



As economic recovery seems to be making its timid appearance on the world scene, open trade is moving into the spotlights as one of the drivers of sustained growth. This double issue of the WTO Newsletter for Parliamentarians gives an overview of the latest developments and views on trade both at the WTO and in other international fora.

### Activities at the WTO

#### General Council: “Cocktail approach” for Doha and Syria’s WTO membership request

Geneva, 4 May

At the latest General Council, Director-General Pascal Lamy listed the “ingredients” of a “cocktail approach” to move the Doha Round process forward: meetings organized by the chairs of the different negotiating groups, preliminary contacts between trade ministers, and his own consultations with delegations on general issues. Members must start shaking the ingredients “before the ice melts,” he quipped.

On the same date, the General Council agreed to establish a working party to examine the request of the Syrian Arab Republic for WTO membership. Syria welcomed the decision as part of WTO’s efforts “to promote international cooperation for trade and development”.

#### Lamy launches the WTO Chairs Programme

Geneva, 25 May

In May, the WTO launched a Chairs Programme in 14 universities from developing countries. The initiative aims to secure strong partnerships with the academic community in the areas of education, research and training on WTO issues.

In his opening speech, Director-General Pascal Lamy reiterated his belief that “the scholarly community is a source of valuable knowledge in any country. It brings to the table insights, understanding and a legitimacy that outside specialists can only partly hope to offer.”

The WTO Chairs Programme will ultimately enable the academic community to support developing country governments formulate sound trade policies. For the first phase of the programme, 14 institutions have been selected by an independent Advisory Board.



They have presented their own work plans that include courses on trade, policy-relevant research, and outreach activities aimed at raising awareness of trade-related policy issues.

In the months leading up to the official launch, the



Inaugural conference of the WTO Chairs Programme in Geneva

Director-General attended the ceremony welcoming the Institute of International Relations of the University of Chile into the WTO Chairs Programme. Deputy Director-General Harsha V. Singh was also present at the inauguration ceremony in Hanoi to mark Viet Nam’s University of Economics and Business (UEB) being awarded the status of WTO Chair. And Deputy Director-General Alejandro Jara addressed the ceremony in Rabat, Morocco, for the Mohammed V-Souissi University.

### The WTO abroad

#### Trade Ministers confirm their commitment towards a successful Doha conclusion

Paris, 27 May



Simon Crean, Minister of Trade from Australia, and Pascal Lamy, Director-General of the WTO during the Trade, Jobs and Innovation Panel at the OECD Forum. ©Natali Wyson/OECD

On the sidelines of the OECD Forum and Ministerial Council meeting in late May, a group of Trade Ministers met with Director-General Pascal Lamy to reinvigorate efforts towards the conclusion of the Doha Round of negotiations. Against the background of the OECD talks on global

recovery, Australian Trade Minister Simon Crean indicated that the evidence points to trade as an important economic stimulus. “There is no doubt that trade not only sustains and strengthens economic growth, it also creates job opportunities,” he said in a press conference.

In the course of the OECD Public Forum, Pascal Lamy also participated in the session on Trade, Jobs and Innovation, where he indicated that, if during the crisis the WTO had focussed on “keeping trade open”, the new strategy for a sustained recovery aims at “keeping opening trade” to ensure that trade-dependent emerging economies can function as drivers of global growth.

#### DDG Singh: We need an open and predictable trading system to address price volatility

Barcelona, 26 May

At a dinner hosted by the International Food and Agricultural Trade Policy Council in Barcelona, Deputy Director-General Harsha Singh addressed the links between international trade and agricultural price volatility. He explained how “the WTO framework provides the possibility of reducing the major distortions in agriculture and improving the disciplines required for greater predictability and stability”. The international trade system embodied by the WTO “can be improved further through a successful result in the Doha Round”.

### Coming events

- **9-11 June**  
Trade Policy Review – Malawi
- **21-23 June**  
Trade Policy Review – Honduras
- **5-7 July**  
Trade Policy Review – Chinese Taipei
- **26-28 July**  
Trade Policy Review – The Gambia
- **29-30 July**  
WTO General Council
- **15-17 September**  
WTO Public Forum
- **19 September**  
WTO Open Day

### Outreach activities

- **20-22 July**  
Regional workshop for Arab MPs – Lebanon



Photo WTO Forum 2008

## World Bank/IMF Spring meetings: Trade's role in anchoring economic recovery

Washington, 24-25 April

Director-General Pascal Lamy said before the World Bank Development Committee on 25 April 2010 in Washington that

“with sovereign debt reaching alarming proportions, trade offers a sustainable, non-debt creating source of growth and development”. The day before, he told the IMF’s International Monetary and Financial Committee that G-20 Summit preparations must tackle trade financing problems “if we want low income countries not to be overly constrained in benefiting from the global recovery”.



World Bank/IMF Spring Meetings, Development Committee.  
Photo: © Simone D. McCourtie / World Bank

## NEW

### WTO updates and expands coverage of Services Profiles

The WTO has increased the number of economies covered by its Services Profiles from just over 60 to more than 90. Each profile provides around 100 time series relating to investment, market performance, production, employment, trade, as well as performance rankings. Find out more by clicking [here](#)

## Parliamentarians and the WTO

### Regional workshop for Asian MPs in cooperation with the Temasek Foundation, Singapore

Singapore, 5-7 May 2010

For the second year, the WTO Secretariat and the Temasek Foundation Centre for Trade & Negotiations teamed up to organize a regional workshop for Asian parliamentarians. The programme aimed at promoting a better understanding of the WTO and its functioning, while increasing regional legislators’ capacity to engage in international trade negotiations. The programme included an overview of the WTO’s core principles, current and future negotiating issues and an analysis of the opportunities and challenges for developing countries. The dialogue during the three-day event saw a focus on the emerging issues on the global trade agenda. Interesting talks spurred, in particular, on issues of protectionism, climate change, intellectual property and regional trade agreements.



