Canada's network of potential trade policy partnerships is now also much wider than 10-15 years ago. Our Quadrilateral colleagues remain central to managing the international trading system, but for a surprising number of rule-making issues Canada can benefit from working with selected Latin American and Asian countries depending on the specific question in play.

There are several issues raised in the Paper which have definite policy implications and should be considered further. It would be useful to investigate why Canadian exports to Europe have declined in importance despite the substantial growth of EU imports from outside the EU and whether the reasons behind this decline have any relevance for the international business development strategy developed by the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade. The data described in the Paper indicate that Canada has been attracting a smaller share of world foreign direct investment flows in recent years. What are the reasons behind this decline and what steps, if any, can the Department take to make Canada more attractive to foreign investors? The R and D spending patterns of affiliates of foreign, and particulary Japanese, companies may well be worth looking at in greater detail, given the data described in this paper which suggest that Japanese companies do almost no R and D spending in Canada.