

“WHERE NEXT FOR THE WTO?”

One Day Workshop Report

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DTI Conference Centre, London

Produced by



**STAKEHOLDER
F O R U M**

Stakeholder Forum *for* Our Common Future

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“WHERE NEXT FOR THE WTO?”

Final Report

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The 5th Ministerial WTO Conference

The World Trade Organisation (WTO), which developed out of the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs (GATT) in 1995, has 146 member states. The 5th Ministerial Conference in Cancún, Mexico, ended on 14 September 2003 after Chairperson Luis Ernesto Derbez concluded that despite considerable movement in consultations, members remained entrenched, particularly on the “Singapore” issues. The negotiations could therefore not proceed under the current impasse.

Director-General Supachai Panitchpakdi said there was no hiding the fact that the deadlock was a setback. He was disappointed but not downhearted, and stated that it is important to ensure the negotiations are put back on track to ensure the conclusion of the Single Undertaking by January 2005.

1.2 The EU position

The EU Commission (EC) is in a period of reflection and internal assessment. Pascal Lamy described the negotiating programme to be in “intensive care” with a need to go back to the essentials and framed this by posing four questions for consideration:

1. What should the EC do about developing country preferences?
2. Should the EC continue to seek a balance between market access and rules?
3. Should the EC favour multilateralism?
4. What should the EC do about WTO reform?

The Commission are holding an informal meeting with the Member States on 2 December with the goal of having their objectives and negotiating strategy prepared for the General Council meeting in Geneva on December 15 2003.

1.3 The UK position

Whilst recognising the necessity for a critical assessment of EC objectives and the approach adopted to achieve these, the UK Government and other Member States are encouraging the Commission to take a lead in restoring momentum to the process.

Discussions are currently taking place between the EC and their trading partners, to include Japan, G20, G90, and the US, amongst others, as well as representatives of civil society to ensure the consultation “is being properly nourished”. (Pascal Lamy, November 2003)

Stakeholder Forum facilitated a one-day multi-stakeholder seminar in order to provide UK stakeholders with a further mechanism for inputting to the current review and consultation process on where next for the international trading system

2.0 THE SEMINAR PROCESS

2.1 Stakeholder Engagement

As an international multi-stakeholder forum, Stakeholder Forum aims to engage stakeholders in sustainable development towards the delivery of global commitments. With trade-related issues spanning all three pillars of sustainable development it is important to gain a shared understanding of the means by which trade and sustainable development are mutually supportive. It is therefore imperative that stakeholders are provided with an independently facilitated space in which to engage and participate with the key players in the trade processes.

2.2 Timing

In discussion with the Department for Trade and Industry (DTI), Stakeholder Forum proposed that a multi-stakeholder seminar to inform and engage UK civil society in the recent developments in trade would be beneficial. Subsequently, Monday November 10 was identified as the date that the DTI Conference Centre could accommodate the Seminar. Manchester City Council provided support for the event.

The Seminar was timely both due to the recent events in Cancún, but also because it fits with the Commission's time frame for its internal assessment process. The event subsequently provided an opportunity for Stakeholder Forum to act as a conduit between UK civil society and the decision-makers at the UK government, European Commission and WTO Secretariat levels.

Timelines

- October 6 Seminar date set
- November 10 "Where Next for the WTO?" Seminar
- November 11 General meeting with Commissioner Pascal Lamy: After Cancún – What Next?
- November 24 European Trade Network Meeting
- November 25 Regular Meeting: Doha Development Agenda – update and overview
- December 1 "Where Next for the WTO?" Seminar Report published
- December 2 European Commission informal meeting with Member States
- December 15 WTO General Council

2.3 Objectives of the Event

- To bring together a broad range of civil society sectors to inform, discuss and gain a shared understanding of trade issues post-Cancún targeting those stakeholders that have not necessarily been fully engaged in this process to date, in addition to the UK Trade Policy Consultative Forum;
- To seek common ground on how to move forward on the Doha Development Round;
- To enable UK stakeholders to collectively influence the UK government and the European Commission in the development of the policy position on the future of the international trading system;
- To submit a report of this meeting to the DTI, the European Commission, WTO and other identified governments and to make it widely available to all interested stakeholders.

