

31. Recognising the importance of the issues raised by international trade in services, Ministers noted that as further analysis proceeds, the Organisation would increasingly focus its efforts on ways to remove unjustified impediments and improve international co-operation. They expressed support for the efforts, under the aegis of the Trade Committee, to relate broad concepts relevant to trade in services to the problems identified in specific sectors. They also encouraged continued work to strengthen existing OECD agreements applicable to services. Ministers requested the Secretary-General to submit a report including action proposals to Council within two years.

32. Having reviewed progress to date, Ministers asked the Organisation to continue its analysis of trade in high technology products, to examine specific problems which may arise in trade in these products and, where such problems are identified, to examine possible solutions. Means to strengthen the contribution of technological developments to economic growth, and to facilitate international flows of technology should also be examined. A report will be considered at the next meeting of the Council at Ministerial level.

33. Ministers expressed concern about the existence of serious international market disequilibria in a number of agricultural products due, to a large extent, to domestic support policies. They recognised the need to ease measures which hinder the requisite long-term adjustments, and to persevere with current efforts aimed at reducing protectionism and trade distortions, and at improving the functioning of international markets. They confirmed their support for the Organisation's work programme on these issues. Ministers, noting that work is underway in the fisheries area in accordance with the mandate given in 1982, requested that this work should be pursued actively.

34. Ministers acknowledged the importance of issues arising in relation to both competition and trade policies, such as cartels and voluntary export restraints, which have the effect of inhibiting competition and the proper functioning of markets. They called for continued work and improved international co-operation in this area. Ministers also underlined the need to give greater weight to the consumer interest in trade policy formation.