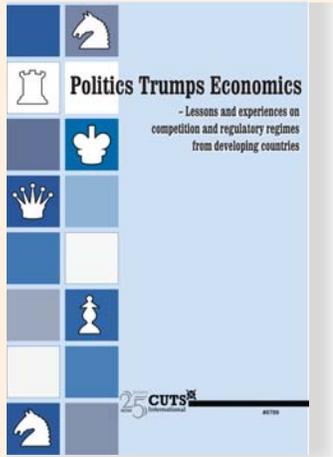


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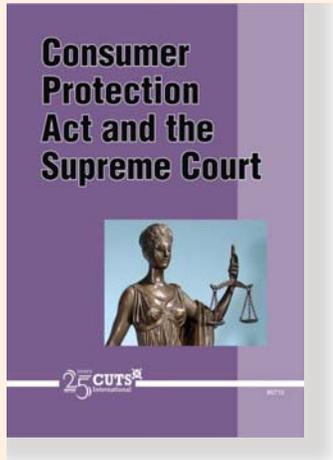
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It also examines that the Supreme Court decisions have helped enhance Consumer Protection Act.

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COMESA and EPAs: Awkward Bedfellows?

(LRC Policy Brief No 1/2007)

The complex and varied political, institutional and economic environment across the African countries, combined with the pressures of international policy processes, pose significant challenges to the success of the African regional integration. The challenges facing Africa in this respect are clearly illustrated by the ongoing dynamics between the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) regional integration process and the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) negotiations.

This Briefing Paper explores the dynamics between the two and attempts to highlight the ways in which the debates and tensions surrounding the COMESA integration are interacting with those related to the EPA negotiation process. It also presents a range of outcomes for both COMESA integration and EPAs – that are still possible. The paper also presents some recommendations for how the negotiating parties can approach these issues in order to balance competing agendas and ensure the outcome of long-term integration in the region.

Briefing Paper
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WTO Doha Round and Special Measures for Less Developed Countries

(No 7/2007)

The Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration added some new provisions for least developed countries (LDCs), which includes aid for trade and preference erosion as a result of multilateral tariff reduction. This has added a separate annexure elaborating the implementation plan of duty free & quota free (DFQF) market access for LDCs and the issue of cotton subsidies.

Erosion of trade preferences is one of the major concerns for LDCs and poor developing countries in the on-going efforts to further liberalisation of multilateral trade in the Doha Round. Tariff reductions under agriculture and non-agricultural market access (NAMA) are expected to lead to lowering of most-favoured nation (MFN) tariffs. The reduction of MFN tariffs is expected to adversely affect countries, which are beneficiaries of preferential agreements. Reflecting this concern, the text of the Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration made explicit reference to preference erosion, recognising it as an issue that needs to be addressed in the Doha Round.

This Briefing Paper focuses on four specific issues, which have occupied the centre stage in Post-Hong Kong trade negotiations: DFQF market access; aid for trade; cotton subsidies; and operationalisation of modalities for the special treatment of LDC members in the negotiation on trade in services.

*This Briefing can be viewed at:
<http://www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/BP07-WTO-8.pdf>*



The WTO *Telmex* Case – Implications for Vietnam

(C-CIER No 1/2007)

In the dispute settlement system of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), there have been certain cases allegedly related to anticompetitive practices that impeded market access. The *Mexico Telmex Case* was, however, the first and so far the only competition case of the WTO dispute settlement system. The *Mexico Telmex Case* was, however, the first and so far the only competition case of the WTO dispute settlement system. The *Mexico Telmex Case* was, however, the first and so far the only competition case of the WTO dispute settlement system.

This Briefing Paper introduces WTO competition-related dispute settlements as background to analyse the *Mexico Telmex Case* and attempts to capture the potential implications of the WTO Panel's decision on Vietnam.

It argues that the regulations together with anticompetitive practices in Vietnam's telecommunication industry are inconsistent with the WTO law. If such regulations are not repealed or amended, then Vietnam might face a risk of becoming another WTO Member going into the Dispute Settlement Body (DSB).

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