



## The Sustainable Trade and Innovation Centre (STIC)

### European Hub Briefing

Brussels, November 21, 2002.

Prepared by



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**THE COMMONWEALTH SCIENCE COUNCIL**



**KONINKLIJK INSTITUUT  
VOOR DE TROPEN**

**ROYAL TROPICAL INSTITUTE**

The Commonwealth Science Council, London UK  
European Partners for the Environment, Brussels, Belgium  
Royal Tropical Institute, Amsterdam, Netherlands

# **Sustainable Trade and Innovation Centre European Briefing. November 21st, 2002.**

Brussels, Place of Venue to be confirmed  
Interpretation English-French-German.

## **9,00-10,30 Two pilot proposals**

Two parallel workshops with quick introduction to the basic aspects of STIC

Both pilots cover the following activities:

- a. Facilitation of stakeholder dialogues on voluntary codes (partnerships)
- b. Capacity building for innovation and ecodesign (innovation)
- c. Information dissemination to generate support and interest (information)
- d. Identify the needs for science, research and innovation (innovation)

Workshop A. **Textile trade portal** chaired by Willie Beuth, Eco-Text, between buyers, vendors and users of uniforms and workwear inspired by guidelines developed by the Dutch Ministry of the Environment.

Workshop B. **Electronics Ecodesign** – chaired by Martin Charter, Centre for Sustainable Design, on Developing Eco-product Development capabilities of the Electronics Industry.

## **11,00 to 13,00 Plenary, moderated by Minister Ben Ngubane (tbc) or a STIC Board member.**

### **11,00 STIC Objectives, Structure, Services.**

- Ritu Kumar, CsC.

### **11,20 STIC Regional consultations, Partners Worldwide and Products**

- Dale–Anne Bourjaily, KIT

### **11,40 Presentation of the European Hub, STIC linkages with Europe**

- Raymond Van Ermen, EPE

### **12,00 What is expected from Institutional Buyers (public and private) in support to STIC. Other target groups. Pilot initiatives interaction with STIC activities.**

- Introduction “The Problems of Market Access for Fair Trade Products” by Lawrence Watson, Independent Consultant for the development of Fair Trade.
- Panel:
  - IFAT, International Federation for Alternative Trade IFAT (tbc)
  - EFTA (tbc)
  - Willie Beuth, Eco-Text.

## **14,30-16,30 Workshops C and D**

Workshop C. **A Business project group.**

Workshop D. **A European Forum on Sustainable Trade**

## **17,00-18,00 Plenary with EU Commissioner for Trade, Pascal Lamy. Welcome address by Minister B. Ngubane (tbc).**

**Summary of preceding sessions**, by Ritu Kumar, CsC

**Europeans in support to STIC**, by Bart-Jan Krouwel, EPE President.

Commissioner LAMY

Question and Answer Session.

## Background information.

Article 177 of the Treaty establishing the European Community states that Community policy in the sphere of development co-operation shall foster:

- "the sustainable economic and social development of the developing countries, and more particularly the most disadvantaged among them,
- the smooth and gradual integration of the developing countries into the world economy,
- the campaign against poverty in the developing countries."

"Fair trade" is an example of development occurring through trading relationships and improved commercial opportunities to bridge the gap between developed and developing countries and to facilitate the better integration of developing countries in the world economy. "Fair trade" initiatives give consumers the opportunity to contribute towards sustainable economic and social development in developing countries through their purchasing preferences.

Communication from the Commission to the Council on Fair Trade. COM (1999) 619 Final.

**Name:** Sustainable Trade and Innovation Centre

**Description:** A new venture designed to enable developing country producers to benefit from the growing market pressures to integrate environmental and social factors into their export strategies. This project aims to facilitate a shared vision of sustainable trade between producer and consumer countries in order that producers are inspired to lead the process as innovators, instead of as followers. STIC will act as a platform for bringing together stakeholders from North and South to create a more co-operative context for sustainable trade and innovation.



