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### Lamy: The trade talks are at a "crucial" phase



Director-General Pascal Lamy, in his opening remarks to the WTO Public Forum on 25 September 2006, noted the "frustration and regret" of WTO members, academia and civil society over the risk of "losing a major – maybe unique – opportunity to integrate more vulnerable economies into international trade, and undermining their potential for contributing to sustainable growth and poverty alleviation"

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In remarks during the Cairns Group 20th Anniversary Meeting in Australia on 20 September, Director-General Lamy said that the agricultural package of the Doha Round last July "had nearly all the makings of a deal that would have represented a quantum leap from the results of the Uruguay Round".

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Concern about the multilateral system and a willingness to continue talking are not enough for a breakthrough in the Doha negotiations; governments have to work hard in their own constituencies, despite the "political costs of re-calibrating national positions", the Director-General told the World Bank-IMF International Monetary and Finance Committee in Singapore on 18 September.

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China has a strategic interest in safeguarding a strong WTO and working for a successful Doha Round of negotiations, and members have acknowledged China's serious and responsible commitment to its obligations, Mr. Lamy told an audience in Shanghai on 6 September.

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## DISPUTE SETTLEMENT [back to top](#)

### Reports out on biotech, zeroing disputes



The WTO, on 29 September, issued the reports of the panel that had examined complaints by the United States, Canada and Argentina, respectively, against “European Communities - Measures affecting the approval and marketing of biotech products” (DS291, DS292 and DS293).

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On 20 September, issued the panel report that had examined Japan's complaint against US' measures relating to zeroing and sunset reviews (DS322).

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### Appellate Body issues report on compliance in Canada-US lumber dispute

The Appellate Body, on 15 August, issued its report regarding the compliance panel report in the case “United States – Final Dumping Determination on Softwood Lumber from Canada” (DS264).

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### DSB sets up compliance panel to review US implementation of “Cotton” rulings

At its meeting on 28 September, the Dispute Settlement Body established a compliance panel under DSU Article 21.5 at the second-time request by Brazil to review US' implementation of the DSB rulings in the “Cotton” case. At the same meeting, China blocked the first-time requests by the EC, US and Canada for panels to examine China's measures on imports of auto parts; and the US blocked Thailand's first-time request for a panel to examine US measures on shrimp from Thailand.

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At its meeting on 1 September 2006, the DSB deferred Brazil's first-time request for a compliance panel to examine US implementation in the “Cotton” case (DS267) following an objection by the United States.

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### WTO opens “hormone” panel proceedings to public

Delegates, journalists, NGO representatives, scholars and others watched live the proceedings of the “hormones” dispute-settlement panels at the WTO headquarters in Geneva via closed-circuit broadcast on 27 September. At the request of the parties in the disputes “Continued suspension of obligations in the EC – hormones dispute” (US – Continued suspension of obligations in the EC – hormones dispute, DS320; Canada – Continued suspension of obligations in the EC – hormones dispute, DS321) the panels have agreed to open their proceedings with the parties and scientific experts on 27-28 September and with the parties on 2-3 October for observation by WTO Members and the general public.

### Mr David Unterhalter sworn-in as new Appellate Body Member

Mr. David Unterhalter (South Africa) was sworn in on 28 September as Member of the Appellate Body at a ceremony at the WTO.

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### 16th Specialized Course on WTO dispute settlement ends

On 29 September, 24 government officials ended a five-day immersion

into the rules and procedures governing the WTO dispute settlement mechanism.

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## DEVELOPMENT [back to top](#)

### Lamy calls for debate on 'flexibility' and what makes good 'policy space'

The increase in South-South trade means developing countries' policies are increasingly affecting each other, and therefore calls for flexibility to preserve "policy space" need to be thought through carefully, Director-General Lamy said on 27 September. He was addressing the 53rd Session of the UNCTAD Trade and Development Board.

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As WTO members prepare to discuss a task force's recommendations in mid-October, Mr. Lamy has stressed the importance of "aid for trade" for helping developing and least-developed countries deal with adjustment costs, capacity constraints and supply responses for new trade agreements. But he told the World Bank-IMF's Development Committee on 18 September that the WTO's role would be advocacy and not the provision of assistance.

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In a keynote address to the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) Council Centennial Session on 29 September, Mr. Lamy called on standardizing bodies to follow WTO guidelines in their work, including "openness and transparency", and ensuring effective participation of developing countries.

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In a video address to the 29th ISO General Assembly on 13 September 2006, he urged the ISO to continue pursuing steps "to facilitate the integration of developing countries in the world of standardization". He added that the relationship between ISO and the WTO "is critical for international trade".

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### 38th Trade Policy Course starts



Government officials from twenty-seven countries started a three-month Trade Policy Course (TPC) in the WTO Secretariat at its Geneva Headquarters on 18 September.

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An online course will be organized for 227 government officials from developing countries from 4 September to 13 October 2006 (six weeks). The course is entitled "8th Introduction to the WTO and its Basic Principles". Its objective is to familiarize participants with the World Trade Organization, the multilateral trading system and its legal framework. The course will be held in English on the WTO eTraining website and will be monitored by tutors from the University of Nairobi, Kenya.

## The European Commission and Norway to donate to WTO Public Forum 2006

The European Commission and Norway donated EUR 100,000 (around CHF 150,000) and NOK 1 million (around CHF 200,000) respectively to co-finance the 2006 WTO Public Forum, taking place in Geneva at the WTO headquarters on 25 and 26 September.

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### TRADE POLICY REVIEW [back to top](#)

#### Congo: A return to growth, but further reforms could help diversification

The Trade Policy Review Body reviewed Congo's trade policies and practices on 27 and 29 September. Since its political stabilization in 2002 following a decade of civil war, the Republic of the Congo is pursuing a macroeconomic stabilization and structural reform programme that has improved the business climate. This programme, together with the surge in world prices and domestic production and exports of petroleum, has paved the way for a return to growth, with real GDP increasing at an average annual rate of 4.2 percent during the period 2002-2005, according to a report on the trade policies and practices of the Republic of the Congo by the WTO Secretariat.

One of the main objectives of the country's poverty reduction strategy is to diversify the economic base by stimulating agriculture, mining, forestry and downstream processing, since the economy is dominated by petroleum exploitation, according to the report. Leveraging the deepwater port of Pointe-Noire, the Republic of Congo could promote trade, including transit services, by addressing deficiencies in the transport network, particularly land transport.

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#### Bangladesh: Good economic performance and reforms should lead to sustained growth

The Trade Policy Review Body reviewed Bangladesh's trade policies and practices on 13 and 15 September. Since its previous Trade Policy Review, Bangladesh has pursued prudent structural reforms in priority areas and trade liberalization with positive results on growth and foreign direct investment inflows. Nevertheless, development constraints persist such as infrastructure bottlenecks and institutional and other policy limitations, according to a WTO Secretariat report on the trade policies and practices of Bangladesh. The report points out that Bangladesh remains heavily dependant on exports of ready made garments, despite the risks from the elimination of quotas in accordance with the Agreement on Textiles and Clothing (ATC). Moreover, it has yet to take full advantage of its agricultural potential, and cope with inefficiencies and shortages in the important services sector, which accounts for more than half of Bangladesh's GDP.

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## Finland donates EUR 500,000 to WTO technical assistance



The Finnish government has donated EUR 500,000 to support technical assistance and training activities in favour of least-developed countries.  
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