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# TRADE JUSTICE MOVEMENT NEWS

A newsletter for people in TJM member organisations

March 2004 <http://www.tjm.org.uk>

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## 1. DATES FOR PEOPLES' WEEK OF GLOBAL ACTION FOR TRADE JUSTICE 2005

The Peoples' Week of Action will be 10<sup>th</sup> -16<sup>th</sup> April 2005.

Thank you for all those who gave input into the consultation on the best date.

Now the date is finalised we can all get to work on promoting what could be the biggest mobilisation yet against poverty.

What the Global Week of Action for Trade Justice will look like in the UK is now being explored by the TJM Planning Group and it is vital that there is a strategic discussion across our member organisations. More framework information will follow in the next few weeks.

## 2. DIARY DATE: TJM ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the movement will take place on **Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2004 (10.00-4.00) in London**. The morning session will be the TJM AGM with the afternoon including the members' launch of Vote for Trade Justice and looking ahead at campaigning from autumn 2004 right through all the key moments of 2005 including the peoples' Week of Action. Invitations and more details will be sent out shortly. If you would like register your place now please let Jenny Ricks know ([jenny@tjm.org.uk](mailto:jenny@tjm.org.uk)).

## 3. CAMPAIGN NEWS

### NEXT UK CAMPAIGN PHASE - VOTE FOR TRADE JUSTICE

Mass Action

The 'Vote for Trade Justice' ballot and associated materials will go live from late June. The action will be ongoing throughout 2004 and into 2005. The TJM Planning Group is currently finalising the core wording, target and format options of the vote. The TJM Secretariat will send out a guide to the action by the end of this month and will then contact members individually over the next month to discuss individual plans to join the campaign as the movement builds the crescendo.

## **Event 2004: Vote for Trade Justice in Brighton**

'Ballot on the Beach' Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2004 Following last month's outline of plans for the mass mobilisation at Labour Party conference in September, a guide giving details of the event and the Vote for Trade Justice campaign will be distributed shortly by the TJM Secretariat for initial publicity purposes.

Supporter events The core of the Sunday 26 September supporter activities will run from 1.00pm - 4.30pm.

The idea is for supporters to then disperse to smaller events organised by member agencies, such as church services, Q&A panel sessions or events based on organisation's individual trade campaigns. We would encourage organisations to arrange events and meetings at 4.30 pm - 5.00 pm, preferably in Brighton town centre or close to the seafront. Please inform the Secretariat of any plans, so that we can promote events effectively to all supporters.

### **Materials**

Preparations for the event materials are also underway. We are producing an A2 poster and A4 double sided flyer advertising the event. Organisations should consider how many posters they will require and those wanting a separate print run with their organisational logo on it should contact Jenny at the TJM Secretariat. [jenny@tjm.org.uk](mailto:jenny@tjm.org.uk), 020 7404 0530. A full list of Vote for Trade Justice materials and a timetable for their production will be available next month.

## **4. GOVERNMENT AND PARLIAMENTARY RELATIONS**

Trade Justice for the Developing World Debate in Parliament 3 March 2004: see Hansard

[www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200304/cmhansrd/cm040303/debtext/40303-08.htm#40303-08\\_head0](http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200304/cmhansrd/cm040303/debtext/40303-08.htm#40303-08_head0) see also:

[www.christianaid.org.uk/campaign/trade/0403\\_trade\\_debate.htm](http://www.christianaid.org.uk/campaign/trade/0403_trade_debate.htm)

TJM All-Party Parliamentary Briefing for MPs The next TJM All-Party Parliamentary Briefing for MPs will be on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> May, from 2 - 3 pm in the Grimmond Room, Portcullis House. The meeting will be hosted by Tony Worthington MP as Chair of APGOOD (The All Party Parliamentary Group on Overseas Development). Hilary Benn MP (Secretary of State, Department for International Development) has been invited to speak with two TJM speakers. The meeting will ask how the international political will can be created to deliver across policy areas that will ensure the Doha Development Round delivers real benefits to the poor. It will also look towards 2005 and ask how the government will deliver on the trade justice agenda as renewed momentum on global economic justice and world poverty builds in the UK and internationally into 2005.

