

Committee on Trade and Environment

RESULTS OF THE STOCKTAKING EXERCISE

Adopted at the 28-29 May 1996 meeting

I. The informal consultations on the stocktaking permitted the following consensus to be reached:

1. According to the results of the first stocktaking in October 1995, the CTE has completed two full rounds of analysis of each individual Item of the agenda (Items 2 and 4 will be revisited during the May session). The Secretariat has submitted a number of background and analytical documents and the Committee has benefitted from the discussion of a number of Items on its agenda in other intergovernmental fora (UNEP, UNCTAD, CSD). On the issue of "eco-labelling" a joint informal meeting was organized with the CTBT and the opportunity was given to managers/practitioners of national/regional eco-labelling schemes to present their experience to both Committees.

2. In preparing for the Singapore Ministerial Conference, the CTE has held a general debate on all Items of its agenda. Some agenda Items have been disaggregated, some specific issues and problems have been identified. The general debate clarified and promoted understanding of some issues and also permitted the identification of divergences of view. In some cases more analytical work is required. As a result of this process, the CTE is now in a position to centre its attention on specific issues, including issues covered by proposals submitted or to be submitted by Members, keeping in mind the need for a balanced and focused approach to the whole agenda.

3. A number of proposals have been submitted to the Committee either orally or as formal or informal documents and additional proposals are anticipated.

4. Thus, the next stage of the CTE activities in preparation for Singapore needs to be devoted to the preparation of the Final Report to be submitted to the Ministerial Conference including the identification of possible agreed conclusions and recommendations in the light of the CTE mandate.

II. To that end the following work programme, to be developed in the light of the CTE terms of reference contained in the Ministerial Declaration of Marrakesh, is adopted by the Committee¹:

¹The CTE is awaiting the adoption of a decision by the General Council on the matter referred to in Item 10.

| Date | Meeting | Items/Issues | Objective |
|---------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| 28, 29 May | CTE formal | 2 and 4 6 and 8 1 + 5 and 7 | To adopt the outcome of the stocktaking. To complete second review. To revisit and to discuss proposals submitted on these Items. Presentation of new proposals. |
| 30 May | CTE informal | 1 + 5 and 7 | Clarification and analysis of new proposals. |
| 20 June | CTE formal | 1 + 5 2/3/4/6/7/8 | Possible presentation of new proposals on these Items. Clarifications, comments and reactions. |
| 21 June | CTE informal | same | Discussion of proposals. |
| 30 June | | | The Secretariat starts preparing the first draft of the Final Report: Introduction + Chapters 1 and 2 |
| 3-24 July | Informal consultations ² | same | Start of the process of informal consultations to build up consensus on individual issues. |
| 24 July | CTE formal | 2/9/BTA/ packaging | (a) Items/issues revisited in view of possible presentation of proposals on them. (b) Chairman's report on results of informal consultations on specific issues/Items/proposals. |
| 24-25 July | CTE informal ³ | 1 + 5 2/3/4/6/7/8 | Discussion of specific issues/Items/proposals. |
| 30 July | | | The Secretariat submits the first draft of Final Report to the Chairman for review and clearance. |
| 31 July | | | Distribution of the first draft of the Final Report (introduction + Chapters 1 and 2). |
| 11 Sept | CTE formal | All Items | Statements on any issue. |
| 11/12/13 Sept | CTE informal | same | Discussion of proposals on any Item/issue. |

²All interested delegations will have the opportunity to be consulted on all issues under consideration.

³Discussions of issues under Item 3(b) relevant to the work of the CTBT would take place in a joint formal/informal meeting with the CTBT.

| Date | Meeting | Items/Issues | Objective |
|----------------------|--|--------------|---|
| 16 Sept to 23 Oct | Informal consultations ² | All Items | (a) Continuation of consultations on specific Items/issues/proposals. The work is oriented towards building a consensus on possible conclusions and recommendations. (b) Consultations on the draft Final Report. |
| 10 Oct | | | Secretariat completes draft Final Report to the largest possible extent. Review and clearance by the Chairman. |
| 15 Oct | | | Distribution of the draft Final Report (introduction + Chapters 1 and 2 + Chapter 3) |
| 24-25 Oct | CTE formal | | (a) Report by the Chairman on informal consultations on: (i) all Items/issues/proposals (ii) draft Final Report (b) Final discussion on proposals/conclusions/recommendations (c) Adoption of the Final Report. |

III. The Final Report to be produced by the Committee needs to involve the following broad components:

1. An introductory section briefly sketching the CTE's establishment, describing its mandate and pointing to previous GATT work (particularly in the EMIT Group) and outlining its work programme.
2. Three chapters covering each individual agenda Item:
 - (a) The first one, describing the problems/issues under each agenda Item and their background, and making reference to documents submitted by the Secretariat, with a short reference to their content.
 - (b) The second would be the analytical component, drawing on the discussions at Committee meetings, describing the proposals and documents submitted by delegations and the debate which followed their submission.
 - (c) The third chapter would include the conclusions and recommendations if any.

The Final Report has to be comprehensive, balanced among Items/issues and, at the same time, among the different "schools of thought"/perceptions on specific issues. The analytical component will be the most substantial part of the report and will need to be carefully structured. At the same time, a major effort has to be made to keep the report rather short.