2.4 Preparation

Working to the time frame identified above, Stakeholder Forum organised the one-day multi-stakeholder seminar for 75 participants in a 5-week period. It is Stakeholder Forum's strategy to allow 3 months for event preparation, however in acknowledging the necessity for the UK government and others to observe the views of stakeholders and for the stakeholders to feel continually engaged in the process, this tight time frame was adhered to.

Stakeholder Forum had 4 staff members working on the seminar; 1 management (1 day/wk), 1 policy & research (2 days/wk) and 2 administrative positions (3 days/wk). Further support was drawn in as necessary, equating to 5 further staff days. Invitations were sent to approximately 300 individuals of all Major Groups; the DTI Trade Policy Consultative Forum (TPCF), the UK organisations registered to attend the Fifth WTO Ministerial Conference and the Stakeholder Forum contact database. During the lead up to the event, approximately 600 emails were received and over 400 telephone calls were made in order to secure and liaise with speakers, panellists, moderators, delegates and other logistical matters.

The programme for the day was formed with the purpose to both inform and engage UK stakeholders of the current UK, European and global status of trade negotiations and on how to move them forward. Dr Elaine Drage (DTI), John Clarke¹ (European Commission), and H.E. Hassan Gumbo Kibelloh (United Republic of Tanzania) provided the UK, European and developing country perspectives to the seminar. The panel session consisted of six members of civil society groups: a local authority; the Cooperative Foundation; an NGO; the Trades Union Congress; the UK Consumers Association; and a business). This provided the delegates with the opportunity to ask questions and initiate debate within a multi-stakeholder forum. The breakout groups allow the delegates concerns and recommendations to be gathered for reporting outcomes.

A delegate pack was produced by Stakeholder Forum and is provided in Annex A.

¹ John Clarke expressed his apologies on the Friday evening prior to the Monday Seminar. It was therefore difficult to find a replacement. Georgina Ayre, Stakeholder Forum; Peter Hardstaff, World Development Movement; and Neil Harvey, Chemical Industries Association formed an *ad hoc* panel providing the European perspective.

2.5 Outcomes and Feedback

82 people confirmed their attendance to the event (see the delegate list in the delegate pack, Annex A). 70% (58) of these people actually attended the event. The representation of Major Groups of these attendees were women 5%; youth 3%; indigenous people 0%; NGOs 38%; local authorities 9%; workers & their trade unions 2%; business & industry 21%; scientific and technological community 0%; and farmers 2%. Others 20% (included academia, associations, government & MPs, foreign Embassy representatives and media).

Feedback from participants was very positive; with comments such as “a good diverse set of panellists” and “a well-organised fascinating conference”. The participatory methods used were also commended.

There is a critical balance between enabling a broad range of stakeholders to be engaged in the consultation process, whilst also maintaining the expertise of stakeholder groups previously actively engaged in trade policy networks. A concern was that there was not enough representation from the Trade Policy Consultative Forum (TPCF) resulting in a deficiency of expertise, particularly noticeable during the breakout group sessions. This may have weakened the quality of the recommendations.

The Did-Not-Attend rate is average and expected for an event (30%) and to accommodate this it would have been favourable to have had 100 confirmed. However, this was unobtainable in the time frame as a large proportion of individuals had pre-arranged commitments for that date.

Some stakeholders would have liked the opportunity for more engagement earlier in the day and therefore Stakeholder Forum would recommend workshops to breakout in the morning rather than afternoon session at future events.

Four representatives of UK government attended the event: two as delegates (Tony Colman MP and Helen Banks, Liberal Democrats) and two as observers from central government (DTI and Defra). The delegates would have “appreciated a senior DTI response to the debate” or would have preferred a larger governmental presence.

3.0 SEMINAR OUTCOMES

The following report gives a brief summary of the key issues and recommendations arising during the day. Whilst a broad representation of UK stakeholders were present during the discussions, this report does not attempt to provide an exclusive list of preferences, or represent the collective view of UK stakeholders. What it does do, is provide a broad over-view of current stakeholder thinking within the UK.

3.1 MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PANEL DISCUSSION

During the morning session of the Seminar a multi-stakeholder panel comprising representatives of a local authority; the Cooperative Foundation; an NGO; the Trades Union Congress; the UK Consumers Association; and a business was facilitated to enable an open and participatory discussion on ‘*Where Next for the WTO?*’ Section 3.1.1 outlines priority issues and recommendations on the Commissions four questions. Section 3.1.2 outlines priority issues and recommendations in additional areas of concern to UK stakeholders.

