

Responses to Public Consultations on Canada - Central America Free Trade Negotiations
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36	Emerging Technologies Investment Secretariat Ms. Josy Parrotta-Marck Senior Investment Officer Ottawa, ON	26 Jan. 2001	Agriculture and Agri-Food	For	<p><i>(Investment, agriculture, biotechnology)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Climatic differences cause us to be natural trading partners for agricultural and food products as we are incapable of economically producing many of the crops and foodstuffs indigent to our respective regions. - Since the region is a relatively small market, opportunities for investment initiatives are not significant. Trade opportunities therefore become more important, as treating the various economies as one decreases the necessity to set up inefficient operations in respective competing regions. - Social sensitivities to the newer biological technologies impedes start-ups in some regions. Canada's reputation as a fore-runner in emerging biotechnologies can find many opportunities for capitalizing in the Central American region.
37	ENGEL Canada Inc. Mr. Reinhard P. Reider Executive VP and GM Guelph ON	30 Jan. 2001	Equipment and machinery (plastics industry)	For	<p><i>(Market access, dispute settlement, regional strategy, social issues)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It may be wise to take into account US interests in the region when formulating Canadian trade policy given that the US is our largest trading partner. - Although the US will continue to be the largest target for market access for these countries, a disciplined, balanced, mutually agreeable FTA would be welcomed and would give Canada a competitive edge against the EU's aggressive trade practices which are hyperactive in the region. - An opportunity for Canada to help in terms of human rights, economic infrastructure and cultural exchange. - An FTA would reduce some of the unfair subsidy conflicts that currently exist and provide a more level playing field for all partners. - It is important to consider safety mechanisms and recourse to protect Canadian businesses and their interests from the undisciplined and immature commercial practices of potential partners.