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Mr. Pascal Lamy on 1 September began his four-year term as Director-General of the World Trade Organization. In his [statement](#) to the media, he said that “there is a lot of work to do..(but) as we all know the WTO Director-General has no magic wand.”

On 14 September, he opened his first Trade Negotiations Committee meeting by expressing the hope that it marks a new and more productive phase for the TNC. In his [remarks](#) he urged intensification of work on the core issues in the run-up to the Hong Kong Ministerial, adding that the Round will only succeed if “the development dimension is at the centre of the negotiations”.

The Director-General, in a [speech](#) at the International Parliamentary Union in Geneva on 22 September, said that “we have a common responsibility to ensure that the trade engine is switched on for everyone, that no one is left behind”. He stressed that the Doha Round represents an important opportunity for economic growth and development.

In his [remarks](#) to the IMF International Monetary and Financial Committee in Washington on 24 September, Mr. Lamy said that the Hong Kong Ministerial is last and best chance to conclude the Round by next year. He added that that “the world economy will not come to an end if Hong Kong fails ... but it will be left significantly weaker...” He said he would work intensively with the IMF and the World Bank in the coming months to make the “Aid for Trade” initiative for developing countries a reality.

The Director-General, in his [remarks](#) to the Development Committee of

the World Bank in Washington on 25 September, said that while the international community has taken recent steps towards debt relief and increasing aid “there is a missing piece of the development puzzle—an essential third pillar—and that is trade opening”.

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Trinidad and Tobago: Strong growth but achieving ambitious goals requires further reforms



Since its last review in 1998, trade has played a crucial role in supporting Trinidad and Tobago’s rapid economic growth. The country’s rich natural endowments, its attractiveness as an investment destination and favourable developments in world markets, specially in the hydrocarbons sector, have produced a strong increase in GDP growth and per capita income, according to a WTO Secretariat report on the trade policies and practices of Trinidad and Tobago.

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WTO opens panel proceeding to public for the first time



Journalists, NGO representatives, scholars and others came on 12 September to the WTO in Geneva to watch the proceedings of a Dispute Settlement Panel. It is the first time ever a legal proceeding is open for public viewing at the WTO. The public watched the proceedings from a separate room at the WTO headquarters, via closed-circuit broadcast. The decision was taken by the members of the dispute settlement panel after a request from the parties: Canada, European Communities, United States. The proceedings for this meeting of the panel are part of the case “Continued suspension of obligations in the EC – hormones dispute” a case brought by the EC against Canada and the US. The panel stage of dispute settlement cases normally takes from six to nine months to complete.

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WTO website launches improved information on disputes

The WTO has inaugurated a new research tool in its website: a powerful facility to easily obtain detailed and up-to-date information on dispute-settlement cases. Previously, it had been difficult to track down information on the more than 300 dispute cases lodged in the WTO. With the new “Find dispute cases” page, readers may easily obtain a list of cases meeting criteria they specify, such as subject (steel, apples etc.), complainant, respondent or date. For each dispute a web page has been created in English, French and Spanish which gives a summary of the

dispute to date, as well as highlighting key facts and providing links to documents and rulings. In addition, the website now provides improved lists of disputes by country, subject and date.

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WTO issues report of second compliance panel in FSC dispute

The WTO, on 30 September, issued the report of the panel that had examined European Communities' second complaint regarding the implementation of rulings in the case "United States – Tax treatment for 'Foreign Sales Corporations'" (DS108).

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DSB starts information-gathering process in aircraft dispute

On 23 September, the Dispute Settlement Body initiated the information-gathering process and designated Mr. Mateo Diego-Fernandez, deputy chief of the Mexican delegation to the WTO, as the facilitator under Annex V of the SCM Agreement for the two panels established on 20 July 2005 to examine the complaints by the US and EC against each other's support for, respectively, Airbus and Boeing (DS316 & DS317).

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Appellate Body issues report on chicken cuts dispute

The Appellate Body, on 12 September, issued its report regarding the complaints of Brazil and Thailand against the European Communities in the dispute "European Communities – Customs Classification of Frozen Boneless Chicken Cuts" (WT/DS269/AB/R; WT/DS286/AB/R).

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Arbitrator appointed in sugar dispute

On 5 September, Mr. A.V. Ganesan, Member of the Appellate Body, informed Australia, Brazil, the European Communities and Thailand that he accepts the appointment to serve as arbitrator to determine the reasonable period of time for implementation of the DSB's recommendations and rulings in "European Communities – Export Subsidies on Sugar" (WT/DS265/31; WT/DS266/31; WT/DS283/12).

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Telecom, wheat and apple disputes settled

At the Dispute Settlement Body meeting on 31 August, Mexico and Canada

presented final status reports on progress in the implementation of DSB's recommendations in the telecom and wheat cases, respectively, while Japan reported it had reached a mutually agreed solution with the United States in the apple case.

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Appellate Body members reappointed

The Dispute Settlement Body, on 27 September, appointed Messrs. Luiz Baptista, John Lockhart and Giorgio Sacerdoti to second four-year terms as Members of the Appellate Body, commencing on 12 December 2005.

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Participants in 12th Dispute Settlement Course end a week of training in Geneva

Twenty-five government officials from WTO Member and Observer countries have ended a five-day immersion into the rules and procedures governing the WTO Dispute Settlement mechanism.

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Working party examines first revision of Viet Nam's membership report



Viet Nam's membership negotiations have taken a substantial step forward with the working party looking in detail on 15 September 2005 at the first revision of the document that is a core part of the deal. The point-by-point examination of the first revision of the Working Party Report represents a substantial step forward in the 10-year-old negotiation. The revision, circulated on 5 September 2005 was made possible as a result of comments in an informal meeting in May, and the tremendous efforts and progress Viet Nam has made since then.

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34th Trade Policy Course starts

Twenty-seven government officials from developing countries and economies in transition started on 19 September a three-month trade policy course at the WTO headquarters in Geneva.

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Italy gives 1,000,000 euros to WTO technical assistance

The Government of Italy has donated 1,000,000 euros to WTO technical assistance for the year 2005.

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contact us : World Trade Organization, rue de Lausanne 154, CH-1211 Geneva 21, Switzerland