Staff from TJM member organisations are also very welcome at the meeting (no more than 2 per organisation). All those wishing to attend should respond to Jenny at the TJM Secretariat ([jenny@tjm.org.uk](mailto:jenny@tjm.org.uk), 020 7404 0530).

### **Conservatives Trade Justice Forum**

On 1 March the Conservatives held an event on trade justice at their party HQ attended by a number of TJM members. Michael Howard's opening speech is online:

[www.conservatives.com/news/article.cfm?obj\\_id=90516&speeches=1](http://www.conservatives.com/news/article.cfm?obj_id=90516&speeches=1)

## **5. NEW MEMBER ACTIONS**

The growth of the fair-trade sector over the last ten years is a testament to the commitment of UK consumers to the world's poorest communities. So isn't it time for the government to challenge the unfair rules and conditions that govern international trade and keep millions of people in poverty? Download a letter to Hilary Benn, Secretary of State for International Development at:

[www.christianaid.org.uk/campaign/letters/index.htm#actnow](http://www.christianaid.org.uk/campaign/letters/index.htm#actnow)

## 6. OTHER NEWS

WTO Agriculture Talks: Key test on political will for trade justice WTO agriculture talks are set to formally relaunch in Geneva next week. EU Agriculture Commissioner Franz Fischler has said he wants to see “better guarantees on parallelism” (other countries like US, Canada and Australia giving ground) before Europe will move from its present position based on last year’s CAP reform. The EU is expected to align with the US to pressure the G20. India, Brazil and South Africa met a few weeks back to prepare a common strategy for the meetings. WTO members might agree a broad negotiating framework for the Doha talks by July and then possibly complete negotiations after the US elections. Expectations do not run high. RELATED RESOURCE: AGRICULTURE AT THE WTO by ICTSD (March 2004). This report offers an analysis of agriculture trade and sustainable development with a concise and user-friendly description and analysis of the current developments in the often very complex WTO agriculture negotiating process

[www.ictsd.org/issarea/attd/products/docs/AgricultureNegotiations10.pdf](http://www.ictsd.org/issarea/attd/products/docs/AgricultureNegotiations10.pdf)

## 7. MEMBER PROFILE

Fairtrade Foundation [www.fairtrade.org.uk](http://www.fairtrade.org.uk)

This year’s recent Fairtrade Fortnight celebrated 10 years of the FAIRTRADE

Mark with an estimated 6,000 events taking place across the UK. The Fairtrade Foundation announced that sales of products carrying the FAIRTRADE Mark are running at an annual rate of 100 million pounds - and almost doubling every two years. “This phenomenal rise shows that the public do care and have a broader vision than they are credited with.

Companies and retailers know this,” said Harriet Lamb, a director of TJM and executive director of Fairtrade Foundation. “That is why today we’re working now with over 100 companies and nearly all the major multiples. Yet, across Europe and North America, governments have yet to wake up and take their voters wishes as seriously as companies have responded to consumers’ wishes. Fairtrade products are benefiting over 4 and a half million poor producers and their families worldwide. But this is, of course, a tiny fraction of global trade. The Fairtrade Foundation wants to see all international trade fairer. And we know first hand the problems caused to farmers by unfair trade - in sugar or coffee, to take two examples. And that is why we are part of this extraordinary coalition, the Trade Justice Movement. The success of Fairtrade and of the Trade Justice Movement has shown that the British public do have the political will to support fairer trade and they clearly do expect their political leaders of all parties to show the real leadership it will require to ensure that trade can help end poverty.” TJM members will decide whether to allow fairtrade companies to join the movement at this year’s AGM.

## 8. EVENTS

Find Your Feet Debate: Food for thought: “Is there room for the ‘local’ in a globalising world?”

International trade in food has almost trebled over the last 30 years, but is this a force for good? As food production becomes increasingly concentrated in the hands of multinational companies, at the expense of small-scale farmers - particularly those in developing countries - should agricultural policy be moving towards a more localised food system? This debate will explore what action needs to be taken to create more equity in the production, marketing and consumption of food.

