



**UNIVERSITÉ
DE GENÈVE**

FACULTÉ DE DROIT

TRADE & ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH GROUP

December 2006

Overview of the Work and Achievements of the Trade & Environment Research Group

I. Objective and Members of the Trade & Environment Research Group

The objective of the Trade & Environment Research Group of the Faculty of Law is to facilitate and generate information, contacts, partnerships and synergies on trade and environment issues in Geneva. It was developed on the basis of the identification of a crucial need to coordinate and thus enhance the expertise available in various institutions and organizations in Geneva.

Members of the Trade & Environment Research Group

- Laurence Boisson de Chazournes, Professor
- Anne Petitpierre, Professor
- Gabrielle Marceau, * Associate Professor and counselor, WTO
- Urs P. Thomas, PhD, Researcher
- Makane Moïse Mbengue, cand. PhD
- Maria Julia Oliva, cand. PhD
- Mara Tignino, cand. PhD

*) cooperation on an *ad hoc* basis

The Trade & Environment Research Group is benefiting from the ongoing cooperation with the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment (new name: OFEV/BAFU), the Swiss Federal Office of Public Health, and the Swiss Federal Office for Agriculture, and it draws on collaboration with universities especially in Switzerland, France, Belgium, the US and Canada. Funding has been provided in the past by the Swiss National Science Foundation through two grants covering five years. The research was greatly facilitated and enriched through numerous exchanges with Geneva-based international organizations (WTO, UNCTAD, UNEP, WHO, Codex Alimentarius, etc.).

These contacts will be strengthened through a research project financed by the *Réseau Universitaire International de Genève (2006-2007)* entitled: "Technology Transfer, Trade and the Environment: Promoting Synergy for Sustainable Development among the WTO and Multilateral Environmental Agreements." The project is being carried out jointly with HEI, the UN Environment Program, the UN Conference on Trade and Development, and the Washington DC-based International Network on Environmental Compliance and Enforcement.

II. Highlights of Scientific Cooperation

Highlights of scientific cooperation include, among others, the group's organization of and the active participation in four Round tables, research-oriented Workshops in France and the United States, and a Colloquium organized jointly with the UN Environment Programme's Economics and Trade Branch (UNEP-ETB):

- **First Round table:**
The topic was risk assessment with regard to GMOs (January 2002).
- **Second Round table:**
The topic was WTO's Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS) (June 2002).
- **Third Round table:**
The topic was the status of the Codex Alimentarius (March 2003).
- **Fourth Round table:**
The topic was WTO law, Science and Risk Communication (May 2006).
- **Research-oriented workshop (June 2005):**
The theme was the role of international standards in WTO law, at the Université Paul Cézanne Aix-Marseille III (CERIC).
- **Joint Colloquium Law Faculty of the University of Geneva and UNEP:**
"Trade and Sustainable Development – the Role of Law and Science"
(October 2005).
- **American Society of International Law:**
Chairing/organization of two Round tables on trade and environment issues (Washington DC, March 2006).
- **International Studies Association, Annual Meeting:**
Presentation on "Trade, the Environment and Poverty Alleviation" (San Diego, March 2006).

III. Perspectives on Future Activities and Partnerships

The end of a trade Round (or its failure or impasse) presents a particularly interesting opportunity to take stock of the processes which lead to a given result. There is no doubt that we are approaching such a period of stock taking. In view of the clearly disappointing progress on Trade and Environment issues, it will be particularly important to identify the impediments which prevented a more satisfying outcome. In the context of our RUIG project, we plan to team up with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in order to benefit from their specific experience and networks, and in order to maximize synergies. As far as the WTO is concerned, we enjoy excellent relations with the Secretariat, e.g. through an associate professor (Professor G. Marceau) of our Faculty, and through several other experts. On the UN side, our main contacts are members of the UN Environment Programme's Economics and Trade Branch, and at UNCTAD at the Division on International Trade and Commodities.

Our electronic communication needs benefit from the close cooperation with Global EcoLomics, a specialized academically inclined international environmental NGO whose Web Site www.EcoLomics-International.org (which includes a scientific journal on Trade and Environment issues) is well established after four years of activity. Furthermore, we have regular exchanges especially with three NGOs specialized in Trade & Environment policies, namely the Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL), the International Center for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD), and the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD).

ADDENDUM
Research Projects (2001 - 2007)

**TRADE, THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE INTERNATIONAL
REGULATION OF BIOTECHNOLOGY - Phase 1**
Swiss National Science Foundation (FNS)

Université de Genève, Faculté de droit

Professors Anne Petitpierre and Laurence Boisson de Chazournes,
Makane Moïse Mbengue, cand. PhD, and Urs P. Thomas, PhD, researchers

Federal Office for the Environment, Berne

Franz Xaver Perrez, PhD, and François Pythoud, PhD
Chief negotiators

**TRADE, THE ENVIRONMENT, AND THE INTERNATIONAL
REGULATION OF BIOTECHNOLOGY - Phase 2**
Swiss National Science Foundation (FNS)

Université de Genève, Faculté de droit

Professors Anne Petitpierre and Laurence Boisson de Chazournes,
Makane Moïse Mbengue, cand. PhD, and Urs P. Thomas, PhD, researchers

**TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER, TRADE, AND THE ENVIRONMENT: PROMOTING
SYNERGY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AMONG THE WORLD TRADE
ORGANIZATION AND MULTILATERAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENTS**
Réseau Universitaire International de Genève (RUIG)

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Professor Anne Petitpierre,
Urs P. Thomas, PhD
Maria Julia Oliva, cand. PhD

Institut des Hautes Etudes Internationales (HEI)

Professor John Cuddy
Matthew Stilwell, LL.M.

UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

Ulrich Hoffmann, PhD, Chief, Trade and Sustainable Development Section
Alexey Vikhlyaev, WTO Negotiations

UN Environmental Programme (UNEP)

Hussein Abaza, Chief, Economics and Trade Branch
Benjamin Simmons, Legal Officer

International Network for Environmental Compliance and Enforcement (INECE),
Washington DC

Professor Durwood Zaelke, Director