

Check out WIDE online

www.wide-network.org
www.widenetwork.wordpress.com
www.cedaw30.wordpress.com
www.csw54.wordpress.com

- 1) **New Council Work Programme for Polish, Danish and Cypriot Presidencies Published**
- 2) **Public Consultation on EC Trade and Development Communication**
- 3) **European Women’s Lobby, WIDE and CONCORD Statement on European Union Funding Programmes for the Financial Period 2014–2020**
- 4) **No Significant Process towards Protecting Women’s Rights in Italy: WIDE Italian Platform at the 49th Session of CEDAW**
- 5) **Roj Women Meets UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women**
- 6) **Cooperation and Partnership between Europe and Arab Countries: a New Start towards Human Rights and Social Justice is Needed**
- 7) **World Bank Launches First Ever Trade Strategy**
- 8) **LDC Package at 8th WTO Ministerial Meeting in December?**
- 9) **EU–South Korea Free Trade Pact Comes into Force**
- 10) **Next UNCTAD Meeting to Take Place in Doha, 21–26 April 2012**
- 11) **New Publications from WIDE**
- 12) **New Resources**

New Council Work Programme for Polish, Danish and Cypriot Presidencies Published

By Barbara Specht



The Council of Europe’s new work programme for the future Polish, Danish and Cypriot presidencies has been published; it covers the period from 1 July 2011

to 31 December 2012.

The first part of the document contains the strategic framework for the programme, setting it in a wider context. It reflects on the need to respond to the financial, economic and sovereign debt crisis by highlighting the need to pursue budget consolidation and to create a strengthened economic governance framework to enhance competitiveness across the EU. A key priority will be the negotiations on the new Multi-Annual Financial Framework (MFF), which will determine the funding of EU policies from 2014 onwards. At the same time it is expected that the EU will need to reassess its efforts and

actions with regard to its external relations in order to maintain and strengthen its influence and role in a world which is characterised by a shifting balance of power. The efficient implementation of the Europe 2020 strategy to foster smart, sustainable and inclusive growth with a specific focus on the promotion of new sources of growth such as intellectual capital and a green, more resource-efficient and knowledge-based economy also plays a prominent role.

The second part of the document constitutes the operational programme, setting out the issues which are expected to be addressed during the 18-month period. This part was prepared in close cooperation with the European Commission and the President of the European Council; however, the President of the Foreign Affairs Council did not make any contribution to this document. This means that the external relations part of the programme is narrowed down to just one page (out of 95), commenting broadly “the EU trade policy must continue to play an essential role as a crucial element of the external dimension of the Europe

2020 strategy". It should – according to the Commission's communication *Trade, Growth and World Affairs – Trade Policy as a core component of the EU's 2020 Strategy* – "promote the enhancement of market access for services and investment, the further opening of public procurement, better protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights, the unrestricted supply of raw materials and energy and the removal of regulatory barriers in third markets, including via the promotion of international standards." In this sense, it repeats the call to conclude the Doha WTO negotiations as well as ongoing free trade agreements. Development cooperation as another part of external relations is not mentioned at all.

In terms of gender equality as part of the internal dimension of the Europe 2020 strategy the programme sets the following priorities: women and the economy, including the reconciliation of work and family life, e.g. paternity leave; female employment, including the quality of women's jobs; gender equality and management; gender and educational choices; women and the environment; and combating violence against women. The presidencies will continue to work on the proposal for a Council Directive on implementing the principle of equal treatment between persons irrespective of religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation. Efforts will be pursued to advance the social and economic inclusion of marginalised groups in line with the commitments that the Council has made in recent years.

