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WTO Newsletter

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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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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 1 October. The course is designed to facilitate the integration of developing and least-developed countries into the world trade system.



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 _____

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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