



OECD Workshop on Regional Trade Agreements (RTAs) and the Environment

Draft Agenda

**6-7 October
Santiago, Chile**

Purpose of the workshop

Work within the OECD Joint Working Party on Trade and Environment (JWPTE) resulted in the publication of a book in 2007 that describes countries' experiences with negotiating and implementing provisions on the environment in regional trade agreements (RTAs).¹ A second product was a checklist to assist countries wishing to include environmental issues in RTAs.

RTAs constitute a dynamic, fast-moving field. The JWPTE has agreed to keep the issue on its agenda, to monitor trends and to promote policy dialogue on issues of mutual interest. One mechanism for doing so is through the organisation of regional workshops. One such workshop was hosted by Japan in Tokyo, 19-20 June 2007. Participants felt that similar workshops would be useful.

Following discussion within the JWPTE and other consultations, the Chilean authorities have kindly accepted to host a second regional workshop on environmental provisions in RTAs, and the EC has provided a voluntary contribution that would help to finance such an event. The agenda for the workshop has been developed through consultations with the JWPTE and the Chilean authorities so as to respond as much as possible to the interests of delegates. In addition to reviewing recent developments concerning environmental provisions in RTAs in the region, the workshop will focus on provisions for environmental cooperation and capacity development embedded in RTAs. As the number of RTAs with environmental provisions increases, many countries are challenged to develop more strategic approaches to environmental cooperation and capacity development, so as to make best use of limited resources. In addition, as the lifetime of RTAs increases, more attention is being given to implementation and the assessment of the impacts of environmental provisions in RTAs.

Experts and participants

This workshop is organised under the aegis of the OECD Joint Working Party on Trade and Environment (JWPTE). It is open to representatives from OECD countries, regular observers to the JWPTE, and other partner countries. Given the regional focus of the workshop, the Secretariat, in consultation with the host country, will invite representatives from non-OECD Members, intergovernmental organisations and non-governmental organisations, from the Americas region.

Venue

The workshop will take place in the Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores de Chile, which is located at Teatinos 180, Santiago, Chile.

Background material and discussion

All participants will receive a copy of the OECD book, *Environment and Regional Trade Agreements*, as well as the checklist, which will serve as background documents for the workshop.

The workshop intends to facilitate dialogue among experts from OECD and non-OECD countries in the region. Therefore, each session will have relatively few formal presentations, which will be kept short (10 minutes each) in order to allow ample time for interventions from other participants.

Spanish-English and English-Spanish interpretation will be available during the workshop.

¹ For the purposes of this project, the term RTA includes bilateral and regional trade agreements, free trade agreements (FTAs), economic partnerships and other arrangements aiming at trade liberalisation between the Parties.

OECD Workshop on Regional Trade Agreements and the Environment Santiago, Chile 6-7 October 2008

DRAFT AGENDA

6 October 2008

09:00 – 09:30 **REGISTRATION**

09:30 - 10:00 **OPENING REMARKS**

- *Ms. Ana Lya Uriarte*, Minister, CONAMA, Chile
- *Mr. Brendan Gillespie*, Head of Division, Environment Directorate, OECD

10:00 – 10:30 **INTRODUCTION**

- Growth in Regional Trade Agreements, with a focus on the Americas
Dale Andrew, Trade and Agriculture Directorate, OECD
- Checklist for Negotiators of Environmental Provisions in RTAs
Joy A. Kim, Environment Directorate, OECD

SESSION I: EXPERIENCE WITH ENVIRONMENT IN RTAS IN THE AMERICAS

This session will provide an overview of countries' past and current experiences with negotiating and implementing environmental provisions in RTAs, and the rationale for including such provisions in RTAs.

10:30 – 12:30 **Session 1.1: Regional trade agreements and the environment in the Americas: recent trends**

In this session, selected countries from the region will be invited to discuss the approaches they have followed in addressing environmental issues in RTAs, highlighting recent trends.

Chair: *Edda Rossi*, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Chile

- *Elise Broadbent*, Ministry of Environment, New Zealand
- *Julio Cesar Baena*, Convenor of Mercosur Working Group No 6, Brazil
- *Michele Low*, Caribbean Regional Negotiating Machinery
- *Jorge Anaya*, Secretaría de Economía, Mexico

12:30 – 14:00 **Lunch break**

14:00 – 15:30 **Session 1.2: Why include environmental provisions in regional trade agreements**

This part of the session will focus on the rationale for including environmental provisions in RTAs and some of the obstacles that Parties face in doing so.

