

Securing Market Access: Tighter Disciplines on Contingency Protection Measures and Subsidies

More secure and predictable access to foreign markets is crucial to the Canadian businesses interested in expanding their trade and investment opportunities.

The benefits of trade liberalization and of binding tariff agreements achieved in previous GATT Rounds can be seriously undermined by the often discretionary use of administrative or legal measures applied for the most part by importing countries to both fair and unfair trade.

A major aim of the Uruguay Round is to develop an international consensus on the use of "safeguard measures" such as emergency import relief measures under GATT Article XIX, voluntary export restraints and orderly marketing arrangements. Also being discussed is the impact of safeguard measures on the structural adjustment of industries affected by changing trade patterns.

Existing rules related to subsidies and countervailing duty measures are also being reviewed. Canada is seeking increased discipline in the use of trade-distorting subsidies. Canada is also working to achieve wider international agreement on the definition and measurement of subsidies and to improve the rules, procedures and conditions that govern recourse to countervailing duty measures.

Canada and the "New" GATT Issues

Three "new issues," of significant importance to Canada are on the agenda during the Uruguay Round: trade in services, trade-related intellectual property and trade-related investment.

Trade in Services

Trade in services, including financial, transportation, information, telecommunications, consulting and professional services, represents