The full programme is available [here](#). WIDE is currently preparing its input; in case you are interested, please contact Barbara Specht at [Barbara\[at\]wide-network.org](mailto:Barbara[at]wide-network.org)

Public Consultation on EC Trade and Development Communication

By Barbara Specht

At the end of June the European Commission's DG Trade opened an online public consultation on the (future) *Trade and Development Communication*. The aim of the communication is to give a clearer picture of the EU's approach to trade and investment for development and to set the agenda for European trade and

development action in the coming years. The communication will explore "how the EU can best support the developing countries that do not currently benefit from international trade, or do so only marginally. The ultimate aim is to optimise all opportunities to boost inclusive growth and reduce poverty, given the considerable changes to the global scenario."

The main policy thrust of the Commission's work on trade and development is set out in the September 2002 *Communication on Assisting Developing Countries to Benefit from Trade*. The objective of that paper was to "spell out the way the EU can fulfill its global commitments in support of the efforts of developing countries to better reap the benefits of trade and investment". The communication's overarching message was that trade can foster growth and poverty reduction and be an important catalyst for sustainable development. While much of the underlying philosophy remains relevant, there have been quite a few significant developments since 2002. The new trade and development communication will seek to address these challenges.

The communication is part of the implementation of the EU trade strategy, led by DG Trade; it also must be seen in the context of other recent policy initiatives reflecting on the future of development policies, including the Green Paper on development policy. While the EC presents the communication as another step in creating more 'policy coherence', the question remains whether this will translate into improved 'policy coherence for development' or rather means bringing aid more in line with the EU's economic interests. So the leading question might not be how the EU's trade policy will serve development, but how development arguments can serve the EU's trade policy.

The **deadline** for answering the online questionnaire is **21 August 2011**, just over summer holidays. More information can be found [here](#).

**European Women's Lobby, WIDE and
CONCORD Statement on European Union
Funding Programmes for the Financial Period
2014–2020**

Joint Statement

The European Women's Lobby (EWL), WIDE Network, and the Gender Working Group of CONCORD – the European Confederation of Relief and Development NGOs – call on European and national policymakers to ensure that EU funding programmes for the 2014–2020 financial period¹ will provide the framework and sufficient financial resources to strengthen EU commitment to promote women's rights and gender equality in all areas of its internal and external policies. This paper complements the joint statement of the three organisations, [Toward gender-responsive, accountable, and participatory post-2013 EU Multi-Annual Financial Framework](#), released in May 2011.

EU funding for promoting equality between women and men has decreased since the 2000–2006 financial period,² and in the 2007–2013 period only 0.37% (€3.56 million of €975 billion) of the EU budget has been allocated to budget lines and spending categories earmarked for promoting women's rights and gender equality.³ The decrease in EU funding for specific action on gender equality is partly due to the increased emphasis on gender mainstreaming as part of the EU dual strategy to gender equality. However, while efficient gender mainstreaming can be a powerful tool to achieve equality between women and men when it accompanies specific actions to redress gender inequalities, evaluations of current funding programmes within both EU internal and external policies show serious gaps in gender mainstreaming

¹ The European Commission has made initial proposals for the post-2013 financial programmes and their budgets in its proposal for the Multiannual Financial Framework 2014–2020, *A Budget for Europe 2020* and *A Budget for Europe 2020 II – Policy fiches*, SEC(2011) 867final SEC(2011) 868final. The detailed regulations are being discussed by the Commission services.

² This decrease is mainly due to the significant decrease in ESF funding earmarked for specific action. See *The European Social Fund, women, gender mainstreaming, and reconciliation of work and private life*, European Union, 2010.

³ See Annex 1 for a detailed breakdown of earmarked EU funding for gender equality.

practices. Political will is required to redress these shortcomings when decisions about the priorities and financial envelopes of the EU funding programmes for the 2014–2020 period are made.

