



Bridges Weekly Trade News Digest

Weekly trade news from a sustainable development perspective

Volume 14 · Number 15, 28 April 2010

LEAD STORIES

ACTA Text, Finally Unveiled, Reflects Differences on Key Provisions 1

OTHER NEWS

China Wins New Influence at the World Bank... 3

IN BRIEF

US Continues Push to Open Trade in Environmental Goods..... 5

EU Moves Toward New Rules on Animal Welfare 5

US Climate Bill Slips as Key Senator Threatens to Withdraw Support..... 6

Developing Countries Launch New Coalition at WIPO 7

Caribbean Rum Producers Protest EU Decision to Cut Aid 8

EVENTS & RESOURCES

Events..... 9

Resources 12

Bridges Weekly Trade News Digest© is published by the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD), an independent, not-for-profit organisation based at Ch. de Balexert 7, 1219 Geneva, Switzerland, tel: (+41) 22-917-8492; fax: 917-8093. To subscribe to Bridges Weekly Trade News Digest or access back issues, visit <http://ictsd.net/news/bridgesweekly/>.

Bridges Weekly Trade News Digest is made possible through the generous support of the Government of the United Kingdom (DFID) and ICTSD's core donors including the governments of Finland, Denmark, the Netherlands and Sweden. Your support to BRIDGES and the BRIDGES series of publications is most welcome; if interested, please contact Andrew Crosby, Managing Director at acrosby@ictsd.ch or (+41) 22 917 8335.

Excerpts from Bridges Weekly Trade News Digest© may be used in other publications with appropriate citation. Comments and suggestions are welcomed and should be directed to the editor (bridges_weekly@ictsd.ch) or the director (rmelendez@ictsd.ch)

Contributors to this issue of Bridges Weekly Trade News Digest© are Ahmed Abdel Latif, Alexandra Bhattacharya, Trineesh Biswas, Bonnie Magnuson and Paige McClanahan. Editor: Paige McClanahan. Director: Ricardo Meléndez-Ortiz.

LEAD STORIES

ACTA Text, Finally Unveiled, Reflects Differences on Key Provisions

The veil of official secrecy that has shrouded talks on an “Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement” for the past two years was finally lifted last week, with the release of a comprehensive draft negotiating text.

Digital rights activists, academics, and sections of the computer industry had long decried the lack of transparency surrounding the negotiations. Participating governments – from a few dozen mostly industrialised countries – had been refusing to make public draft texts or individual proposals, as has become common at the WTO.

Chinks had already begun to appear in the wall erected around the ACTA process. Most significantly, a draft annotated with countries’ different negotiating positions was leaked in March. That followed a number of smaller leaks. And it had become clear that some participating governments, including a number of European countries, New Zealand, and Australia, wanted to disclose details about the ACTA process, but were prevented by doing so by opposition from others.

The release of the official text opens the ACTA negotiations up to the closest public scrutiny yet.

Some critics are not impressed with the 39-page draft, nearly every paragraph of which contains sections of text within square brackets that denote disagreement among participants.

“This proposed agreement is what I thought it was: an intellectual-property land grab that would cement some of the uglier aspects of American law, export those provisions to other countries, possibly import even worse provisions back into

the US and, in the bargain, spawn a new and largely redundant international bureaucracy,” wrote Rob Pegoraro, a technology writer for The Washington Post, [on his blog](#) on the newspaper’s website.

An opposite view came from Mark Esper, executive vice president of the US Chamber of Commerce’s intellectual property centre and a strong proponent of ACTA. He told Bridges that while the sheer number of brackets made it hard to determine what exactly might come out of an agreement, his preliminary assessment was that “many of the red herrings that anti-ACTA critics were claiming are just not in this text. For instance, this idea that was out there -- iPods seized at the border, CDs taken out of people’s jackets -- is not in the text.”

Unlike the [leaked draft from March](#), the [official draft](#) does not attribute sections of bracketed text to the countries that proposed them.

The simple fact that governments released the text represents a significant achievement, according to Michael Geist, a law professor at the University of Ottawa who is an expert on internet and e-commerce issues. “Today’s release marks an important development that highlights the value of public pressure,” [he wrote on his blog](#). “As politicians and the public demanded greater transparency, the negotiating countries presumably concluded that the issue was becoming a major impediment to concluding an agreement and decided to make it available.”

Public pressure had already borne modest fruit, Geist said. As an example, he pointed to “near-consensus” on a “de minimis” provision that would exclude from the treaty’s border measures small quantities of non-commercial goods in travellers’ luggage, something that had been omitted from the initial proposals.

