



The Doha Development Agenda is a carefully negotiated package reflecting the priorities of various WTO Members. Progress, or its absence, in one area of the negotiations can affect other negotiating groups. Canada will work to ensure that the negotiations on the relationship between WTO rules and specific trade obligations in MEAs are constructive and keep pace with progress in other negotiating groups. The Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade coordinates the development of Canada's position in these negotiations in close cooperation with Environment Canada and other departments, including Industry Canada and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

Recommendation 24

“That Canada actively pursue at the WTO, the reduction of barriers to trade in the environmental goods and services industry. In negotiating this position at the WTO, Canada should also be mindful of the potential limitations that barriers to trade in services may have on the ability of Canadian firms to offer product support and after-sales services for their environmental products.”

The Government agrees with this recommendation. The negotiations on the reduction or elimination of tariff and non-tariff barriers to environmental goods and services is clearly an area where trade liberalization will be good for the environment, trade and development, a “win-win-win” scenario.

Canada has significant export interests in environmental services, including, but not limited to, the areas identified in the SCFAIT Report. Canada is working to reduce barriers to trade in environmental services in the GATS negotiations. Negotiations on environmental goods will take place in the Non-Agricultural Market Access Negotiating (NAMAN) Group. The Committee on Trade and Environment in Special Session will monitor progress in both these areas and discuss definitions. Coordination between Canadian negotiators in all three negotiating groups is on-going to ensure coherence and to achieve synergies between liberalization in environmental goods and services sectors.

Liberalization in this sector has long been a priority for Canada. In 1997, Canada was one of four economies in APEC which identified environmental goods and services as an industry sector with potential for accelerated trade liberalization. Canadian technical experts worked with other countries to develop a trade liberalization proposal for the sector based on previous OECD work. The resulting proposal was presented and endorsed by APEC leaders at their annual meeting in Kuala Lumpur, in November 1998. Canada believes that the APEC work can provide a basis for the negotiations on environmental goods taking place in the WTO.