It is crucial that the total earmarked EU funding for women's rights and gender equality within the EU Multi-Annual Financial Framework (MFF) 2014–2020 is increased or at the very least maintained at the current level. To guarantee an adequate and predictable level of funding for promoting equality between women and men over the 2014–2020 period, the EU must establish a strong, independent funding programme for women's rights and gender equality, non-discrimination and fundamental rights within the budget heading 'Security and Citizenship.' Clear gender equality objectives and targets with earmarked budgets must be established within relevant funding programmes such as the European Social Fund, the proposed 'integrated programme for employment, social policy and social inclusion', and the Instrument for Development Cooperation. In addition, gender mainstreaming must be made a requirement in the founding regulations of all the 2014–2020 financing programmes, and its operationalisation ensured with sufficient financial and human resources and followed up in the strategic documents of the programmes.

The EWL, WIDE, and CONCORD Gender Working Group proposals regarding specific EU funding programmes 2014–2020

EU internal policies

1. Establish a strong, independent funding programme for equality between women and men, non-discrimination and fundamental rights within the budget heading 'Security and Citizenship' in order to guarantee a sustained level of funding and visibility for these crucial EU objectives.
2. Continue the DAPHNE programme to combat and prevent violence in the framework of the proposed 'Justice Programme' and make addressing violence against women its core priority in order to turn EU

- commitments to end violence against women into action.
3. Ensure that the proposed integrated programme for employment, social policy and social inclusion (the successor to PROGRESS) has a strong mandate to promote equality between women and men in order to guarantee the success of both the EU's employment and gender equality policies.
 4. Strengthen the double strategy of specific action in the field of gender equality and gender mainstreaming in the European Social Fund in order to ensure that the ESF helps Member States to reach the Europe 2020 targets.

EU external policies

5. Ensure earmarked budgets for promoting equality between women and men in all the geographic and thematic funding instruments of EU external policies, and enhance effective gender mainstreaming in order to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

Read the statement in full [here](#).

No Significant Process towards Protecting Women's Rights in Italy: WIDE Italian Platform at the 49th Session of CEDAW

By Claudia Signoretti, Fondazione Pangea Onlus



Even though it was ratified almost 30 years ago, CEDAW still lacks visibility in Italy. Institutions have not adopted any effective strategy to promote knowledge of the Convention. Consequently, its contents and procedures are not sufficiently known across all branches of government or civil society organisations. The failed online publication of the Italian text of the

Convention, of the General Recommendations and of the Optional Protocol by the institutions not only demonstrates a lack of interest in women's human rights and gender equality, but it also represents the major obstacle to the knowledge and use of CEDAW by public and private actors.

For that reason, on the occasion of CEDAW's 30th anniversary, the Italian network '30 years CEDAW – work in progress' started an awareness campaign to promote the major role the Convention plays in the protection of women's rights through a number of awareness and information initiatives. After the submission of the 6th Periodic Report by the Italian government to the UN Committee on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women, some organisations belonging to the Italian Platform engaged in the drafting of a Shadow Report to highlight the critical aspects of the Italian protection system against gender discrimination.

The first Italian CEDAW Shadow Report: how we got there

The Italian Platform is composed of organisations and experts engaged in research, campaigning and training activities on women's rights and the promotion of gender equality in Italy and in international cooperation. Each of the eight member organisations that collaborated on the Shadow Report worked on a specific issue, selected according to the competences and areas of interest and expertise. The coordinator, the lawyer Barbara Spinelli, supported them in the research and data collection. For every topic a large number of specialists (lawyers, jurists, academics, women activists and so on) were consulted to perform the analysis and formulate the recommendations. A total of more than 60 women, who work daily to promote equal opportunities through their professional and voluntary commitment, contributed to the production of the Shadow Report.

The aim of the document was to analyse whether the government has been respecting its obligation to systematically and continuously implement all the provisions of the Convention and to monitor the implementation of the last CEDAW Concluding Observations (2005).

Starting from the principles provided by CEDAW and the General Recommendations, the document analysed whether the concerns raised by the Committee in the previous Concluding Observations had been adequately addressed by the government (considering all the actions taken, the results achieved and the impact produced) and, if not, it documented the prevalence and magnitude of the problem, the contributing factors and the effects on women. Finally, it highlighted the recommendations for government action under each of the issues identified.

The first draft of the report was presented and discussed in a two-day consultation organised by the Platform in order to collect comments, suggestions and recommendations by experts and civil society activists to finalise the document. The consultation was also an important opportunity to share the work carried out and start to get as many endorsements as possible to make the report really representative of civil society and a common resource for all the actors engaged in the promotion of women's rights in Italy.

Once all the comments and information had been integrated, the final version of the Shadow Report was submitted to the CEDAW Committee at the end of June 2011. In July, three representatives of the Platform, Barbara Spinelli (from the Italian Association of Democratic Lawyers), Simona Lanzoni and Claudia Signoretti (from Fondazione Pangea) presented the document and raised the NGOs' views at the 49th session of CEDAW in New York.

It was the first time that Italian civil society, and particularly women's associations, had attended a session of CEDAW, presenting its own Shadow Report, endorsed by more than 100 organisations (NGOs, women's and feminist organisations, the Italian network of shelters, trade unions, migrants' organisations, disabled, LGBTQi and sex workers, academics, religious, jurists and peace organisations) and many individuals, women and men. For this reason there was great interest in the activities run by the Platform for the implementation of the Convention in Italy and the issues raised in the report.

Before the session of CEDAW a training programme was conducted in New York by the international organisation International Women's Rights Action Watch (IWRAP) Asia Pacific, which helped create a legitimate space for national NGOs to directly engage in the CEDAW process, then bring the international standards back home to be implemented at the local and national level.

The 49th session of CEDAW – Italy under review: little progress, more remains to be done

On 11 July 2011, the 49th session of CEDAW officially started at the United Nations headquarters in New York. The CEDAW Committee reviewed the situation of women in the following eight countries: Costa Rica, Zambia, Italy, Ethiopia, Republic of Korea, Nepal, Djibouti and Singapore. During the session dedicated to civil society the Italian network '30 years CEDAW – work in progress' pronounced its oral statement, focusing attention on the following main critical issues:

- CEDAW implementation and promotion of women's rights;
- employment and welfare;
- political participation of women;
- sexual and reproductive rights;
- protection of survivors of gender violence; and
- trafficking and prostitution.

On 14 July the Committee met the 21-member Italian delegation (which was linked via video conference by colleagues in Rome) to consider Italy's 6th periodic report. During the session, the Committee repeatedly stated that significant progress had not been registered in Italy in protecting women's rights. Italy ranked 74th in the world gender report and, even if women represent more than 53% of the Italian population, the country is noteworthy for its gender imbalance in terms of elected office. Some Committee members stressed that Italy had no coherent policy for reconciling the responsibilities of parenthood and employment, describing women's widespread maternity-related resignation as a grave violation of the Convention.

Other experts pointed to persistent negative stereotyping of women in advertising and

media, recalling that the Committee had already recommended measures — including legislative steps — to combat stereotypical portrayals in education as well as in the mass media and stating that the dissemination of the Convention is fundamental to eradicate these stereotypes.

The Committee asked whether there was a comprehensive and coherent strategy to eradicate the structural causes of gender violence, information on the number of femicides, on the measures to protect the survivors of domestic violence and its effectiveness.

Throughout the day, many experts raised concerns about discrimination against migrant and Roma women.

After a long full-day examination, the Italy session ended with disappointment due to the fact that several questions were not sufficiently or adequately answered by the delegation.

We have just come back and have been continuously reporting what happened in New York to the wider NGO audience in Italy. We know that big challenges have to be faced in the next months/years to guarantee the follow-up of this process. However, we are ready because now we are not only well-equipped but we also have strong and wide support from a large (and hopefully increasing) part of civil society. So we want to (and we have to) enjoy this great opportunity to change, together, the present and the future of women in Italy.

