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- 20th Anniversary of the WTO
- Parliamentary Conference on the WTO, Geneva, February 2015
- 5th Global Review of Aid for Trade, Geneva, July 2015
- UN Financing for Development Conference, July 2015 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- UN General Assembly on Post-2015 Agenda, September 2015, New York
- WTO Public Forum, October 2015, Geneva
- WTO 10th Ministerial Conference in December 2015, Nairobi, Kenya

WTO'S PARLIAMENTARY OUTREACH

WTO DG Roberto Azevêdo addresses the European Parliament



Director-General Roberto Azevêdo met the European Parliament Committee on International Trade and the Steering Committee of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO in Brussels on 12 February 2014. Reporting on the outcome at Bali, he emphasized on the political momentum that had been created and sought their support in ensuring that the deal is seen through its fruition.

Parliamentarians at the WTO Public Forum

Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the European Parliament co-hosted a session at the WTO Public Forum 2014 on October 2, 2014 on Post-Bali agenda: where does parliamentary oversight fit in? As the WTO is advancing in the preparation of the post-Bali work programme, the panellists considered the different policy responses to meet the challenge of instilling new energy into the parliamentary dimension of the WTO.

DDG Brauner engages with Parliamentarians at the PCWTO in Bali



Karl Brauner, WTO Deputy Director-General addressed the Bali Session of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO on December 5, 2013 at the side-lines of the 9th Ministerial Conference of the WTO in Bali, Indonesia

WTO NEGOTIATIONS

Bali State of Play : WTO DG to members

At a meeting of the General Council on 27 November, 2014, 160 WTO members came together to take [three decisions](#), and resolved an impasse in the implementation of the Bali issues which had been paralyzing negotiations in all areas since July. The impasse related to the political link between two Bali decisions — the decision on [Public Stockholding for Food Security Purposes](#), and the [Trade Facilitation Agreement](#). The first decision clarified the Bali Decision on Public Stockholding for Food Security Purposes. It made clear that peace clause which was agreed in Bali would remain in force until a permanent solution was found, and that Members shall make all efforts to negotiate a permanent solution by 31 December 2015 — an advance on the original target date of the 11th Ministerial Conference in 2017. The second decision adopted the protocol of amendment which formally inserts the Trade Facilitation Agreement into the WTO rulebook. This clears the path for the Trade Facilitation Agreement to be implemented and come into force — with all the well-documented economic benefits that this will bring for developed and developing countries alike. This decision also means that the [Trade Facilitation Agreement Facility](#) is now operational. The third decision concerns the WTO's post-Bali work. With this decision Members have committed that this work will resume immediately and that they will engage constructively on the implementation of all the Bali Ministerial Decisions, including the work programme on the remaining DDA issues. Members have also agreed that the deadline for agreeing the work program will now be July 2015. By agreeing these three decisions the WTO has put its negotiations back on track.

Revised Government Procurement Agreement enters into force; Two new members

The [revised WTO Agreement on Government Procurement \(GPA\)](#) entered into force on 6 April 2014, two years after the Protocol amending the Agreement was originally adopted. The parties to the revised GPA will see gains in market access of an estimated US\$ 80 billion to US\$ 100 billion annually for their businesses. The gains in market access result from numerous government entities (ministries and agencies) being added to the scope of the GPA, and from new services and other areas of public procurement activities included in its expanded coverage. The entry into force of the revised GPA fulfils ministers' undertaking at the Bali Ministerial Conference in December 2013 to try their best to achieve this goal within two years of the adoption of the revised Agreement. Montenegro and New Zealand will become the newest members of the WTO's Government Procurement Agreement (GPA) after their accession bids received the green light on 29 October 2014, a move which will help the two countries gain access to procurement markets currently valued at up to \$1.7 trillion annually. [More on Government Procurement...](#)

Information Technology Agreement expanded after critical breakthrough

The Chinese and U.S. negotiators reached an understanding at the APEC leaders' summit earlier in November 2014 which has paved the way to an expeditious conclusion of the expanded Information Technology Agreement (ITA). The [original Agreement](#) that was struck in 1996 currently has 52 participants, representing 80 WTO members (the 28 EU members are counted as one ITA participant), which account for approximately 97 per cent of world trade in IT products. The total amount of import duties eliminated under the ITA was estimated at US\$1.6 trillion in 2013. In the light of new technological developments, efforts have been underway since 2012 to extend the Agreement to cover approximately 200 additional products, including many new generation communication, data and medical devices. The China-US breakthrough is an important step towards a definitive deal covering a larger range of products. Negotiations must now be finalised by all WTO members participating in the ITA. Exact figures on the impact of the ITA expansion are not available as negotiations are not yet finalized. Still some estimates envisage a liberalization package that could range from US\$0.8 trillion to US\$1.4 trillion of annual trade. This is bigger than the current trade in automotive products and three times bigger than trade in the clothing sector. [More on ITA...](#)

