

TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Ad Hoc Working Group on
Trade, Environment and Development
Second session
Geneva, 6 June 1995

2 June 1995
ENGLISH ONLY

A statistical overview of
selected eco-labelling schemes

Note by the UNCTAD secretariat

TD/B/WG.6/Misc.5

GE.95-51996

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1. The present note complements report TD/B/WG.6/5 on "Trade, environment and development aspects of establishing and operating eco-labelling programmes". It contains a preliminary assessment of the significance, in terms of international trade, of existing and planned eco-labelling programmes in selected developed countries. This report has two objectives. Firstly, it provides some indication of the value of international trade that may be or may become exposed to eco-labelling, in particular in terms of developing countries' exports to developed countries, with a view to help assessing the possible trade effects of eco-labelling on developing countries. Secondly, it provides an indication of products which are of significant trade importance to the developing countries as a group and identifies individual developing countries with a particular export interest in such products, with a view to support the discussions on transparency as covered in paragraphs 60 to 77 of report TD/B/WG.6/5.

2. At the outset it should be mentioned that it is difficult to estimate the incidence of eco-labelling in international trade. The principal reason is that in order to link eco-labelling with information on international trade flows, there is a need to identify products covered by eco-labelling programmes in terms of the Harmonized System (HS) nomenclature. In practice, the description of most products included in eco-labelling programmes is either broader or narrower than the classification of products used in the HS. This problem has prevented a complete analysis of all products included in eco-labelling programmes. Although the data on trade flows are subject to imprecisions on account of the difficulties in defining products in terms of international trade statistics, they nevertheless present a meaningful indication of the order of magnitude involved. It is to be noted that product classification problems would appear less significant in the case of a number of products of special export interest to developing countries, such as textiles and footwear.

3. It is also important to keep in mind that since traders have the option of either applying for eco-labels or selling unlabelled products, the trade data presented in this note do not provide an indication of the value of actual trade in eco-labelled products. They only provide an indication of trade in products for which eco-labelling programmes exist or are planned, whether or not exporters or importers have applied for the label. Finally, the data include a number of important product groups, in particular textiles and footwear, which are not as yet included in the main eco-labelling programmes, but which have been earmarked for eco-labelling in the future.

4. The following comments can be made on individual tables presented in the note (the relevant paragraphs in report TD/B/WG.6/5 are indicated in brackets):

Table 1:	provides an overview of product categories under different eco-labelling programmes, as classified by the secretariat (11);
Table 2:	estimates the trade coverage of all products included in eco-labelling programmes in terms of values (US\$ millions) and as a percentage of total imports;
Table 3-5:	same as 2, broken down by principal markets (Canada, Nordic Countries, European Union) and product groups;
Table 6-10:	identifies selected developing country suppliers with a substantial trade interest in individual products earmarked to be included in the eco-labelling programme of the European Union, based on (i) the absolute value of their exports of the product concerned; or (ii) the value of exports of the product in question as a percentage of the value of total exports to the European Union (70 to 72);
Table 11:	identifies selected industrial consumer products for which more than 50 per cent of the value of extra-European Union imports originate in developing countries and trade flows exceed 1 million US\$ (73 to 77).

Table 1
 Number of product categories
 under different eco-labelling programmes

Product groups	Country						Total
	Canada	EU	Germany	Japan	NL	Nordics	
Packaging	-	-	2	6	-	1	9
Cosmetics	-	-	2	1	-	-	4
Vehicles & parts thereof	-	-	8	-	-	-	8
Paints, coatings & varnishes	3	-	5	1	1	1	11
Recyclable/recycled/reusable products made of paper	5	2	7	19	7	5	36
Recyclable/recycled/reusable products other than paper	2	-	3	7	-	-	18
Batteries	2	-	2	-	-	1	5
Boilers and gas burners	1	-	7	-	1	-	9
Insulating materials/products	2	-	4	2	-	-	8
Water economizing machinery/products	1	-	4	3	1	-	9
Household equipment and office appliances	3	2	8	7	3	3	26
Lubricants/fuels and oils	2	-	3	7	-	1	13
Footwear	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Textiles/clothes	-	-	-	1	1	-	2
Carpets	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Other	8	1	14	19	11	7	52
Total:	30	5	76	55	27	19	212

Source: UNCTAD

TABLE 2
Developing countries' participation in trade in products planned to be included
or already included in eco-labelling programmes

