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Sand in the wheels

Weekly newsletter - n°90 - Wednesday 18 July 2001.

8 VS 6 000 000 000

Content

1- Don't be put off by Berlusconi

Hereafter you'll read the Genoa Social Forum and international organizations official declaration concerning the borders situation. The convergence center is opened since yesterday 24 hours a day near the border of Vintimiglia after Nice at the Beausoleil resting area

2- What mechanisms for global democracy?

Silvio Berlusconi has done us a great favour by showing the world how power works, and also how scared the elites are by the power of the people.

3- Global Trade vs. Global Health

Not only the debt burden could be morally wrong, but also unlawful. Most of the debt crisis, ie the heavy pay-backs to banks and other commercial or governmental agencies, is due to two factors. One being the forced liberalization "advised" by the international financial institutions, the second being corruption and money laundering circuits often similar, even the same, that the official financial ones.

4- A brief from Genoa

The demonstrations will start tomorrow with a march in favor of the rights of the migrants, then on the 20th with blockade of the Red zone, and on the 21st with a huge demonstration of more than 4kms long and 100 000 persons at least. Like the GSF is saying they are 8 and we are 6 000 000 000!

5- Red card for the red zone

Just before the official start of the Red Zone ATTAC organized a football match in a Piazza within the forbidden zone to denounce the city militarization.

6- WTO Tidbits

Planning an agenda for Doha still awaits consensus; public opinion on pharmaceutical patents inflects US policy in dispute with Brazil; the ILO accepts to take a leading part on the social dimension of globalization; and civil society organisations make radical demands of the EU.

Don't be put off by Berlusconi

By Genoa Social Forum

DON'T BE PUT OFF BY BERLUSCONI. GENOA IS OPEN !

GENOA 17 JULY: In an attempt to dissuade Italians and Europeans from coming to Genoa to protest against the G8 destructive policies, Italy's prime minister Silvio Berlusconi has ordered : - the closing of Genoa's railway stations, - the suspension of the Schengen agreement to allow border checks of documents and luggage and the possibility to refuse entry to selected individuals,

- the denial of visas to some activists from the South .

Yesterday, the atmosphere in Genoa became even more tense when a policeman was injured by a letter bomb in the centre of the city.

The Genoa Social Forum - the coordinating body of more than 700 Italian associations that work closely with many NGO's and movements from other countries and continents -- reiterates its commitment to non-violence.



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Despite the setbacks and rumours, the city is open and the large majority of people have crossed the borders and arrived safely in Genoa.

Today is the opening of the people's parallel summit, organised by the Genoa Social Forum. Thousands of people will participate this week in workshops and dialogues in order to deepen the understanding and criticism of neo-liberal corporate globalisation, and to advance the idea that another world is possible.

Despite the difficulties of reaching Genoa, there are so many people arriving that it would be better to facilitate access and accommodate non-violent protests.

Genoa Social Forum

With

Campana contra el Banco Mundial / Barcelona 2001

Hemen Eta Munduan / Euskial Herria

Coalition française pour la manifestation de Genes

(ATTAC France, collectif jeune Vamos), Agir ici

Greek committee for the international demonstration of Genoa

Campaign Genoa 2001 / Greece

Globalise Resistance (UK)

Drop the debt (UK)

Jubilee Plus (UK)

Globalise Resistance (Ireland)

Glúaiseacht for Global Justice (Ireland)

Labour Youth (Ireland)

World Development movement (UK)

Reclaim the Streets, NY (USA)

Kenya Debt Relief Networ (Kenya)

Dialogo 2000 (Argentina)

Halifax Initiative Coalition (Canada)

Freedom from Debt Coalition (Philippines)

Asia Pacific Movement for Debt and Development

Jubilee South

Comite pour l'annulation de la dette des pays du tiers monde (CADTM)

Focus on the Global South

Kairos

Via Campesina

What mechanisms for global democracy?

By Nicola Bullard

In Genoa, I am staying with a sympathetic woman who has invited us to stay at her house because the hotels refused to take bookings. This morning,

I walked from her house and through the centre of Genoa. Everywhere there are police. Half of the shops are closed, and many of those still open are boarding up their windows. The demarcation of the red zone has started and the walls are being built. The war between the people and the governments has been declared, but not by us. It has been declared by the state and by the global elite.

