Bref, le document examine les façons dont nous pourrions nous y prendre pour commencer à étudier plus méthodiquement un aspect important de l'univers commercial et environnemental. Il souligne la complexité des enjeux et le risque qu'un tel exercice puisse être dominé par ceux dont les instincts protectionnistes sont aussi forts, sinon plus forts, que leurs préoccupations environnementales. Les questions posées soulèvent de sérieux doutes quant à la possibilité d'en arriver facilement à un accord multilatéral sur le recours aux droits compensateurs pour régler les préoccupations environnementales. Qui plus est, une grande incertitude demeure quant à savoir si une nouvelle forme de droits compensateurs réussirait à atteindre les objectifs fondamentaux mis de l'avant. Pour le moment, d'ici à ce que les questions en jeu soient mieux comprises, les gouvernements devraient, par prudence, éviter de recourir à des droits apparentés aux droits compensateurs pour influencer la façon dont les autres pays abordent les questions environnementales.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Trade development centres on the identification of domestic industries that will provide domestic economic gains from trade and the identification of expanding, or potentially expanding, export markets. This Paper uses the 1990 version of the Statistics Canada National Input-Output (I-O) model to analyze Canadian exports by industry so as to assist in identifying the industries that are "best suited" to export. The industries considered best suited to export are those that provide the maximum domestic gains from trade through increased GDP, increased employment at relatively high average wages and increased economic activity in a number of domestic intermediate input industries in a chain reaction effect on production.

For Canada, international trade represents a significant share of national income, and is often held up as an important source of economic growth and well-being. Trade data suggest that merchandise exports represent about 26% of Canadian GDP, higher than any other G-7 country. The I-O model is able to identify the share of imported intermediate inputs used in the production of Canadian exports. By extracting that import share, which represents about 16% of the value of exports, one can determine the Canadian content -- or Canadian value-added -- of exports. When imported inputs are removed, the Canadian content of merchandise exports represents about 22% of GDP.

A similar exercise can determine the Canadian value-added of exports to particular markets. By extracting the import content of intermediate inputs used in the production of Canadian exports and extracting the Canadian content of