In perhaps another bid to soothe civil society, the official draft states that a “suitable provision needs to be drafted that would ensure nothing in the Agreement detracts from national legislation regarding protection of personal privacy.” That line was not included in the leaked text.

Nevertheless, Geist argued that “the release of text confirms many of the fears regarding the substance of the treaty.” The agreement would require “dramatic changes” to many of the participants’ domestic laws, with new rules against circumventing technological protections, or on ‘safe harbours’ for internet service providers.

The nitty gritty

The overall objective of ACTA is to strengthen the “legal framework” for enforcement of intellectual property rights (IPRs) in a manner that would go significantly beyond the enforcement standards set out in the WTO’s Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights.

Norm-setting areas in ACTA’s scope include civil enforcement, criminal enforcement, border measures and IPRs enforcement in the digital environment. Government enforcement practices – methods used by authorities to apply legal norms – also figure in the draft agreement, as do measures concerning international cooperation, technical assistance and institutional arrangements.

While ACTA’s scope would extend to all IPRs, a critical question is whether key civil enforcement provisions, border measures and digital enforcement measures should apply to infringements of all IPRs or solely in cases of copyright piracy or trademark counterfeiting. The manner in which this question will be resolved will have significant implications on the effects of the future agreement.

For instance, provisions on border measures would apply, according to the draft text, to goods suspected of infringing intellectual property rights when they are imported, exported or in transit. This could imply that such measures would extend to patents and thus could lead to the kind of detentions of generic medicines in transit that have taken place in the past two years.

A footnote to the section on border measure states that: “No Party shall be obliged to apply this section to any goods that do not infringe an intellectual property right held within the territory of that Party.” According to Henning Große Ruse-Khan, a research fellow at the Max Planck

Institute, this would make the final fate of allegedly infringing goods in transit dependent upon the question of whether IP protections in the transit country actually include the mere transit as an infringing act.

On other controversial ACTA provisions – notably the so-called “three strikes” or “graduated response” rules that would cut off internet access for serial infringers – the released text seems to try to accommodate different national stances as well as consumer concerns, which have been particularly strong on this subject.

However, while the text no longer compels internet service providers (ISPs) to adopt a “graduated-response” enforcement mechanism, the text does not forbid such an approach. According to Michael Geist, if the text were adopted, “it will clearly keep three strikes on the table and could be used in other ACTA member countries to encourage its adoption.”

In relation to technological protection measures (TPMs), which allow rights holders to control access to protected works in the digital environment, the text appears more decisively tilted towards US legislation, specifically the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA). While the WIPO Internet Treaties of 1996 include a general provision requiring countries to provide remedies against the circumvention of TPMs, the DMCA, and some options under the present ACTA text, go much further by requiring criminal penalties not only against the circumvention of TPMs but also against devices that can be used to this purpose.

Many of the key provisions – including the ones analysed above as well as those on civil enforcement – remain heavily bracketed. Thus, it is still difficult to predict exactly how an ACTA deal, if implemented, would actually impact internet users.

The next round of negotiations, which will take place in June in Geneva, should give a clear signal as to whether the negotiations are to be concluded this year as the parties hope.

ICTSD reporting.

OTHER NEWS

China Wins New Influence at the World Bank

In a reflection of its growing economic and political clout, China has scored a significant jump in voting share at the World Bank. The shift, announced on Sunday, will give the country more say in the governance of the Washington-based international financial institution – an objective that the country has long pursued.

The realignment of voting power “recognises that we need to consign outdated concepts like 'Third World' to history,” World Bank President Robert Zoellick told journalists in Washington. “Today the world is moving toward a new, fast-evolving multi-polar economy.” An acknowledgement of this shift, he said, is “crucial for the bank’s legitimacy.”

Officials from the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund were gathering in Washington for their annual spring meetings, which lasted through the weekend. Finance ministers from the Group of 20 developed and emerging nations also gathered on the sidelines, as did the G20 energy ministers.

The announcement on China was the biggest news to come out of the weekend of diplomatic frenzy. The Asian Giant now has a 4.42 percent voting share at the World Bank, a big jump from its previous share of 2.78 percent, making it the third-most influential member of the bank after the United States with 16.4 percent of the voting shares and Japan with 7.9 percent. Germany sits in fourth place while France and the United Kingdom are tied for fifth.

