

telex and facsimile. The use of post office boxes for receipt of mail is popular among businesses although home delivery service also exists, particularly in the major cities.

i) Air Services to Ecuador

There are currently no direct air links between Canada and Ecuador. The present routing from Canada is via connecting flights at Los Angeles, New York and Miami. Charter services for passengers and cargo are available as required.

ii) Shipping Services to Ecuador

A number of shipping companies provide general, refrigerated, bulk liquid and container cargo service to Ecuador from western, eastern and central Canadian ports.

For further information, contact the Service Industries Branch of Industry, Science and Technology Canada in Ottawa (Tel: (613) 954-2788).

Government Attitude towards Foreign Investment and the Protection of Intellectual Property

In the early 1970s, a nationalist sentiment opposed to foreign investment prevailed in Latin America, prompting the Andean Group to enact Decision 24, commonly referred to as the Andean Foreign Investment Code, which contained a common regime for the treatment of foreign investment and trademarks, patents, licences and royalties. The provisions of Decision 24 were considered restrictive. Conditions such as limitations on the transfer of profits abroad and the obligation to transform foreign-controlled companies into mixed or national companies through mandatory divestment were not acceptable to foreign investors.

Circumstances have changed significantly since then. The debt problems and economic difficulties of the Andean countries have resulted in a more receptive attitude towards foreign investment in the region. In this regard, the enactment of Decision 220 by the Andean Group in 1987 significantly eased the rules governing foreign investment.