	Imports of eco-labelled products (million US\$)	Total imports (million US\$)	Share of eco-labelled products in total imports (%)	Imports of eco-labelled products from developing countries (million US\$)	Share of eco- labelled products from developing countries in imports of eco- labelled products (%)
Canada (1992)	1,912	129,200	1.17	88.7	5.8
Nordic countries (Finland Norway Sweden) (1990)	2,422	97,306	2.49	21.5	0.8
EU (1992) ¹	20,794	636,300	3.26	9,342.0	14.9

TABLE 3
Developing countries' participation in trade in specific product categories
included in eco-labelling programmes: CANADA (1992)

HS Heading	Description	Total imports (US\$000)	Imports from developing countries (US\$000)	Share of developing countries in total imports (%)	Major suppliers
3208 3209 3210	Paints and varnishes	224,262	14	-	USA Germany U.K.
3401 3402	Soap and detergents	266,223	2,585	1.2	USA U.K. Germany
3923.21 3923.29	Plastic bags	57,437	12,011	20.9	USA Hong Kong China
4701 4702 4703 4704 4705	Wood pulp	140,222	9,173	6.5	USA South Africa Brazil
4801	News print	16,473	-	-	USA France
4810.11 4810.12 4810.21 4810.29	Paper and paperboard	254,143	2,253	0.9	USA France Italy
4818.40	Diapers	98,717	66	0.1	USA Austria Hungary
4819.10 4819.40	Paper bags	21,719	2,255	15.0	USA Korea (Rep. of) China
6305	Textile bags	19,114	15,022	78.6	Brazil Haiti China
8506	Primary cells and primary batteries	62,956	4,738	7.5	USA Japan Germany
8513 8539	Electric lamps, filament, fluorescent and ultra violet lamps	222,651	29,725	13.3	USA Korea (Rep. of) Japan
8516.10	Water heaters	12,350	117	0.9	USA Germany Italy
9009.90	Toner cartridges	216,571	9,799	4.5	USA Japan Germany

SOURCE: UNCTAD

¹ Excluding intra-EU trade.

TABLE 4

Developing countries' participation in trade in specific product categories included in eco-labelling programmes:
Nordic Countries¹: [1990]

HS Heading	Description	Total imports (US\$ 000)	Imports from developing countries (US\$000)	Share of developing countries in total imports (%)	Major suppliers
3208 3209 3210	Paints and varnishes	197,546	-	-	Germany Sweden U.K.
3401 3402	Soap and detergents	301,505	-	-	Denmark Germany U.K.
4701 4702 4703 4704 4705	Wood pulp	184,602	9,784	5.3	Sweden Norway Finland
4801	News print	4,210	-	-	Denmark Finland Sweden
4810.11 4810.12 4810.21 4810.29	Paper and paperboard	200,137	-	-	Finland Sweden Germany
4817.10	Envelopes	19,070	-	-	Sweden Denmark Finland
4818.10 4818.20	Toilet paper, tissue and towels	95,895	403	0.4	Sweden Finland ex-Yugoslavia
49	Book, newspaper, pictures other and products	758,221	-	-	Germany U.K. Denmark
8407.21 8407.29 8408.10	Marine engine	171,426	-	-	Japan USA Finland
8416	Furnace burners	24,395	74	0.3	Germany U.K. Denmark
8422.11 8422.19	Dishwashers	98,812	-	-	Germany Sweden Italy
8506	Primary cells and primary batteries	65,818	1,494	2.3	Belgium Germany Japan
8513 8539	Electric, filament, ultra violet and fluorescent lamps	13,881	5,190	37.4	Hong Kong Germany USA
9009.11 9009.12 9009.21 9009.22	Photocopying machines	194,906	3,762	1.9	Japan Netherlands U.K.
9009.90	Toner cartridges	101,309	770	0.8	USA, Japan UK

Source: UNCTAD

¹ Finland, Norway and Sweden, including trade among these countries.