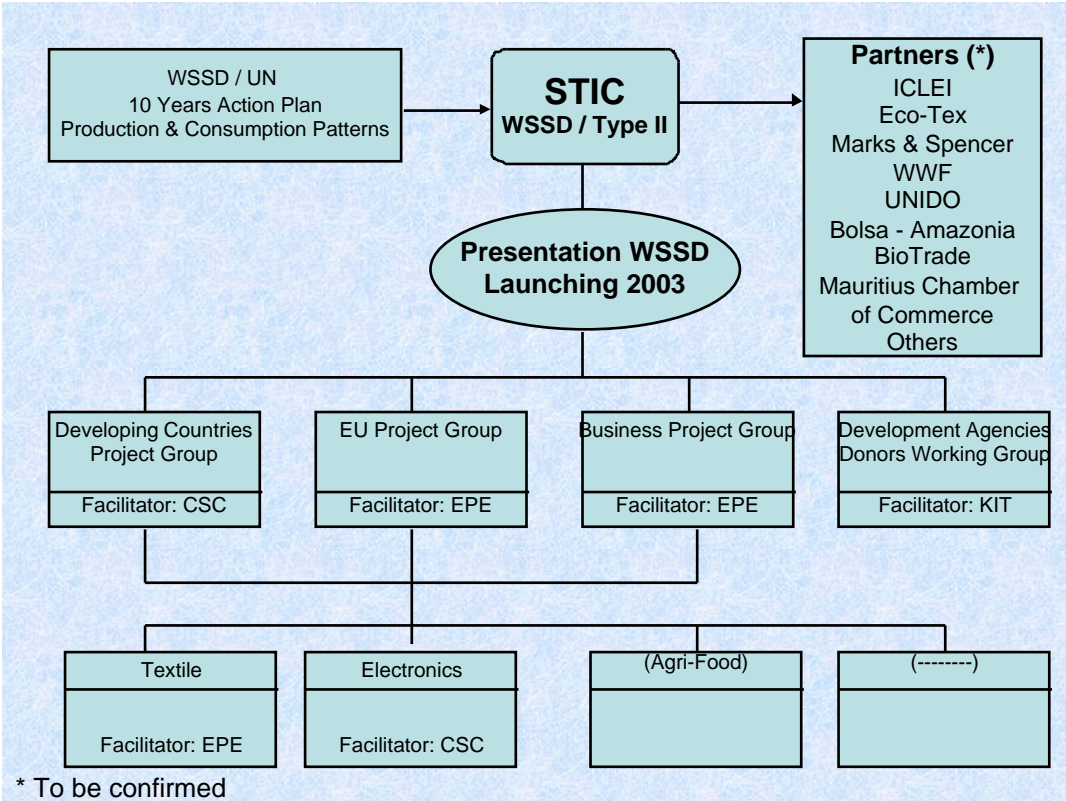
STIC has been presented at the WSSD as a Type 2 initiative by the Commonwealth Science Council (CSC) and European Partners for the Environment (EPE). STIC should contribute to the implementation of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes to accelerate the shift towards sustainable production and consumption patterns decided at the WSSD (Action Plan, Section III).

STIC has the support of a high level Advisory Board, the Directorate General for Trade of the European Commission, the Ministry of the Environment of the Republic of France, and a significant group of international NGO's and businesses

**Overall Aim:**

STIC role and added value is be to be a “platform for sustainable trade initiatives”, driven by Developing Countries, in order to

- Assist developing country producers to meet environmental and social requirements in export markets while maintaining their competitive positions.
- Jointly draft an annual report (index) on progress made;
- Become a strong partner to facilitate dialogue between developing exporters and buyers in developed countries as well as organisations in charge of trade issues in Europe e.g. DG Trade;
- Build a “scale effect” to “accelerate the “shift towards sustainable production and consumption patterns”;
- Involve institutional buyers (public and private) - the vast majority of the existing fair trade initiatives are NGO's.



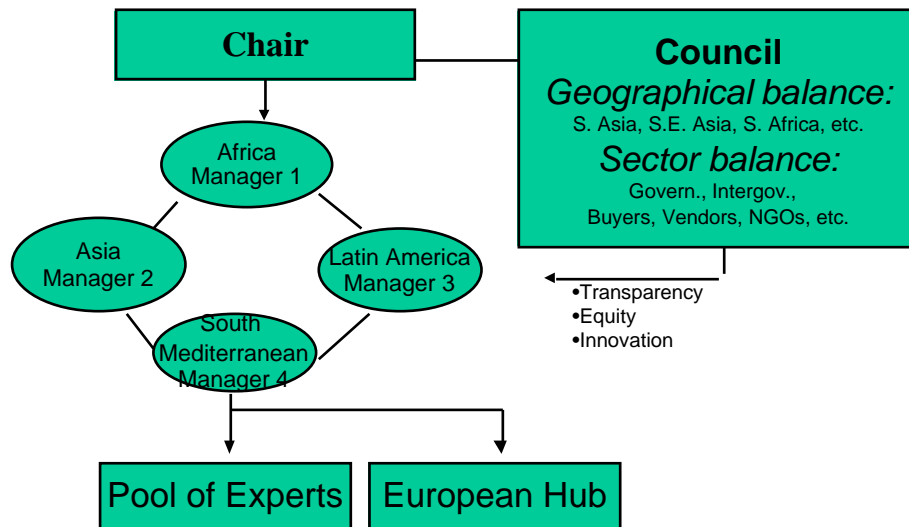
**STIC Sustainable Trade and Innovation Centre, European Hub.**

The venture is constituted as a network organisation with regional centres. STIC has chosen a step-by-step approach by which in just three regions centres will start up in the course of the first phase 2003 (Southern Africa, Latin America and Europe).