3.1.1 Addressing the Four Key Questions

3.1.1.1 Trade preferences

- The Doha Development Agenda (DDA) was agreed upon the premise of promoting development through the objective of placing trade at the heart of all agreements. Any proposal on how to move forward should be shaped by this commitment;
- Technical and financial assistance should be provided to developing countries to enable them to better organise themselves, and participate in the negotiations more effectively;
- The Mission of the WTO should read “...for sustainable development” rather than “...for trade liberalisation”;
- The development of the G20 should be supported as it enables the formation of a strong alliance to move forward the development agenda for developing countries;
- Trade should be seen as part of a larger solution to development. It should seek to enable development in the developing world whilst recognising the need to stem development in developed countries;
- Developing countries are donors rather than receivers as they are trading in raw materials rather than products. This trend needs to be reversed to ensure greater regional equity;
- Change must be brought about on the current trend of ‘forced liberalisation’ of debt repayments and threats.

3.1.1.2 Market access and rules

- Sustainable development cannot be subservient to trade agreements. Any approach to moving the DDA forward should ensure that the current scepticism over environmental measures being used in a protectionist manner are dealt with through open and transparent decision making;
- Minimum environmental or social standards should be sanctioned. This would not only serve the purpose of making trade more equitable, but would also encourage corporate accountability and responsibility. This can only work if developing countries are provided with the capacity to meet these standards and if there is a more fair distribution of the profits;

- The development of WTO rules should allow for the enforcement of minimum animal welfare standards. As with environmental standards there was a recognition that this needed to be negotiated in a manner that did not result in protectionism;
- The EC needs to reconsider its strategy over pursuing the Singapore Issues (and, more generally, GATS) since there is a clear lack of domestic support (from local authorities, NGOs, trade unions and numerous civil society organisations within the EU) and further, no evidence of a desire from developing countries to move quickly on this controversial set of trade agreements. Furthermore, concern has been expressed by a wide range of organisations (including the Local Government International Bureau, the Core Cities group, Eurocities and others) that GATS threatens to inhibit the ability of democratically elected local authorities to fulfil both locally determined and national policies.

3.1.1.3 Multilateralism

- Multilateralism should be the first option as it is the greatest protector of developing countries and ensures equitable trade;
- Whilst the one nation one vote system should be maintained, processes leading to the vote need to be made more accountable and transparent to prevent ‘bullying’ tactics.

3.1.1.4 Reform of the WTO

- There is a requirement to ask the question – “What is the purpose of the WTO?” Once this has been determined, the structure and principles should be developed to serve this function;
- The remit of the WTO requires clarification; currently there appear to be polarised views on the expanding mandate of the organisation:
 1. *In support of expanding the mandate:* The WTO is able to legislate and enforce; an expanded mandate to sanction agreements on issues such as core labour standards and environmental measures would be beneficial;
 2. *In objection of expanding the mandate:* The WTO does not have the proficiency or the governance structure to address social and environmental issues; instead, it should recognise the core competence and draw on the expertise of other international organisations to ensure more consistent policy and decision making;
- The WTO should be brought under the umbrella of the United Nations; this would provide the required governance structure, accountability, transparency and level of engagement with UN agencies, other international organisations and stakeholders;
- The Aarhus Convention should be applied to the WTO to enable UN Agencies to have observer status;
- The process initiated on April 2003 to strengthen the relationship between the IMF, World Bank and WTO is applauded and should be strengthened to ensure greater consistency and coherence;
- Increasing financial, technical and intellectual support for the WTO Secretariat should be a priority;
- A key challenge lies in overcoming short-term electoral roles, which create a problem in moving forward more difficult and long-term problems;
- The internal governance structure and external accountability is insufficient to achieve sustainable development. Stakeholder engagement and a shift in the ‘ownership’ of the WTO should be used to ensure the decisions of the organisation reflect and support the needs of all – including the general public;
- The challenge of WTO conditionality needs to be overcome to enable improved links to be made between international decisions and implications at the national/local level.

3.1.2 Additional Areas of Concern

3.1.2.1 Gender issues

- There is a need to address the gender impact of trade liberalisation;
- The critical problem is that no processes exists to determine the implications of trade liberalisation on women;
- The Sustainable Impact Assessment process being facilitated by the European Commission could be expanded to identify gender implications.

