

**Committee on Trade and Environment**

Original: English

**REQUEST FOR OBSERVER STATUS BY THE OZONE SECRETARIAT  
OF THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL ON SUBSTANCES THAT  
DEplete THE OZONE LAYER**

The following communication, dated 12 July 2002, has been received from the Executive Secretary of the Ozone secretariat requesting observer status in the Committee on Trade and Environment. The original letter can be consulted in Office 3025, Centre William Rappard.

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The Ozone secretariat and the World Trade Organization have developed an institutional dialogue over several years, a process that started under GATT until 1994, before the existence of WTO.

More recently, a dialogue has been established between Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), including the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer and WTO on enhancing synergies and mutual supportiveness. Implementation of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer requires that all trade-related aspects of phasing out ozone-depleting substances, including the monitoring of international trade and prevention of illegal trade in ozone-depleting substances and products containing these substances, as well as the implementation of import and export licensing systems for controlled substances be considered. These trade measures designed to protect the ozone layer are very important to the protection of human health and the environment.

Due to the prominence of trade concerns on the ozone protection agenda, the Ozone Secretariat wishes to apply for observer status in the Committee on Trade and Environment of WTO in order that a representative may attend meetings of the Committee when it debates items of interest to the Montreal Protocol on ozone protection. The Ozone Secretariat would thus be in a better position to serve the needs of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol in this regard.

Needless to mention, the World Trade Organization has always been invited by the Ozone Secretariat and will continue to do so, to participate in the Meetings of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol.

I look forward for a positive consideration of this application by WTO.

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