

## SUMMARY OF DECISIONS

### TARIFF ACCELERATION

The Commission noted with satisfaction the large volume of requests for the acceleration of tariff reductions between the two countries. The Commission recommended to the two governments (subject to completion of necessary domestic legal procedures) the accelerated elimination of tariffs on a range of tariff lines and products. The provisional agreement covers approximately (\$6 billion) of trade between Canada and the United States and is evidence of the importance companies on both sides of the border attach to the free trade provisions of the FTA.

### TEMPORARY ENTRY

In response to increasing requests from business organizations, the Commission has recommended to both governments the expansion of the categories of business people who will be allowed easier temporary entry between the two countries. It has recommended the amendment of eligibility requirements for temporary entry for professionals covered under Chapter 15 of the Agreement. In addition, there were refinements made to the educational requirements of some of the professions to better reflect the situation in Canada and the United States. Finally, at the request of the industry, journalists were removed from the list of professions which qualify for easier temporary entry.

Both countries will now submit these proposed amendments to the necessary domestic review processes. In the U.S., the list will be published in the Federal Register to allow sixty days for comments from interested parties. In Canada, the list will be published in the Canada Gazette to allow the same time for provinces and all interested groups to comment. The final text will be determined in the light of comments received.

### AGRICULTURAL WORKING GROUPS AND FISH WORKING GROUPS

In a joint effort to work toward the elimination of technical barriers to trade in fishery products, the Commission has created an additional working group under Article 708 of the Agreement. It also reviewed the progress of the original eight working groups. These working groups have as their long-term objective, the elimination of technical barriers to trade in agricultural, food, beverage and certain related goods.