Brazil and India also scored modest boosts in voting power at last week’s meetings, with Brazil edging up from 2.06 percent to 2.24 percent and India going from 2.77 percent to 2.91 percent. Developing countries now account for 47.19 percent of votes at the World Bank, up roughly 3.13 percentage points from last week and more than 4.5 points from 2008.

“This reform has increased the representation and voice of developing countries and made the World Bank’s governance structure fairer and more reasonable,” said Chinese Finance Minister Xie Xuren, according to a report from Xinhua, a news agency run by the Chinese government. “It will protect the interest of developing countries and provide developing countries chances to play a bigger role,” he added.

Last week’s shift in voting power came on top of reforms implemented in 2008, when the bank’s members agreed to boost developing countries’ voting power by 1.46 percent. The reforms also included the establishment of a new seat on the bank’s governing board for a country from sub-Saharan Africa.

But the G24 bloc of developing countries, along with some members of civil society, said that the increase in voting power for “DTCs” – developing and transition countries – to just over 47 percent will not be enough in the long run. “Forty-seven percent is not our aim; that is not the mission. That is only the first step” toward a system of “equitable voting,” Anup Pujari, an official with India’s Department of Economic Affairs, told journalists last week.

The World Bank won a boost of US\$ 5.1 billion of paid-in capital from the institution’s member countries. The new funds – the bank’s first general capital increase since 1988 – will be added to the institution’s current paid-in capital of roughly US\$ 11 billion. The money will help support the bank’s everyday operations.

"This is a once-in-a-generation request to address the impact of a once-in-a-generation crisis," Zoellick said, according to a report in The Financial Times.

On Friday, the World Bank and the IMF released their annual Global Monitoring Report, which tracks countries’ progress toward the Millennium Development Goals. The worldwide financial crisis has slowed the pace of poverty reduction, the report concludes, which means that 53 million more people will be living in poverty in 2015 than if the crisis had not occurred. The report also notes that rich countries have failed to live up to

their aid commitments, even though total levels of foreign aid rose slightly in 2009.

G20 finance ministers meet on the sidelines

Before the World Bank-IMF meetings got underway on Saturday, G20 finance ministers gathered for a day-long meeting that touched on the pace of the global economic recovery, potential new financial regulations and the G20’s goal of phasing out fossil fuel subsidies.

The global recovery “is proceeding at different speeds within and across regions, and unemployment is still high in many economies,” the ministers acknowledged in a [communiqué](#) released at the end of the meeting. As the recovery continues, countries should “elaborate credible exit strategies” from crisis stimulus measures, they added, while being sure to coordinate efforts across national boundaries.

Following up on a goal announced last year, the finance ministers “recommitted” to drafting plans for G20 countries to phase out “fossil fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption.” The ministers promised to prepare this work for next G20 heads of state meeting, which will be held in Toronto from 25 to 27 June.

Civil society organisations will be closely watching the G20’s progress on achieving the goal, which was set last September when G20 heads of state [vowed](#) “to phase out and rationalise over the medium term inefficient fossil fuel subsidies.”

A recent analysis from the Global Subsidies Initiative, a programme run by The International Institute for Sustainable Development, found that governments spend more than US\$ 500 billion each year to support the fossil fuel industry. That money would be better spent elsewhere, the study concluded.

“Virtually every analysis of fossil-fuel subsidies has shown that most are a complete waste of money, or worse, because money spent on subsidies isn’t available for other purposes that yield much greater social benefits, such as education and rural agriculture,” said David Victor, a professor of political science at the University of California at San Diego and the author of the study.

ICTSD reporting; “Chinese minister: World Bank reform benefits world development,” XINHUA, 26 April 2010; “Poorer nations get larger role in World Bank,” THE NEW YORK TIMES, 25 April 2010; “World Bank wins rise in capital,” THE FINANCIAL TIMES, 26 April 2010.

IN BRIEF

US Continues Push to Open Trade in Environmental Goods

The United States is still working to secure a deal that would slash barriers to trade in environmental goods and services, United States Trade Representative Ron Kirk said on Monday.

“We think it only makes sense to make the trade of those goods more open,” Kirk said, according to a report from Bloomberg. He added that the issue “is important enough” that it could move forward on its own, outside the context of the WTO’s Doha Round trade talks. He also noted that the US has been discussing the matter with officials from Australia, Canada and the European Union.

Liberalising trade in environmental goods and services (EGS) is one of the many issues under consideration in the global trade talks at the WTO. However, with a broad multilateral trade deal nowhere in sight after eight and a half years of negotiations, officials eager to open EGS trade are pursuing other options. Some prominent businesses, notably General Electric, have thrown their support behind efforts to secure a stand-alone pact.

