

NEW THREATS TO GLOBALIZATION

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by

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... A new emerging threat to globalization is the possibility that quite legitimate concerns about the environment may be used by protectionists as a cover to advance their cause.

With the growing acceptance by governments and businesses of the threat posed by anthropogenic climate change comes a danger that some will seek to use the contribution to greenhouse gas emissions made by the transportation of goods, services and people to advance their urging of greater restrictions on the movement of goods, services and people across international borders.

It would not be surprising if industries which have traditionally enjoyed (and continue to seek) high levels of 'protection', and those who now purport to see something inherently noble in 'self-sufficiency' in food (a trend highlighted by the emerging practice of including 'food distances' on restaurant menus) sought to make common cause with those urging practical ways of ameliorating global warming. **The European Union, in particular, has been seeking to have WTO rules altered to allow it to restrict trade on what it regards as 'environmental grounds'** [27](#).

As Austrade's prolific Chief Economist Tim Harcourt points out, exports benefit economies and nations in many ways: they under-write economic growth; they encourage innovation and the transfer of knowledge; they generally achieve higher levels of productivity; they provide safer working environments and invest more in the training of their work forces; and they create personal as well as business relationships between nations [28](#)

²⁶ Rawi Abdelal and Adam Segal, 'Has Globalization Passed its Peak', *Foreign Affairs* Vol 86 No. 108 (January-February 2007), reprinted in *The Australian Financial Review's* Review section under the title 'Globalisation becomes a victim of itself', 2 March 2007 pp. 9-10.

²⁷ See Alan Oxley and Steven Macmillan, *The Kyoto Protocol and the APEC Economies* (Australian APEC Study Centre, Monash University, November 2004), pp. 24-25; and **Lawrence A. Kogan, 'Enlightened' Environmentalism or Disguised Protectionism (National Foreign Trade Council, Washington DC, April 2004), esp. p. 86.**

²⁸ Tim Harcourt, *Why South Australia Needs Exports: The Economic Case for Exporting* (Austrade, 9 August 2006), available at <http://www.austrade.gov.au/Why-South-Australia-Needs-Exports/default.aspx>; and 'Exporters key to better productivity', *Australian Financial Review* (10 April 2007) p. 55.