



UNIVERSITÉ  
DE GENÈVE  
FACULTÉ DE DROIT

Trade and Environment  
Research Group (T&ERG)



EcoLomics  
International

**Roundtable  
Brundtland Report plus 20,  
EcoLomics International plus 5 :  
Quo vadis Sustainable Development?**

**Thursday, October 18, 2007, 14.30-18.00 h  
Faculty of Law, University of Geneva, Uni Mail, Room 4050  
Tram No. 15 or 17 "Uni Mail"**

**Organization:**

- Trade and Environment Research Group (T&ERG), Faculty of Law
- EcoLomics International, Geneva

**14.30 h Introduction**

Prof. Laurence Boisson de Chazournes, Faculty of Law  
Director of the Department of Public International Law and International Organization

**Part One: The Concept of Sustainable Development**

The sustainable development paradigm was developed and launched by the 'Brundtland Commission,' officially called the World Commission on Environment and Development, which carried out its work in Geneva in 1984-87 under the diplomatic leadership of Norway's Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland and its General Secretary, the Canadian Jim MacNeill. Its report, published under the title of *Our Common Future* (Oxford University Press) in 1987 turned out to be a huge success and was translated in numerous languages. It set the stage for the 1992 *Earth Summit*, i.e. the Rio Conference on Environment and Development which in turn resulted in the much cited *Rio Declaration* and the comprehensive multilateral policy framework *Agenda 21* comprising 40 thematic chapters. What has changed since then?

The most important multilateral institutional innovation was undoubtedly the creation of the WTO in 1994. In the interface between the protection of the global ecosystem and economic globalization, we are especially interested in the trade and environment debate. It is difficult to evaluate how the inclusion of specific social concerns might affect these already very complex negotiations. Could an approach limited to the Ecology-Economics interface turn out to be more efficient in some instances? Emphasis on such a more focused framework called *EcoLomics* has been endorsed for 5 years now by EcoLomics-International.org, an academically inclined Geneva-based NGO. No matter what the concept is called, and what issues are to be included in the discussions, it is clearly understood that poverty alleviation will always be a core dimension of multilateral negotiations in this domain.

Chair: Prof. Anne Petitpierre, Faculty of Law, University of Geneva

- Mark Halle, IISD, European Representative and Director, Trade and Investment
- Ludivine Tamiotti, WTO, Legal Affairs Officer with the Division on Trade and Environment
- Paul Garnier, Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the UNOG and other international organizations in Geneva, Counsellor, Environment, Sustainable Development, WMO, UNITAR
- Urs P. Thomas, PhD, Faculty of Law, Research Associate, and EcoLomics International, Administrator

## **Discussion**

**15.30-15.45 h Coffee break**

### **Part Two: Viewpoints from the North, the South and from Industry**

Developing countries have complained for a long time that trade-related environmental measures serve as a pretense for ‘green protectionism.’ There is some truth to this undoubtedly in some instances. At the same time, however, developing countries are *demandeurs* of stronger measures in important Multilateral Environmental Agreements such as those dealing with desertification, biodiversity, biosafety, intellectual property rights on plants, benefit sharing, or trade in hazardous chemicals and waste. This roundtable hopes to stimulate and support the search for constructive and pragmatic avenues that will favor consensual solutions and bridges across the North-South and the trade-environment divisions.

Chair: Deborah Vorhies, ICTSD Managing Director

- Vice Yu, South Centre, Program Coordinator, Global Governance for Development Programme
- Alan Searl, UK Mission to the UN, Second Secretary (Environment, Health and Climate Security)
- Hussein Abaza, Chief, Economics and Trade Branch, UNEP/ETB
- Alfred Evans, Manager Emissions Credits, Bunge Europe, Geneva

**16.45 h Discussion**

## **Concluding Remarks**

Dr. sc. nat. Philippe Roch, independent consultant, former Director of the Swiss Federal Office of the Environment, Berne

### **R.S.V.P. and Information:**

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