

contain all these aspects and should not be perceived as a protectionist measure.

Some participants pointed to a contradiction when it comes to defending or promoting one's national culture. Some European countries, for instance, may have an entirely different conception of "defending the national culture in the context of growing social and cultural diversity" than Canada.

Calls were made to use the cultural diversity instrument to protect sub-national cultures. A question arose about how do sub-national cultural agreements (i.e., with the Inuit people, for instance) play out in the context of national agreements, including NAFTA.

McDowell said that regionalisation is a better term to express what is happening to national cultures rather than homogenisation. While Canada is bearing the brunt of unfragmented English language emissions from the U.S., other countries have adopted the various emissions according to their cultural, socio-economic and other particularities. The way in which international agreements address "the local" will be important.

## **6. ECONOMIC AND TRADE ISSUES**

### **6.1. Canada: Regional and Global Economic Issues, Theodore Cohn (Department of Political Science, Simon Fraser University)**

Theodore Cohn addressed Canada - U.S. trade relations in the context of interdependence. He pointed out that from the liberal economic perspective, power disparity between trading partners is not problematic since all parties benefit from interdependence. Some observers would argue that even relatively weaker countries benefit from interdependence more than stronger parties. The realists, on the other hand, maintain that larger, relatively more powerful countries would not allow their smaller, relatively weaker counterparts to benefit from interdependence. This may be the case of Canada - U.S. relations under NAFTA, where Canada is expected to provide some "side-payments" to the U.S. As a trading relationship between two unequal partners becomes more asymmetrical, the side-payments are likely to increase as well. This poses a dilemma for Canada : as our interdependence with the U.S. grows we may become more vulnerable.

Cohn identified three strategies to minimise the need for Canada to give side-payments:

1. The better trade arrangements and regulations are defined, the more disputes will be resolved by law rather than power. Trade regulations should, therefore, be explicit and detailed.
2. By diversifying economic and other ties. Globally, alliances could be forged between developed and developing countries. Canada could take advantage of opportunities to forge alliances outside of the privileged economic groupings to which it already belongs. While traditional ties to Europe continue to dominate Canadian thinking, Canada may do