Participants to the parliamentary workshop in Singapore, courtesy of TFCTN

## Parliamentary workshop for countries of the Americas

Mexico City, 20-22 May



Participants to the parliamentary workshop for countries of the Americas

The WTO, in cooperation with the Mexican Senate and the Inter-Parliamentary Forum of the Americas (FIPA), organized a three-day workshop entitled “The Doha Development Round: Challenges and Opportunities for the Region”. The event was an opportunity to support greater knowledge of the multilateral trading system and WTO functioning amongst members of parliaments of the Americas. In light of their crucial responsibility in policy making and the ratification of international agreements, the workshop aimed at providing members of parliaments with first-hand information on recent WTO debates and the state of the negotiations, as well as with a chance to exchange experiences with their counterparts in other parliaments. They were also involved in fruitful interactions with WTO and regional experts and in round tables addressing the challenges and opportunities that the Doha Round has in store for the region.

### European Parliamentarians discuss the importance of market harmonization with the Director-General

Geneva, 25 May



Pascal Lamy addressing European Parliamentarians

On 25 May, the WTO received the visit of the European Parliament Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO). The group of parliamentarians was welcomed by the

Director-General, who recognised that the European Union’s efforts towards creating a single market that benefits its members echo, on a smaller scale, what the WTO tries to achieve globally. The challenges and concerns are similar and the WTO understands all too well the overriding problem of ensuring a level playing field for countries to compete in a unified market. This kind of harmonization is the basic principle for a viable multilateral trading system, be it in the WTO or in the EU.

### US Chiefs of staff visit the WTO

Geneva, 31 May

During a Geneva visit organized by the Embassy of Switzerland in Washington D.C., a group of Chiefs of Staff from the US Senate and Congress met with Mr Keith Rockwell, Director of Information and External Relations Division, to discuss issues related to the WTO core business and US trade concerns. The group was briefed



Keith Rockwell addresses a group of US staffers

on the evolution of the multilateral trading system and on the state of play of the Doha negotiations. Issues of protectionism, trade-distorting subsidies, trade facilitation, fisheries, industrial

goods were all put on the table. Climate change and the G-20 were some of the international issues that the staffers showed particular interest in. Concerns were also raised on employment and the unfair competition that small businesses are faced with on the international arena.

## Trade Policy Reviews

### *CHINA 31 May and 2 June*

The third review of China's trade policies revealed that the country has benefited considerably from a well-functioning multilateral trading system. While the crisis had adverse impacts on China's economy, the government's response has made an important contribution to national – as well as global – recovery. The WTO Secretariat report noted that renewed commitments to restructuring and further liberalizing trade and investment regimes will largely contribute to sustaining growth in China.

### *ALBANIA 28 and 30 April*

The WTO Secretariat report on the trade policies and practices of Albania has found that over the past decade, the country has maintained an ambitious programme of economic, legal and institutional reform, largely driven by WTO Membership and its desire to join the EU. In so doing, it has continued to engage in a remarkable process of transformation from a closed, centrally-planned economy to one that is liberal, market-oriented and private-sector driven.

### *ARMENIA 6 and 8 April*

Armenia's accession to the WTO in 2003 consolidated a process of trade liberalization and institutional reforms that started soon after independence from the Soviet Union in 1991. This process has continued since accession and Armenia has now a liberal trade and investment regime. The first Trade Policy Review (TPR) of Armenia revealed that continued efforts to improve implementation of institutional and regulatory reforms and to develop a more diversified economy are key to Armenia's future economic growth.

## Negotiations

### Market-access chair sees work advancing on non-tariff measures

#### *Geneva, 20 May*

The chair of the Negotiating Group on Market Access, Ambassador Luzius Wasescha told delegations after a week of informal meetings that he saw the Group's work advancing on non-tariff measures, including on issues related to remanufactured goods, textile labelling and international standards.

### EU technical "road-map" sparks buzz in farm talks

#### *Geneva 21 May*

After a week of meetings and consultations, Chairperson David Walker agreed to give WTO agriculture negotiators more time to discuss issues among themselves. The decision came following an EU presentation on a comprehensive "road-map" for drafting tables that will eventually contain their market access commitments. Negotiators will now engage in "intersessional" discussions, before the next session of the full membership in the week of 5 July 2010.

## Trade and Development

### Greater trade capacity for poorer countries

#### *30 April*

The EIF Steering Committee meeting in April found that the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF) is now fully operational thanks to the funding received from 23 countries that have invested in the EIF Trust Fund. Launched in 2009, the EIF aims at enabling least developed countries (LDCs) to build and strengthen their trade capacities, better integrate trade in their national development strategies and use trade as a tool for growth and poverty reduction.

### XX Geneva week

#### *Geneva, 3-7 May*



Participants to the XX Geneva Week

During the 20th Geneva Week for WTO Non-Resident Members and Observers participants met the WTO's Director General and the Chairpersons of the various negotiating groups to receive updates on the state of play of the Doha Development Agenda negotiations and other WTO activities.

## **Dispute Settlement within WTO**

### **In the spotlight of the Dispute Settlement Body:**

- » 20 April Panel to examine US complaint on Philippine taxes on spirits
- » 19 April WTO meeting on US - Zeroing dispute opened to the public
- » 18 May Panel established on US use of zeroing in anti-dumping measures involving products from Korea
- » 18 May Panel established on US anti-dumping measures on certain shrimp from Viet Nam
- » 18 May Panel established on EU anti-dumping measures on certain footwear from China

### *We would like to hear from you:*

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