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A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF STUDIES

Dear MILE 10 students,

Allow me to wish you a warm welcome on the eve of the launch of a very special year in the WTI's history – the tenth edition of the MILE, the world's leading programme of advanced studies in the law and economics of trade regulation.

Important structural changes were made to the MILE programme in the 2008-09 academic year, with a first-term focus on teaching semester-long courses on the fundamentals of public international law, economics, international relations, legal writing and analysis as well as negotiations theory. We were very pleased with the results of this new configuration, and so will maintain the revamped structure in the coming year.

The Fall 2009 term will see some teachings dispensed in modular fashion, notably courses on international trade theory as well as selected shorter courses on global political economy, negotiating techniques and the economics of competition. Students will be assessed twice, at mid-term and at the end of the term prior to the Christmas break, with tutorials held prior to each exam. We have decided to start the Fall term two weeks earlier this year, on September 18. This will allow us to assign all first term assessments before Christmas and give students more time to prepare for them.

A number of other changes to the 10th edition of the MILE programme are worthy of mention. For starters, we have the great pleasure to welcome several new members to our faculty: Prof. Olivier Bochet from the University of Berne, who will teach micro-economics; Prof. David Cheong, from Johns Hopkins (Bologna), who will teach macro-economics; Prof. Reto Foellmi, from the University of Berne, who will teach international trade theory; Dr. Peter Holmes from the University of Sussex, who will lecture on the economics of preferential trade liberalization; Dr. Sacha Wunsch-Vincent, from the OECD, who will teach on the economics of IPRs; Dr. Shishir Priyadarshi, from the WTO, who will lecture on trade and development with the World Bank's Bernard Hoekman; Dr. Gretchen Stanton, from the WTO, who will teach on legal issues relating to sanitary and phyto-sanitary measures; Prof. Laurence Boisson de Chazournes from the University of Geneva, who will team up with Dr. Doaa Abdel Motaal from the Office of the WTO's Director General to teach on the trade and environment interface, as well as Mr. Lothar Ehring from DG Trade, who will co-teach the MILE's dispute settlement module with Bill Davey from the University of Illinois. We are especially pleased to welcome two newly appointed Assistant Professors, Dr. Marion Panizzon and Dr. Manfred Elsig, who will teach public international law and global political economy respectively in the Fall term.

We are also delighted to welcome a number of faculty members who were associated with earlier editions of the MILE programme and are back with us this year. This includes the University of Geneva's Jaime de Melo, who will lecture on the economics of non-tariff barriers, as well as the European Commission's (DG Trade) Stefan Amarasinha, who will team up with the WTO's Robert Anderson on competition law and policy and its trade interface.

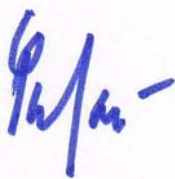
We will maintain our tradition of hosting a series of half- or full-day seminars on selected topics in trade diplomacy over the course of the academic year. These will feature presentations on a diverse set of topics by leading practitioners drawn from academia, governments, civil society organisations as well as international organisations active in the trade field.

We are also pleased to report that MILE 10 students will benefit from two field trips to leading international organisations, national delegations, law firms and civil society organisations active in trade regulation in Geneva. In addition to exposing our students to the many challenges of global governance, such visits will offer direct exposure to potential future employers (including for internship purposes) and afford opportunities to meet and brainstorm with prospective thesis supervisors.

An exciting crowning achievement of MILE 10 will be the inaugural Moot Court Competition we now plan to hold on a rotating annual basis, which will set the finalists from the WTI Moot Court against those of the University of Barcelona's IELPO programme. This event, which will take place on the eve of the MILE graduation ceremony on 25 June 2010, will form part of several important moments scheduled throughout the 2009-10 academic year celebrating the WTI's 10th anniversary.

We strongly feel that the changes we are making to the MILE will keep enriching the programme significantly. Allow me to congratulate you upon your selection to this demanding programme. All of you overcame tough odds in making the cut. Accordingly, we harbour very high expectations for your performance in the programme and your many additional contributions to the WTI community. I speak on behalf of the entire WTI team in saying how happy we are to welcome you all in Berne.

Kind regards,



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