Other centres will take a longer period to develop (Asia, Mediterranean, West Africa and Caribbean).

STIC will be led by developing countries and not by Western interest. A European Hub in support to STIC is part of the process.

## Possible STIC Governance Scheme



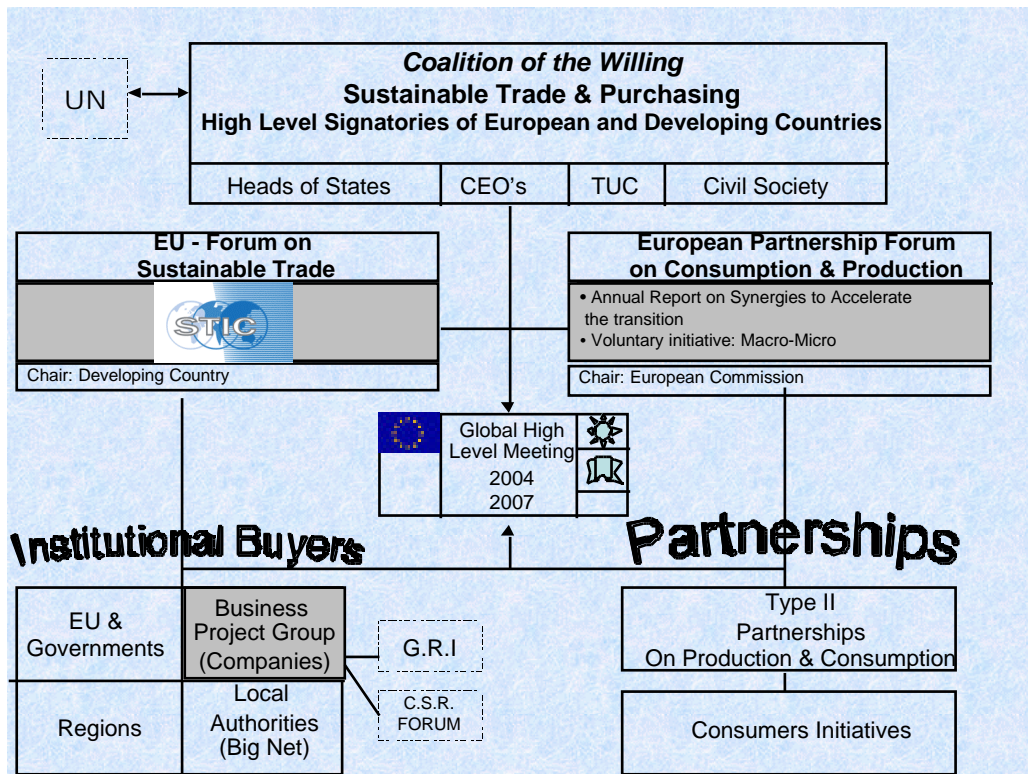
The European Briefing aims to shape the agenda and programme of activities of the European Hub, in synergy with existing Fair trade initiatives and Institutional buyers (public and private). The European Hub Programme 2002-2007 might include:

- Launching of a “EU project Group” or “European Forum” linking with the EU
- Setting up a “Business project group”
- Linking with ICLEI Global Green Purchasing Initiative
- Involvement of European interested parties in pilot initiatives related to textile, electronics, agri-food, biodiversity...
- Designing an initiative in view of the Olympic Games in Greece (2004) and Italy (2006)
- Development of a forward study on “sustainable trade 2020” driven by developing countries with participation of European and North-American Interested Parties
- Synergy between and support to WSSD/ type II Initiatives related to trade and sustainable production and consumption patterns
- Contribution to a Sustainable Trade Yearbook (State of progress report).

**The outcome of the Briefing will shape the European Hub Agenda and** be presented during six regional consultations , in order to identify specific services required from STIC and to get the buy-in of major stakeholders. The consultations will take place by 2003 in Southern Africa, West Africa, South Asia, Latin and Central America, Caribbean, the South-Mediterranean.

This is part of a European process to contribute to implement the Agenda 21, the Doha Action Plan, the Millennium Declaration and the WSSD Implementation Plan. It includes

- A joint Statement proposed for signature to heads of Governments, CEO’s, Trade Unions and civil Society Leader launching a ‘Coalition of the Willing’ on Sustainable Trade & Purchasing
- A report process
- A 2007 Global “Event” co-hosted by the Europeans and their Partners to act as a mid-term review of the implementation of the Millennium Targets.



### STIC Initiating Agencies:

The steering committee of the project consists of the Core Group.

