

The domestic implementation of debt and Russian-related commitments can be guaranteed to a high extent, as there is a well-defined and clearly-established process within Treasury and Finance for the domestic implementation of these commitments. Given that finance ministries have the most regularized communication through the G7 finance deputies process, compliance is generally higher with issues stemming from finance ministries, followed by those arising from foreign ministries.<sup>12</sup> This view was confirmed by senior government officials in both Ottawa and Washington who affirmed that "finance ministries have the most well-developed coordination of follow-through, with the foreign ministries next".<sup>13</sup> A senior Canadian government official concurred with this relationship between the role of finance ministries and summit compliance:

On the economic side, it's easier because the institutional framework already exists. On the political side, there's no mechanism for follow-up, thus the G7 has been less successful in ensuring follow-up on non-economic issues in the past. The G7 finance deputies process ensures some level of follow-up, more so than within foreign ministries.<sup>14</sup>

By contrast, the Department of Environment in Canada and the Environmental Protection Agency in the US are examples of departments/agencies possessing less of an established process to deal with the implementation of summit resolutions. This is primarily because these agencies/departments have been in existence for a relatively shorter period of time, they are bureaucratically less capable of dealing with the domestic implementation of international commitments and they possess less money in overall budgetary terms and are

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<sup>12</sup> Note that finance ministries control budgets and are thus better able to allocate money to specific issue areas than are foreign ministries. Given that debt and Russian assistance decisions and disbursements stem largely from finance ministries, higher summit compliance would thus result within these issue areas.

<sup>13</sup> Interview with Senior US Government Official, Washington, D.C., March 12, 1997.

<sup>14</sup> Interview with Senior Canadian government official, Toronto, February 12, 1997. Note that whereas G7 finance ministers meet four times a year to specifically discuss G7-related matters, foreign ministers meet only once a year, and only on the margins of the opening session of the United Nations General Assembly.