

The pace of progress toward WTO accession has accelerated in the past two years. Ukraine has continued to take important steps in preparing the domestic legislation and regulations required to bring significant parts of its trade regime into conformity with WTO obligations. However, work remains to be done in a number of areas, in particular on commitments for agricultural supports, technical barriers to trade, sanitary and phytosanitary regulations, customs procedures and intellectual property. Ukraine must also establish the domestic regulations and administrative practices needed to implement the required domestic legislation.

A bilateral goods and services market access agreement was signed by Canada and Ukraine on February 20, 2002. Ukraine has completed bilateral negotiations with several other key WTO members, including the EU. However, negotiations continue with several countries including the United States, China and Australia. Lower and simplified import fees and charges, less burdensome customs procedures and reduced non-tariff measures must be implemented to support the market access commitments secured by Canada and other WTO members. Canada will continue to closely monitor Ukraine's efforts to liberalize such measures in the context of its WTO accession process.

The Centre for Trade Policy and Law (CTPL) of Ottawa and Carleton universities is working with the Ukrainian Ministry of Economy to build Ukraine's capacity to participate effectively in the accession process and to enable it to implement its WTO obligations. The Trade Policy Capacity Building project involves four areas:

- technical assistance on international trade issues to address short-term needs in WTO accession;
- institutional capacity building by developing a Ukrainian Centre similar to the CTPL;
- an internship program for graduate students in international trade; and
- working with academic institutions in Kyiv and Lviv to train instructors to provide international trade policy courses.