



Trade for People Campaign

Bulletin no. 3

19 December 2006

The Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance wishes you
a blessed Christmas and a hope-filled New Year!

Contents

1) Right to Food – Global Week of Action.....	1
2) World Social Forum	3
3) G8 in Germany	4
4) Trade for People consultation.....	5
5) Developments in Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs)	5
6) Online Postcard: Advocate for medicines for children living with HIV.....	7
7) Church World Service launches “Sow Justice” campaign to reform farm policy.....	7
8) The contradictions in “free trade”: The softwood debacle.....	8
9) Dialoguing with the WTO	9
10) Campaigners fear resumption of ‘business as usual’ in WTO negotiations.....	9
11) Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health: Five years down the road.....	10
12) WCC statement on trade	10
13) South African ecumenical leaders applaud import quotas on textiles	11
14) Midterm review of trade campaign.....	11
15) Coming Events	12
16) Resources.....	12

1) Right to Food – Global Week of Action

The focus of the Trade for People campaign in 2007 will be around issues of trade and the right to food. The right to food is one of the three main thematic objectives that are in the *Framework for Action* of the Trade for People Campaign. The work will be based around a study of concrete examples of rice farmers and the impact of trade liberalization on the right to food. This will be developed in two ways, through awareness raising and mobilization in the churches on trade, food and agriculture issues, and by pursuing the concrete cases in human rights fora.

1.1) Agriculture, trade and the right to food

Around 70% of the world's poorest people live in rural areas and are dependent on agriculture for their income, food supply and livelihoods. Globally, most food is

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produced for local consumption, and only a small proportion - about 10% - is traded internationally. Most small scale producers do not have the infrastructure to access international markets, nor the capacity to demonstrably meet international standards on food safety etc.

The vast majority of the international trade in food is controlled by transnational corporations, and many of these companies are the beneficiaries of subsidies that enable them to sell their food at less than cost price. Yet agricultural liberalization calls for opening up a country's market to this subsidized international trade in food which can then drastically undermine the country's food production for local consumption and destroy the livelihoods of the poorest people.

The right to food encompasses regular and permanent access to food that is adequate and sufficient, both in quality and quantity, corresponding to the cultural traditions of the consumer, and which ensures a physical and mental, individual and collective, fulfilling and dignified life free of fear. In human rights law the central legal basis for the right to food is Article 11 of the *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights*, which obliges the signing national states to guarantee the right to food. This obligation has three aspects:

- Respect (refrain from taking actions that deprive people of their existing access to adequate food)
- Protect (prevent other powerful interests from depriving people of this access)
- Fulfill (identify vulnerable groups and facilitate, or as a last resort provide, this access)

Foreign states also have an obligation to respect, protect and support the fulfillment of the right to food in other countries.

1.2) Rice in Indonesia, Honduras and Ghana

The study that the EAA is undertaking on concrete examples of the impact of trade on the right to food will document and research the impact in specific communities, to see if there is any evidence that the community's right to food has been violated as a result of trade liberalization.

The case selected is a three-part study of small scale rice farmers (smallholders) in Indonesia, Honduras and Ghana. For three billion people worldwide, rice is a staple food. The incomes of two billion people depend on rice production. 90 percent of these are smallholders, usually working on a plot of less than one hectare, and most of these smallholders are women. Only 6.5 percent of world rice production is traded on the global market but world trade has a very high impact on the whole sector and the people who depend on it.

A one-page outline of this project is available at <http://www.e-alliance.ch/resources/061219/RightToFoodRiceCase.pdf>

FIAN International (FoodFirst Information and Action Network, <http://www.fian.org>) has been commissioned to carry out the work for the EAA network. They will seek to work with local partners, including ecumenical groups. As this project begins, we hope to engage as many EAA participants and others in this work as possible. If you

The EAA is carrying out research on the impact of trade liberalization on the right to food of rice farmers in Indonesia, Honduras and Ghana.

