

## **Editorial: When the Fall is All That's Left**

By leaving the Doha Development Agenda (DDA) out of the G-8 and G-20 Toronto Summits, leaders have de facto increased the pressure on themselves by promising to reach out for a greater and more robust support to an open trade deal when they meet again this fall in Seoul, Korea.

Many pro-trade observers have voiced criticism at what was seen as a backward step on trade, when the G-20 not only refrained from setting a new specific timeline to reach a Doha agreement but also asked that a report on the negotiations progress be made in Seoul, at which time they will discuss the status of the negotiations and the way forward.

Among those disappointed officials was the chairman of the Korean G-20 Summit organizing committee, Mr. Il Sakong, who, speaking at the Peterson Institute for International Economics on June 30, stressed that trade issues, and particularly Doha, are likely to be seriously addressed during the 20's second Summit in November. So, expectations in this area are rather high, he claimed and it is now up to Members to narrow the remaining differences to set the stage for a greater support from leaders in Korea.

The groundwork will start this week with agriculture consultations set to take place on templates and other substantive matters i.e. the so-called "bracketed or otherwise annotated" issues. Officials said the chairman, David Walker, will provide special attention to the special safeguard mechanism (SSM), an issue that has been the source of numerous technical papers tabled lately by opposite sides of the discussion: the G-33 and Cairns Group Members.

The G-20 leaders called for Members to use "all negotiating avenues" to end the deadlock. One of those "avenues" is the recently formed group of 19 senior officials (Argentina, Australia, Barbados, Burkina Faso, Brazil, Canada, China, Egypt, EU, India, Indonesia, Japan, Mauritius, Mexico, South Africa, Switzerland, South Korea, U.S. and Zambia) which was formed to initially focus on process and what political implications will be needed to push the DDA forward.

The G-19 will also gather this week but this time with additional representatives of the negotiations' sensitivities including Chile, coordinator of the NAMA "Middle Group", along with Malaysia, Turkey, and Venezuela. The group was once criticized as being too big to take on substantive issues in a manner that could be efficient and help narrow the remaining gaps.

Nevertheless, there seems to be some light at the end of the tunnel, with two recent events that may drag the U.S., which has been seen as the major roadblock to progress in the Round, onboard the trade juggernaut.

The first came with U.S.'s President Barack Obama announcing that he wants to fix the pending FTA with South Korea ahead of the November G-20 Summit. Some trade observers claimed that this initiative could open a Pandora's Box for the administration to also consider moving forward on other trade issues, including the FTAs with Panama and Colombia.

The second "good news" came with the WTO ruling in favour of the U.S. in their battle against the EU over Airbus' illegal subsidies on June 30<sup>th</sup>. In a domain where the U.S. has often been condemned (such as in the cotton dispute versus Brazil) this, optimistic observers say, could be seen as the beginning of a positive stance on trade.

## Upcoming Events

- Agriculture Consultations, July 5, 2010
- NAMA consultations, week of July 12, 2010
- General Council, July 29-30, Oct. 6-7, Dec.14-15, 2010
- WTO Public Forum, September 15-17, 2010
- Regular Agriculture Committee, September 16-17, November 18-19, 2010
- G-20 Summit, November 11-12, 2010 Seoul, (South Korea)
- OECD Global Forum on Agriculture, November 29-30, 2010, Paris (France)

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.

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ISSN 1496-9254

