

C. THE URUGUAY ROUND REVIEW

In contrast to the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) process, for which it was decided *prior* to commencement of negotiations that an environmental review of the agreement would be conducted concurrently with the negotiations, the Uruguay Round environmental review was initiated after the conclusion of the final negotiations of the Round on December 15, 1993.

The Uruguay Round negotiations commenced in September 1986, some four years before the introduction in Canada of a new, non-legislated environmental impact examination process that applies to policy and program initiatives submitted to the federal Cabinet for consideration.

The principal purpose of the Review is to identify, for ministers, the extent to which the results of the Uruguay Round are consistent with the federal government's commitment to protect the environment and promote sustainable development. Although it is necessarily retrospective in focus, the Review may also inform Canada's position in future discussions under the World Trade Organization.

D. METHODOLOGY

DFAIT was responsible for co-ordinating the Government's environmental review of the Uruguay Round and ensuring that its outcomes were measured against Canada's commitment to protect the environment and to promote sustainable development.

The Review was conducted by the Environmental Review Committee, comprising representatives of the departments of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Agriculture, Environment and Finance. The Committee undertook to address, as comprehensively as practicable, the wide range of environmental concerns raised by governmental and non-governmental organizations over the course of the Uruguay Round negotiations. These views were compiled through an examination of published sources and a review of letters received from concerned members of the public. Supplementary views were acquired through contact with a number of non-governmental organizations in Canada and abroad.¹

E. CONTENT OF THE REVIEW

The Review examines concerns related to the potential environmental effects of the Uruguay Round outcomes on an agreement-by-agreement basis. Sections V to XIII review all those agreements that were considered to contain incremental changes with potential implications for the environment and environmental policies in Canada.