As this project begins, we hope to reach out and engage as many EAA participants and others in this work as possible. If you are yourselves based in Indonesia, Honduras and Ghana, or you have partners in these countries, and would like to be involved, please email jblaylock@e-alliance.ch

are yourselves based in Indonesia, Honduras and Ghana, or you have partners in these countries, and would like to be involved please email jblaylock@e-alliance.ch

1.3) Trade Justice Week

Our mobilization in 2007 will build toward a week from Sunday 14 - Sunday 21 October 2007 with a week of action. For those of you involved in the Global Week of Action in 2005, you will know the range and variety of events that took place in that week, and the energy and visibility it brought to the campaign. For those who were not involved, or for a reminder, the reports, stories and photos are on the web at <http://www.e-alliance.ch/gwa.jsp> and <http://www.april2005.org>

This time, though, the week will focus more directly on the churches and has a central theme around the right to food. The EAA is developing resources to help communities in actions for that week and beyond, and welcomes your questions and ideas. Please contact Jean Blaylock, jblaylock@e-alliance.ch

2) World Social Forum

2.1) EAA workshop and the Ecumenical Platform

The 2007 World Social Forum (WSF) is to be held in Nairobi, Kenya, 20-25 January 2007. Although regional Africa Social Forums have been held, this will be the first time that the WSF has come to Africa and will be a significant moment for plans and action on building another, better, world in the context of the most marginalized continent.

During the WSF, the EAA plans to hold a workshop exploring church campaigning on the right to food. The workshop will have three parts:

- *Sharing experiences* – with presentations from church-related organizations on experiences of campaigning around the right to food, highlighting successes, challenges and lessons learned.
- *Discussing research on concrete cases* – with a presentation of the research on the impact of trade liberalization on the right to food of rice farmers in Indonesia, Honduras and Ghana (discussed above in article 1.2).
- *Planning action* – A Trade Justice Week, focussed around trade and the right to food is planned by the Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance for 14-21 October 2007. Participants will brainstorm plans and ideas for actions during that week that each group could carry out in their own context, in solidarity with others.

"The field of the poor may yield much food, but it is swept away through injustice" (Proverbs 13:23)

The main WSF website is at <http://www.wsf2007.org/> A second website at <http://www.wsfprocess.net/> makes it possible for people to search the activities and organizations who have registered for the WSF so as to build connections and network ahead of the Forum itself.

The All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC) and Caritas are together coordinating an Ecumenical Platform for participation within the WSF under the slogan 'Together for social justice'. More information on the platform is available at <http://www.caritas-aaccwsf.org/> Many church-related organizations are also participating in the Human Dignity and Human Rights Caucus.

2.2) Regional meeting for EAA participants

The EAA will also hold an Africa Regional Meeting the day before the WSF begins. This will bring together EAA participating organizations based in Africa. The meeting will be an opportunity to meet with other EAA participants, to share experiences, to learn more about each other and the EAA itself, to discuss some of the issues on which the EAA campaigns particularly from a regional perspective and to explore options for taking action together. We hope that it will be a chance to build links between EAA participants within Africa and to strengthen our shared work.

The regional meeting will be on 19 January 2007 in the ICPAK Centre, Thika Road near the WSF venue. For more information see <http://www.e-alliance.ch/ftp/EAAfricanRegionalMtgFlyer1.pdf>

3) G8 in Germany

The next G8 summit will be hosted by Germany on 6-8 June 2007 at the Baltic Sea resort Heiligendamm near Rostock. The German federal government has set out their focus for the summit under two main headings:

- Investment, innovation, sustainability
- Africa: good governance, sustainable investment, peace and security

Although the second heading sounds promising, in fact few development issues are included.

Civil society in Germany is already planning for the event. Preparations on behalf of the NGOs are coordinated by a platform with about 40 participating organizations, and in addition a large number of small activist groups and social movements are making ready. So far the following events are being discussed:

- A rally against the G8 Summit on Saturday, 2 June in Rostock
- Church services on Sunday, 3 June in the region
- Concerts and cultural events on Sunday, 3 June in Rostock
- An action day on Monday, 4 June in Rostock
- An alternative summit in Rostock on 5-7 June
- Ringing of church bells on 6 June (see below)

Bread for the World, The Church Development Service (EED) and the Protestant Church of Mecklenburg/Pomerania are preparing a booklet for parishes on the G8 and relevant development issues, such as trade of agricultural products, patents and debt. The parishes are encouraged to work on the issues and also to invite their communities for an eight-minute prayer on 6 June at 18:00. Church bells will then ring at this time throughout the country.

