



WTO OMC

WTO NEWSLETTER FOR PARLIAMENTARIANS

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Public Forum and Open Day banners.

The Newsletter for Parliamentarians is back after the summer break with updates on the two big September events in Geneva, the Public Forum and the Open Day, as well as news on the DG's participation at the COMESA and MDG summits.

The Public Forum

Special Focus: WTO Public Forum 2010 "The Forces Shaping World Trade"

Geneva, September 15-17

More than two years after the beginning of the global economic and financial crisis, and looking to the future, the WTO Public Forum 2010 offered a chance for the public to take stock of the latest developments at the global level that are having an impact on the multilateral trading system and identify steps that will contribute towards bolstering international trade flows and strengthening the WTO. Representatives from all over the world took part in more than 40 sessions. For more information on the various sessions, please visit the forum's web-page [Public Forum 2010](#).

At the opening ceremony on the 15 September, Director-General Pascal Lamy said that "the goal of the Forum is to ... promote a frank and open exchange between all actors in the trade sphere on what is working, and what is not, in the global trading system at large" and expressed hope that the "rich menu of sessions ... set by civil society itself" would "enable our members to take the Multilateral Trading System forward". Mr. Lamy reflected positively on the role of the multi-lateral trading system as an "insurance policy against protectionism" in the context of the global economic crisis, on the fruitful North-South interactions within the organization, and on the need to address "emerging issues such as energy, climate change, and electronic commerce". The high level debate at the opening panel, with moderator Mr Gideon Rachman of the Financial Times, saw a deep discussion of the development implications of trade in the context of the MDGs, between Dame Billie Miller, former Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Barbados, Mr Jeremy Hobbs, of Oxfam International, Mr Festus Mogaes, former President of Botswana, Mr Ravi Kant, Vice-Chairman of Tata Motors, and Mr. Lamy himself. The panellists agreed that technological innovation, geopolitics and social dynamics will be the major factors determining the future of world trade, and the dynamism of East Asian economies, the G20 and changing oil trade patterns were also indicated as important elements.



DG Lamy at the opening ceremony

The second high-level panel, under the title "Doing it differently: Reshaping the global economy" explored factors that influence women's role in to domestic and international economies and sought to identify steps that could contribute to enhancing their access to economic opportunities. Ms Navanethem Pillay, High Commissioner for Human Rights, Ms Nonkululeko Nyembezi-Heit, CEO Arcelor Mittal South Africa, Dame Billie Miller, and Ms Valentine Rugwabiza, Deputy Director-General WTO, commented on specific factors that constrain the ability of women to participate fully as economic agents in the trading system. There was broad agreement that the real impact of trade and trade policies on women comes through decisions taken at the national level regarding investment, resource allocation, legal enabling environments and policies, rather than through the multi-lateral system rules. A movie was shown at the beginning of the session that offered insight on turning the economic crisis into an opportunity for change for women and girls through investing in their empowerment. (<http://www.youtube.com/user/WTO#p/u/4/YL9ar4AduM>)

The Parliamentary Event at the Forum

On Thursday, September 16th, in a session organized by the Inter Parliamentary Union and European Parliament, legislators gathered at one of the most attended session in the Forum – "Can the existing multi-lateral system cope with the emerging challenges?". Mr. Moreira, from the European Parliament, Senator Heber of Uruguay, Mr. Outtara of Burkina Faso and Professor Boisson-de-Chazourne, of the Geneva University debated the relationship between WTO agreements and the environment, the role and capacity of the poorer countries to benefit from the system, and whether emerging developing countries should still claim special and differential treatment. Mr. Moreira pleaded for the creation a genuine "Parliamentary Assembly of the WTO" which would enhance the accountability of the WTO both globally and locally, but this view was only partially endorsed by the panelists. Mr. Ouattara said the creation of Cotton 4 means space exists for small players to act within the system. Senator Luis Heber of Uruguay praised DG Lamy's actions during the crisis and indicated that the WTO radar policy on protectionism should look into more subtle mechanisms. He also mentioned that the rules based system of the WTO is an important asset to the world, which would explain why in G20 the WTO was never questioned. Professor Boisson-de-Chazourne focused her remarks on the environment issues and the linkages with Multilateral Trade Agreements. In her view "real" cooperation that goes beyond "diplomatic" exchanges should be established.

During the debate many participants stressed the challenges ranging from Climate change, to food security, to energy to



Mr. Outtara, Mr. Moreira, Mrs. Marceau, Senator Heber, and Professor Boisson-de-Chazourne

Good News Box - Trade to grow by 13.5% in 2010

Following faster than expected recovery in global trade flows so far in 2010, WTO economists have revised their projection for world trade growth in 2010 upwards to 13.5%. DG Pascal Lamy said: "This surge in trade flows provides the means to climb out of this painful economic recession and can help put people back to work. It underscores, as well, the wisdom governments have shown in rejecting protectionism."

employment etc. and asked how the WTO could react. Other participants questioned trade rounds and said they might be outdated and there might be a need to find something else to be able to achieve outcomes.

Meeting of the Steering Committee on the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO

Geneva, 16 September



DG Lamy at the meeting of the Steering Committee of the Parliamentary Conference on WTO

On the sidelines of the WTO public Forum, the Inter-parliamentary Union and European Parliament Steering Committee on WTO issues met for the first time at the William Rappard Centre, home to the WTO in Geneva. DG Lamy briefed the 30 members committee on latest developments regarding DDA; his planned participation to the MDGs summit in New York as well as on the relationship of WTO agreements with “value based” issues (environment, health, social issues). He underlined that the lack of political energy is the main reason for the lack of progress in the DDA. Mr. Lamy also indicated readiness to bridge the gap between WTO law and the other value based issues, mainly by pushing for more research and joint studies with other UN agencies, but stressed that most of the work is to be done by the states themselves. Ahead of the MDG Summit in New York, DG Lamy informed the parliamentarians of his plan to report on the state of play of the Doha negotiations and also on many issues of interest to vulnerable countries that are progressing in the right direction. He also voiced his readiness to plead for continued Aid for trade and funding by donors.

