

elections; but this is now changing, meaning that the pull of French lobbies will be different.⁷

Some argued that it is also important to understand how the structure of trade preferences, including those afforded by the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) and regional trade agreements, affects the positions of commodity exporters. Some developing countries are lining up with the EU and Japan, reflecting their trade orientation. It would be useful to know what are the options for smaller, single commodity exporters and how existing preference schemes affect them. There are some interesting developments in understanding the role of GSP in influencing trade.⁸ Study of this issue could shed light on how to deliver the Doha Development Agenda given that strengthening market access in the developed world without reciprocal concessions being offered seems to be the strategy of many developing countries in the Round.

Finally, there is a specific research issue concerning the structure of protection afforded by *non ad valorem* tariffs on agricultural products. The US is pushing to have such tariffs converted into *ad valorem* equivalents, but the data are poor.

⁷ Editors' note: The Massif Central is a region in south central France in which the traditional agricultural sector is now in decline and facing out-migration of the farm population, despite government programs to attract new young migrants into the agricultural sector. President Jacques Chirac, who had previously represented the mainly agricultural constituency of Correze in the Massif Central in the National Assembly, is a member of the PRP, a French party with a heavy reliance on the agricultural vote.

⁸ A study by Andrew Rose found that the GSP scheme extended from Northern (developed countries) to developing countries is associated with a more than doubling of bilateral trade (approximately 136 percent) while GATT/WTO membership failed to positively correlated with trade gains. Another recent study, however, concluded that "corrected for endogeneity and robust to numerous alternative measures of trade policy, developing countries may be best served by full integration into the reciprocity-based world trade regime rather than continued GSP-style special preferences." See Çağlar Özden and Eric Reinhardt, "The Perversity of Preferences: GSP and Developing Country Trade Policies, 1976-2000", *The World Bank Group*, January 13th, 2003. http://econ.worldbank.org/files/23188_wps2955.pdf