The CEDAW Shadow Report submitted by the Italian Platform is available [here](#).

We invite you to check the WIDE CEDAW+30 campaign blog to learn more about the 49th session of CEDAW in New York and about the participation of the WIDE Italian Platform.

For more details, contact Claudia Signoretti: c.signoretti@pangeaonlus.org

Roj Women Meets UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women

By Virginia Lopez Calvo



The European Women's Lobby organised a regional consultation meeting with Ms Rashida Manjoo, UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women. The meeting, held in Brussels on 17 June, brought together representatives of 27 organisations from across Europe.

This meeting represented a key opportunity for all Europe-wide organisations dedicated to women's rights and to ending violence against women to share with Ms Manjoo their concerns and the opportunities regarding the situation in Europe, including Turkey, and to feed significant information into her work.

The mission of the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women includes seeking and receiving information on violence against women, informing the UN about violations of women's rights in regions of the world, and recommending measures to eliminate violence against women. Ms Manjoo's presentation was very inspiring and gave strong principles for common action: any form of violence against women is a violation of human rights, and women's rights are not negotiable, at all levels and in all spheres of society. Her [May 2011 annual report](#) addressed *Multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and violence against women*.

Participants then expressed the main challenges and opportunities they have identified at European level with regards to the issue of violence against women. Roj Women's Association had the opportunity to bring the following two points to the discussion:

- The wide regional differentials across Europe and within European countries in rates of violence against women and in governments' effectiveness in addressing it – the uneven distribution of shelters for victims of violence against women across the region was used as an example of such differentials: most women's shelters in Europe (the Council of Europe's geographical region) are in the EU, with very few in other European countries (around 200). Furthermore, there are only 63 shelters for the 13 new EU Member States (compared to 1800 for all EU-27 countries). Also, out of a total of 54 shelters in Turkey (for a population of nearly 80 million), only 15 of them are in the southeastern regions, where rates of violence against women are higher than in other parts of the country.
- The importance of making policymakers aware of intersectionality – in Turkey, for example, higher poverty rates, and higher illiteracy rates among women, as well as displacement and conflict are the main factors that cross-cut gender in the southeastern regions, where one out of every two women are subjected to domestic violence.

This meeting was an excellent opportunity for Roj Women to bring these issues of concern to the attention of Ms Manjoo and to personally hand out our report *Is the Turkish National Action Plan to combat violence against women?*, which represents a joint advocacy effort of seven organisations working for women's rights in Turkey and which exposes the lack of political will of the Turkish government to effectively tackle violence against women. The meeting was also an occasion to build relationships with other groups in order to support each other's advocacy work and to plan for future joint initiatives. We are thus very grateful to WIDE for making it possible for Roj Women's Association to attend this gathering.

Cooperation and Partnership between Europe and Arab Countries: a New Start towards Human Rights and Social Justice is Needed

By Martina Nuti

Following the recently published communications on a revised neighbourhood policy and a new partnership with the Southern Mediterranean, a week of advocacy on policies and issues of cooperation between Europe and Arab countries was held in Brussels from 27–30 June, jointly organised by the Arab NGO Network for Development (ANND), Eurostep and CNCD-11.11.11. The events included roundtable discussions on the reform process in Arab countries and how cooperation between these states and Europe could be strengthened.

The first clear step to take in the relations between the European Union and the Arab countries is the reshaping of the partnership, as a consequence of the current reality experienced by the Arab countries. The shift has to consider the recent revolutions that took place in many Arab countries, originating from the people's frustration with unjust social policies. The economic perspective prevailing in the EU's activities in the region has to be balanced with the human rights, democratic and social perspective.

Secondly, a key issue to be dealt with is the Arab–Israeli conflict; no European policy will be successful and no conflict will end if the conflict is not openly addressed. On the European side, a new commitment and a new instrument, the European External Action Service, have been put in place, but there have been no changes in the national external policies of the Member States. This causes an overall loss of credibility and the inability of having a consistent position from a European perspective, slowing down the efforts made by the EU.