Open Day

Geneva, 19 September

On a sunny Sunday in mid-September, for the second time in its history, the WTO opened its doors to the public. Throughout the day, a variety of entertainments, educational and cultural activities were on offer for the over 3,000 visitors, family and friends of WTO staff. At the opening ceremony the WTO Director General, Pascal Lamy, Cantonal Councillor Isabel Rochat, Geneva Mayor Sandrine Salerno and the Chairman of the WTO General Council, Ambassador John Gero of Canada, addressed an audience of several different age groups and debated on the future of the organization. The guests enjoyed the warm



Children playing on a statue at the lake front on the Open Day

day on the lake front, sampled food at the international stands of Member states, had their faces painted while listening to the “Swing Solicitors” – a band composed of WTO staff – walked around the building and learned about its history and the works of the art. An installation by the Brazilian artist Alexander Flemming, as well as several educational exhibitions were on display, and a 30-minute film was shown, commemorating the first 15 years of the organization. For the poetry competition, 70 entrants from 27 countries, aged 10 to 75, vied for the 3 prizes and 3 special mentions in English, French and Spanish. Proceeds from the international buffet went to “J’aime ma Planète”, a charity organization that raises awareness, educates, and acts to protect our planet and promote sustainable development. On 28th September, DG Lamy presented a check for the amount of CHF 19, 723 to Patricia Defauw from “J’aime ma Planète”!

Global WTO

WTO at the MDG Summit

Director-General Pascal Lamy told the High Level Plenary Session of the Millennium Development Goals Summit on 20 September 2010 in New York that WTO disciplines have given the least-developed countries the way to move faster out of the recession. Despite the positive contribution so far of the multilateral trading system to poverty reduction, he stressed that “we can and must do better”.



DG Lamy at the MDG Summit

WTO at the COMESA Summit

In a speech at the 14th Summit of the Heads of State and Government of COMESA (the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa) in Swaziland, Mr. Lamy said on 31 August 2010 that “current multilateral trade rules are still unbalanced in favour of developed countries”. Concluding the Doha Round “is the only way these imbalances can be addressed and the playing field of global trade levelled”.

WTO and Human Rights

DG Lamy, in a speech to UNITAR on 26 September 2010, said that “trade opening leads to growth, development, poverty reduction, hence trade ensures concrete realization of human rights”. On the same day, he said at the Liberation Forum in Lyon that reform of trade in agriculture “would improve access to food, which many see as a human right”.

Trade Policy Reviews

THE GAMBIA 14-16 September
Trade policy Review

HONDURAS 20-22 September
Trade Policy Review

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA 29 September – 1 October
Trade Policy Review

Coming events

- **3-5 November**
WTO: Trade Policy Review Body – Belize
- **16-18 November**
WTO: Trade Policy Review Body – Papua New Guinea
- **24-26 November**
WTO: Trade Policy Review Body Democratic Republic of the Congo

Negotiations

Industrial goods chair reports on progress in the negotiations

Geneva, 24 September

The chair of the industrial goods negotiations, Ambassador Luzius Wasescha, said that after several tough working sessions from 20 to 24 September on non-tariff barriers (NTBs) to trade, there were advances in some areas, in particular on how to solve NTBs in the chemical sector.

Dispute Settlement within WTO

In the spotlight of the Dispute Settlement Body:

- » WTO hearings on “zeroing” arbitration opened to the public
- » Registration begins for public observation of the appeal in apple dispute
- » Australia appeals panel report on apples
- » Panel reports issued on information technology dispute
- » Panel report out on apple dispute
- » Panel report out on US-China poultry dispute

WTO announces winners of Young Economists Award

The winners of the WTO Essay Award for Young Economists 2010 are Dave Donaldson of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (USA) and Olena Ivus of Queen's University (Canada). The winners were announced at a special session of the annual meeting of the European Trade Study Group held at the WTO headquarters in Geneva on 9 September 2010.

FEATURED MEDIA

Latest podcast: 24.09.2010: Industrial goods chair reports on progress in the negotiations
Latest video: 20.09.2010: Debate: trade and the Millennium Development Goals

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Mr Festus Mogae, former President of Botswana, at the opening panel



Mr Jeremy Hobbs, Dame Billie Miller, Mr Gideon Rachman at the opening panel



Mr Ravi Kant at the opening panel



The installation by Alexander Flemming



Audience at the session organized by the IPU and the European Parliament



WTO Public Forum 2010 banner over the entrance



Reception in the inner courtyard



A visitor at the photo display



Panellists at the Parliamentarian Event



High-level panel "Doing it differently: Reshaping the global economy"



Mr. John Gero, Mrs. Sandrine Salerno, Mr. Pascal Lamy, and Mrs. Isabel Rochat, on their way to the opening ceremony



Mr. Lamy with guests at the Open Day



Young visitors waiting patiently to get their faces painted



Animal puzzle for the young and curious



The "Swing Solicitors"



Member food stand – Thailand.



Exploring the possibilities of conference hall equipment



At the opening ceremony



Open Day banner and tents at the lake front



Visitors learning about the history of the building