Core Group c/o Commonwealth Science Council, Marlborough House, Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5HX, UK

B. Ngubane, Minister of Arts, Culture, Science and Technology, Republic of South Africa (Chair) and membership:

Jacqueline Aloisi de Lardere: United Nations Environment Programme, France

Charles Arden-Clarke: United Nations Environment Programme, France

Willie Beuth: Eco-tex Institute for Applied Ecology, Germany

Dale Anne Bourjaily, (Ecooperation) NIPS-KIT, Netherlands

Mahmood Cheeroo, Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Mauritius

John Forgach, A2R LLC, Brazil

Mark Halle, International Institute for Sustainable Development, Canada

Adam Kakande, Nsamba Coffee Works, Uganda

Krishan Kalra, Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, India

David Runnalls, International Institute for Sustainable Development, Canada

S. Teerana, Thailand

Arnoldo Ventura, Office of the Prime Minister, Jamaica

Rene Vossenaar, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

### Ownership

STIC is an initiative of the organisations in the Core Group. In August 2002, the cabinet of South Africa took the decision to support the initiative as a type II partnership for the WSSD. The challenge for the project is to widen the ownership of the concept so that developing countries start to take the lead in the process. The initiative is the result of a long and thoughtful process between leading research organisations, practitioners and stakeholders in which the Minister of Science and Technology of South Africa has played a key role.

### Partners

A consortium formed by Commonwealth Science Council, European Partners for the Environment and KIT is executing the project.

**European Partners for the Environment** – coalition partners for sustainable trade

EPE is a multi-stakeholder forum that builds the ground for consensus on sustainability, on which members can more confidently plan actions. EPE serves as a catalyst, in Europe and around the world, to achieve into the future a better balance between the environmental, social and economic elements of life. Dialogue built through long-term relationships between partners and strengthened by trust leads to common practical action.

EPE brings together international, European, national and local Public Authorities, Companies large and small, Trade Unions, Institutes, environmental, consumer and ethical NGO's. With the help of UNEP-IE and the Regional Environmental Centre, EPE Members, special attention is given to involve Companies of Accession Countries.

**The Commonwealth Science Council.** The Commonwealth Science Council (CSC) is an intergovernmental organisation with membership open to all Commonwealth countries. At present there are 36 members, represented at Council meetings by senior scientists or science executives. The CSC is an innovative, creative and proactive organisation that seeks to leverage the science and technology (S&T) capability in the public and industry domain within the Commonwealth through networking of both knowledge and finance using modern information technologies to facilitate the application of S&T by member countries for sustainable economic, environmental, social and cultural development. ([www.comsci.org](http://www.comsci.org))

CSC has carried out extensive studies of the manufacturing capabilities of Commonwealth countries in electronics, chemicals, automobiles, textiles and the construction industry. From this background the consciousness has grown that innovation is the key to sustainability. Only innovative industries will be able to compete in a sustainable way. CSC and has been active in the SAREP –South Asian Renewable Energy programme. Dr. Kumar of the CSC has published and presented papers on renewable energy and on eco-efficiency in the manufacturing process. She has also published on frameworks for technology transfer and on technology and energy issues. CSC has supported this work.

The STIC project is supported by the whole CSC and has been profiled at CSC executive level.

**Royal Tropical Institute K.I.T.** On June 10th 2000, KIT (Royal Tropical Institute- the Netherlands) celebrated its 90th anniversary. Originally founded as a research institute to disseminate knowledge on the tropics, KIT's activities today are increasingly geared towards international co-operation worldwide.

KIT (Royal Tropical Institute) is a knowledge institute specialised in international co-operation and multicultural exchange. Internationally, KIT is engaged in multidisciplinary projects. Together with partners & clients - governments and private companies - KIT develops methodologies in the fields of organisation and management, culture, health and agriculture.

Internationally, KIT experts support management processes and the development of methodologies in the fields of:

- Organisation and communication
- Culture
- Health
- Agriculture
- Sustainability

Royal Tropical Institute has the mandate in the Netherlands for the Sustainable Development Agreements between the Netherlands, Benin, Bhutan and Costa Rica

# REGISTRATION FORM

## Sustainable Trade & Innovation Centre (STIC)

### European Hub Meeting

*Brussels, November 21<sup>st</sup> 2002*

**To:** EPE (European Partners for the Environment)  
via **fax:** +32 2 539 48 15 or **e-mail :** [info@epe.be](mailto:info@epe.be)

I Will / will (please tick "✓" the appropriate box ) be participating in  
not\* the following event:

\_\_\_ \_\_\_

**participate in meeting on November 21<sup>st</sup>**

\_\_\_ \_\_\_

**participate in the workshop A on TEXTILE**

\_\_\_ \_\_\_

**participate in the workshop B on ELECTRONICS**

\_\_\_ \_\_\_

**participate in the workshop C on the BUSINESS  
Project Group**

\_\_\_ \_\_\_

**participate in the workshop D, 'A European Forum'**

Name:

Government / Institution / Organisation / Company:

Address:

Tel:

Fax:

E-mail: