

Committee on Trade and Environment

DRAFT

REPORT (2004) OF THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND ENVIRONMENT

1. The Committee on Trade and Environment in Regular Session (CTE) held three meetings in 2004 under the chairmanship of Ambassador Peter Brño (Slovak Republic) (April) and Ambassador Naéla Gabr (Egypt) (June and October).¹

2. The work of the CTE was organized in accordance with the mandate contained in paragraph 32 of the Doha Ministerial Declaration (DMD).² Particular attention was given to market access issues (paragraph 32(i))³, the relevant provisions of the TRIPS Agreement (paragraph 32(ii)), and labelling requirements for environmental purposes (paragraph 32(iii)). The CTE also continued its analysis on the other items of its work programme. Pursuant to paragraph 33, Members discussed technical assistance, capacity building and environmental reviews. Under paragraph 51, Members undertook to identify and debate the developmental and environmental aspects of the negotiations, in order to help achieve the objective of having sustainable development appropriately reflected.

3. At the meeting of 20 April 2004, under paragraph 32, Members discussed possible ways to move forward the work under sub-paragraphs (i) and (iii). The UNCTAD informed the CTE of its relevant activities under sub-paragraph (i) (WT/CTE/GEN/15). Under paragraph 33, information was provided by the Secretariat on its 2004 technical assistance plan and by UNEP on its relevant activities (WT/CTE/GEN/16). Under paragraph 51, having heard in 2003 a series of briefing covering areas of negotiation where environmental aspects were most relevant (Agriculture, Rules, Services and Market Access for Non-Agricultural Products), the Committee sought ways to carry forward its work. Members also held discussions on a proposal made by Canada on the CTE work programme (WT/CTE/W/234).

4. At the meeting of 21 June 2004, Members held discussions under paragraph 32(i) regarding the effects of environmental measures on market access. In relation to sector analysis, concerning situations in which the elimination or reduction of trade restrictions and distortions would benefit trade, the environment and development, UNEP informed the Committee of the results of its Workshop on Fisheries Subsidies and Sustainable Fisheries Management (WT/CTE/W/236). Under paragraph 32(ii), discussions were held regarding a note from the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) on the Decisions of the Seventh Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD and the First Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (WT/CTE/W/235). Under paragraph 33, the European Communities informed the CTE of a technical assistance programme initiated by the European Commission and the International Trade Centre (ITC). On paragraph 51,

¹ The reports of the meetings are contained in documents WT/CTE/M/36-[38].

² Hereafter paragraph numbers refer to those of the Doha Ministerial Declaration.

³ The full text of paragraph 32(i) reads: "the effect of environmental measures on market access, especially in relation to developing countries, in particular the least-developed among them, and those situations in which the elimination or reduction of trade restrictions and distortions would benefit trade, the environment and development".

Members discussed ways to move forward the work under this paragraph, including to update, when appropriate, the 2003 briefings, and the possibility of holding a relevant event as proposed by the European Communities. It was agreed that the Chairperson would meet with the Chairman of the Committee on Trade and Development (CTD) to exchange information on how the mandates had been taken up in the two Committees. Discussions were also held under paragraph 51 following the identification by New Zealand of the developmental and environmental aspects of the fishery subsidies negotiations. A number of Members clarified their positions in this respect.

5. [At the meeting of 14 October 2004, under paragraph 51, the Chairperson reported to the CTE on her meeting with the Chairman of the CTD. *To be completed*]