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2004, 3.30 - 5.30pm, FREE

Venue: Brunei Gallery, Thornhaugh Street, School of Oriental & African Studies, London WC1H Speakers: Caroline Lucas, Green Party MEP; Simon Maxwell, ODI Chair: David Loyn, BBC Developing World Correspondent Cohosts: Find Your Feet & Jenny Jones, Green Party Member of the London Assembly and Deputy Mayor of London Contact: Tel: 020 7326 4464; Email: [fyf@fyf.org.uk](mailto:fyf@fyf.org.uk) Pre-booking essential. Drinks will be served after the debate.

## 9. REPORTS

Sugar remains an unreformed sector of the Common Agricultural Policy, there is a good deal of resistance from EU members and ACP countries that benefit

from the current sugar regime. ActionAid, CAFOD and Oxfam sent a joint submission to DEFRA (here: [www.actionaid.org/resources/pdfs/final\\_sugar\\_submission.pdf](http://www.actionaid.org/resources/pdfs/final_sugar_submission.pdf)) The UK government plan to make a decision by this summer, so there should be a huge a lobbying effort by the UK. Oxfam is planning to do more work on this. Contact Penny Fowler ([pfowler@oxfam.org.uk](mailto:pfowler@oxfam.org.uk)) or Tim Rice ([Timr@actionaid.org.uk](mailto:Timr@actionaid.org.uk)) for more information.

CAFOD, CIDSE and Caritas Europa Briefing on European Cotton Subsidies [www.cafod.org.uk/policy\\_and\\_analysis/policy\\_papers/reform\\_of\\_the\\_eu\\_cott\\_on\\_regime](http://www.cafod.org.uk/policy_and_analysis/policy_papers/reform_of_the_eu_cott_on_regime) Cotton subsidies have become a central development issue at the Doha round. This is often seen as a US problem, but new research commissioned by the British government, coupled with analysis of current EU proposals for reform of the EU cotton sector by European NGOs, suggest that Europe is failing to take its share of responsibility.

TRADE AND ENVIRONMENT IN THE WTO: AFTER CANCUN. By Duncan Brack & Thomas Branczik (RIIA Sustainable Development Programme Briefing Paper, Feb 2004). The story of the trade and environment debate in the WTO is one continued failure to make any substantial progress in rewriting WTO rules - but significant changes in the way in which existing rules have been interpreted to deal with environmental concerns. This briefing paper examines the ways in which the expansion of trade may sometimes conflict with and sometimes support environmental regulation; highlights the main areas of trade-environment tensions, over product standards, processes and production methods, and trade measures in multilateral environment agreements, and considers the politics behind the debate. [www.riia.org/pdf/research/sdp//T&EFeb04.pdf](http://www.riia.org/pdf/research/sdp//T&EFeb04.pdf)

A FAIR GLOBALISATION - CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL.

World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalisation (February 2004).

[www.ilo.org/public/english/wcsdg/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/public/english/wcsdg/index.htm)

## 10. EUROPE

The UK Trade Justice Movement is to host a gathering of trade campaigners from across Europe in early July. The meeting is part of the strategy to ensure our campaigning is linked and solidly engaged with wider trade justice campaigning internationally, especially within the EC.

11. WHAT THEY'RE SAYING .....

Quotes on campaigning/ trade (for use by anyone)

<http://www.christianaid.org.uk/campaign/resource/quotes.htm>

A Pascal Lamy speech causing some debate ..... “Co-existence between public policy and free trade: can we achieve good protectionism?” Conference of the Greens/European Free Alliance at the European Parliament, Brussels, 5 March 2004

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/commissioners/lamy/speeches\\_articles/spla211\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/commissioners/lamy/speeches_articles/spla211_en.htm)

**Next issue out w/c 12 April.**

**Please send news items to [mail@tjm.org.uk](mailto:mail@tjm.org.uk) by 7 April.**

=====TRADE JUSTICE MOVEMENT=====

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Tjm\_media mailing list

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