

At the last Working Party meeting on July 12, 2000 substantial progress was made in several areas, and in November 2000, Ukraine provided legislative action plans, replies to questions, and updated information on several sectors and a range of trade policies. While the July 12 meeting marked an important step in advancing Ukraine's accession to the World Trade Organization, significant work remains to complete the process, particularly in areas such as technical barriers to trade, sanitary and phytosanitary issues, intellectual property rights, and customs procedures.

In 1997, as part of the accession process, Canada initiated bilateral market access negotiations with Ukraine on goods and services. After a slow start to the negotiations, solid progress was made during the bilateral negotiations in July and December 2000 in areas such as agriculture, fish and fish products, industrial products, and services. Canada is continuing these bilateral negotiations in 2001. Canada is seeking lower tariff levels and the removal of non-tariff barriers on several products of direct export

interest to Canadian firms. Canada is also seeking commitments from Ukraine in key services areas, including telecommunications and financial services. Given Ukraine's renewed vigour in 2000 to accede to the World Trade Organization, Canada is optimistic about making further substantial progress on Ukraine's accession in 2001 on both the multilateral and bilateral fronts.

The Centre for Trade Policy and Law (CTPL) of Ottawa and Carleton Universities is working with the Ukrainian Ministry of Economy to build Ukraine's capacity to participate effectively in the accession process and to implement their WTO obligations. The "Trade Policy Capacity Building" project involves three areas: (1) technical assistance on international trade issues to address short-term needs in accession to the World Trade Organization; (2) institutional capacity building by developing a Ukrainian Centre Patterned after CTPL Ottawa to meet longer-term needs of both the government and the private sector; and (3) an internship program for graduate students of international trade.