

**WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION**

Centre William Rappard  
Rue de Lausanne 154  
Case postale  
CH - 1211 Genève 21

Téléphone: (41 22) 739 51 11  
Ligne directe: (41 22) 739 54 82  
Téléfax: (41 22) 731 42 06  
Télex: 412 324 OMC/WTO CH  
Télégramme: OMC/WTO, GENÈVE

Référence:

30 January 1996

COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND ENVIRONMENT

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIRMAN

1. Document WT/CTE/W/18 informed Members of the Committee on Trade and Environment of the Decisions taken at the Second Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. One of those Decisions, i.e. Decision II/12 on "Intellectual Property Rights", mentions the World Trade Organization. Decision II/12 (which is fully reproduced in WT/CTE/W/18) states in relevant part that:

" The Conference of the Parties

*Requests the Executive Secretary to:*

(a) Liaise with the Secretariat of the World Trade Organization to inform it of the goals and the ongoing work of the Convention on Biological Diversity and to invite the Secretariat of the World Trade Organization to assist in the preparation of a paper for the Conference of the Parties that identifies the synergies and relationship between the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the TRIPs Agreement. This paper could be the basis for consideration by the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties in preparing a possible input for negotiations that are taking place in the Committee on Trade and Environment of the World Trade Organization".

2. The Executive Secretary of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity has informed the Director General of WTO of Decision II/12 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, and has sought the WTO Secretariat's assistance in preparation of a report entitled, Biological Diversity and Trade-Related Intellectual Property Rights: Synergies and Relationships.

./.

3. In order to respond to this request, the Secretariat could submit document WT/CTE/W/8, which addresses the topic "Environment and TRIPS", to the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

4. I shall therefore be proposing at the meeting of the Committee on 26 February that the Committee agree to de-restrict document WT/CTE/W/8 in order to allow it to be submitted by the WTO Secretariat, on its own responsibility, to the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Delegations are invited to submit any comments that they have on this proposal to the Secretariat (Mr. H. V. Singh, tel: 739.51.75) by close of business on 22 February 1996.

Ambassador Juan Carlos Sánchez Arnau  
Chairman  
Committee on Trade and Environment