

-- The dispute settlement process is functioning smoothly and effectively. Eight panel reports have been issued since the Agreement came into effect. Both sides noted the dispute resolution process is operating successfully.

-- Agreement has been reached on a number of technical changes to the Rules of Origin. The process for implementing these changes begins shortly.

-- Procedures have been initiated whereby tariffs may be cut faster than prescribed under the FTA. Each government has received a number of applications from businesses and, as with the previous round, both countries will proceed only on those items that enjoy broad public acceptance.

A number of outstanding trade issues between the two countries were also discussed, but Mr. Crosbie and Ambassador Hills stressed these issues accounted for only about one per cent of a dynamic and successful trading relationship.

"The FTA has created new opportunities for entrepreneurs on both sides of the border and is contributing to a healthy and expanding trade relationship," Ambassador Hills said.

Minister Crosbie and Ambassador Hills reiterated their continued commitment to work together to ensure a successful conclusion to the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations.

"Our goal in negotiating the FTA was to establish freer and fairer trade between our two countries; this is the same goal we are pursuing on a world scale through the Multilateral Trade Negotiations," said Mr. Crosbie.

In addition, Mr. Crosbie and Ambassador Hills welcomed the upcoming consultations among Mexico, the United States and Canada regarding a free trade arrangement.

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