

Round. The Agreement defines the concept of subsidy for the first time in a multilateral trade agreement. Further, it sets out criteria exempting certain subsidies — for regional development, research and development, and the environment — from countervailing measures. In this era of fiscal constraint, Canada will benefit from the strengthening of multilateral disciplines on subsidies that can have such adverse effects on our competitive position in both the domestic and foreign markets.

Although the Agreement does contain some improvements with respect to anti-dumping measures, we shall have to go further to ensure that such measures are not used as an instrument for continuing protectionism.

The Agreement effectively precludes unilateral measures in responding to trade disputes. The new, integrated dispute-settlement system — one with clearer rules, tighter deadlines, and for the first time, an appeal process and binding effect — is a major improvement over the existing GATT system. In the final analysis rules are only as effective as the means of enforcing them. This wholesale reform of the multilateral trade dispute settlement system therefore represents an important, if unquantifiable, benefit for the small and middle-sized players like Canada, which are inherently vulnerable to the threat of unilateralism by the economic giants.

Without a doubt, the crowning achievement of the Uruguay Round is the creation of the new World Trade Organization. Such an organization is indispensable in overseeing the operation of the complex series of agreements and other instruments resulting from the Round. It will also provide for greater political surveillance of the system by trade ministers in coming years.

The World Trade Organization will finally put international trade on a firm institutional footing by becoming the third pillar of the world's commerce and financial structure, along with the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. As the successor to the GATT, the World Trade Organization will provide the forum for future trade negotiations aimed at further trade liberalization worldwide and the development of new global trade rules.

Mr. Speaker, all parts of Canada and most sectors of our economy will reap substantial benefits from the Uruguay Round agreements. The business and agricultural communities, as well as the provinces, were closely consulted throughout the course of these negotiations. It is in no small part due to their contributions that these agreements will provide real, tangible benefits for Canadian producers and consumers in all regions.

Elimination of tariffs on paper and allied products and lower tariffs on lumber will substantially improve access to the European Union and Japanese markets for our forest products industry, particularly in British Columbia, Quebec, and the Atlantic Provinces.