What we are witnessing in Genoa is the impossibility and the illusion of democracy. We can see the incredible efforts that the state is prepared to make simply to stop people from talking. We have no translation. Until today we had no meeting room. People are being deliberately obstructed and questioned when they arrive in the country. They are playing with us, taunting, testing, and manipulating us, using everything from petty bureaucracy to the visceral fear of chaos and uncertainty, to terrify and subdue, to suppress and silence us. There is no such thing as democracy, there is only power.

When we look around the world, and see the inequalities, we can see that there is no justice.

When we look around the world and see the power of finance capital and the military, we can see that we have no means to control them.

And when we look at the G8, the IMF and the World Bank, the WTO, the EU and – of course – the G1, playing with our destinies, there seems to be no possibility of freedom or democracy.

And we struggle against this, looking for democracy in the system. But are we looking in the wrong place for the wrong thing?

Can democracy exist in a global system with such weak foundations. How can we talk about democracy when there is no possibility for people to have the most essential and basic choices in their own lives? How can we talk about democracy when there is no space for freedom and struggle and emancipation?

We cannot embark on a project of global democracy without addressing the lack of freedom at every level. Nor can we embark on a project of democracy without addressing the fundamental issues of power and interests.

Democracy assumes that there will be space for interests to be expressed and for questions of power to be negotiated through open processes.



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But in reality and for most people in the world, there is no chance to even enter into the system, let alone assert and protect their interests. In the WTO, for example, we can see that even national governments are unable to stake their claim in the system: what hope, then, is there for the small farmers, the women, the unemployed young people, the millions of people who – from day to day -- might live, to be part of this “democracy.”

Instead, we should not talk about democracy – which is an illusion, a fairytale to send us to sleep – but we must talk about power and struggle, and what sort of global system can support peoples emancipation.

For a start, such an endeavour requires the de-construction and the de-globalisation of the system, so that the power is checked and challenged, so that the unfair rules are dismantled, and so that the resources are re-distributed. This is why the struggles against the G8, against the WTO, against the international financial institutions and finance capital, and for the cancellation of debt and reparations are absolutely vital.

But it also requires the re-construction and internationalisation of solidarity and the discourse of emancipation.

We cannot rely on the human rights mechanisms to guarantee justice. We have seen that the United Nations --which is built on a liberal illusion of inter and intra state equality -- is unable to protect the weak from the strong. These international mechanisms do give us a rough framework of basic rights and justice, but the realisation of our rights and justice is blocked at every step by the interests of the powerful and the rich. The contradictions in the system are deep and profound, and no amount of “democracy” will change this because democracy cannot exist until the structural problems of oppression and inequality are openly discussed: not only who are the oppressed, but who is doing the oppression.

The global elite no longer talks about democracy, they talk about “good governance,” a term which sanitises with quasi-managerial, quasi-NGO language the institutional mechanisms which ensure the accumulation of economic and political power and the suppression of social unrest through the anaesthesia of participation. And the warm blanket of democracy itself has replaced the idea of freedom and emancipation,

obscuring the raw reality of power and interests, of conflicts and repression.

Silvio Berlusconi has done us a great favour by showing the world how power works, and also how scared the elites are by the power of the people.

In the next days we have the chance to show the power of the people: that obstacles will be met with creative persistence, that propaganda will be countered with truth, and that violence and repression will be answered with non-violence and freedom.

Nicola Bullard
Focus on the Global South

Global Trade vs. Global Health

By Angelo Stefanini

The World Trade Organisation (WTO) is the primary rule-making regime of the globalisation process. Its explicit aim is to allow as much freedom as possible to trade. After only five years from its inception, it has become one of the most powerful and secretive international bodies on earth and World Bank and World Health Organisation officials are acknowledging that it is probably the most influential international agency with respect to health.

The international trade agreements which take place within the WTO are intended to set rules and entitlements for trade practices at the global level and may have direct or indirect implications to health and social policies which may not be given sufficient attention in the present context of decision-making. A large part of these implications derive from what the content of these agreements implies to poverty, income distribution and food security in the global scene. On the other side, the rights and duties spelt out in the agreement may in practice interfere with the contents and scope of health and social policies across countries. The actual impact of international trade agreements is only gradually emerging and in many cases through the settlement of trade-related disputes between countries or through debates concerning interpretations of stipulations made.

General issues

The implicit presumption on which the WTO is based is that social and health policies are simply assumed to benefit from economic growth. What is not taken into account, however, is whether



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trade-policies may end up substantially influencing how countries implement health and social policies.

