

# Geneva Watch

*An overview of the WTO negotiations on agriculture*

## Editorial: A Time for Reflection

“Where to go from here?” seems to be the toughest question facing Members these days as activities in Geneva the past week have gone dormant while awaiting further political direction to emerge from this month’s ministerial gatherings. Agriculture negotiations chair, David Walker, for his part has announced that he will likely let Members gather in small groups to tackle issues in the draft modalities text that need further clarifications. These small technical discussions are not considered negotiations and as such, appear less politically charged than consultations on bracketed or otherwise annotated issues, thus, perfect to keep Members involved while waiting for Lamy’s May 31<sup>st</sup> report on the way forward.

## General Council

The General Council meeting held on May 3 allowed WTO’s Director General Pascal Lamy to officially confirm before the organization’s highest decision body what has been discussed among delegations the past few weeks following the release of documents on the state of play in the Doha Round.

As chairman of the Trade Negotiations Committee (TNC), Lamy summarized what Members agreed to do in the coming months in order to bring the Round back to life. The first step, he said, was the recognition of the “grave risk of the current stalemate.” Failure of the Doha Round would enable the WTO to bring up to date the rules governing international trade, weakening global economic cooperation among nations and the multilateral trading system as a whole, increasing at the same time the risk of protectionism.

As such, No one is “ready to throw in the towel,” Lamy said, insisting on Members’ willingness to protect the progress achieved thus far after almost 10 years of negotiations as well as their resolve to go beyond “the business-as-usual” in order to secure a new approach that would lead to results by the time of the December 15-17 WTO’s 8th Ministerial Conference.

Key Members have voiced their support to this new plan including the U.S. which several industry groups<sup>1</sup> stressed in a communiqué released on May 2, that they “continue to maintain strong confidence in the WTO as an institution” and urge the US and other major players to “devote their energy” to find a positive way for unlocking the stalemate and advancing the Round.

Lamy encouraged Members to follow that exact same spirit, by tabling new ideas in areas where outstanding issues remain – as done by the EU last week with its compromise proposal on NAMA sectorals – so they can be discussed “sooner rather than later,” among the full Membership, including at the political level.

Lamy will seek political support for the Round when he attends several ministerial meetings scheduled in the month of May starting the week of May 9 with the fourth United Nations Conference on Least-developed Countries in Istanbul. This will be followed by ministerial meetings of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) in Montana (U.S.) on May 19-20 and the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) the week of May 23<sup>rd</sup> in Paris (France).

<sup>1</sup> American Farm Bureau Federation, Business Roundtable, Coalition of Service Industries, emergency Committee for American Trade, National Association of Manufacturers, National Foreign Trade Council, U.S. Chamber of Commerce and U.S. Council for International Business

## Upcoming Events

- APEC Ministers Responsible for Trade Meeting, May 19-20, Montana (USA)
- OECD 50th Anniversary Forum and Council, May 23-27, 2011, Paris (France)
- Regular Agriculture Committee, June 23, September 29, and November 2011
- 37th G8 Summit, June Deauville, France
- G-20 Summit on Agriculture, June 22-23 2011 Paris (France)
- Third Global Review of Aid for Trade July 18-19, 2011
- WTO General Council, July 27-28, October 12-13, December 1-2, 2011
- WTO Public Forum, September 19-21, 2011
- G20 Summit, November 3-4, 2011 Cannes, (France)
- APEC Ministerial Meeting, November 11, 2011
- WTO Ministerial Conference (MC8), December 15-17, 2011

Geneva Watch is published by Dairy Farmers of Canada, Chicken Farmers of Canada, Egg Farmers of Canada, Turkey Farmers of Canada and Canadian Hatching Egg Producers to report on the various events occurring in Geneva, particularly on the WTO negotiations on agriculture.

For more information or comments, please visit:

[www.dairyfarmers.ca](http://www.dairyfarmers.ca), [www.chicken.ca](http://www.chicken.ca), [www.eggs.ca](http://www.eggs.ca), [www.turkeyfarmersofcanada.ca](http://www.turkeyfarmersofcanada.ca), [www.cbhema.com](http://www.cbhema.com).

Legal Deposit: National Library of Canada, ISSN 1496-9254



Dairy Farmers  
of Canada  
Les Producteurs laitiers  
du Canada



Chicken Farmers  
of Canada  
Les Producteurs de  
poulet du Canada

EGG FARMERS  
OF CANADA  
Dedicated to Quality



LES PRODUCTEURS  
D'ŒUFS DU CANADA  
Dédiés à la qualité



TURKEY FARMERS  
OF CANADA  
LES ÉLEVÉS DE DINDON  
DU CANADA

Canadian  
Hatching Egg  
Producers



Les Producteurs  
d'œufs d'incubation  
du Canada