

## **Committee on Trade and Environment**

### **ITEM 4: PROVISIONS OF THE MULTILATERAL TRADING SYSTEM WITH RESPECT TO THE TRANSPARENCY OF TRADE MEASURES USED FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PURPOSES AND ENVIRONMENTAL MEASURES AND REQUIREMENTS WHICH HAVE SIGNIFICANT TRADE EFFECTS**

#### **THE ENVIRONMENTAL DATABASE: INTERIM REVIEW OF THE GLOSSARY OF SEARCH WORDS**

Note by the Secretariat

1. In March 1998, the Committee on Trade and Environment (CTE) agreed to develop an Environmental Database in fulfilment of the recommendation in the Report (1996) of the CTE (WT/CTE/1). As set out in WT/CTE/W/78, Members instructed the Secretariat to: (a) on an annual basis, undertake a Comprehensive Review of all environment-related notifications to continuously update the Environmental Database, such as has been completed for 1997 in WT/CTE/W/77; and (b) on an annual basis, conduct an Interim Review of the appropriateness of the search words used in the compilation of the Environmental Database.

2. To carry out the Interim Review for the 1998 Environmental Database, Members are invited at the 17-18 February 1999 meeting of the CTE to review and suggest any modifications to the search words listed below. This glossary builds on that used to identify environment-related trade measures and provisions in WTO notifications and Trade Policy Reviews in 1997 in WT/CTE/W/77:

bio, Basel Convention, carbon, CITES, climate, conserv(ation), clean, eco-label, ecolog(y), extinct, desertification, emissions, endangered, energy, environment, fauna, flora, forest, green(house), hazardous, Kyoto Protocol, pollution, preserv(ation), Montreal Protocol, natural resources, ozone, packag(ing), recycle, renewable, soil erosion, sustainable, toxic, waste, and wildlife.

3. Given the complexity of determining what constitutes an environment-related measure, the search and listing of measures in the Environmental Database is as comprehensive as possible. The above glossary of search words is deliberately shortened to capture strings and variants of words relating to the environment. For example, the use of the word "environment" suffices to capture more specific terms such as "environmental protection" and "environmental technology". Using the word "waste" or "energy" captures terms such as "waste minimization, waste recovery, recyclable waste, waste reduction, etc." and "energy efficiency, energy saving, conservation of energy, etc.". The use of strings of letters such as "bio", "ecolog", etc. captures variants of certain environment-related words or terms such as "biodiversity, biodegradable, etc." and "ecology, ecological, etc."

4. The Secretariat is undertaking a search of the environment-related notifications which were notified in 1998 based on the above glossary. Other search methods, such as the physical examination of notifications and use of in-house records will be used to supplement the electronic search results.

5. The results of this search will be used to up-date the Environmental Database for 1998, which will be available to Members electronically through the Document Dissemination Facility as a WT/CTE/W/-- document.

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