

an evaluation of the European Union's experience in easing the movement of goods and individuals between most of its member countries and an analysis of the implications of establishing a security perimeter around North America.

The Government is committed to examining any options for improving operation while providing appropriate security at the border.

For several years now, the Government has been exploring different models of border management, such as the Britain-France "Chunnel" and the more general provisions set out in the European Union Schengen process. None of these models are directly applicable to the Canada-US border, but Canadian and US border officials meet regularly to explore options that could borrow from the experiences of others.

Canada-US border management evolves constantly as both governments seek to make the border more efficient and more secure. One of most visible examples of this commitment was the Canada-US Partnership Forum (CUSP), launched in October 1999 by the Prime Minister and US President. Government leaders from both countries met with local private- and public-sector leaders along the New York/Ontario border and along the Washington/British Columbia border to discuss how to improve management of the border. Drawing upon the lessons learned from those meetings, the CUSP report, "Building a Border for the 21st century" explores long-term options and outlines three guiding principles of border management endorsed by the Prime Minister and the President: streamline, harmonize and collaborate on border policies and management; expand co-operation to increase efficiencies in customs, immigration, law enforcement and environmental protection at and beyond the border; and collaborate on threats outside Canada and the United States.

In the aftermath of September 11, these principles were enshrined in the Smart Border Declaration of December 12, 2001. Some aspects of the Smart Border Action Plan, including joint Customs teams targeting containers at five North American seaports, and the increased use of Immigration Control Officers at airports overseas, are examples of the Government's implementation of new models of border management.

Recommendation 29

To ensure that the Canadian economy remains competitive within an increasingly integrated North American economy, and to boost living standards in Canada, the Government should urgently implement additional measures to help reverse the Canada-US productivity gap. Emphasis should be placed on providing tax and regulatory relief, working together with the provinces to eliminate barriers to inter-provincial trade and generating investments in Canada's labour force.

