

partial discussions with business cannot be regarded as a scientific survey of business views, it may be of some interest that the most frequently mentioned impediments were as follows:

Government Procurement preferences and procedures	11%
"Unfair" subsidies and credit facilities by other countries in competition with our exporters	11%
Restrictions on remittances/foreign exchange	11%
Tax issues	9%
Immigration/visa (especially with the United States)	8%
Access to bidding/transparency	5%
Licensing restrictions	4%
Local preferences/flag discrimination	4%
Other	41%

#### (ii) General Framework

Given that there is at present no effective overall framework to provide a fabric of multilateral discipline for trade in services, as a general proposition it would be quite legal (if not always prudent) for one country to act unilaterally to restrict or harm the services trade of another country. Over the years, a number of countries have so acted and there is growing irritation in the U.S. about the perceived imbalances.

At the same time, some of the bills now before the U.S. Congress are unilateral and could harm Canadian interests (e.g. in communications). If the U.S. or other governments set the precedent of acting against services imports in a way that would be incompatible with its GATT obligations if applied to goods, it can be expected that pressure for similar action in other areas would escalate.

Another effect of some current draft U.S. legislation might be to establish unilaterally new principles which they would expect to apply to international trade in services e.g. to be adopted in multilateral negotiations. Some of these ideas, e.g. a rigid, narrow version of national treatment and right of establishment, and of what constitutes "reasonable" and "justifiable" behaviour on services, seem at best not fully thought through and at worst dangerous for international trade generally and harmful to specific Canadian export interests.