Advocates say that an EGS deal could end up looking similar to the WTO’s Information Technology Agreement (ITA) – a plurilateral deal to liberalise trade in IT products that has generally been considered a success. Negotiations over the ITA ended in December 1996, but the deal did not take effect until July of the following year after countries representing 90 percent of trade in the goods in question had agreed to sign on. Such a

“critical mass” of industry would also be required before an EGS deal could enter force.

For now, Kirk is doing his homework. Earlier this month, the USTR’s office asked the US International Trade Commission to draw up reports on how an EGS deal would impact US industry and consumers and what it would mean for US exports of clean technologies. The reports are expected in October of this year and February 2011, respectively.

In related news, a group of Democratic lawmakers introduced a bill on Tuesday that aims to boost the competitiveness of the US clean technology industry. The bill – sponsored by Representatives Doris Matsui and Anna Eshoo of California, Bobby Rush of Illinois and John Dingell of Michigan -- would establish a US\$ 15 million fund under the International Trade Administration, a branch of the Department of Commerce, to provide “export assistance” for US clean technology firms.

“Right now, the global market for environmental goods and services is estimated at US\$ 700 billion,” said Rep. Rush, the chair of the House subcommittee on trade and consumer protection, in a statement. “This means that the future of the overall US economy not only depends upon a vibrant domestic market but strong American leadership in the rapidly expanding green economy.” He noted that of the world’s 30 largest clean technology firms, only six are headquartered in the United States.

ICTSD reporting; “US seeks to push ahead with trade deal on green technologies,” BLOOMBERG, 26 April 2010.

EU Moves Toward New Rules on Animal Welfare

The EU is starting to consider new rules on animal welfare that could have significant impacts on its trading partners.

The European Commissioner for health and consumer affairs, John Dalli of Malta, who took up his post in February, told The New York

Times in an interview this week that he plans to introduce draft legislation to eliminate loopholes that allow some cosmetics companies to test their products on animals. He hopes to forbid such products from being sold in Europe unless the companies halt the testing before the end of 2012, he said.

More broadly, Dalli intends to propose new legislation on animal welfare “by early 2012” in the hope that the reforms could be implemented in conjunction with changes to European farm policy that will take effect after 2013, the commissioner said in a speech in Ireland earlier this month.

“Our EU animal health legislation is now a vast body of legal texts – some 60 basic acts on trade, disease control, animal identification and so forth. The new law will simplify the current complex legal structure by replacing it with a streamlined framework,” Dalli told a conference on animal health on 12 April.

The European Commission has already held public consultations to gauge citizens’ thoughts on reforming the EU’s animal welfare laws. The more than 150 submissions that have been received have made it clear “that a high level of animal health remains essential,” Dalli said.

The European Union has long been known for its stringent health and safety standards for food and other products. Dalli hinted that he sympathises with such an approach.

“Careful analysis and consideration of convergence [with international standards] is necessary – but the EU should retain a higher level of protection of public health and animal health where this is justified,” he said in his speech.

In The New York Times interview, Dalli also signalled that the EU has no plans to lift bans on imports of US chicken that has been washed with chlorine or imports of US beef that has been treated with hormones. The two embargos have long irritated US exporters.

But Dalli does not always toe the traditionally strict European line on all of the issues that fall

under his authority. He caused some eyebrows to raise in March – just a month after he took up his post – when his office approved the use of a genetically modified potato in Europe (for industrial purposes only, however).

“I do not believe in telling consumers what they should eat or buy, but I firmly believe we have a duty to let them know what they are eating or buying,” Dalli told the Irish conference.

ICTSD reporting; “EU push on animal welfare may open new trade front with US,” THE NEW YORK TIMES, 26 April 2010.

US Climate Bill Slips as Key Senator Threatens to Withdraw Support

The future of the United States Senate climate change bill – which had been expected to be revealed on 26 April – is now in question after one of its sponsors has threatened to withdraw support.

The bill – a multi-party effort by Senators Lindsay Graham (a Republican), John Kerry (a Democrat) and Joe Lieberman (an Independent) – was sidelined when the Obama administration and Senate Democrats decided over the weekend to prioritise passing legislation on immigration reform. Frustrated, Graham threatened to withdraw his support for the climate bill unless it regained its place ahead of immigration on the political agenda.

The release of the climate bill has been postponed indefinitely. Graham is still technically on board for the bill, but it is uncertain whether his concerns have been addressed.

