

2. Timing

It should be stressed that "1992" means December 31, 1992. Moreover, the end of 1992 should not be seen as a fixed date by which the internal market will or will not be achieved depending upon whether the Community institutions and the Member States are successful in their objectives. Rather, it is a dynamic process which has already started and will continue beyond 1992. A number of measures have already been adopted and a larger number remain to be agreed.

There are no formal time constraints in the early stages of the decision making process. The dates set out in the White paper are targets. The Commission may make a proposal when it feels fit, Parliament is under no obligation to give its opinion by a certain time, nor is the Council under any such obligation in respect of its common position. The Parliament may deliberately postpone the delivery of its opinion as a delaying tactic to force the Commission to make concessions. With the increased role given to the Parliament the decision making process has become even longer and more cumbersome. At least one proposal has already lapsed altogether during the process of adoption. Against that, there are now many measures where the Council may ultimately make its decision by a qualified majority rather than by unanimous vote.

Most measures adopted under the White Paper are directives. This means that they must still be incorporated into the law of each Member State before they come into force. In many cases, therefore, even if a directive is adopted before the end of 1992, it will not come into force for some months or years after that date. Some Member States, and particularly those who have joined more recently, may be granted extra time within which to comply with certain measures.

IV Relationship Between the MTN and EC 1992

It is important that the EC 1992 initiative is not viewed in isolation. The move to a single EC market is taking place at the same time as the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations (MTN) is under way in Geneva. It is anticipated that a successful MTN will have a greater impact on Canada's trade in agricultural and food products with the Community than EC 1992.

The major barriers to exports to the EC are already unified under the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) e.g., tariffs, variable levies, high support prices, export subsidies. Progress in eliminating and providing more disciplines on these intervention measures within the MTN remains the key to