Plurilateral Environmental Goods Negotiations launched at the WTO

Fourteen WTO members launched plurilateral negotiations for an [Environmental Goods Agreement](#) on 8 July 2014 at the WTO. These members said the talks will promote green growth and sustainable development while providing impetus for the conclusion of the Doha Round. The participants said the talks are open to any WTO member and that the results will be applied in accordance with the most-favoured nation principle, under which WTO members should treat their trading partners in a non-discriminatory manner. Taking part is Australia, Canada, China, Chinese Taipei, Costa Rica, the European Union, Hong Kong China, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Singapore, the Republic of Korea, Switzerland and the United States, which make up 86 per cent of global environmental goods trade. The talks will build on a list of 54 environmental goods put together by the APEC countries in 2012 to reduce import tariffs to 5 percent or less by the end of 2015. [More on Trade and Environment in the WTO...](#)

Accessions

Yemen became the latest member to join the WTO on 26 June 2014, bringing the overall count of membership to 160. It negotiated the terms of its membership over a 13-year period and completed its ratification process in a 174 day-record. With Yemen's accession, 97.1% of the global economy now falls under the rules-based multilateral trading system, bringing the WTO closer to its goal of achieving

universal membership. Trade ministers of WTO members officially approved Yemen's accession on 4 December 2013 during the Ninth Ministerial Conference in Bali, Indonesia. WTO members negotiating Seychelles' accession agreed on the terms of the country's WTO membership on 17 October 2014, concluding 18 years of negotiation. This decision still requires the formal approval of all 160 WTO members in the General Council in December. Meanwhile, Azerbaijan and Algeria are making substantial progress with their accessions negotiations. [More on Accessions...](#)



Enhanced Integrated Framework Undergoes Review: WTO DG lends support

Director-General Roberto Azevêdo told the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF) Board on 30 October 2014 that "we all want to see the EIF grow into a stronger, more efficient programme so that it can overcome the challenges of the past, and do even more to help LDCs achieve their development goals in the future". He pointed out that "there is no other programme which is as comprehensive as the EIF in supporting LDCs to address all aspects of their trade capacity". He presented a letter setting out our commitment to continuing this partnership to the chairman of the EIF board.

WTO DG seeks support for the Bali Package G-20 Brisbane

Director-General Roberto Azevêdo speaking from G-20 Summit at Brisbane welcomed the strong commitment from G-20 Leaders to implement all elements of the Bali Package including preparing as quickly as possible a WTO work programme on the remaining issues of the Doha Development Agenda.

WTO DG at the July General Council on Post-2015 Development Agenda

Director-General Roberto Azevêdo told the General Council on 24 July, 2014 that he has been actively engaged in ensuring that trade is given a central role in the Post-2015 Development Agenda, which is being discussed at the United Nations. He said that the draft goals include a significant increase in exports of developing countries, including doubling by 2020 the share of global exports of least-developed countries. He re-iterated his opinion – that any development agenda which is people-focused and forward-looking must have a strong emphasis on the economic aspects of human development. And therefore trade must also be central. Read his full speech [here](#)

WTO and donors launch Trade Facilitation Agreement Facility (TFAF)

A new initiative unveiled at the WTO on 22 July 2014 will help developing countries and least-developed countries reap the benefits of the WTO's new Trade Facilitation Agreement, which was agreed at the Bali Ministerial Conference in December 2013. For the first time in WTO history, the requirement to implement the Agreement was directly linked to the capacity of the country to do so. The aim of this new initiative, entitled the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement Facility (TFAF), is to help ensure that this assistance is provided to all those that require it. The new Facility will complement existing efforts by regional and multilateral agencies, bilateral donors, and other stakeholders to provide Trade Facilitation-related technical assistance and capacity-building support. It will act as a focal point for implementation efforts.

Publications: New Trade Policy Reviews and World Trade Report 2014

Seventeen member states underwent Trade Policy Review in the 2014. As this issue goes to print, U.S. TPR would be currently under way. Report can be accessed [here](#). The latest edition of the WTO's flagship publication released on 20 October 2014 in Geneva. Get the latest World Trade Report [here](#)

Dispute Settlement : Appellate Body appoints new Member; issues two reports

The WTO Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) appointed on 26 September 2014 Mr Shree Baboo Chekitan Servansing, of Mauritius, to the seven-member Appellate Body for four years commencing on 1 October 2014. Mr Servansing will replace Mr David Unterhalter;



whose second term expired on 11 December 2013. The appointment was made by the DSB on the basis of a Selection Committee's recommendation and following consultations with WTO members.

The Dispute Settlement Body, on 29 August 2014, adopted the Panel and Appellate Body reports which found that China's export restrictions on *rare earths*, tungsten and molybdenum were in breach of China's WTO obligations and not justified under the GATT exceptions.

On 22 May 2014, the WTO Appellate Body issued its reports in the case "European Communities – Measures Prohibiting the Importation and Marketing of Seal Products". It found the EU measure to be inconsistent with the GATT 1994. [Dispute Settlement Gateway](#)



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