At Graham’s suggestion, the bill was sent to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on Tuesday so that the six-week economic modelling process can begin. If the political divisions are resolved, the bill would reach the Senate floor in June at the earliest, but July is more likely.

Graham “needs [the bill] to be separated from immigration reform because he thinks that’s

necessary if we're going to have a real chance to get it adopted," said Lieberman on Monday.

Immigration shot to the top of the Democratic agenda last week when Arizona Governor Jan Brewer, a Republican, signed a controversial law that will lead to more stringent treatment of suspected illegal immigrants. With the mid-term elections coming up this year, Graham called the Democrats' push for immigration reform a "cynical political ploy" to keep Hispanic voters on their side.

Environmentalists have called for swift action, worried that if Graham's support is lost, the climate bill will not pass this year. "And every year Congress waits to legislate, adequately curbing emissions will get harder and more expensive," an editorial in the Washington Post commented.

Obama had called on the Senate to tackle climate change immediately after completion of financial reform legislation. The White House issued a statement on 24 April urging the three senators to continue their work and restating its determination to see climate change legislation pass this year.

Senator George Voinovich (a Republican) has drafted a proposed amendment to the climate bill that would prevent federal, state and local authorities from going beyond what the bill mandates in their emissions reductions programmes. The proposal would also limit the authority of the EPA and various federal laws like the Endangered Species Act, the Clean Water Act and the National Environmental Policy Act to regulate greenhouse gas emissions. It would also prevent public nuisance litigation related to climate change. Voinovich's proposal would help the climate bill gain Republican support.

ICTSD reporting; "Senate Sponsors Scramble to Save Climate Bill After Lost Weekend," NY TIMES, 26 April 2010; "Sen. Kerry says EPA to start climate bill analysis," REUTERS, 27 April 2010.

Developing Countries Launch New Coalition at WIPO

Nineteen developing countries have created a new coalition to push the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) to make its work more development friendly. The announcement of the new bloc, dubbed the WIPO Development Agenda Group (DAG), came during this week's meeting of WIPO's Committee on Development and Intellectual Property (CDIP).

The DAG is "an open and inclusive group consisting of WIPO Member States that are like-minded in their support for a development-oriented perspective on intellectual property issues, and the mainstreaming of the Development Agenda across all areas of WIPO's work," according to the statement made by Egypt on behalf of the group.

The DAG maybe be seen as a successor to the Group of Friends of Development (FOD), which played an active role in advancing the initial stages of the WIPO Development Agenda since its launch in 2004 until the adoption, in 2007, of 45 recommendations that aim to integrate the development dimension in all of WIPO's activities.

"DAG represents the determination to accommodate the unique and specific interests and development needs of WIPO Member states on all IP matters," Egypt added in its statement.

The DAG also formulated a number of guiding principles, which include the need for a "development compatible approach to all norm setting activities" at WIPO and also for WIPO to "provide balanced advice on appropriate national IP strategies based in available flexibilities, exceptions and limitations."

Eighteen countries are founding members of the DAG: Algeria, Brazil, Cuba, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippines, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syria, Uruguay and Yemen.

The creation of the DAG reflects the keenness of these developing countries to inject momentum in

the implementation of the WIPO Development Agenda process.

On Tuesday, the second day of the CDIP session, officials discussed how to coordinate and monitor the implementation of the WIPO Development Agenda. The DAG supported a proposal put forward by Algeria, Brazil and Pakistan at the last session of the CDIP, which was held in November. That proposal calls for the CDIP to convene special sessions to coordinate the implementation of the Development Agenda in all areas of WIPO's work and also for the WIPO Audit Committee to review and assess the overall implementation of the Development Agenda Recommendations.

A different proposal was brought forward by Switzerland, acting on behalf of a group of developed nations. While agreeing on the need for mainstreaming of the development agenda in all of WIPO's work, the Swiss proposal argued that the organisation's focus on development should not place any new financial burdens on WIPO or on member states. It also stressed that the CDIP should remain on an equal footing with all other WIPO committees.

During the CDIP session, which will conclude on 30th April, WIPO Director-General Francis Gurry gave a report on the implementation of the WIPO Development Agenda.

Other items to be discussed this week include a report on WIPO's contribution to the UN's Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and a report on patent-related flexibilities in the multilateral legal framework and the legislative implementation of those flexibilities at the national and regional levels.

ICTSD reporting.

