



TRANSPARENCY AND OUTREACH

Recommendation 26

“That the Government of Canada actively and with renewed urgency continue its efforts to achieve WTO consensus on the establishment of a permanent WTO parliamentary mechanism to provide closer association of Members of Parliaments and elected officials with the work of the WTO, and in connecting the WTO with citizens and the global public. Issues to be addressed in designing such a mechanism include: how to structure and finance the organization; how to determine representation; and how to define its institutional links with the WTO.”

Canada actively supports the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) in organizing events to raise awareness of the valuable role that Parliamentarians can play in promoting greater transparency and engagement during trade negotiations and the two-way flow of information between citizens and the WTO members. Canada supported the resolution adopted by the IPU in Doha that proposed the establishment of a steering group which, among other objectives, would prepare options for the establishment of a parliamentary dimension for the WTO. Canada supported a reference in the Doha Ministerial Declaration to their role in this regard. Although, in the end, no reference was made in the Declaration due to a lack of consensus, Canada continues to support the work of the Steering Committee established by the IPU to continue examining this issue. Moreover, the Government continues to advocate regular informal meetings of Parliamentarians to discuss WTO and trade matters.

Recommendation 27

“That the Government of Canada revisit this Sub-Committee’s Recommendation 14 contained in its June 2001 report on Canada-Europe Economic Relations (Crossing The Atlantic: Expanding The Economic Relationship Between Canada And Europe) and work together with like-minded countries to encourage the WTO to craft and employ more formal, efficient and effective decision-making procedures within its organization. Separate procedures should be developed to cover both administrative (i.e. process) decisions and those involving trade issues.”

The Government agrees with this recommendation, and continues to work with like-minded WTO Members to ensure that WTO decision-making is efficient, transparent, and inclusive. Consistent with fifty years of combined GATT and WTO practices, the WTO operates on a consensus-based decision-making model. Although voting is possible in limited scenarios, this option has rarely been exercised. Most commenta-

