

To some extent, the Working Group had access to the preliminary findings of other Working Groups. For example, the Standards Working Group, which focused on the mutual recognition of standards as one of the key elements of the Europe 1992 program, noted that ideally this meant that any Canadian product meeting the requirements of any one Member State would be marketable throughout the EC. The Competition and Company Law Working Group focused on the EC's proposed merger and joint venture regulations, public procurement, the securities market and company law. The problem of Member State aids is closely related to this policy area. The findings of these two Working Groups and the eventual outcome of the Europe 1992 program in these two areas will be relevant to this report. Indeed, the reader will find evidence in this report that progress on these two fronts is crucial to achieving: (a) ready access to mineral and metal markets in the EC-12 via one Member State; and (b) full inter-product and inter-Member State competition. Both are fundamental to the functioning of a common market.

It is worth noting that the Working Group examined the Eurocodes for construction materials insofar as they relate to mineral-based products. Most of the Eurocode details are really specifications of commercially accepted engineering design criteria and follow the norms of doing business. Their subsidiary documents, product standards and tastes are the more important determinants of trade. In this regard, European importers buying from Canada would communicate the necessary specifications to meet EC standards. The process of setting specifications and standards requires constant monitoring.

The reader will find that this report dwells on problems and issues rather than on opportunities for Canadian industry expected to arise from the EC's drive to complete the internal market. At the macroeconomic level, most economists are predicting a significant boost to the EC's GDP as the common market develops more fully. A higher GDP will be conducive to investment and trade (already rising at higher than usual rates), which should provide opportunities for Canadian exporters as well as for Canadian companies with facilities in the EC.

The Working Group has been quite conscious that the Europe 1992 program is about change. Some of the changes will be in response to legislative action while others will arise from new opportunities manifested on many fronts. Some of the changes already under way centre on corporate restructuring (including privatization) and industrial restructuring; these types of changes are not addressed in this analysis.

This report clearly has limitations. The Commission of EC is halfway through its legislative program and it will take years to implement many of the measures and even longer to