Caribbean Rum Producers Protest EU Decision to Cut Aid

A decision by the European Commission to close in June a programme designed to help Caribbean rum producers adjust to global competition has sparked protest from the industry.

The Caribbean rum industry, which faces stiff competition from several Latin American producers, says it needs more time to spend the pre-allocated funds to prevent many rum companies from going into debt.

"There is still money remaining in the program," said Frank Ward, Chairman of the West Indies Rum and Spirits Producers Association (WIRSPA), an organisation of ACP Caribbean distillers' associations. "What WIRSPA is asking for is that a mechanism be found to allow the money to continue to be made available, so that it can continue to work towards the purpose [for which] it was designed," said Ward in an interview with Bridges.

Ward estimates that €8 to €10 million from the EU funding has not yet been disbursed.

The Integrated Development Programme for the Caribbean rum sector -- launched in 2003 in the wake of a decision by the EU and the US to lift tariffs on white spirits, including rum -- is intended to help the Caribbean rum industry adapt to increased competition resulting from the liberalisation of the European Union rum market.

More recently, EU trade deals with Peru and Colombia are expected to lower tariffs on rum, and similar concessions may be offered to other countries in South and Central America.

Financed by the Eighth European Development Fund, the rum programme divided a purse of €70 million among a cost-sharing grant scheme to promote production of high-quality rum; a programme to establish an 'Authentic Caribbean Rum' brand; institutional support to WIRSPA; and long-term and short-term technical assistance.

The programme also included €65 million of co-financing from the Caribbean rum sector itself.

To access the €70 million from the EU, rum companies first had to put up the capital for projects themselves; they could then file for reimbursement once a project was completed.

Last month, the European Commission formally announced that it will no longer consider claims for reimbursement after the end of June 2010. Originally set to terminate in mid-2007, the programme was extended to 2010 in 2006, thanks to a request by WIRSPA.

“The EU had already prolonged the programme once, for an additional 3 years, but a second prolongation is simply not possible under EU rules,” explained an official from the Commission. “To further support the industry, the EU has advised WIRSPA of existing options to secure further assistance, either from the tenth European Development Fund regional programme, managed by the Caricom Secretariat or from EU member states.”

While the programme’s rules do not allow the European Commission to extend the deadline a second time, a special dispensation by EU authorities may be warranted, suggest Paul Goodison and Corinna Braun-Munzinger of the European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM), in a forthcoming article in the ICTSD-ECDPM publication *Trade Negotiations Insights*.

ICTSD reporting; “WIRSPA presents marque of authenticity to the Caribbean,” CANA NEWS, 25 May 2009, “Caribbean rum in danger,” TRINIDAD & TOBAGO EXPRESS, 1 April 2010.

from alternative to mainstream. Experts from many sectors will discuss the key political and economical barriers and opportunities for utility-scale solar energy. Two panel discussions will explore a wide range of questions, including: What will it take to grow a viable solar industry in the United States? What policies could move solar energy into more widespread use and achieve grid parity? What are the job implications for the United States if other countries take the lead in developing the technology? And what role is public awareness or a lack thereof playing in solar energy adoption? For more information, please contact the Brookings Office of Communications at: email events@brookings.edu; tel. +1 202 797 6105 or visit the website at: http://www.brookings.edu/events/2010/0428_solar.aspx.

1-4 May, Tashkent, Uzbekistan. ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK ANNUAL MEETING. The 43rd Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) will provide an occasion for the governors to discuss ADB administrative, financial and operational directions. Additionally, it will be an opportunity for member governments to interact with ADB staff, nongovernmental organisations, media and representatives of observer countries, international organisations and the private sector. Multiple presentations and seminars will be hosted, including a seminar on 2 May on “Financing Climate Change and Sustainable Development Action in Asia and the Pacific.” For more information, please contact Jill Drilon, the ADB Annual Meeting Coordinator: tel +632 632 5999; fax +632 636 2483; e-mail annualmeeting@adb.org; or visit the event’s website at: <http://www.adb.org/AnnualMeeting/2010/>.

3-14 May, New York City, United States. UN COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, REVIEW SESSION. This review session will focus on the following thematic issues: transport, chemicals, waste management, mining, and the ten-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns. For more information, please see http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/csd/csd_csd18.shtml.

