

within these institutions, they are able to set the agenda, prompt action and secure agreements on the implementation of these issues. Furthermore, the G7 Finance Ministers and Finance Deputies fora, which have existed since 1986, allow the G7 to reinforce the national-international institutional link and intensely monitor the implementation of G7 commitments. By contrast, domestic environmental departments lack coordinating centres for G7-related activity and oversight and rely for international implementation on the fragmented specialized agencies of the UN where the G7 members do not possess overwhelming controlling strength due to both institutional characteristics (one-country-one-vote) and underlying issue-specific contributions. An overall lower level of compliance is thus assured in cases where the G7 is less able to exercise political control. In addition, the G7 Finance Ministers and Finance Deputies process has existed since 1986 and is thus more institutionally entrenched than the still-evolving G7 environment ministerial forum created only in 1992. Given that environment ministerials appeared later in the Summit system, compliance is expected to be lower overall with environmental commitments. What should further be noted is that the timing of such ministerials is also relevant to compliance. According to Nicholas Bayne:

Ministerials which follow fairly soon after the summit are the most helpful in encouraging compliance. The timing of the IMF meetings of finance ministers, three months later, is useful in this regard. Pre-summit ministerials, like those of the environment ministers, can help shape the summit agenda but may not help compliance.¹⁶

This factor may also account for the very high scores that von Furstenberg and Daniels find in the area of international trade, as the trade ministers Quadrilateral (US, Japan, European Union and Canada), since its 1982 formation, meets three or four times a year. It also implies lower levels of compliance in areas of foreign affairs, where

¹⁶ Interview with Sir Nicholas Bayne, Surrey, England, February 1, 1997.