



September has been an eventful month for the WTO. The Open Day and the Public Forum represented important moments of the WTO activities. Negotiations have regained impetus after the decision to draw the Doha Development Round to a conclusion by the end of 2010. And preparations for the 7th Ministerial Conference at the end of November are well under way.

Special Focus: WTO Public Forum 2009 “Global Problems, Global Solutions: Towards Better Global Governance”

Geneva, 28-30 September

The WTO Public Forum is a yearly event designed to provide a unique opportunity for governments, legislators, non-governmental organizations, academics, businesses, and students to come together and discuss the developments and the flaws of the multilateral trading system.

Against the backdrop of the financial and economic crisis, this year's Forum debated the path towards Better Global Governance to lead the world out of the “rough patch” that it is traversing.

The Forum offered as many as 44 sessions over three days. It addressed issues as varied as sustainable development, trade financing, WTO discipline and trade policy, unemployment, food security, trade-related aspects of human rights, climate change, regional trade agreements and public health.

Director-General Pascal Lamy opened the Forum by wishing for the event to serve as an opportunity “to better gauge your concerns and expectations of how we, in the WTO, can do things better in future.” The present and expected spin-offs of the financial crisis have urged the WTO to caution governments against beggar-thy-neighbour policies through a “Radar Screen” mechanism that monitors trade restrictions. Looking at the possibility of an increase of “go-local” policies, the Director-General urged to “go global”. In this sense, the conclusion of the Doha Round of trade negotiations becomes an imperative. G20 leaders at the Pittsburgh Summit have agreed that it is time to “walk the talk” and engage on the work programme that will lead to a conclusion of Doha in 2010.

The high-level debate of the Plenary Opening saw a lively and interactive discussion between Mr Thabo Mbeki, former President of South Africa; Ms Gro Harlem Brundtland, UN Special Envoy on Climate Change and former prime minister of Norway; Mr Sergio Abreu, Uruguayan Senator and former foreign minister; and Mr Lamy himself.

Setting the tone for the debate over the next three days, the



Public Forum banner on the WTO building



Pascal Lamy, Director-General WTO



Panellists at the session organized by IPU and the European Parliament

discussion assessed the state of play of international governance: what is already in place and what is missing to reach “Better Global Governance.” “New challenges cannot be tackled with old tools”, agreed the speakers, hence, the need for a renewed international



Panellists at the Plenary Opening

system and a redefinition of global governance. The panellists engaged in discussions on the structure of a new global governance, touching upon issues of climate change along with the importance of sealing a deal at the upcoming Copenhagen Summit; the crisis-borne protectionist measures; and the need for national governments to show coherence and strike the balance between domestic interests and international challenges.

The voice of legislators



Public Forum 2009

This year's forum gave voice to parliamentarians and their role in the construction of the new global governance in the session organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the European Parliament, entitled “Can Protectionism Protect Trade? The Legislator's Perspective.” Moderated by Mr Ram Etwareea, journalist for *Le Temps*, the session attracted quite a crowd and spurred a sparkling discussion with the audience. The panel was composed of Mr James Bacchus, former Chairman of the WTO Appellate Body and former member of the US Congress; Mr Jacques Bourgeois, Member of the Swiss Parliament and Director of the Union Paysane Suisse; Mr Shakeel Mohamed, Member of Parliament of Mauritius and Mr Vital Moreira, Member of the European Parliament and Chairman of the EP Committee on International Trade.

The session opened with a discussion on Doha and the raise of protectionism. On one side, Mr Bourgeois expressed his ideas as advocate of a system where countries can support and protect their agricultural production. He explained how a certain level of protectionism helps countries develop and grow self-sufficient. On the opposite side, Mr Bacchus showed concern for governments' implementation of “legal” protectionist measures and called on the US and the EU to do more to reduce trade-distorting agricultural subsidies. Mr Moreira, too, recognized the importance of strengthening free trade and addressed the conclusion of Doha as the best insurance against protectionism. In addition, he called on parliamentarians to fulfil their role in encouraging their governments to refrain from protectionism.

The intervention of Mr Mohamed steered the discussion towards the issue of representativeness in the G20. The open debate with the audience showed raising concerns over agricultural subsidies, the unequal distribution of the benefits of liberalization, developing countries' voice in decision-making and their need for concrete results.

Coming events

- **20-21 October**
WTO General Council
- **26-28 October**
Trade Policy Review –
Maldives
- **4-6 November**
Trade Policy Review
– Southern African
Customs Union (SACU)
- **11-13 November**
Trade Policy Review
Body — Senegal and
Niger
- **30 November - 2
December**
Seventh WTO Ministerial
Conference

Photo WTO Forum 2008

WTO Open Day

Geneva, 6 September

Under a late summer sun on Sunday, 6 September 2009, about 5,000 people came to learn more about the World Trade Organization. Having been at the heart of Geneva for more than 60 years, the WTO welcomed the public to walk the halls and corridors of the 80-year-old building, appreciate its artistic treasure and learn more about the work we do. In the open and friendly atmosphere of this special occasion, the visitors had the opportunity not only to find out more about the nature of WTO activities, but also to try their hand at interpreting, sample the specialities on offer at the international buffet and see the human side of the WTO.

