would like to hear from you:

WTO
Information and External Relations Division
Rue de Lausanne 154
1211 Geneva, Switzerland
wto4mps@wto.org
<http://www.wto.org>

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• **7-9 October**
Trade Policy Review
Body – Chile

• **14-15 October**
WTO General Council

• **26-28 October**
Trade Policy Review
Body – Maldives

• **Oct/November 2009**
Parliamentary Workshop
for Francophone Africa