Chair: *Julius Langendorff*, DG Environment, European Commission

- *Edmundo Claro*, RIDES, Chile
- *Karine Siegwart*, Federal Office for the Environment, Switzerland
- *Carmen Silva*, Ministry of Environment, Colombia

15:30 – 16:00 **Coffee break**

16:00 – 17:30 **Session 1.3: Addressing specific environmental issues**

RTAs address a wide range of specific environmental concerns including: support for implementing multilateral environmental agreements, like climate change and biodiversity; transboundary environmental issues such as managing shared water resources; addressing local environmental concerns like urban air pollution; and trade-related issues such as liberalising environmental goods and services. This session will examine the range of environmental provisions that are included in RTAs, the rationale for their selection, and the lessons learned from co-operation in different areas.

Chair: *Carlos Murillo*, Centro Internacional de Política Económica (CINPE), Costa Rica

- *Ruben Munoz Roble*, MINAET, Costa Rica (tbc)
- *Robert Wing*, Department of State, USA
- *Isabel Calle*, Sociedad Peruana de Derecho Ambiental (SPDA), Peru

18:00 – 20:00 **Reception**

7 October 2008

SESSION 2: EFFICIENT IMPLEMENTATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROVISIONS AND CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES

This session will examine how environmental co-operation and capacity-development activities are being implemented bilaterally and in the context of a growing number of Parties to RTAs.

09:00 – 10:30 **Session 2.1: Implementation of Environmental Provisions in RTAs**

This session will examine the different types of arrangements that countries put in place to support the implementation of environmental provisions in RTAs. These can include institutional arrangements for managing environmental activities, financing, stakeholder involvement, and consultation mechanisms.

Chair: *Joseluis Samaniego*, ECLAC (tbc)

- *Humberto Molina*, Environment Directorate, Chile
- *Julius Langendorff*, DG Environment, European Commission
- *Oscar Ceville*, Department of Sustainable Development, OAS,
- *José Rodolfo Villamariona Aguilar*, Ministerio de Economía, El Salvador

10:30 – 11:00 **Coffee break**

11:00 – 12:30 **Session 2.2: Experience with implementing environmental co-operation activities**

Most recent RTAs that include environmental provisions address environmental co-operation. Participants will discuss their experiences with implementing environmental co-operation activities at the bilateral level.

Chair: *Michele Low*, Caribbean Regional Negotiating Machinery, Jamaica

- *Craig Salmon*, Ministry of Environment, New Zealand,
- *Ricardo Aguilar*, Chief of Party, CCAD
- *Javier Hurtado*, Chilean Construction Chamber (tbc)
- *Rosa Otero*, Directora de Comercio y Ambiente, Dominican Republic

12:30 - 14:00 **Lunch break**

14:00 – 15:30 **Session 2.3: Strategy for efficient implementation of environmental co-operation activities**

When provisions for environmental co-operation were first included in RTAs, they were implemented through bilateral co-operation arrangements. As RTAs have proliferated, some Parties to RTAs are now examining how to develop more strategic approaches to implementing environmental co-operation with a range of Parties so as to use their scarce resources most effectively. This session will examine how bilateral environmental co-operation is currently organised, and ways in which it could involve three or more parties. The linkage between environmental cooperation and capacity development in RTAs and environmental development co-operation more generally will also be examined.

Chair: *Brett Longley*, Ministry of Environment, New Zealand

- *Carlos Murillo*, CINPE, Costa Rica
- *Isabel Calle*, Sociedad Peruana de Derecho Ambiental (SPDA), Peru
- *Guillermo Acuña*, Sustainable Development and Human Settlements Division, ECLAC

15:30 – 16:00 **Coffee break**

SESSION 3: EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROVISIONS IN RTAs

16:00 – 17:30 **Session 3.1: Performance review of environmental provisions in RTAs**

As the lifetime of an RTA increases and more resources are committed to it, the need to evaluate its impacts will grow. Reviewing the performance of environmental provisions in RTAs can also provide an information base for any issues that may be considered for re-negotiation. This session will examine different review processes in terms of scope, frequency, funding and institutional arrangement, as well as the results of any evaluations that have been concluded.

Chair: *Dale Andrew*, OECD

- *Nadine Nickner*, Environment Canada
- *Alvaro Sapag*, CONAMA, Chile
- *Sara Larraín*, Programa Chile Sustentable, Chile

17:30 – 18:00 **Concluding session**

Concluding remarks and end of workshop