

more transparent. Canada released publicly its negotiating text and encourages other FTAA partners to follow suit.

The Minister supports the process of encouraging greater involvement of parliamentarians. But, for the WTO, this would have to include all regions of the world. We wouldn't want a WTO process where one region dominates. To what extent is it realistic to expect participation from parliamentarians from all regions.

In his riding there is growing support for freer trade, but with a few important caveats. The process has to become more transparent.

One concrete recommendation would be to make the Sub-committee on Trade a full committee of the House of Commons, rather than a sub-committee of the SCFAIT (Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade).

Comments and discussion among parliamentarians and meeting participants followed. Points raised include the following:

- the importance of getting the U.S. and EU off their agricultural subsidy war.
- an oversight strategy for parliamentarians overseeing WTO discussions could include six categories: (1) Disput resolution; (2) Terms of entry into WTO; (3) Trade issues - goods and services; (4) social and environmental issues; (5) agriculture; (6) transparency and parliamentary association. This oversight should be all-party and have an ongoing administrative back-up. The OSCE model works well.
- any effort to create a parliamentary forum should be more than a PR job for the WTO. The WTO has a PR problem and should not co-opt parliamentarians. Any parliamentary oversight body should not be just a rubber stamp. Also, a vehicle for involving parliamentarians would be a way to put pressure on governments to democratize.
- it's hard for parliamentarians to keep up with all the parliamentary associations. Do we need another one?
- NGOs could contribute to the work of a parliamentary forum for the WTO.
- the IPU may be the best vehicle for involving parliamentarians in the work of the WTO. It has the support of Mike Moore. It is already a world body of parliamentarians. It has four Commissions (political, economic, social, human rights) which are all regionally representative. These commissions all report to an IPU annual meeting. Meetings on WTO could work within this structure.
- regarding the meeting IPU has co-organized for Doha, three hours of discussion might not be enough.
- elected parliamentarians have gone door to door; they are more representative of citizens than NGOs.
- any new parliamentary body should be evaluated on the basis of the results it produces. It should have a real impact on decision-making. It should increase transparency and be complementary to the role of NGOs.
- the WTO doesn't act for the third world. Developing country participation in a