The Kirchentag (Protestant Church Congress) will take place in Köln during the same period as the G8. Various events at the Kirchentag will take action around the G8 Summit.

For more information see:

- The G8 NGO platform at <http://www.g8-germany.info/>
- The German government's website on the summit at <http://www.g-8.de/> (in German, link at the top of the page for English).

4) Trade for People consultation

The EAA will hold a global consultation for the Trade for People campaign on 2-4 June 2007 in Bonn, Germany, ahead of the G8 summit (6-8 June) and Kirchentag (the German Protestant Church Congress, 6-10 June).

All participating organizations of the Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance are invited to come for this consultation which will take the theme of strengthening the ecumenical movement for trade justice. For everyone involved in the Trade for People campaign of the EAA, this is a chance to meet together, share experiences and work on joint plans. We will seek to broaden and deepen our joint work, both in plans for action and in theological understanding.

5) Developments in Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs)

5.1) What are they - an ACP perspective

The European Union and 76 Africa, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries¹ are currently negotiating a group of free trade agreements that are called Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs). EPAs will replace the current arrangement between the EU and its former colonies of the ACP. The current agreement gave preferential access to European markets for goods from the ACP countries. The main objective of EPAs is to move from this arrangement, where ACP countries can get free access for their goods without having to respond in kind, to a free trade agreement that will force ACP countries to respond with preferential access – reciprocal trade – for EU goods and services.

The EU is the main trading partner for almost all of the ACP countries and plays a very important role in their trade. However trade with the ACP is of marginal significance for the EU. The two sides are hugely unequal in political power, economic might and level of development.

Most Sub-Saharan African countries are involved in these trade negotiations. The negotiations in Africa have been divided into four regional blocs: West African, Central Africa, Eastern & Southern Africa and the Southern African Development Community (SADC). These divisions do not always take into account existing regional groupings. The Caribbean and the Pacific region are the remaining two blocs in the EPA negotiations. South Africa is not part of the negotiations as it already has a free trade agreement with the EU.

EPAs are important to all ACP countries for the following reasons:

1. It will introduce a free trade agreement between the EU and 77 ACP countries where gradually 90% of products over a 10 year period will be exported duty free to ACP countries from the EU. This will have a major impact on the revenue of developing countries that rely on tariffs to boost income.
2. Liberalization of trade between such unequal partners will have a major negative impact on the fragile economies of developing countries.
3. The negotiations started in 2002 but have only become substantive over the last year. The current implementation date is 1 January 2008. This leaves little time to prepare for new rules that are only now emerging and which could cause major disruption to the economies of the ACP countries.
4. In the current negotiations the EU have introduced issues like investment, government procurement, competition policy, trade facilitation and services that were rejected by ACP countries at the WTO negotiations.

5. EPAs will undermine regional integration especially in Africa because the current breakdown into regional blocs does not take into consideration the existing historical, political and economic blocs on the continent.

In Africa and Southern Africa the Economic Justice Network (EJN) have organized conferences and workshops to explain to national councils of churches what the impact of EPAs will be on Southern African economies. In July EJN organized a conference on EPAs in Mozambique in collaboration with the Christian Council of Mozambique (CCM), Women's Forum, Coalition on Economic Justice (CJE) and Abiodes looking at the possible impact of the negotiations on Mozambique. EJN has also monitored the current negotiations as part of the Africa Trade Network and voiced our opposition to it.

The EPAs negotiations remind me about the story of David and Goliath. The Goliath of this world, with its major economic, political and financial power is standing in front of these small, least developed, poor countries convincing them that they are partners who could benefit from opening ACP markets to the biggest economic trading bloc in the world. So how do we as churches respond to this major threat to the development of Africa?

The EJN as a member of the Africa Trade Network is an active signatory to the Stop EPAs or No to EPAs campaign. As the Stop EPAs campaign statement declares in its concluding paragraphs, the members of the campaign "reject EPAs in its current form". Instead they call for an "overhaul and review" of the EU trade policy, particularly with respect to developing countries, and demand that EU-ACP trade cooperation should be founded on an approach that:

- Is based on a principle of non-reciprocity, as instituted in GSPs (Generalized System of Preferences) and special and differential treatment in the WTO.
- Protects ACP producers' domestic and regional markets.
- Reverses the pressure for trade and investment liberalization.
- Allows the necessary policy space and supports ACP countries to pursue their own development strategies.