The policies put into practice by the EU are based on economic policies without any attention to human political rights and, therefore, need to be revised; the focus on a growth strategy has made the EU lose sight of social rights. Consequently, the representatives of NGOs consider that the European Neighbourhood Policy and the overall European approach to the region need to be radically rethought. In fact, the previous European

Neighbourhood Policy was not perceived as a real policy, which is put into the practice; social justice and sustainable development were not included. The failure of this policy supporting the dictatorships has become evident after the revolutions. Furthermore, the EU seemed and seems to be interested only in creating a bilateral market, not a regional one as declared.

Also, for the rethinking of a new policy at European level it has to be clear that regimes are still present and well rooted in the institutions. That is the reason why the new approach has to promote a greater involvement of Arab civil society in the mechanism of consultations between the European NGOs and the EU. New, emerging organisations are appearing and have to be taken into account, as they express and represent the people's needs.

Furthermore, this has to be a global approach to the region which avoids double standards and at the same time produces a differentiation at the country level.

A long and complex process of institutionalisation needs to follow the Arab revolutions. Civil society organisations can and have to play a fundamental role in this process. Regarding their European colleagues, Arab NGOs highlight their difficulties in gathering the right information from the whole process of formal consultations. More transparency in that process is needed in order to have a clear picture of the partnership the EU wants to establish in the region.

The recent EU communication published focuses on the creation of benchmarks, tailored to the countries' needs, and of national networks aimed at better coordinating the work in the area.

Even if this communication was generally welcomed by European and Arab NGOs as a step forward to rethink the Europe–Arab partnership, those benchmarks which aim to promote equality and fight discrimination do not address important issues. For instance, the specific target of gender equality is not included. There is no benchmark at all which explicitly refers to gender. There is not even any reference to gender mainstreaming.

It is not clear how the EU's approach will be implemented in the region. It is evident though that a new mechanism has to be put in place to give Arab people concrete support for their wish to establish democracies in the region.

World Bank Launches First Ever Trade Strategy

By Barbara Specht



On 16 June the World Bank launched its first ever trade strategy. The strategy, entitled 'Leveraging trade for

development and inclusive growth' will guide the Bank's trade support activities for the next decade (2011–2021).

In light of a changing trade environment, including an increasingly complex trade agenda that spans numerous 'behind-the-border' regulatory policies as well as traditional trade policies such as import tariffs, the new World Bank trade strategy outlines four pillars around which it plans to structure its trade-related activities. These priorities include:

- enhancing trade competitiveness and diversification of developing countries' exports;
- reducing trade costs through support for trade facilitation, transport logistics and trade finance;
- supporting expanded market access and international trade cooperation; and
- managing (external) shocks and making the gains from trade more inclusive.

The trade strategy will be implemented through region-specific work programmes and activities by central units. Three major instruments will be used for: (i) lending and technical assistance; (ii) knowledge and policy dialogue; and (iii) external partnerships and better coordination with development partners on trade. In addition to this, the trade strategy also provides a framework for monitoring and evaluation of results and for improving internal and external coordination in the delivery of trade programmes and assistance.

While repeating the mantra ‘*Trade is a key driver of growth and development*’ the Bank’s analysis does not include any surprising insights: the World Bank comments that developing countries are new drivers of global trade; China has become the world’s largest exporter and will be the world’s largest economy in GDP (PPP) terms by a significant margin in 2020 (with India projected to be the third largest after the USA).

