

EUROPEAN UNION

- In April 1999, the EU dehydrated alfalfa industry imposed a voluntary ban on sales of dehydrated alfalfa to Japan, thus reducing the market disruption that had been occurring in Japan as a result of low-priced, subsidized EU alfalfa.
- In April 1999, the EU opened a single year 4,000-tonne TRQ for cooked and peeled shrimp.
- In November 1999, fisheries ministers from Member States agreed to renew the TRQ for cooked and peeled shrimp for a further three years and increase the quantity to 5,000 tonnes per year.
- In June 1999, Canadian and EU authorities signed an agreement permitting information exchange and cooperation in the area of competition policy and law.
- In September 1999, the EU reduced the gap between the export subsidy levels granted for barley and for malt.
- In September 1999, the EU Standing Plant Health Committee agreed to a multi-year derogation which will allow for the importation of Canadian seed potatoes until March 31, 2002.
- In November and December 1999, explanatory discussions were held on the possible scope of a wine and spirits agreement, which would provide improved market access for Canadian exporters in these areas.
- In December 1999, Canada and the EU announced a Joint Statement on Electronic Commerce in the Information Society, which recognized the potential global benefits of e-commerce and declared the objective of constructing an enabling global environment that maximizes social potential for citizens.

APEC

- Developed an agreement on APEC principles to enhance competition policy and regulatory reform.
- Established a MRA on conformity assessment of electrical and electronic equipment.

- Completed an APEC directory on professional services.
- Developed an APEC website on Y2K for information exchange and preparedness tool kits.
- Completed a study on the development of an APEC food system.
- Published a study on e-commerce adoption by SMEs in APEC Member economies.
- Supported eight specific steps to take the region closer to an open market in air services.
- Published International Commercial Disputes: a Guide to Arbitration and Dispute Resolution in APEC Member Economies, 1999.
- Published Competition Law for Developing Countries.
- Updated the hardcopy and internet versions of the APEC Guidebook on Investment Regimes.

JAPAN

- Japan revised the Japan Agricultural Standards (JAS) Law allowing foreign organizations to obtain Registered Certification Organization (RCO) and Registered Grading Organization (RGO) status.
- Japan approved the import of all varieties of Canadian tomatoes and agreed to discontinue variety-specific testing for Canadian tomatoes.
- Substantial reform, deregulation and restructuring of Japan's financial services sector resulted in Canada's largest-ever single investment in Japan.
- A new JAS product standard improved access conditions for Canadian plywood.
- Japan moved forward with replacing the system of building product testing and approval based on section 38 of the Building Standards Law toward the new system of foreign recognized evaluation bodies and recognized approval bodies.
- Japan continues to move toward increased adoption of international (ISO) standards for building products.
- Japan discontinued the Dairy Genetics Subsidy Program, which will improve access for Canadian bovine semen.