It is important for the Church, ecumenically and institutionally, nationally and internationally, to grapple with EPAs and its impact on poor countries because it will impact over 750 million poor people all over the world.

Rev. Malcolm Damon is the Director of the Economic Justice Network of FOCCISA (Fellowship of Christian Councils in Southern Africa).

¹ There are 78 countries in the ACP, but only 76 are part of the negotiations (www.bilaterals.org).

5.2) Christian Aid EPA update

In the summer of 2006 Christian Aid (UK and Ireland) campaigners joined forces with FinnChurchAid and KEPA in Finland to lobby the Finnish government on EPAs during the six months when Finland held the rotating presidency of the European Union. Over 10,000 postcards were received pushing EPAs higher up the agenda for the Finnish Presidency and prompting the Finnish government to reply.

Now campaigners from across Europe are coming together to take joint action towards Germany as they take on the EU Presidency in January 2007. The three joint actions that have been planned for early 2007 are:

1. A sign on letter to send to the German EU Presidency
2. A pan-European e-mail action to Chancellor Merkel
3. A joint stunt outside as many Germany embassies as possible on April 19.

To find out more about the joint EPA actions planned for 2007 contact Jean Blaylock at EAA, jblaylock@e-alliance.ch

To find out more about Christian Aid's campaign visit http://www.pressureworks.org/tradejustice/latest/101006_epa.html

5.3) EPAs at World Social Forum

Many events are planned on the EPA negotiations at the World Social Forum. A full listing of planned activities is available at:

<http://www.e-alliance.ch/media/media-6698.doc>

Action by churches around the EPA negotiations will also be on the agenda at the EAA Africa Regional Meeting the day before the Forum (see article 2.2).

5.4) EPAs and development benchmarks

Alongside the popular mobilization and activism on EPAs much work has also been done on drawing up a set of benchmarks that could help to assess the conduct and outcome of EPAs from a development perspective. This attempts to go beyond the rhetoric and make proposals as to what a development-friendly outcome could and should look like. This has been a joint project between Aprodev and the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD).

The approach is set out in the report *The EPAs and Sustainable Development: Benchmarks for Pro-Development Monitoring of the Negotiations* available at http://www.e-alliance.ch/resources/061219/Tab09_Aprodev_EPABenchmarks.pdf
More information on this project is available from the Aprodev Secretariat (<http://www.aprodev.net/>).

6) Online Postcard: Advocate for medicines for children living with HIV

The proportion of children living with HIV or AIDS who are receiving treatment is even smaller than the proportion of adults living with HIV or AIDS and receiving treatment. For adults the percentage is 20%, but for children it is only 7.5%. Children's deaths are sometimes seen as inevitable, and medicines for children are less profitable. Children need different formulations and dosages than medicines for adults.

The EAA's Trade and HIV and AIDS Campaigns together address children's treatment issues which include reducing drug prices, making pediatric formulas available, developing cheaper diagnostic testing, addressing TRIPS issues, and advocating donor earmarks for pediatric treatment.

Take action at http://www.e-alliance.ch/accessmeds_pediatic.jsp and tell pharmaceutical companies that they need to provide equitable access for children living with HIV to diagnostics and medicines! You can also forward the online postcard to friends to encourage others to take action with you.

7) Church World Service launches "Sow Justice" campaign to reform farm policy

Church World Service launched a farm policy reform campaign at its October Board meeting in Cleveland, OH.

Sow Justice, an education and advocacy campaign, calls for policy changes that will help family farmers in the U.S. and around the world save their farms, feed their

families, and educate their children. The campaign focuses on the opening presented by the upcoming Farm Bill legislation to alleviate hunger and poverty in the U.S. and globally.

The goal is a new Farm Bill that supports sustainable agriculture, rural development, and nutrition programs.

Board members signed the *Sow Justice* postcard which accompanies the educational publication *Sowing justice for family farmers everywhere*. The postcards—along with several thousands expected in the mail—will enable CWS to empower public policy advocates to represent the voices of family farmers and global partners.

