

final week of the negotiations that the CTE, in a small informal setting, was finally able to agree on some basic, yet helpful, political messages on MEAs. Among the key points were:

- need for policy coordination between trade and environmental officials;
- WTO and MEAs are equally representative of shared international goals;
- trade measures may be needed to achieve environmental objectives;
- WTO provides considerable scope for the use of trade-related measures, including, implicitly, WTO inconsistent measures;
- encouragement to consider resolving disputes within an MEA; and,
- flexibility of existing dispute settlement provisions.

Canada led on ecolabelling, given trade concerns with the impact of some ecolabelling programs with respect to pulp and paper exports, as well as environmental policy interests given the Canadian Environmental Choice ecolabelling program. The issue - and dividing line among delegations - essentially was the degree to which the WTO, and in particular the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Agreement, could accommodate non-product related process and production methods (PPMs) that sometimes arise in ecolabelling programs. There was strong general support for ecolabelling programs to follow the transparency provisions of the TBT Agreement. However, most delegations were unwilling to provide any accommodation for non-product related PPMs given the impact this could have on the basic GATT/WTO concept of like-product.

The Canadian position itself evolved when the interdepartmental community recognized that it was not possible to advocate full TBT disciplines without, subject to certain conditions, an accommodation for non-product related PPMs. Canada also notified its own ecolabelling program. The Canadian negotiating strategy evolved, from an explicit link between TBT disciplines and an accommodation to a staged approach by which TBT coverage would be decided prior to Singapore and PPMs would part of a follow-on program. Canada made extensive use of outside experts and reports to demonstrate the degree to which its ecolabelling proposal reflected market and business realities.

The final round of negotiations resulted in a clear political message on the need to follow TBT provisions in the design and implementation of ecolabelling programs, with an appropriate "without prejudice" reference to the non-product related PPM issue. It was not possible to secure agreement on a specific reference in the future work program to the non-product related PPM issue but, as the fundamental issue and the subject of the "without prejudice" reference, this will likely be the focus of future consideration of ecolabelling.

Other CTE issues included market access, trade-related intellectual property (TRIPs), domestically prohibited goods (DPGs), and transparency. All played out in the negotiations given that they reflected the concerns of a number of delegations but with somewhat anodyne results.

Overall, all delegations were aware of the bottom line that it was in the interest of the WTO, as an organization, to have a report in the Singapore Ministerial Conference that most