



Trade and Sustainability *Converging or diverging?*

International trade and sustainability are often viewed as distinct concepts, each with its own set of priorities and objectives. However, upon closer examination, it is evident that these two seemingly disparate notions are intricately connected and can reinforce each other. When conducted responsibly and with sustainability in mind, international trade can contribute significantly to the achievement of economic, social and environmental goals - the three pillars of 'sustainable development' - in a balanced manner.

Responsible and sustainable trade practices can contribute significantly to the achievement of global sustainability goals such as poverty reduction, better access to new technologies, climate action. By promoting responsible production and consumption, fostering economic development, encouraging innovation and collaboration, enhancing resilience, international trade can play an intrinsic role in creating a more sustainable and prosperous world.

Therefore, the fourth edition of Trade and Environment Week of the World Trade Organisation, held in Geneva on June 12-16, 2023, focused on collaborative trade policies to tackle pressing environmental issues, such as climate change, related natural disasters, pollution and biodiversity loss.

With this background and context, this Occasional News Wrap has reviewed and compiled various relevant articles in print and electronic media on the global need for sustainable trade practices.

1.	<p>Green Deal: New law to fight global deforestation and forest degradation driven by EU production and consumption enters into force</p> <p>European Commission</p> <p><i>June 29, 2023</i></p>	<p>It is a reflection of European citizens' wish no longer to drive global deforestation through their consumption. Once applied, the new law will ensure that a set of key goods exported or placed on the European Union (EU) market must be deforestation-free and thus will no longer contribute to deforestation and forest degradation in the EU and elsewhere in the world.</p>
2.	<p>Competitive climate: How the EU's green agenda can protect the environment and economy</p> <p><i>Susi Dennison and Mats Engstrom</i></p> <p>European Council on Foreign Relations</p> <p><i>June 28, 2023</i></p>	<p>A year ahead of the European Parliament elections, the EU needs to keep pushing forward, not stepping back, on climate obligations to avoid the very things that those who vote for populist parties fear – higher prices, greater dependence on other global players, and being left behind in the global economy.</p>
3.	<p>What is fuelling the EU's aggressive trade measures?</p> <p><i>Ravi Dutt Mishra</i></p> <p>Livemint</p> <p><i>June 28, 2023</i></p>	<p>Driven by domestic and geo-political factors, the EU has amped up a legislative push aimed at reaching its ambitious climate goals. However, these pieces of legislation could have consequences for global trade.</p>
4.	<p>Why the World Needs a Free Trade Agreement on Green Goods and Services</p> <p><i>Jesus Castillo Oropeza</i></p> <p>Earth.org</p> <p><i>June 26, 2023</i></p>	<p>Removing the barriers that hamper the free flow of climate-friendly products and services would be a massive step forward in the fight against climate change, as they would make environmental innovation accessible to everyone at lower prices.</p>

5.	<p>Historic law on nature restoration to be debated in the European Parliament</p> <p>Envirotech</p> <p><i>June 23, 2023</i></p>	<p>The draft legislation on restoring nature and lost species throughout Europe, under attack by conservative lawmakers, narrowly survived a critical vote in the European Parliament's environment committee, meaning that ground-breaking environmental regulations are back on the cards.</p>
6.	<p>G20 welcomes roadmap to make tourism a key driver of Sustainable Development Goals</p> <p>World Tourism Organisation</p> <p><i>June 21, 2023</i></p>	<p>Recognising the critical need to work towards climate action and environmental protection and related international cooperation, the Goa Roadmap incorporates recommended actions and good practices from G20 economies and guest countries on issues such as financing, sustainable infrastructure and resource management, integrating circular approaches in the tourism value chain and engaging visitors as key actors in sustainability.</p>
7.	<p>The future of sustainable deliveries: Exploring innovations in green technology</p> <p><i>Dhaval Thanki</i></p> <p>The Times of India</p> <p><i>June 21, 2023</i></p>	<p>It is increasingly important to address the environmental impact associated with the delivery industry. By leveraging digital transformation alongside eco-friendly technologies, logistics companies are making significant progress in reducing their carbon footprint.</p>
8.	<p>The world's plan to make humanity sustainable is failing. Science can do more to save it</p> <p>Nature</p> <p><i>June 20, 2023</i></p>	<p>The Sustainable Development Goals and their 169 associated targets are among humanity's best chances of dealing with global crises, from climate change to economic hardship. World leaders agreed to the goals in 2015 and set a 2030 deadline to achieve them.</p>

9.	<p>High-level panel urges action on the triple planetary crisis at Trade and Environment Week</p> <p>World Trade Organisation</p> <p><i>June 16, 2023</i></p>	<p>Trade policy must be urgently and collectively wielded to address the triad of environmental problems posed by climate change, pollution, and biodiversity loss, a high-level panel of speakers stated at the fourth edition of Trade and Environment Week held at WTO headquarters in Geneva on June 12-16, 2023.</p>
10.	<p>Trade and Environment Week 2023 to spotlight collective trade solutions for sustainability</p> <p>World Trade Organisation</p> <p><i>June 09, 2023</i></p>	<p>The fourth edition of Trade and Environment Week, held on June 12-16, 2023, at the WTO's headquarters in Geneva and virtually, will focus this year on collaborative trade policies to tackle pressing environmental issues, such as climate change, related natural disasters, pollution and biodiversity loss.</p>
11.	<p>Sustainable Production and Trade - Perspectives from the Commonwealth</p> <p><i>Brendan Vickers</i></p> <p>The Commonwealth</p> <p><i>June 06, 2023</i></p>	<p>On the occasion of the second Commonwealth Trade Ministers Meeting on June 05-06, 2023, a new book by the Commonwealth Secretariat 'Sustainable Production and Trade: Perspectives from the Commonwealth' examines sustainable production and trade practices and governance arrangements in four sectors: cocoa, fisheries, forestry, and textiles and garments.</p>
12.	<p>World Environment Day brings solutions to plastic pollution into focus</p> <p>United Nations Environment Programme</p> <p><i>June 05, 2023</i></p>	<p>2023 marks the 50th anniversary of World Environment Day after it was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1972. Over the past five decades, with the UN Environment Programme at the helm, the day has grown to be one of the largest global platforms for environmental outreach.</p>