At the same time the structure of global production has been transformed, and global value chains (GVCs) have become much more prevalent and elaborate in the past 10–15 years. Likewise, many countries (specifically, the Least Developed Countries) continue to depend on a small number of exports, not shifting away much from traditional exports of primary commodities. According to the Bank, “openness brings opportunities, but also vulnerability to global shocks”, explaining that the policy responses to the recent crisis suggest that the incentives to use traditional trade policies have changed. Tariffs are no longer the centrepiece of the policy debate, but ‘behind-the-border’ regulatory policies are moving to the forefront. This all contributes to policymakers being confronted with an increasingly complex trade agenda which spans not only a plethora of issues/sectors but also of policy areas that are the responsibility of different parts of government, not only trade ministries.

The trade strategy also addresses gender, as trade integration may also contribute to skills- and gender-differentiated inequalities in labour market opportunities and outcomes. In the section on managing shocks and making the gains from trade more inclusive, a paragraph addresses the gender dimension in trade support activities and explains that three trade–gender guidance notes have been prepared to accompany the trade strategy. They will be used to raise awareness of the need and the opportunities to incorporate gender dimensions into trade projects and support programmes, as well as analytical work. The Poverty Reduction and Economic Management unit (PREM) of the Bank will be in charge of gender issues. Moreover, it is mentioned in the strategy that DFID is to launch a new trade and gender programme; Norway will have a gender and trade focus; and SIDA has also identified gender as a key area of focus. While women’s economic

empowerment and the integration of women into the labour market is on the agenda of some donors, women’s empowerment for economic justice remains in bad need of stronger support.

Read more about the World Bank trade strategy [here](#).

LDC Package at 8th WTO Ministerial Meeting in December?

By Barbara Specht

On 15–17 December 2011 the 8th World Trade Organization (WTO) Ministerial Conference will take place in Geneva, Switzerland. An important target set by the WTO membership for the meeting is to possibly conclude a package of trade benefits for the Least Developed Countries (LDCs).

However, the scope of such a package is still far from being agreed. For the WTO Director-General, Pascal Lamy, such a package would include duty-free, quota-free access for developing countries’ products and the associated improved rules of origin, a ‘step forward’ on cotton and the services waiver for LDCs.

While some countries support such an LDC-only package, others would like see an LDC-plus package to include additional components such as export competition, trade facilitation, a special and differential (S&D) monitoring mechanism, and a step forward on fisheries subsidies and on environmental goods and services. Other members have also been asking for a standstill on tariffs, which would involve members binding their tariffs at applied levels. These levels would be beyond what is being asked for in the context of the Doha negotiations.

Given the lack of clarity over whether consensus on the ‘plus’ issues can be achieved, WTO members worry whether the package can be delivered at all at the December meeting if views are not reconciled. Despite that, there is agreement on the need for a clear Doha roadmap after the December meeting. It is argued that the LDC package cannot be a standalone agreement, but outstanding issues on such issues as non-agricultural market access

(NAMA), services and agriculture must be resolved as well.

EU–South Korea Free Trade Pact Comes into Force

By Barbara Specht

On 1 July the free trade agreement (FTA) between the EU and South Korea officially came into force. Signed in October 2010, the agreement is the first and most ambitious trade deal ever concluded between the EU-27 bloc and an Asian country.

Under the agreement, tariffs will be eliminated or phased out on 96% of EU goods and nearly 99% of South Korean goods within three years. Within five years, duties on most industrial goods will be abolished. In addition to trade in goods the deal also covers trade in services, intellectual property rights (IPR) and other sectors. The full text of the agreement can be found [here](#).

The European Commission considers this deal as the model of the type of trade agreement that it would wish to conclude with other countries in Asia, including India and Singapore. According to Trade Commissioner De Gucht, it “should become a game-changer for our trade relations with Asia”. Reuters just published an interactive map at <http://r.reuters.com/jew42s> which gives a clear visual overview of the race for bilateral trade deals between the EU, the USA, China, India and Brazil while the multilateral negotiations are dead.

Next UNCTAD Meeting to Take Place in Doha, 21–26 April 2012

The 13th quadrennial conference of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) is officially scheduled to take place in Doha, Qatar from 21 to 26 April 2012.

