

Non-government input was also sought during a workshop on NAFTA and the Environment on April 14, 1992. All ITAC and SAGIT representatives were invited to participate in the workshop as were several environmental organizations that were not members of the trade advisory bodies.

The workshop provided an opportunity for ITAC and SAGIT participants to review Canada's environmental priorities for the NAFTA with the negotiators and to discuss the status of the various environmental issues under consideration in the negotiations. The workshop also included exchanges on the nature and scope of the environmental review; the status and content of the parallel discussions; and initiatives on trade and the environment under way at the OECD, the GATT and the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED).

In its conclusions the workshop recommended that (a.) the ITAC and SAGITs should remain the principal forums for government-private sector consultation on policies related to the linkages between trade and the environment; (b.) environmental representation on the ITAC and SAGITs should be strengthened; and (c.) the Terms of Reference of the environmental review should be made available to the public. All of these recommendations were accepted by the government.²

In April 1992 the Committee extended an invitation for individual or collective meetings to all ITAC and SAGIT environmental representatives. During the April 14 workshop the invitation was extended to all other ITAC and SAGIT members.

On September 16, 1992 an overview of the environmental provisions of the NAFTA and of the structure of the NAFTA Environmental Review was presented to a meeting of ITAC and SAGIT members, as well as to representatives of several non-member environmental organizations.

The Federal-Provincial Committee on the NAFTA (C-NAFTA), at both the ministerial and official levels, constituted the primary mechanism for consultation with the provinces. The Minister for International Trade, the Chief Negotiator, the Deputy Chief Negotiator and the senior negotiators met regularly with provincial ministers and officials, respectively, to discuss the status of the NAFTA negotiations, including their environmental content.

The Chairperson of the NAFTA Environmental Review Committee consulted with the provinces through the Federal-Provincial Committee. In addition, provincial officials frequently asked to discuss the environmental aspects of the negotiations and the scope and content of the environmental review.

Environmental organizations regularly contributed their views. The Committee considered comments submitted on trade and the environment from one province³ and from the

2. A report on the proceedings of the April 14, 1992 Workshop on NAFTA and the Environment is available, on request, from the Trade Communications Division, External Affairs and International Trade Canada, 125 Sussex Drive, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0C5.

3. Paul West and Paul Senez, Environmental Assessment of the North American Free Trade Agreement.