EVENTS & RESOURCES

Events

28 April, Washington, DC, US. SCALING UP SOLAR: HOW FAR CAN WE GO? This event is the first of a series hosted by the Energy Security Initiative at the Brookings Institution that will examine the prospects for potentially game-changing energy technologies to make the shift

5 May, London, United Kingdom. CHINA'S ENERGY SECURITY AND OIL DIPLOMACY: CHINA DISCUSSION GROUP. Driven by its rapidly growing economy and energy demand, China has become the largest energy consuming nation after the US and ranks just below Japan as the third largest oil importer in the world. China's increased energy profile has vast implications for its diplomacy and international political and economic relations. The speaker will discuss China's energy profile and the reasons behind its increasing reliance on oil imports. He will also assess China's strategy to secure its growing oil imports – especially from the Middle East and Africa. This event is jointly organised between the Chatham House China Discussion Group and the China Policy Institute. For more information, please contact Rosheen Kabraji via the event website at: <http://www.chathamhouse.org.uk/events/view/-/id/1524/>.

5-7 May, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM ON AFRICA: RETHINKING AFRICA'S GROWTH STRATEGY. The 20th World Economic Forum on Africa will be held for the first time in East Africa. In addition, the Forum's Young Global Leaders Summit will be held concurrently in Dar es Salaam. Discussions will address how African nations are managing relations with key economic partners, with an increasing trend towards greater South-South co-operation. As Africa joins India and China in crossing the billion person mark, its young population, natural resources and market potential are catalysts for significant future growth and development. Implications of the financial crisis will be discussed, as well as how African leaders are using it as an opportunity to redesign a sustainable roadmap for the continent's future within the new global economy. For more information, please contact Gemma Burke: fax +41 (0)22 594 8097; email Africa@weforum.org; or visit <http://www.weforum.org/en/events/WorldEconomicForumonAfrica2010/index.htm>.

WTO Events

An updated list of forthcoming WTO meetings is posted at http://www.wto.org/meets_public/meets_e.pdf. 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.

28 + 30 April: Trade Policy Review Body: Albania

28 April: Committee on Anti-Dumping Practices

28 April: Council for Trade in Services

28 April: Committee on Anti-Dumping Practices – Informal Group on Anti-Circumvention

28 April: Committee on Anti-Dumping Practices – Working Group on Implementation

29 April: Committee on Specific Commitments

29 April: Committee on Market Access

30 April: Council for Trade in Services – Special Session

3-7 May: Geneva Week (Non-resident Members and Observers)

4-5 May: GENERAL COUNCIL

Other upcoming events

10-11 May, Brussels, Belgium. WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM ON EUROPE: RENEWED LEADERSHIP, NEW VISION. Europe has been hit hard by the financial and economic crisis. With most indicators pointing to continued turbulence ahead, stakeholders will have to adapt and forge closer relationships in order to mitigate risks and seize emerging opportunities. Given the high degree of geopolitical and economic interdependence in the region, the outcome of these efforts will have a

far-reaching impact. With the full support and close collaboration of the Belgian government and the new European Union leadership, as well as the Forum's key Strategic Partners, the World Economic Forum on Europe will convene 400 of the most prominent leaders from the European Union and other parts of the world. For more information, please email Europe@weforum.org or visit <http://www.weforum.org/en/events/WorldEconomicForumonEurope/index.htm>.

11-14 May, Montreal, Canada. ICAO COLLOQUIUM ON AVIATION AND CLIMATE CHANGE. The Environmental Colloquium hosted by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) will be entirely dedicated to aviation and climate change. It will focus on strategies and programmes of ICAO, industry, academic/research institutions and international organisations to harness technological, scientific and economic solutions in the global fight against climate change. This Colloquium, in English only, will provide a forum on aviation and climate change, in particular on related key developments emanating from the ICAO's Conference on Aviation and Alternative Fuels, UNFCCC COP/15 and the 8th Meeting of ICAO's Committee for Aviation Environmental Protection (CAEP). For more information, please see <http://www.icao.int/CLQ10/>.

24-28 May, Punta del Este, Uruguay. THE FOURTH ASSEMBLY OF THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY (GEF). The Assembly, held once every three to four years, is the governing body of the GEF, in which representatives of 177 member countries participate. It is a strategic opportunity for GEF stakeholders to meet, take stock, and collectively strengthen strategies and actions for protecting the global environment and achieving sustainable development. The Assembly will combine plenary meetings and high-level panels, exhibits, side events and GEF project site visits. Prominent environmentalists, parliamentarians, business leaders, scientists, and civil society representatives and community leaders will discuss global environmental challenges within the context of sustainable development and other international development goals. More information can be

found by contacting the GEF Secretariat: tel. +1-202-473-0508 ; fax +1-202-522-3240/3245 ; email secretariat@thegef.org or by visiting <http://gefassembly.org/j2/index.php>.