3.1.2.2 Sustainable Development

A great deal of concern was expressed over the imbalance between the WTO and other international organisations. This is having a detrimental effect on the achievement of sustainable development. Key concerns in this area included;

- Mechanisms need to be put in place to make the WTO accountable to achieving other international goals, such as the Millennium Development Goals;
- Despite globalisation having a number of positive outcomes it is not being managed in a way to ensure equitable development or ensure environmental considerations are accounted for;
- The contribution of the WTO to intergovernmental sustainable development agreements has not been realised. There is therefore a need to look at solutions other than the WTO – for example, locally rooted development models;
- The objective of the WTO should be sustainable development and equity for all, not the pursuit of trade liberalisation;
- The trans-national corporations need to be to accountable to all stakeholders, not just shareholders;
- Corporate accountability measures need to be implemented to ensure their effective regulation;
- There is a critical need to identify how to overcome the problem of environmental and animal welfare standards being perceived as technical barriers to trade – and therefore being employed as protectionist measures.

3.1.2.3 Provision of information

- There is a greater need for public awareness of the role and implications of the WTO; this will empower consumers to draw the links between their actions and purchasing decisions, which have direct implications on the economic and social development as well as environmental protection of developing countries;
- There is an absolute need for information in the public domain; the implementation of the Aarhus Convention would enable this.

3.1.2.4 Stakeholder Engagement

- Stakeholder engagement at all levels needs improvement. The potential of multi-stakeholder processes have been illustrated through their use in the UN system. They should be explored as an option for embodying different interest sets and enabling transparency within the WTO.

3.2 MULTI-STAKEHOLDER BREAKOUT GROUPS

Five break-out groups were facilitated during the afternoon of the Seminar. The workshops addressed the four questions posed by Pascal Lamy: *What should the EC do about developing country preferences? Should the EC continue to seek a balance between market access and rules? Should the EC favour multilateralism? What should the EC do about WTO reform?* A further group addressed the issue of *how to improve stakeholder engagement?* Discussion resulted in three outcomes; key concerns with the current structure/system; key recommendations to enable the conclusion of the Doha Development Agenda; and key recommendations for strengthening the international trading system. Sections 4.2.1 – 4.2.5 detail the outcomes.

3.2.1 What should the EC do about developing country preferences?

3.2.1.1 Key concerns with the current system

- There is no systematic delineation of countries based on levels of development;
- Current preferences have no specific objective;
- As some preferences are determined by bilateral trade agreements, complexities and problems arise when working within the multi-lateral system due to these being complex and non-predictable. This can lead to some preferences not being taken up;
- Time-bound preferences pre-suppose rapid development, which proves to be unrealistic for developing countries;
- Service related preferences are difficult to define;
- The mechanism for determining trade preferences is not necessarily appropriate.

3.2.1.2 Key recommendations to enable the conclusion of the DDA

- Consideration needs to be given to the delineation of countries as a basis for preferences;
- Preferences need to be phased in/out based on objective development indicators;
- The alignment of the best system of preferences needs to be explored;
- The issue of preference erosion where benefits are still required must be addressed;
- The fundamental issue of cotton must be dealt with.

3.2.1.3 Key recommendations for strengthening the international trading system

- The role of the World Bank and the IMF in trade should be given further consideration to ensure a global democratic governance structure;
- Solutions to commodity price collapse are urgently required;
- There must be greater consideration given to what needs to be done in the 10 year count down to the Millennium Development Goal target of 2015.

3.2.2 Should the EC continue to seek a balance between market access and rules?

3.2.2.1 Key concerns with current structure

- There is a lack of ability to distinguish process from product (production techniques/standards especially in developing countries);

- There is a lack of reflection of sustainable development and an inability to effectively address non-trade issues;
- There is a lack of consistency with other multilateral agreements and between other inter-governmental organisations;
- There is a lack of prioritisation and precedence;
- There is a lack of recognition of stakeholders.

3.2.2.2 Key recommendations to enable the conclusion of the DDA

- The EC must determine why they are pursuing the Singapore issues: they had already made their negotiating base line known in Cancún, where they were prepared to drop two if not three of the issues from the table, and furthermore, there is clearly a lack of political empathy from both developed and developing countries;
- There is a need to adopt a flexible approach to market access, especially with regards to agriculture, acknowledging that one size does not fit all;
- Develop basis for the removal of trade distorting subsidies;
- Ensure the Green Box contains subsidies for environmental, social and animal welfare only;
- Focus should be placed on the elimination of subsidised agricultural export preferences to increase market access to Europe;
- The liberalisation of water, electricity supply etc. should not be pursued, especially in developing countries.

3.2.2.3 Key recommendation for strengthening the international trading system

- The negative employment and social impacts of trade agreements need to be controlled/withdrawn;
- The role of multinational corporations in enabling technology transfer should be explored;
- The internalisation of externalities through the enforcement of the Polluter Pays Principle should be explored;
- The WTO must recognise the core competence of other international organisations.

3.2.3 Should the EC favour multilateralism?

3.2.3.1 Key concerns with the current system

- There is consensus that the current multilateral system is a broken one in critical need of strengthening;
- A mismatch exists between the expectations of the North and the South in the current system;
- Disparities between capacity and complexity need to be addressed to enable more equitable participation and allow effective function of the system;
- The single undertaking is not practical within the multilateral system, as ensuring agreement on all issues results in trading between agreements results in a lack of equity in the outcomes; (A comment from a group member was that they are uncertain that the group understood this point);
- One member one vote, whilst being the greatest strength also creates problems in terms of achieving progress. Negotiations should not take place as to whether this is a viable

system (it is the only fair system) but ways need to be found to identify how it can be improved.

3.2.3.2 Key recommendations to enable the conclusion of the DDA

- First and foremost, US support for the multilateral system must be secured;
- Concessions are required from the EU and US to ensure progress is made, especially on agriculture;
- Like minded groups e.g. G20 should be supported;
- Capacity building should be provided to developing countries to enable improved participation.

3.2.3.3 Key recommendations for strengthening the international trading system

- Trade rules alone do not equal development, but trade rules should take account of development objectives and disparities in levels of development between countries.

3.2.4 What should the EC do about WTO reform?

3.2.4.1 Key concerns with the current structure

- The current challenges in the values system of the WTO include; disparities in perceived values, particularly between North and South and the over-riding objective of free-trade being fairer trade. Further to this the WTO has a current lack of process to address and determine values, which is in part accountable for the scope of the organisation being undefined;
- The current lack of governance has resulted in a lack of accountability, lack of transparency, lack of constitutional framework, and problems with the election of the Chairmanship – highlighted in Cancún;
- The current lack of an over-arching international governance framework has resulted in a lack of integration of multilateral organisations, misrepresentation of the three dimensions of sustainable development, and lack of parity in international institutions and structures;
- The current lack of resources and capacity in three areas; for stakeholder to engage; for developing countries and economies in transition to participate and negotiate effectively; for the WTO Secretariat.

3.2.4.2 Key recommendations to enable the conclusion of the DDA

- Further empower UNCTAD/UNEP to provide capacity building and technical support to developing countries;
- Increase the financial and intellectual support to the WTO Secretariat;
- Revisit values to ensure sustainable development is placed at the heart of trade agreements;
- Identify and seek clarification on the function and purpose of the WTO;
- WTO reform should be an item on the Agenda at the 6th Ministerial in Hong Kong. Any discussion must be undertaken in a participatory, accountable and transparent manner;
- The WTO should seek to become informed and involved in the reform of other international governance structures such as UNEP.

3.2.4.3 Key recommendations for the strengthening of the international trade system

- Discussions on reform should not be confined to reform of the WTO. There is a fundamental need to look at the international trading system as a whole and the type of organisation that should be developed to serve this purpose;
- Improve stakeholder engagement at the national, European and international levels;
- Mainstream sustainable development and the Millennium Development Goals, to ensure trade is accountable to sustainable development.

3.2.5 How should stakeholder engagement be improved?

3.2.5.1 Key concerns with the current system

- There is a lack of processes available to enable stakeholder engagement;
- An information gap exists between the WTO/governments and stakeholders;
- Stakeholders are not able to engage with the decision making processes due to a lack of capacity/understanding on how to engage;
- There are problems in the language used to communicate due to the use of technical and jargonised language;
- There is inadequate funding to enable stakeholders to engage;
- Stakeholder priorities are disparate and therefore make it difficult for governments to understand how to engage with them and how to use the information they provide;
- Engagement process at the national/European level is elitist.

3.2.5.2 Key recommendations for the conclusion of the DDA

- The information gap between the WTO/governments and stakeholders needs to be closed. This should be achieved through more sophisticated targeting of information to enable stakeholders to be engaged, rather than simply the provision of more information;
- Provision of capacity building for stakeholders and Southern Governments to enable them to engage more effectively at all levels of decision making;
- A democratic debate must take place in and for all countries;
- The mandate/scope of the WTO should be defined and limited to enable stakeholders to engage effectively and efficiently;
- Strengthening of the multilateral trading system would support stakeholder engagement at the national level.

3.2.5.3 Key recommendations for the strengthening of the international trading system

- Sustainability Impact Assessments should be carried out on all Agreements to ensure accountability;
- Development and implementation of mechanisms of stakeholder engagement should be carried out at all levels to ensure democracy, accountability and transparency.

4.0 MOVING FORWARD

This one-day seminar was a timely and well-received event by the stakeholders who attended. It is essential that stakeholders are continually informed and engaged with the UK government on issues pertinent to them: it builds trust between stakeholders and their government and enables government to make decisions based on evidence.

The draft outcomes have already been presented at a General Meeting with EU Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy and a meeting with John Clarke, Directorate-General for Trade, European Commission, both who expressed a wish to have a copy of the final report. Following consultation with the Seminar delegates and invitees, the report will be submitted to the UK government, European Commission and WTO reflecting the key recommendations made at the Seminar.

It is imperative that this seminar is not a one-off event, but part of an ongoing stakeholder engagement process; Stakeholder Forum is keen to facilitate and take the lead in this process. Despite the current period being one of reflection, it is also a time to listen and take note from the experiences of stakeholders.

ANNEX A

Comments by non-attendees

**Comments by RSPCA, WSPA and Eurogroup for Animal Welfare to
Stakeholder Forum for our Common Future on the report on the seminar
'Where next for the WTO?'**
(10 Nov 2003)

We very much regret that given the quite short deadline of the invitation and our previous commitments, we were not able to participate at the seminar on 'Where next for the WTO?' organised by the Stakeholder Forum for Our Common Future.

We have reviewed the draft report and support its main findings and recommendations.

We would in particular like to stress the sustainability dimension of the discussions. Presently, WTO negotiations focus solely on 'trade liberalisation' and 'development' whereas sustainability aspects do not figure in the debate. We strongly believe that trade liberalisation should not be a goal in itself but has and can be reconciled with sustainability – what we need to work for is 'sustainable trade' and 'sustainable development'. We therefore urge both the UK government and the European Union that when reviving the WTO negotiations, more emphasis is put on elements of negotiations which support the sustainability dimension of an eventual deal.

It is in this context we would like to give our input on the issue of rules versus market access in the present WTO negotiations. We strongly believe that balancing the two approaches is the single most important aspect to win political support with the broad European public for the outcome of the Doha Development Round. Indeed, the present negotiation climate favours the market access dimension, in particular in the area of agriculture. Nevertheless, the European Union has to insist on additional rules (e.g. on non-trade concerns) in order to make further market access work in Europe. Otherwise we run the serious risk of hindering our capability to respond to society's legitimate concerns about sustainable food production methods.

As animal welfare organisations we have had a consistent approach on this for more than a decade: when the concept of the European Internal Market was launched, Eurogroup for Animal Welfare insisted that free trade within Europe had to be accompanied by Europe-wide animal welfare legislation in order to be sustainable. EU rules on animal transport are the most obvious result of this philosophy.

We also have to ensure that additional rules- which are often perceived as additional trade barriers by developing countries – are established in a way that they actually benefit developing countries.

The World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) is working with farmers and governments in developing countries to raise awareness about the opportunities that traditional agricultural systems can give way to. Agricultural systems in developing countries often use extensive and sustainable methods of farming, which can offer these countries opportunities both for domestic food supply and export. For example, the most recent RSPCA report on sustainable livestock production systems in developing countries describes the Namibian Beef

Quality Assurance Scheme. This example indicates impressive and growing EU exports from the Namibian sustainable beef industry.

However, for theoretical opportunities to materialise in practice, for many poorer developing countries, two support measures are essential: (1) Providing preferential access for sustainable produce and (2) directing development aid towards improvement of veterinary, food quality and animal welfare standards and certification systems.

It is on these aspects that the richest developed countries – and in particular the EU and the US – have to engage in additional commitments and facilitate WTO agreement. We expect the EU to take a more pro-active lead on this in the future.

Christina Kaul

Eurogroup for Animal Welfare
RSPCA
WSPA