

movement on the issue of emissions trading, but is still only prepared to entertain joint implementation between Annex I countries. The Group of 77 and China continues to oppose both emissions trading and joint implementation.

Developing Country Commitments

It is increasingly likely that this issue will have to be addressed by a decision of the Third Conference of the Parties, a "Kyoto Mandate" to be negotiated within a specified timeframe after Kyoto. Despite official protestations from G-77 representatives, in the corridors there was increasing evidence that the Group of 77 and China is not unanimous on this and related issues, and that a number of developing countries may be open to some target with appropriate qualifiers.

The Comprehensive Approach

Issues surrounding "comprehensiveness" most often have been confined to the subsidiary bodies. And while the discussion is often mired in technical discussion about the global warming potential of the various gases or the methodologies with respect to carbon sinks, it is also becoming clear that positions on these issues are motivated more by self-interest than scientific rigour. For Canada, it is critical to our ability to meet even a moderately ambitious target that the full range of reduction, offset and sequestration opportunities be available in the protocol.

Policies and Measures

Limited progress was made in bridging the gap between the European Union position and that of the United States. A fairly "soft" proposal was agreed whereby Annex I countries will "cooperate" to enhance the effectiveness of policies and measures by sharing experience and exchanging information on policies and measures adopted by individual countries.

The Canadian Position

With the tabling of the US proposal, Canada is the only G-7 country which has not declared its position on targets and timetables. And while this was the subject of considerable media attention at home, it was not particularly noteworthy at the Bonn meetings where delegates are by now quite familiar with Canada's circumstances. The Prime Minister's declaration that he had instructed the federal cabinet to develop a Canadian position that is "stronger" than the United States, however, was of considerable interest to the Americans.

Outlook for Kyoto

At the end of the session, Chairman Estrada of Argentina noted that a "complex mosaic" of proposals is still on the table, and expressed hope that discussions he would hold over the next few weeks would bring parties closer together and put them in a mood to reach common ground in Kyoto. However, he himself set a different tone in the final days by expressing his frustration and charging that some (unnamed) countries were systematically blocking progress. He then followed this up with an attempt to declare consensus on one contentious paragraph in the face of clear reservations by three delegations. While his efforts and those of the non-group chairmen achieved some success in narrowing the options and more clearly expressing the remaining choices, by the end of the session there was evidence that delegations were again digging in their heels. An additional complicating factor is that virtually all of the important issues are still on the table and allegiances between countries or groups of countries line up differently depending upon the specific issue.