
Committee on Trade and Environment

REPORT (2003) OF THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND ENVIRONMENT

1. The Committee on Trade and Environment Regular (CTE) held four meetings in 2003 under the chairmanship of Ambassador Peter Brño (Slovak Republic).¹
2. The work of the CTE was organized in accordance with the mandate contained in paragraph 32 of the Doha Ministerial Declaration (DMD).² Particular attention was given to market access issues (paragraph 32(i))³, the relevant provisions of the TRIPS Agreement (paragraph 32(ii)), and labelling requirements for environmental purposes (paragraph 32(iii)). The CTE also continued its analysis of the other items of its work programme. Pursuant to paragraph 33, Members discussed technical assistance, capacity building and environmental reviews. Members also discussed the CTE's report to the Fifth Ministerial Conference in Cancún on the work undertaken since Doha under both paragraphs 32 and 33.⁴ Finally, under paragraph 51, Members undertook to identify and debate the developmental and environmental aspects of the negotiations, in order to help achieve the objective of having sustainable development appropriately reflected.
3. At the meeting of **14 February 2003**, under paragraph 32(i), Members discussed the issues of forestry and fisheries based on a contribution from Japan (WT/CTE/W/222). The UNCTAD and the OECD informed the Committee of relevant activities. Discussion also took place on paragraph 32(ii) on the basis of a submission presented by the European Communities (WT/CTE/W/223). On paragraph 32(iii), Japan referred Members to its submission to the TBT Committee on labelling (G/TBT/W/176). Under paragraph 33, Canada introduced its Initial Environmental Assessment of the WTO Trade Negotiations (WT/CTE/W/221) and the European Communities informed Members of a DG Trade Seminar on Sustainability Impact Assessments (WT/CTE/W/224). Under paragraph 51, presentations were made by the Secretariat on the negotiations in the areas of agriculture (WT/CTE/GEN/8) and market access for non-agricultural products (WT/CTE/GEN/9). Finally, it was decided that the Secretariat would prepare a first draft of the factual elements of the Report to the 5th Ministerial Session in Cancún on paragraphs 32 and 33.
4. At the meeting of **29 April 2003**, Japan presented a paper on fisheries subsidies under paragraph 32(i) (WT/CTE/W/226). Members also discussed the issue of labelling for environmental purposes (paragraph 32(iii)) on the basis of a contribution from the European Communities (WT/CTE/W/225). Canada drew the CTE's attention to its communication on labelling submitted to the TBT Committee in May 2002 (G/TBT/W/174/Rev.1, subsequently circulated as WT/CTE/W/229). Discussions were also held on paragraph 33, following the presentation by the United States of its submission on technical assistance and environmental reviews (WT/CTE/W/227).

¹ The reports of the meetings are contained in documents WT/CTE/M/32-35.

² Hereafter paragraph numbers refer to those of the Doha Ministerial Declaration.

³ The full text of paragraph 32(i) reads: "the effect of environmental measures on market access, especially in relation to developing countries, in particular the least-developed among them, and those situations in which the elimination or reduction of trade restrictions and distortions would benefit trade, the environment and development".

⁴ WT/CTE/8.

The UNCTAD and UNEP informed the CTE of their technical assistance activities and upcoming meetings (WT/CTE/GEN/12 and WT/CTE/GEN/13). Under paragraph 51, discussions continued on the basis of presentations by the Secretariat on the negotiations in the rules (WT/CTE/GEN/10) and services areas (WT/CTE/GEN/11). It was decided that the Secretariat would prepare a brief and factual summary on this paragraph as part of its report to the General Council. Finally, Members discussed the first draft of the CTE Report to Cancún on paragraphs 32 and 33.

5. At the meeting of **7 July 2003**, under paragraph 32, Members discussed Canada's proposal for a recommendation for the Cancún Ministerial Conference (Job(03)/105). Under paragraph 32(iii) on labelling for environmental purposes, Members held discussions on a proposed recommendation by the European Communities for the Cancún Ministerial Conference (Job(03)/130). Members adopted the report of the CTE to the Fifth Ministerial Conference in Cancún on paragraphs 32 and 33 (WT/CTE/8). The CTE also reported to the General Council ahead of Cancún (WT/CTE/9).

6. At the meeting of **28 October 2003**, under paragraph 32(i), discussions were held on the issue of forestry, following a submission by Japan on its bilateral cooperation with Indonesia in combating illegal logging (WT/CTE/W/233). The UNCTAD informed the CTE of its activities on the effects of environmental measures on market access. Under paragraph 33, the European Communities presented a submission on trade-related technical assistance and capacity building in the field of trade and environment (WT/CTE/W/231). Also under this paragraph, the Secretariat gave an oral report on its technical assistance activities in 2003.