The basic issues regarding the WTO implications to health and health policies are related to the very principles that constitute the agreement. In particular:

- The WTO agreement requires that products must be compared to "like" products without considering production methods and practices, even in case when these may jeopardise public health or labour rights. For example, products containing hormones, GMOs or antibiotics, or other goods made through compromising labour rights or safety are to be considered "like" products with those produced without so doing.

- In the process of settling disputes between members regarding public health and safety concerns, "the least trade restrictive measures" must be used. This means that the most market oriented approaches and mechanisms are to be preferred, such as voluntary rather than compulsory measures, labelling rather than more systematic regulatory interventions such as taxation or banning of access, advertising or use. In this way the final decision is often in favour of individualised measures thus shifting the financial (or other) risk from corporations to public sector and individuals.

- The Article XX of GATT states that governments may adopt or enforce measures "necessary to protect human, animal or plant life or health." However, what is a necessary public health measure is not clarified. As the dispute settlement process is closed and based on the deliberation of a non specialised, non health-oriented body, the competing trade interests which are at stake within the dispute may well overturn important health considerations.

- The Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) which conducts the settlement process is made up of 3 to 5 people with trade administration and trade law expertise. Although information from any relevant sources may be sought, decisions are not made on the basis of judgement on these.

IMPLICATIONS OF SPECIFIC AGREEMENTS

I.SPS - Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

This agreement deals with issues related to food safety and animal and plant health regulations. It contains two main principles:

- 1.Members are encouraged to base their measures on international standards, where they exist. The crucial issue in this case is obviously related to who sets the standards.

- 2.Members are allowed to take safeguarding sanitary measures provided they are based on science, they are necessary to protect human and plant health and do not discriminate between members where similar conditions prevail. This has to deal with issues such as the interpretation of sufficient scientific evidence and the definition of risk assessment.

The international standards in food matters used in WTO disputes are those defined by the Codex Alimentarius, a body belonging to FAO/WHO, which is also where the practice of risk assessment is regulated. The main problem with Codex is the fact that the non government members are mainly representatives of private sector interests. This may clearly jeopardise the impartiality of important decisions and have implications to the risk assessment process as it has been shown that scientists' views on risk vary depending on where they are based. For example, studies by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) on carcinogenicity received little consideration in the hormone-beef case.

The debate concerning precautionary measures and risk assessment are of importance as the way in which risk assessment is defined may have broad implications to levels of risks and concerns which may be considered. In short, risk assessment narrowly interpreted as a technical measure based on quantitative scientific evidence, rather than a selection process of the least damaging option, is a good way to ensure that regulations would remain as loose as possible to the advantage of the private industry.

Finally, great concerns come from the reversal of the Precautionary Principle which says that "when an activity raises threats of harm to human health or the environment, precautionary measures should be taken even if some cause and effect relationships are not fully established scientifically. In this context the proponent of an activity, rather than the public, should bear the burden of proof". SPS not only does reverse this principle claiming that, before rejecting a product, its harmful effects must be scientifically demonstrated, but puts also the burden of proof to the country implementing the measure.



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II. TRIPS Agreement - Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights

This agreement sets minimum standards of protection for all forms of intellectual property, including patents, copyrights, trademarks and industrial designs and licences. It also defines rights and obligations for governments in terms of how far they can limit these rights for public purposes. TRIPS agreement, which represents a new aspects in the WTO compared with GATT, was basically a victory for United States industries who had lobbied hard for it. The clearest health implications of the TRIPS agreement deal with pharmaceutical policies, patent rights and costs of drugs. The recent cases of Thailand, South Africa and Brazil show how deep into the collective conscience can such disputes go.

The interpretation of TRIPS agreement is of importance in issues such as compulsory licensing and parallel imports, which give governments more space in dealing with pharmaceutical policies, but have been reflected as well in the US - South Africa dispute regarding the interpretation of the agreement. In spite of all their conventional arguments to justify their huge profit margins (i.e. R&D of new drugs), the greed of the pharmaceutical industry has been exposed and new promising developments on the price of drugs are emerging.