The Director-General gave his speech at the opening ceremony in an unusual atmosphere: never before had the crying of a child been heard within the walls of the Conference Room. Then, he walked around the building, talking and exchanging views with participants in a relaxed and pleasant environment.

"Our volunteers, our members and all WTO staff would like to thank everyone who visited us and made this day a great success. I hope to see you all again next year", he said.



Pascal Lamy at the opening ceremony of the Open Day

The Doha Development Agenda

The New Delhi Ministerial meeting: "the beginning of the endgame of the Doha Round"

New Delhi, 3-4 September

In early September, WTO Ministers met in New Delhi to "map out how they intend to bring the Doha Round to a closure in 2010". Director-General Pascal Lamy wished for Delhi to be "the beginning of the endgame of the Doha Round." In his words, the Doha Development Agenda represents the most efficient mean to provide predictability and transparency to trade, generate market access for food and services and levelling the playing field in trade distorting subsidies.

OECD, UNCTAD and WTO report to the G20 governments

14 September

The WTO Director-General Pascal Lamy, together with the Heads of the OECD and UNCTAD presented a report on G20 adherence to their commitments to the G20 Summit in Pittsburgh. The report revealed that generally G20 governments were able to withstand internal protectionist pressures. However, since the beginning of the crisis, there has been some relevant slippage into low-intensity protectionism, which is acting as "sand in the gears of international trade" pushing the recovery further away. The report urged the G20 governments to "start planning a coordinated exit strategy that will eliminate these elements as soon as possible."

Negotiations in Brief

Trade Negotiations Committee: Leadership is about responsibility

Geneva, 22 September

Senior Officials in Geneva have been working with the Negotiating Groups to advance the negotiations. An intensive programme of work has been established for the next three months, but Mr Lamy reminded the Committee that a work programme can be insufficient,

if it is not supported by political engagement. "Leadership is about responsibility." He said "Failure to act will be hard felt by the entire international community at this time of economic crisis."

Industrial goods negotiations focus on non-tariff barriers and sectoral issues

Geneva, 23 September

At the start of a two-day meeting on non-agricultural market access, the Chair of the Negotiating Group, Ambassador Luzius Wasescha, encouraged WTO members to intensify work on non-tariff barriers to trade and to exchange information on sectoral negotiations aimed at achieving greater tariff reductions for specific industrial products.

Negotiators complete first round on agriculture 'templates' and data

Geneva, 25 September

Ambassador Walker describes as "a good start" the two days of technical discussion on the blank forms members will use for making commitments on agriculture. Negotiators will now examine various ideas that have been proposed and the chairperson urged them to supply comments in writing before they next meet in the week of 12 October.

Dispute Settlement within WTO

Cases under the spotlight: latest developments

- » 31 August Panel on Korea's measures affecting the importation of bovine meat and meat products from Canada.
- » 31 August Report adopted on United States measures relating to zeroing and sunset reviews.
- » 25 September Panel on United States anti dumping and other measures related to imports of certain orange juice from Brazil.

Outreach Activities for Parliamentarians

WTO officials meet Swaziland MPs

Mbabane, 29-30 July

WTO officials met with Members of Parliament from Swaziland in Mbabane on 29-30 July 2009. The meeting was an opportunity to brief MPs on WTO principles and functioning as well as to discuss latest developments in the Doha Development Agenda negotiations. The meeting was also valuable in contextualizing the on-going negotiations with the interests of Swaziland.



Swaziland parliamentarians at a meeting with WTO officials in Mbabane

8-10 December Trade Policy Review Body — Georgia

• 16-18 December Parliamentary Workshop for Francophone Africa in Yaoundé, Cameroon

• 16-18 December Trade Policy Review Body — Croatia

• 17-18 December WTO General Council

• December 2009 Meeting with legislators and media from Senegal

• January 2010 Meeting with MPs from Bangladesh

• February 2010 Meeting with MPs from Nepal



Open Day banner and ITC/Kenya giraffe on display



Pascal Lamy with Sandrine Salerno, Vice president of the Geneva Executive Council, during the WTO Open Day,



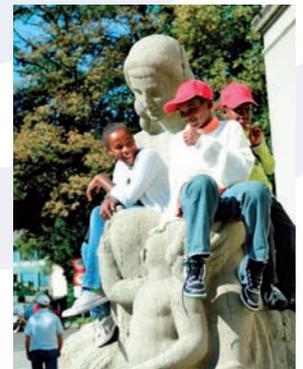
Unusual audience at the opening ceremony



Staff at the WTO food stand



Main terrace on the lake front



Children playing on the statue depicting "Peace" at the front door of the building



Drawing competition



Deputy Director-General, Alejandro Jara with his daughter at the opening ceremony



Visitors enjoying the sun on the lake-front terrace



Visitors learning about the history of the building



Member states food stand

*WTO Open Day and Public Forum pictures: © WTO/Jay Louvion

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