TABLE 5

Developing countries' participation in trade in specific product categories planned to be included or already included in eco-labelling programmes:
European Union¹ (1992)

HS Heading	Description	Total imports (US\$ 000)	Imports from developing countries (US\$ 000)	Share of developing countries in total imports (%)	Major suppliers
3208 3209 3210	Paints and varnishes	290,068	3,282	1.1	Switzerland Sweden USA
3305.10	Shampoo	41,777	857	2.0	USA Switzerland Austria
3305.30	Hair lacquers	6,453	432	6.6	USA Switzerland Austria
3402	Detergents	352,358	5,926	1.7	Switzerland USA, Sweden
4701, 4702, 4703, 4704, 4705	Wood pulp	5,522,603	512,890	9.2	USA Sweden Canada
4810.11 4810.12 4810.21 4810.29	Copying and writing paper (paper & paperboard)	2,598,403	2,361	0.1	Finland Sweden Austria
4818.10 4818.20	Toilet paper, tissue & towels	701,757	3,847	1.9	Sweden Austria Finland
6109.10 6109.90	T-shirts of cotton or other textile materials knitted or crocheted	1,850,406	1,566,422	84.6	Turkey Hong Kong India
6205.20 6205.30 6206.30 6206.40	Men's & women's shirts of cotton & man-made fibres	3,541,665	2,836,333	80.1	Hong Kong India Bangladesh
6302.10 6302.21 6302.31 6302.32	Bed linen, of cotton or other textile materials	582,849	460,291	78.9	Pakistan Turkey India
6401, 6402, 6403, 6404, 6405	Footwear	5,112,734	3,815,586	74.6	China Korea (Rep. of) Indonesia
8422.11 8422.19	Dishwashers	57,838	413	0.7	Sweden Switzerland USA
8450.11 8450.12 8450.19 8450.20	Washing machines	126,059	541	0.4	Sweden USA ex Yugoslavia
8513 8519	Lamps	623,745	214,656	34.4	USA China, Japan

Source: UNCTAD

¹ Excluding intra-EU trade

TABLE 6

EU/ECO-LABELLING PROGRAMME
T-Shirts (H.S. 6109.10 - 6109.90)
(1992-Thousand US\$)

Suppliers	Exports ¹	Share in total EU imports ²	Share (%) ³	Rank ⁴
Turkey	395,055	21.3	4.6	7
Hong Kong	139,072	7.5	1.8	16
India	117,279	6.3	1.8	15
Bangladesh	115,949	6.2	11.9	3
Mauritius	100,772	5.4	9.3	4
Maldives ⁵	4,569	0.2	18.7	1

Source: UNCTAD

TABLE 7

EU/ECO-LABELLING PROGRAMME
Shirts (H.S. 6205.20-6205.30-6206.30-6206.40)
(1992-Thousand US\$)

Suppliers	Exports ¹	Share in total EU imports ²	Share (%) ³	Rank ⁴
Hong Kong	613,048	17.3	8.0	6
India	452,808	12.7	7.2	7
Bangladesh	294,110	8.3	30.3	2
Turkey	264,979	7.4	3.1	17
Poland	223,319	6.3	2.4	19
Cambodia ⁵	10,936	0.3	31.2	1

Source: UNCTAD

¹ EU imports originating in the exporting country for the specific product.

² Share in EU imports originating in the exporting country for the specific product.

³ Share of exports for the specific product over total exports to the EU originating in the exporting country.

⁴ Ranks of share as defined in 3.

⁵ Country selected because of rank.

TABLE 8

EU/ECO LABELLING PROGRAMME
 FOOTWEAR (H.S. 6401-6402-6403-6404-6405)
 (1992-Thousand US\$)

Suppliers	Exports ¹	Share in total EU imports ²	Share (%) ³	Rank ⁴
China	936,984	18.3	4.3	6
Rep. of Korea	814,470	15.9	8.5	2
Indonesia	490,135	9.5	8.7	1
Thailand	419,541	8.2	5.7	4
Taiwan, Prov. of China	348,319	6.8	2.5	15
Austria	287,419	5.6	0.9	30
Brazil	281,138	5.5	2.4	17
USA	168,005	3.2	0.1	55
Czechoslovakia	141,578	2.7	1.9	20
Hungary	135,263	2.6	2.6	14

Source: UNCTAD

TABLE 9

EU/ECO LABELLING PROGRAMME
 Bed Linen (H.S. 6302.10-6302.21-6302.31-6302.32)
 (1992-Thousand US\$)

Suppliers	Exports ¹	Share in total EU imports ²	Share (%) ³	Rank 4
Pakistan	124,478	22.5	6.0	1
Turkey	105,962	19.1	1.2	3
India	73,508	13.3	1.1	5
Thailand	27,893	5.0	0.3	11
China (P.R.)	24,994	4.5	0.1	31

Source: UNCTAD

¹ EU imports originating in the exporting country for the specific product.