The power of TRIPS is also in its "chilling effect". More and more frequently, proposed national laws are never put into effect, or are weakened, because another nation threatens a WTO challenge to the proposed law or its implementation. Developing countries are especially vulnerable to such threats by more affluent developed nations, which have more resources, both legal and monetary, to take a case to the WTO. A key example is the Gerber vs. Guatemala's infant health law. In this case the TRIPS Agreement was used to stop a law designed to protect infant health in Guatemala. In accord with recommended UNICEF guidelines, Guatemala had banned claims on packaging that equated infant formula with healthy, fat babies. Gerber Products Company, leader seller of baby food, induced the US Department to threaten a WTO challenge in this regulation, arguing that Gerber had an intellectual property right under the WTO TRIPS Agreement. Under threat of challenge, Guatemala government revised its law and now allows labelling that actually violates the UNICEF guidelines.

Additional concerns related to the TRIPS agreement deal with the issue of patenting of seeds, indigenous products and practices, genetically engineered plants and pharmaceuticals. Vandana Shiva has noted that the transnational corporations that accuse the Third World of piracy and have created TRIPS to stop this piracy, are themselves engaged in large-scale piracy of biological wealth and intellectual heritage from the Third World, including medicinal plants.

III. GATS - General Agreement on Trade in Services

GATS aims to facilitating the international trade of services setting strict limitations to the process of democratic governance of a country. The agreement was supposed to be launched at Seattle in 1999, but since then talks have begun with the specific intent to overturn almost any legislation governing services from national to local level. Domestic policy-making on service regulation could, in effect, be turned over to the WTO. All legislation would be primarily be aimed at increasing trade.

The international atmosphere of deregulation and free trade, with the scope that this gives to multinational industries, will also have implications for all sort of public services, health care, education, energy, water and sanitation, for instance. All of these are already coming under the control of the commercial sector as a result of increasing privatisation, structural adjustment and reduction of public spending. A revised GATS could give the commercial sector further access and could make existing privatisations effectively irreversible. Experience in the USA and several Latin American countries, where health services have been run for profit over the past decade or so, suggests that the result will be a decline in accessibility to health care world wide.

The more health care becomes a domain of market-led private interest, the more easily it will also become a domain of health-related industries such as insurance companies, pharmaceutical companies and firms involved in technologies for treatment and diagnosis. These industries tend to be for profit, which means that they are not likely to collaborate with governments, doctors, researchers or international organizations unless they expect advantages for themselves. These advantages may be mutual. It is likely, however, that attention will be diverted towards policies which will be profitable for these industries while



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not necessarily being the optimal choices for those receiving the services, or for those paying for the costs, or for health sector development as a whole. In practice this could mean, for example, an emphasis on private insurance within health systems, or the promotion of curative technical fixes rather than preventive measures resulting from public health inter-sectoral policies.

Most elected officials and civil servants, let alone the general public, are not aware of GATS, nor of its implications. Rules governing international trade are certainly necessary. But such rules should place people before the interests of corporate power. Several countries are demanding that a wide-ranging assessment of the impact of a free market in services be carried out before any more so-called trade barriers are removed. And non government organisations and trade unions are demanding that services in the public interest be clearly exempt from GATS.

Conclusions

The WTO has clear influence on the nature of governance, risk sharing, wealth distribution and basic values, with obvious implications to health and well being. WTO explicitly threatens to shift the health risks from corporations to individual consumers and to dismantle precautionary measures in health and safety regulation. With regard to the health systems and health care delivery, international agreements are against not only long-term equity considerations, but also technical efficiency arguments concerning health care provision and quality of care.

It is important that implications of the WTO agreements are assessed in terms of other than trade perspectives and that appropriate analysis and review is required before the agreement is signed. Economic integration and protection of intellectual property rights are not aims in themselves, but should be means towards supporting broader societal aspirations. Furthermore, international trade agreements are not based on natural laws nor represent sacred documents which can only be interpreted by the few devoted and chosen. The alternative is not global trade policies without any rules or embarking into protectionism and fanatic nationalism, but rather adjustment of these rules to respect and provide for such policies which promote human and social rights and sustainable societies.

An Agenda for Action should include:

1. A full review of the current WTO Agreements and their implications in terms of broad social and health policies.

2. These implications should be assessed and discussed as part of democratic governance. National level Health and Social Policies Ministries should be adequately informed about and capacities to analyse and bring forward their views as part of a democratic process.

3. In the international scene, discussions and decisions on disputes concerning public health and safety issues should be shifted to the most appropriate United Nations bodies (e.g. WHO, ILO, FAO, etc.) rather than dealt with in the more closed DSB of the WTO.

4. Agreements made in the WTO should allow for adequate adjustment for poorer countries and for social and environmental concerns.