26-27 May, Barcelona, Spain. AGRICULTURAL PRICE VOLATILITY: PROSPECTS, CHALLENGES AND POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS. The agricultural sector has been deeply battered by both the food and financial crises and faces a looming climate change crisis. This seminar will examine current and projected trends in prices, review past policy responses, examine policy options available today and arrive at pragmatic recommendations on addressing volatility in the future. The meeting is being organised by the International Food and Agricultural Trade Policy Council (IPC), the University of Barcelona, and the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development. For more information, or to register, please see <https://www.z2systems.com/np/clients/agritrade/event.jsp?event=834>

28-30 May, Bonn, Germany. FIRST WORLD CONGRESS ON CITIES AND ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE. Jointly hosted by Local Governments for Sustainability, the City of Bonn and the World Mayors Council on Climate Change, Resilient Cities 2010 will offer an opportunity for participants to share the latest scientific findings, state-of-the-art approaches and effective programmes on climate change adaptation and resilience-building in cities and urbanised areas. Case examples of local adaptation practice will illustrate approaches and experiences. The conference aims at setting the direction for future planning of and investment in urban infrastructure. For more information, please contact Alice Balbo, Conference Secretariat; tel: +49-(0)228 / 976 299-28; e-mail: bonn2010@iclei.org; or visit: <http://resilient-cities.iclei.org/bonn2010/home/>.

6-7 June, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM ON EAST ASIA: RETHINKING ASIA'S LEADERSHIP AGENDA. East Asia's lead in the global economic recovery has been underscored by increasing regional economic co-operation, robust domestic consumption and coordinated government stimulus measures. Alongside the

remarkable economic momentum and progress of China and India, ASEAN's market of 580 million consumers is moving towards economic integration by 2015. The programme for the 19th World Economic Forum on East Asia will explore the many facets of the region's rising economic influence, such as how high-growth economies can improve their competitiveness through developing innovation-driven, green economies. At the same time, the discussions will consider to what extent ongoing regional integration will serve as the basis for Asian leaders to assume a greater leadership role in global co-operation. For more information, please email EastAsia@weforum.org or visit <http://www.weforum.org/en/events/WorldEconomicForumonEastAsia2010/index.htm>.

Resources

COMPETITIVENESS AND CLIMATE POLICIES: IS THERE A CASE FOR RESTRICTIVE UNILATERAL TRADE MEASURES? By Ingrid Jegou with Johannes Bernabee, Samantha Derksen, Ana Maria Kleymeyer, Joachim Monchelbaan and Ricardo Meléndez-Ortiz. The International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development, December 2009. This paper provides a short overview of some of the proposals related to border carbon measures (BCAs) and discusses them from an economic and legal perspective. It also takes a preliminary look at potential consequences for developing countries' production and trade should BCAs be introduced in major markets. This publication can be accessed at: <http://ictsd.org/i/publications/65459/>.

BEYOND THE DOLLAR: RETHINKING THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY SYSTEM. Edited by Paola Subacchi and John Driffill. *Chatham House*, March 2010. This report maps out proposals for a new international monetary order and looks at ways in which monetary authorities and political leaders can help prepare the ground for a new system and facilitate the transition. Key recommendations include: a multicurrency reserve system for a multi-polar world economy; the promotion of dialogue and policy coordination to provide stability,

confidence and balanced adjustment; strengthening the role and legitimacy of international institutions; and consideration of how the shape of the international monetary system in the 21st century will be significantly influenced by the interests and the requirements of the emerging powers. This report can be accessed at: <http://www.chathamhouse.org.uk/publications/papers/view/-/id/844/>.

THE NECESSARY REVOLUTION: HOW INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS ARE WORKING TOGETHER TO CREATE A SUSTAINABLE WORLD. By Peter Senge, Bryan Smith, Nina Kruschwitz, Joe Laur and Sara Schley. *Nicholas Brealey Publishing*, April 2010. This book discusses how corporations and organizations are, in the face of looming environmental crises and pressure from social issues, finding solutions that ensure both long-term survival and real-time business success. The Necessary Revolution contains a wealth of strategies to help people, regardless of role or title, build the confidence and competence to respond effectively to the greatest challenge of our time. It provides an essential discussion of how to work with others to find sustainable solutions. This publication is available at: <http://www.nicholasbrealey.com/uk/pc/viewPrd.asp?idcategory=0&idproduct=270>.