² Share in EU imports originating in the exporting country for the specific product.

³ Share of exports for the specific product over total exports to the EU originating in the exporting country.

⁴ Ranks of share as defined in 3.

TABLE 10

EU/ECO-LABELLING PROGRAMME
 Tissue paper (H.S. 4818.10-4818.20)
 (1992-Thousand US\$)

Suppliers	Exports ¹	Share in total EU imports ²	Share (%) ³	Rank ⁴
Sweden	68,446	33.9	0.2	3
Austria	39,683	19.6	0.1	7
Finland	26,173	12.9	0.1	5
Slovenia	17,054	8.4	0.8	1
Switzerland	17,030	8.4	0.0	12

Source: UNCTAD

¹ EU imports originating in the exporting country for the specific product.

² Share in EU imports originating in the exporting country for the specific product.

³ Share of exports for the specific product over total exports to the EU originating in the exporting country.

⁴ Ranks of share as defined in 3.

TABLE 11

Major developing country suppliers to the EU
for some industrial consumer products ¹
(1992-thousand US\$)²

HS Heading	Description	Total imports	Developing	Import Share (%)	Main Suppliers
4202.11 4202.12 4202.19	Trunks, suitcases of leather plastic or other materials	505,284	430,048	85.1	China Taiwan, Prov. of China Korea, Republic of
4202.21 4202.22 4202.29 4202.31 4202.32 4202.39	Handbags and articles carried in pocket or handbag of leather or plastic	746,110	691,663	92.7	China India Thailand
5701.10 5701.90 5702.10 5702.20 5702.31 5702.32 5702.39 5702.41 5702.42 5702.49 5702.51 5702.59 5702.91 5702.99 5703.10	Carpets and other textile floor coverings	1,516,347	1,235,133	81.4	Iran, Islamic Republic India China
6103.32 6103.33 6103.39 6104.32 6104.33 6104.39 6203.31 6203.32 6203.39 6204.32 6204.33 6204.39	Men's or boys' women's or girls' jackets and blazers	1,337,902	922,644	68.9	China Turkey Poland

¹ Industrial Consumer Products were defined according to the broad, economic categories listed in the SITC Document, Series M, No. 53, Rev.2, page 10.

² Exports: more than 1 million US\$; market share: more than 50%.

(table 11 continued)

HS Heading	Description	Total imports	Developing	Import Share (%)	Main Suppliers
6302.40 6302.51 6302.52 6302.53 6302.59 6302.60 6302.91	Toilet linen and kitchen linen	650,518	507,868	78.0	China Brazil Turkey
6401.99 6402.19 6402.20 6402.91 6402.99 6403.11 6403.19 6403.51 6403.91 6403.99 6404.11 6404.19 6404.20 6405.10 6405.20 6405.90	Footwear	4,758,444	3,783,294	79.5	China Korea, Rep. of Indonesia
7323.91 7323.92 7323.93 7323.94 7323.99	Table kitchen or other household articles of iron or steel	465,606	330,008	70.8	China Korea, Rep. of Taiwan, Prov. of China
8452.10	Sewing machines	238,304	136,254	57.1	Taiwan, Prov. of China, Brazil China
8516.40	Electric irons	128,290	110,370	86.0	Singapore China Taiwan, Prov. of China
8516.50	Microwave ovens	503,111	324,007	64.4	Korea, Rep. of Thailand China
8527.11 8527.19 8527.21 8527.31 8528.32 8528.10 8528.20	Radio and television receivers	5,514,533	3,809,899	69.0	China Malaysia Korea, Rep. of

(table 11 concluded)

HS Heading	Description	Total imports	Developing	Import Share (%)	Main Suppliers
9102.12 9102.29 9103.10 9105.11 9105.19 9105.21 9105.29 9105.91 9105.99	Watch, clocks, alarm clocks	515,089	359,917	69.8	China Taiwan, Prov. of China Hong Kong
9503.41 9503.49 9503.50 9503.60 9503.60 9503.70 9503.80 9503.90	Toys	2,303,655	2,120,775	92.0	China Thailand Taiwan, Prof. of China

Source: UNCTAD