

We have today agreed to give the highest priority to finding mutually-acceptable means to reduce and eliminate existing barriers to trade in order to secure and facilitate trade and investment flows.

As a first step, we commit ourselves to halt protectionism in cross-border trade in goods and services.

We have charged Ambassador Brock, the United States Trade Representative, and the Honourable James Kelleher, Minister for International Trade, to establish immediately a bilateral mechanism to chart all possible ways to reduce and eliminate existing barriers to trade and to report to us within six months.

We have also directed that action be undertaken over the next twelve months to resolve specific impediments to trade in a manner consistent with our international obligations and our legislative requirements. Such action will proceed on the basis of full consultation with the private sector and other levels of government and will concentrate initially on:

- . national treatment, on a contractual, equitable and mutually advantageous basis, with respect to government procurement and funding programs;
- . standardization, reduction or simplification of regulatory requirements which would facilitate trade in goods and services;
- . improvement in the Canada-United States Air Transport Agreement aimed at facilitating transborder travel and commerce by expanding the number of available services and reducing obstacles to the introduction of innovative and competitive new services;
- . strengthening our market approach to Canada-United States energy trade by reducing restrictions, particularly those on petroleum imports and exports, and by maintaining and extending open access to each other's energy markets, including oil, natural gas, electricity and coal;
- . improving access for traders on both sides of the border through reduction in tariff barriers;