By calling for broad reform of U.S. food and farm policy, Church World Service opens a new front in addressing the root causes of hunger.

With *Sow Justice*, CWS joins historic partners Bread for the World and National Catholic Rural Life Conference and new partners like Oxfam America to promote policies that alleviate hunger and poverty everywhere.

Humanitarian assistance by CWS and self-help development partnerships around the world are strengthened by agricultural and food policies that support family farms and families here and around the globe.

This campaign rests on the policy adopted by Church World Service following a North American consultation on globalization it convened with the Canadian Council of Churches in 2004. Churches that took part declared: “What does God require of us? To act justly, love tenderly and walk humbly with your God.’ Our peoples need policies that restore right relationships, preserve responsible communities, shrink economic inequalities, and allow space for all of creation to flourish in its diversity.” (from *What Does God Require of Us? A Declaration for Just Trade in the Service of an Economy of Life*, January 2004).

8) The contradictions in “free trade”: The softwood debacle

For over a decade, the Softwood dispute has provided a stark example of the contradictions between free trade theory and practice. It is commonly accepted that Canada first entered into the Canada-US FTA and NAFTA in order to secure its niche to the American market for specific goods. Softwood lumber was one of the goods. Yet, for over a decade the U.S. has worked to curtail Canadian softwood imports entering the U.S. Moreover, using the frameworks set out by NAFTA and the WTO, Canada has won a number of legal decisions that should have ended the dispute. Yet, the U.S. continued to disregard the rulings until June 2006 when a deal between the two countries was struck.

The deal calls for the US to return 80% of the \$5 billion that they collected in "punitive" duties over the course of the dispute. Oddly, the remaining 20% or 1 billion will go into the coffers of US lumber companies and government. In addition, the deal itself sets out certain limits on the quantity of wood entering the US. If the price were to fall or exports into the US were to surge then an export tax or a quota would limit supply and price. In other words, the solution to the dispute is a deal that manages - to great disadvantage to Canadian industry -- trade in softwood, rather than opening it up according to NAFTA dictates.

Not only is the deal an example of how the free-trade paradigm does not work, the actual settlement once again makes Canadian industry out to be the loser, allowing for a two-year settlement period. This deal provides a clear example of how free trade does not work. It also demonstrates that whenever there is free trade between

two unequal partners, as is our trading relationship with the US, the weaker partner will continually lose out. This recent deal contains a terminator clause for either party to end the deal while also suspending current and future litigation on the issue. Thus, the US can choose to pull out and Canada will have even fewer resources to challenge its unilateralism. Although, the Canadian softwood industry has reluctantly agreed to go along with the deal, the softwood legislation is before Parliament where it is being actively contested by a number of concerned Parliamentarians.

For more information, see: <http://www.kairoscanada.org/e/economic/trade/index.asp>

Rusa Jeremic, KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives

9) Dialoguing with the WTO

WTO Director General Pascal Lamy met with representatives of the Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance (EAA) and the World Council of Churches (WCC) in the Ecumenical Center, Geneva on 13 September. The meeting followed a July encounter between Lamy and the EAA and the WCC in which Trade for People petitions were presented to Lamy. Lamy asked for this meeting to explore possible topics for future constructive dialogue.

Lamy began by recognizing differences, saying "You are working for trade justice. We in the WTO are working for trade opening," but declared his view that the two need not be mutually exclusive. "We believe that... we have an agenda of rebalancing the trade system in favor of poor countries" he said.

EAA Coordinator Linda Hartke explained that in the opinion of EAA participants "Trade is not working - it's not fair - it's certainly not working for the poor".

Challenged by Peter Prove of the Lutheran World Federation, on sensitivity within the WTO secretariat to a human rights approach, Lamy said "My answer to the question 'Is the WTO bound by human rights rules that are agreed internationally?' Yes." However he went on to say that the linkages between trade and human rights could only become explicitly part of the WTO's work on the decision of WTO members.

EAA participants, staff and the strategy group are discussing how best to respond to Lamy's desire for continued dialogue with church-related organizations.

10) Campaigners fear resumption of 'business as usual' in WTO negotiations

Reacting to the news on 22 November of the apparent resumption of negotiations in the "Doha Round" at the World Trade Organization, campaigners expressed concern that it will be business as usual with corporate interests out weighing the need to end poverty.

