

DEALING WITH EU ENLARGEMENT

RECOMMENDATION 24:

That the federal government make public any assessment of the probable positive and negative effects of EU enlargement on the Canadian economy. On the basis of these findings, the Government should formulate an effective initial strategy to deal with the upcoming enlargement. The issue of potential compensation for forgone market access should also be explored, and timely and targeted information on the enlarged European market provided to Canadian businesses.

The Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade is examining the impact of EU enlargement on Canada's trade and investment interests. Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada is also engaged in a preliminary examination of the impact that EU enlargement may have on Canada's agricultural exports.

With respect to compensation issues, these are negotiated under WTO rules on the basis of trade levels in specific products during the three years immediately preceding accession. It is anticipated that the first new members will join the EU in 2004. Accordingly, compensation negotiations will likely be based on levels of bilateral trade over the years 2001-2003, and a detailed analysis of compensation prospects will be made at a later date when the relevant trade data are available. The Government will make public its overall assessment of the economic effects of the EU's enlargement on the Canadian economy when the evolving situation becomes clearer.

RECOMMENDATION 25:

That in order to significantly strengthen bilateral economic relations between Central and Eastern European countries and Canada while assisting our high-technology community, the federal government, through multilateral organizations, encourage and assist these countries in developing and especially enforcing intellectual property rights in the region.

The Government of Canada is committed to ensuring that all Members of the World Trade Organization comply with the standards for intellectual property protection that are prescribed in the WTO's Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs). As part of this obligation, Canada is already providing technical and financial assistance, including the training of personnel, to many WTO developing-country Members to assist them in bringing their intellectual property laws and regulations into compliance with TRIPs.