5. The influence of strongest transnational actors and lobbying groups for private industries should be balanced to make room for the needs of less global and small scale local producers everywhere.

This paper draws a great deal from Mery Koivusalo's World Trade Organisation and Trade-Creep in Health and Social Policies. GASSP Occasional Papers No.4/1999. Helsinki, STAKES.

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A brief from Genoa

By Laurent Jesover

As a consequence of the growing pressure, especially due to the bombs and fake bombs (cf the electronic Newsletter), the organisations present in Genoa confirm their will not to fall in the trap. The Situation in Genoa is quite normal despite the police searches and verifications. The Forum started on Monday with exciting debates and a highly interested audience. The ATTAC organisations from France, Italy, Germany, Russia, Brasil and Austria have been engaged in several actions :

1- The boycott of the World Bank Bonds action which has been a success. A demonstration was organised on Tuesday on avenue XX Settembre (the main avenue, now in the Red Zone) which was authorized by the police. At the same time a group of activists took the direction of Monumental Bridge, which crosses the avenue to



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hang the flag with the slogan "Boycot the World Bank. ATTAC".

2- Then we marched to the French Consulate Office to protest against the cancellation of a special train hired by our friends "Globalize Resistance" (UK) ordered by the French government. A delegation composed of ATTAC Italy, France, Germany, Russia and Globalize Resistance was received by the Consul. We informed him about our worries concerning the cancellation and we officially handed-out to him our demand to make the train arrive in Genoa.

3- We played a joyful football match at 8pm in a place that will be situated in the red zone few hours after, close by the Palaccio Ducale. A group of carrabinieri (half of the place was taken by the police) and around thirty TV, radio, press journalists and photographs were among our supporters. We all won the bid to show that the red zone belongs to every citizen and the demonstrators are not hooligans.

At our return to our HQ at Piazza Palermo we had the pleasure to meet Julia from ATTAC Brasil who joined the other nationalities.

One important point : the European governments, especially the attitude of France show their will to put as many technical obstacles as possible to the arrival of the demonstrators. The passport checks on the French, Spanish, German and Italian borders have become systematic making the border crossing longer than usual. We of course encourage the arrival of everybody. It is the number of people on the roads and here that will show our impact. Remember, the slogan of the GSF (700 organisations) states "They are 8 we are 6 000 000 000". The convergence center "Beausoleil" is now open 24 hours a day and help negotiations with the French police and the Italian authorities.

According to a recent opinion poll in Greece 54% of the population is in favour to our demonstrations. The majority of the inhabitants of Genoa support us which can be felt in the streets and bars as well as at other public places, for example at our football match. They are shocked by the wall-constructions and the emergency state they have been forced into since yesterday.

Laurent Jesover
Editor. Journal@attac.org

Red card for the red zone

By Florent Schaeffer

Piazza Fontane Marose. Tuesday evening, 19h45.

It started two days ago. And now it was all settled : date, time, place. And heads were already hot with dreams, passions and hope. It was the revenge. Italy - France, soccer. The team were ready.

France : international mixed team (Attac France, Attac Germany, Attac Russia).

Italy : italian mixed team (the first occasion for the Italians from the different local groups to be together).

Of course, this was not simply a game. It was politics. Hard ball politics. The place was : Piazza Fontane Marose, inside the red zone. The day was the last one before the closure of the zone. And the time was about 8pm (scheduled closing time was 6am next day). Yes, a few hours before the official privatization of the center of Genoa, a bunch of people from at least four different countries wanted to use their freedom of movement and their right to meet freely. How insolent ! As you all should know Genoa belongs to 8 people, and they were not playing with us !

We nonetheless started a football game on the place, between the traffic, the carabinieri and the crowd of journalists. And it was serious stuff : daring actions, thrills, enthusiasm... The Attac players were giving a show for their supporters ! Within five minutes a new team entered the game : la squadra azzurra. With a busload of men and couple of cars for good measure the police was quite present. And one of them seized our ball.

Hopefully, this is Italy. A latin country, a place where words can do wonders. And our friends from Attac Italy are speech-artists. They talked the police into letting us finish the game with a duel of penalties. It was tense, a mix of joy and fear and, in the end, the Russian goalkeeper of the French team made the difference : Italy 1 - France 2.

We picked our fair trade ball (thanks to Paolo from Attac trieste for ensuring that our sport event stayed out of ultraliberal slavery, unlike the world cup and it's Adidas balls made by underpaid overworked children...), we gather our supporters and commandeered a public bus to leave the place with our dignity. The police was left alone with the shame of having stomped on our liberties and on Genoa's honor.