Negotiations were suspended in July but a meeting of WTO ambassadors the go-ahead for multilateral discussions to resume in negotiating groups on the issues.

Director General Pascal Lamy sought to lower expectations by describing the change as a midway step between the 'quiet diplomacy' of the suspension and 'fully fledged negotiations'. However, church campaigners point out that the situation has simply returned to normal.

Rogate Mshana of the World Council of Churches stated that "The last few months of suspension have brought no new ideas or willingness to compromise. As things stand, developing countries have little to gain and much to lose."

For the full article see, <http://www.e-alliance.ch/media/media-6697.doc>

11) Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health: Five years down the road

On November 14, 2001, the World Trade Organization's ministerial conference in Doha, Qatar, agreed on a deal for access to medicines: the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health. This promised to protect public health and promote access to medicines for all.

Five years later, civil society groups pointed out that these promises are far from being kept. A seminar in Geneva marking the anniversary was organized by MSF and Oxfam and cosponsored by the EAA along with other civil society organizations. It brought together civil society speakers, representatives of the WHO and WTO and government representatives to discuss the where we are and what is the way forward. While the speakers from intergovernmental organizations pointed to provision of training for government officials in implementing trade rules relating to public health, civil society groups highlighted the lack of political will to implement the spirit of Doha, the actions of powerful countries in negating the promise of the Doha declaration through bilateral trade deals and the looming problems in prices of second line antiretrovirals now that India has implemented trade rules on medicines.

The World AIDS Campaign statement on the five year anniversary of Doha is available at

http://worldaidscampaign.info/index.php/en/campaigns/key_events/doha/fifth_anniversary_of_doha_declaration_has_the_declaration_delivered

A selection comments from a range of civil society organizations on is available at <http://lists.essential.org/pipermail/ip-health/2006-November/010169.html>

An Oxfam report, *Patent versus Patients*, is available at <http://www.e-alliance.ch/media/media-6669.pdf>

12) WCC statement on trade

Trade should be for the benefit of people and people should not be sacrificed for the sake of trade. That was a key affirmation in the World Council of Churches (WCC) central committee statement on just trade adopted in September 2006. It is the first time that the WCC central committee has made a statement on this issue.

Trade rules and agreements must be built around the commitment to "protect and advance the interests of smaller, weaker and vulnerable states; encourage sustainable development and poverty eradication as defined by the people themselves; give primacy to peoples' right to food, water, the necessities of life, and protect the small producers to enable them to survive and thrive", the statement affirms.

They should also "abide by international norms and standards that guarantee fundamental human rights; strengthen respect for creation with ecological standards that safeguard the interests of future generations and the survival of the earth; and ensure equitable and just distribution of resources for all."

The statement refers to the Trade for People campaign which the WCC participates in and encourages participation in the campaign.

The statement concludes by affirming that the theological basis for the commitment to uphold and promote just trade is "the profound option of our faith for the 'least', the poor and the excluded".

The full statement can be found at:

<http://www.oikoumene.org/en/resources/documents/central-committee/geneva-2006/reports-and-documents/final-report-of-the-public-issues-committee-adopted.html#c10109>

13) South African ecumenical leaders applaud import quotas on textiles

In September 2006, the General Secretary of the South African Council of Churches (SACC), Mr. Eddie Makue, commended government plans to introduce new quotas on clothing imports from China.

"The SACC and the larger international ecumenical movement have been longstanding advocates of fair trade, as opposed to free trade," Makue said. "The restrictions announced by government are consistent with the principles articulated by the global campaign for trade justice."

The Rev. Malcom Damon, Director of the Economic Justice Network, a project of the Fellowship of Christian Councils in Southern Africa, also welcomed the move. "It is good that government is not just considering the interests of retailers, but is also responding to the urgent need to protect domestic industries and provide jobs for South African families."

Last year, the National Executive of the SACC expressed alarm at the number of jobs being lost in South Africa, particularly in the textile sector, and asked COSATU to lead a "Save Jobs Campaign" to protect South African industries from unfair competition and to promote international fair labor practices that respect human rights and dignity. The campaign was also the focus of South African participation in the "Global Week of Action on Trade" in 2005.