UNCTAD XIII is expected to attract some 6,000 government officials, civil society representatives, staff members, and representatives of other international agencies. Under the theme ‘Development-centred globalization: Towards inclusive and sustainable

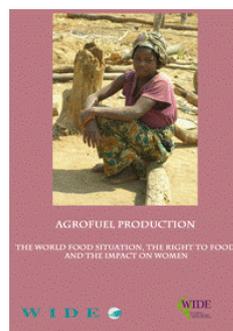
growth and development’ the following sub-themes were approved:

1. Enhancing the enabling economic environment at all levels in support of inclusive and sustainable development.
2. Strengthening all forms of cooperation and partnerships for trade and development, including North–South, South–South and triangular cooperation.
3. Addressing persistent and emerging development challenges as related to their implications for trade and development and inter-related issues in the areas of finance, technology, investment and sustainable development.
4. Promoting investment, trade, entrepreneurship and related development policies to foster sustained economic growth for sustainable and inclusive development.

More information can be found [here](#).

New Publications from WIDE

Agrofuel Production: The World Food Situation, the Right to Food and the Impact on Women



Increasing oil prices, rising energy demands, climate change and Kyoto Protocol commitments are the causes of an emerging worldwide renewable energy boom. These renewables include agrofuels, such as agrodiesel made from rapeseed, palm oil, soybean oil or other types of vegetable oil, as well as agroethanol made from corn, wheat, sugarcane, sugar beet and other starch-containing plants.

This paper aims to study the relationship between the extensive cultivation of crops (staple, for the most part) for these fuels and

the right to food, as well as the obligation of states to ensure food security. Moreover, we will also analyse agrofuels' real climate change mitigation potential.

Read the analysis developed by WIDE Austria in [German](#) and in [English](#).

Just Budgets Toolkit



Budgeting for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment is a practical tool developed by One World Action (OWA) and made available in Spanish by WIDE.

Please feel free to use this toolkit as widely as possible.

Download in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

New Resources

Europe's Resource Grab – Vested Interests at Work in the European Parliament

On 30 June, the European Parliament's industry, energy and research committee (ITRE) is due to vote on the EU's Raw Materials Initiative, establishing guidelines for Europe's future policy on natural resource use. The Parliament's report could effectively give the green light to mining in protected European nature reserves as well as a resource grab in Asia, Africa, the Americas and the Arctic.

[Further reading](#), article from CEO.

Call for Papers: Gender & Development: Business and Enterprise

The March 2012 issue of the international journal *Gender & Development* (published for Oxfam GB by Routledge/Taylor and Francis) will look at business and enterprise. There is now growing recognition that business can – and must – be part of the solution to global poverty and inequality. By enabling poor women and men to obtain decent employment, affordable

goods, services and credit, as well as improving incomes through access to markets, businesses – the 'private sector' – can contribute to human development.

Development and feminist policymakers and practitioners, and researchers, including private-sector workers themselves, are all invited to share their insights on business and enterprise in this issue of *Gender & Development*. The journal is essential reading for all concerned with gender-fair development. It is currently read in over 90 countries, and its content is published as an online and print journal at www.tandfonline.com/gad. Material from the journal is also published on a free-access website at www.genderanddevelopment.org.

Please send a paragraph outlining your proposed idea for an article for this issue to csweetman@oxfam.org.uk as soon as possible, and before the commissioning deadline of **8 August 2011**. If your contribution is accepted, you will receive confirmation by **15 August**. Commissioned articles will need to be completed for a deadline of **15 October 2011**.

About the WIDE newsletter

Editor: Natalie Giorgadze
Proofreader: The Write Effect, Oxford, UK

Contributing to this issue:

Virginia Lopez Calvo, Claudia Signoretti, Barbara Specht and Martina Nuti.

The opinions and analysis provided in the newsletter are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the positions of WIDE.