
negotiations and the bilateral Canada–Ukraine Intergovernmental Economic Commission. The Canada–Ukraine IEC was established in 1996 with a mandate to identify opportunities and resolve trade and investment irritants and obstacles for Ukrainian and Canadian companies. The fourth IEC meeting was held in October 2001 in Ottawa, co-chaired for Canada by International Trade Minister Pierre Pettigrew. A high level of participation by Canadian companies reflected growing interest in this market, although discussions largely focused on clearing various impediments to trade, including enforceability of court rulings, a new Land Code, the removal of export taxes, and a process to facilitate the resolution of commercial disputes.

WTO Accession

Ukraine applied to join the World Trade Organization in 1993. Since then, Canada has focused on the need for more open, secure and non-discriminatory market access for Canadian exports of goods and services. In 2000, Canada's Ambassador to the WTO, Sergio Marchi, was chosen by its members to chair the Ukraine working party.

While progress toward WTO accession was slow during the first seven years, the pace picked up following the working party meeting held in July 2000. In the past year, Ukraine has continued to take important steps in preparing domestic legislation and regulations to bring significant parts of its trade regime into conformity with WTO obligations. Nevertheless, further work is still required in a number of important areas—including customs fees, customs valuation, agricultural support programs, technical barriers to trade, sanitary and phytosanitary measures, and, in particular, intellectual property—as well as in establishing the domestic regulations and administrative practices to implement the required domestic legislation.

Canada–Ukraine bilateral market access negotiations on goods and services concluded in February 2002 with the signature of a bilateral record of agreement. Canada continues to work with other WTO members to bring Ukraine's WTO accession process to closure. This goal can be achieved only through stable and predictable access to Ukraine's market; market access commitments secured by Canada and other WTO members need to be supported by lower and simplified import fees and charges, less burdensome customs procedures, and reduction of other non-tariff measures. Canada will continue to monitor closely Ukraine's efforts to liberalize such measures in the context of its WTO accession process.

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 implement its WTO obligations. The Trade Policy Capacity Building project involves three areas:

- technical assistance on international trade issues to address short-term needs in accession to the WTO;
- institutional capacity building, through developing a Ukrainian Centre patterned after the CTPL to meet the longer-term needs of both the government and the private sector; and
- an internship program for graduate students of international trade.