



Citizens Trade Digest, October 31, 2005

Check out more resources and updates on our website at <http://www.citizenstrade.org/>.

This Digest Contains:

- 1. Take Action to Stop NAFTA-CAFTA Expansion through AFTA!**
- 2. AFTA (Andean Free Trade Agreement) Update**
- 3. WTO (World Trade Organization) in Trouble**
- 4. CAFTA Update**
- 5. CAFTA Damage Report**
- 6. China in Latin America**

1) Take Action to Stop AFTA, a further expansion of NAFTA- CAFTA!

The administration is determined to continue moving their failed free trade model forward. Contact your representative to oppose the expansion of another NAFTA-CAFTA!

http://action.citizen.org/campaign.jsp?campaign_KEY=1383

2) AFTA (Andean Free Trade Agreement) Update

As negotiations continue to drag in key areas of intellectual property and agriculture, the USTR is pushing for completion by the end of November so as not to interfere with the electoral calendars of Peru and Colombia. However, like their Central American counter-parts, opposition towards free trade and anti-US sentiment remains intense. The next negotiating round will take place the week of Nov. 14 in the Washington, DC area.

AFTA Will Cause More Harm Than Good Unless USTR Changes Course Now

http://www.wola.org/economic/afta_press_release_oct_21.html

Declaration of Parliamentarians, Congressmen, & Legislators of Columbia, Ecuador, Peru, and Bolivia On AFTA

http://www.citizenstrade.org/pdf/AntiAFTAParliamentaryLetter_09212005.pdf

AFTA Prospects Look Dim; Labor, Investment & National Security Concerns Raised

http://www.citizen.org/documents/AFTA_statement_FINAL_FINAL.pdf

Anti- Free Trade March held in Colombia

http://www.citizenstrade.org/pdf/ap_antifretradeprotestheldincolombia_09232005.pdf

3) WTO (World Trade Organization) in Trouble

Time is running out before the 'Doha Round' of negotiations in December. Washington and the European Union have been in a standoff over pressures to significantly reduce farm subsidies in order to offer poorer countries a chance to compete. On October 28th, the European Union released its revised proposal to reduce tariffs by 46%, 21% more than their prior offer however still leaving the U.S. disappointed. It remains unclear whether this will be unanimously accepted by all E.U. countries or whether it will be enough to pacify the demands of the G-20. Meanwhile WTO director Pascal Lamy warns that if a detailed draft is not complete by mid-November, the Hong Kong talks will risk collapse.

Dispute Over Farm Subsidies Stall Global Trade Negotiations

http://www.citizenstrade.org/pdf/washpost_disputeoverfarmsubstallswtotalks_10162005.pdf

EU's Trade Partners Demand Deeper Cuts to Farm Tariffs

http://www.citizenstrade.org/pdf/wsj_eutradepartnersdemanddeepercutstofarmtariffs_10212005.pdf

EU Offers, New Tariff Cuts, But Internal Conflict Remains

http://www.citizenstrade.org/pdf/nyt_euoffersnewtariffcuts_10282005.pdf

US WTO Agriculture Proposal Keeps Unfair System Intact

http://www.iatp.org/iatp/library/admin/uploadedfiles/US_WTO_Agriculture_Proposal_Keeps_Unfair_System_Intact.pdf

4) CAFTA Update

On October 10th Nicaragua joined the list of countries that ratified CAFTA. Costa Rica is now the only CAFTA country whose legislature has not yet approved the agreement. Costa Rican President Abel Pacheco sent the deal to the nation's Congress on October 21. USTR Portman announced that CAFTA will move forward with implementation on January 1, 2006 regardless of whether Costa Rica has approved it. CAFTA's passage was seen as critical link to the Andean Free Trade (AFTA) negotiations and the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA.) With CAFTA secured, the U.S. administration has shifted its attention to the next WTO ministerial scheduled for December in Hong Kong and AFTA negotiations.

5) CAFTA Damage Report in Key Districts

It is not over! Public Citizen reveals the side deals and promises made by individual members of Congress to secure the passage of CAFTA. Show your representative what you think of their vote.

http://www.citizen.org/hot_issues/issue.cfm?ID=1218

6) China in Latin America

How will China's advancements in Latin America shape United States policy and the future of Latin America? These papers convey the geopolitical importance of controlling Latin American markets while suggesting that, through careful diplomacy and strategic investments, China is in the process of becoming the new "good guy" of Latin America at the expense of the United States.

Chinese influence in the rise of Latin America

<http://www.fpif.org/commentary/2005/0506chinese.html>

China's Entrance into Latin America: A Cause for Worry?

<http://americas.irc-online.org/am/389>