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**Weltwirtschaft, Ökologie & Entwicklung.
World Economy, Ecology & Development**

Workshop Invitation

Trade Policy between Multi- and Bilateralism

A look at the EU, Brazil and Ghana

Geneva People's Council

July 27th, 2005

15:30 – 17:30

World Council of Churches, room 3
150, Route de Ferney
CH-1211 Geneva

Critics of current trade policy need to look beyond the WTO and critically analyse and challenge all levels of the liberalisation agenda. The EU and the US are threatening to intensify their regional and bilateral negotiating efforts. This is not an alternative to the multilateral efforts in the WTO, but a supplement – and involves various *WTO-plus*-dangers. A striking example of this trend is given by the so-called Singapore issues: investment, competition, trade facilitation and government procurement. Although a broad alliance of developing countries rejected these topics in WTO negotiations in 2003, the EU is currently trying to raise them again: they are to be discussed in bilateral talks with various African states within the framework of the 2000 Cotonou agreement. In our public seminar we want to look at this issue with a focus on the EU on the one hand and the situation of Brazil and Ghana vis-à-vis the multilevel-trade agenda on the other hand. Surveys will be given by representatives of *Third World Network*, *EED* (Church Development Service) and *World Economy, Ecology & Development* (WEED).

Proposed schedule

15.30	Welcome
15.45	Session 1: EU Trade Policy between Multi- and Bilateralism Michael Frein, EED Klaus Schilder, WEED
16.05	Discussion
16.15	Session 2: The EU-Mercosur Negotiations – A view from Brazil n.n.
16.35	Discussion
16.45	Coffee Break
17.00	Session 3: The EU-ACP EPA Negotiations – A Ghanaian View Tetteh Hormeku, Third World Network
17.20	Discussion
17.30	Tentative Conclusions

Note:

Using public transport, the World Council of Churches can be reached by

- ❖ Bus Nr. 5 (Stop: Crets de Morillon) and
- ❖ Bus Nr. 28 or F (Stop: Crets de Morillon or Vie de Champs).