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But despite the police, the bad press, the rumors and the propaganda from the authorities, we have proven that it is possible to have fun in the red zone, that Genoa is a friendly and open city, and that we are not impressed by a show of force which denies the most elementary liberties to many people for the comfort of 8.

And the final outcome of the game is : Attac 1 - G8 0.

WTO Tidbits

By the Attac work group on International Treaties, Marseille

1) WTO officials meet to prepare the Doha agenda (June 25-26)

S. Harbinson and M. Moore are still endeavouring to create a consensus on a certain number of subjects, so as to be able to draw up a draft ministerial declaration which would be sufficiently realistic to nourish discussions at the Doha summit. They expect to reach a broad agreement by end July. But the head of the EU delegation considers this hope "unrealistic", a point of view which appears to be shared by a number of delegations, all of whom expect no changes before September or October. Harbinson said he noticed a change of tone, but nothing concrete, and remarked that delegations must now move on from the stage of consultations to that of negotiation.

The Quad (Canada, US, EU and Japan) held a parallel private 2-day meeting. The US declaration showed signs of drawing closer to the EU position, which insists on the round incorporating a whole series of subjects, including competition and investments which the US mentioned, although Washington has traditionally been somewhat sceptical about discussing these subjects in the context of a new round.

India, Pakistan and Egypt reiterated their traditional stands, presenting uncompromising declarations in favour of the application of past agreements and against new negotiations. Pakistan pointed out that the ILO is the appropriate place to discuss the social dimension of globalization, and pronounced against WTO discussions on the relationship between trade and jobs.

2) The US and Brazil agree (to differ?) about Intellectual Property Rights

The US announced the withdrawal of their complaint against Brazilian intellectual property rights. In a joint communiqué, the Americans recognized, for the first time, the link between Brazilian law on intellectual property rights and the fight against AIDS. This decision came just as the TRIPs Council, at the WTO, was discussing access to medicines.

The US withdrew the complaint about the incompatibility of Brazilian law with the TRIPs agreement. Brazil, for its part, agreed to hold prior discussions with the US if it appeared necessary to invoke obligatory licences (provided for in Brazil's Art. 68, contested by the US). However, Brazil has made no promise to defer to US decisions should disputes arise concerning Art. 68. Both parties stressed that agreement had been reached "without prejudice to the different interpretations of Brazil and the US concerning the compatibility of Art. 68 with the TRIPs agreement."

According to the Brazilians; the settlement reached could allow the country to focus on other important problems concerning TRIPs provisions and public health. Some countries hope this will lead to a declaration at the coming Doha Conference. Brazil considers that the US decision to withdraw its complaint does not represent an evolution in the American position on TRIPs so much as the result of the pressure of public opinion, which was turning this affair into a political handicap for the US.

The decision was welcomed by various NGOs, which had previously criticized the US position. Oxfam predicted that pressure on pharmaceutical laboratories and governments to modify the "rigidity of rulings on international patents" would go on. Médecins Sans Frontières recognized that Art. 68 will be good for local productivity, but fears the development of a tendency to deal with these subjects at a bilateral, rather than a multilateral, level.

3) The ILO takes the initiative in discussions on trade and employment

After hesitating for 7-years, the ILO has accepted to take the lead in multilateral discussions on the social dimension of globalization. Some think this will reduce pressure on the WTO in this area.



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The EU representative declared that if the ILO report is correctly drawn up "we shall have no particular reason to discuss this subject in the new round of WTO negotiations".

Several diplomats from developing countries welcomed the ILO plan, on condition that social norms are not used as a pretext for protectionism (from the address of the Cuban delegate in the name of the G77 and China).

For its part; Brazil thinks discussions should include the consequences for employment and social development of trade protection and transborder financial flows.

4) Civil society demands that the EU withdraw its proposal for the launch of a new round

On June 13th, more than 60 organisations representing civil society from 25 countries worldwide, presented this demand to the EU. They ask that, instead, the EU take the lead in revising and amending the present international trade system. They criticized the agenda presented by the EU because of the insufficient interest it evinces in the social, economic and environmental consequences of international trade, these being considered at variance with the EU aims of sustainable development and human rights. They demand insistently that the EU give support to a "democratic trade system, fair and sustainable, in harmony with local and regional economies".

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