Together with COSATU and other civil society organizations, the SACC sent memoranda to the leading clothing retailers calling on them to sign a code of conduct that would include a commitment to sourcing a substantial proportion of their stock from domestic manufacturers.

"Unfortunately, retailers did not respond favorably to the idea of a negotiated code of conduct," said the Rev. Keith Vermeulen, Director of the SACC's Parliamentary Office and one of the leaders of the Save Jobs Campaign. "We are pleased that government has seen the need for action."

The General Secretary noted that COSATU, NACTU and FEDUSA are developing joint initiatives to promote compliance with the new regulations. "The SACC would want to support the trade union movement in their efforts in this regard," Makue said. He indicated that the Council would also be writing to the International Trade Administration Commission (ITAC) to express approval of the quotas.

14) Midterm review of trade campaign

The Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance is currently carrying out a midterm review of the Trade for People campaign. This review was requested by the EAA Assembly in 2004. The campaign is currently projected to run up until 2008 when the next Assembly of the EAA will be held and new decisions on the campaigns of the EAA will be made.

The review is seeking to find out more about the work of EAA participant organizations on trade issues in the last two years, and whether the EAA has been able to support this work effectively.

If you would like to find out more about the evaluation, please email info@e-alliance.ch

15) Coming Events

19 January 2007: Regional meeting of African EAA participants attending the WSF, Nairobi, Kenya: info@e-alliance.ch

20 –25 January 2007: World Social Forum, Nairobi, Kenya: Nicholas.Otieno@aya.yale.edu

24-28 January 2007: World Economic Forum, Davos, Switzerland

1-3 March 2007: Global Trade Strategy Gropu meeting, Jakarta, Indonesia

4-7 March 2007: Christian Conference of Asia 50th Anniversary, Lake Toba, Sumatra, Indonesia

22 March 2007: World Day for Water

April 2007: World Bank/IMF Spring Meetings, Washington DC

16) Resources

Ask Pharma is a resource developed by the EAA to support campaigning to pharmaceutical companies on issues of access to medicines. It suggests some key 'tough' questions and gives the background to these. See <http://www.e-alliance.ch/media/media-6652.pdf>

Benchmarking AIDS: evaluating pharmaceutical company responses to the public health crisis in emerging markets is a report from the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility which evaluates the actions of fifteen pharmaceutical companies on access to medicines in the context of HIV and AIDS. The main report is available at <http://www.e-alliance.ch/media/media-6644.pdf> and a year end update is at <http://www.e-alliance.ch/media/media-6696.pdf>

EPAs and investment is a report from Christian Aid. One of the aims of the Economic Partnership Agreements being negotiated between the EU and ACP is to increase investment in developing countries, but so far they have failed to do so. The report looks at an approach which is favored by ACP negotiators and which would be an alternative to that taken so far which has been pushed by the EU. See <http://www.e-alliance.ch/media/media-6699.pdf>

Human Face a Must: A Response by the Church in Africa on the World Trade Organization – Doha Talks is a paper by Rev. Dr Mvume Dandala, the General Secretary of the AACC. See http://www.e-alliance.ch/resources/061219/Tab12_AACC_WTO.doc

The rough guide to Economic Partnership Agreements is a introductory briefing from CAFOD looking at what EPAs are, why they are important and why developing countries are worried about them. See http://www.e-alliance.ch/resources/061219/Tab09_CAFOD_EPAsRoughGuide.pdf

Patents vs. Patients: Five years after the Doha Declaration is a report from Oxfam on the impact of the WTO's TRIPS Agreement on public health. See <http://www.e-alliance.ch/media/media-6669.pdf>

Song of the sirens: why the US–Andean FTAs undermine sustainable development and regional integration is a report from Oxfam on the free trade agreements which the US is putting in place with Peru, Colombia and possibly Ecuador. See http://www.e-alliance.ch/resources/061219/Tab09_Oxfam_SongSirens.pdf

For past Action Alerts and Bulletins from the Trade for People Campaign, see <http://www.e-alliance.ch/newsletters.jsp>

The **Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance** is a broad international network of churches and Christian organizations cooperating in advocacy on global trade and HIV and AIDS. The Alliance is based in Geneva, Switzerland. For more information, see <http://www.e-alliance.ch/>