

MAKING PROGRESS AT THE WTO

RECOMMENDATION 13:

That the Government of Canada accelerate efforts to seek consensus, both within the Quad group of countries and between developed and developing countries, on a broadly based but manageable World Trade Organization (WTO) negotiating agenda for the next round of multilateral trade liberalization.

WTO agreements underpin Canada's trade with the EU, and improvements to those agreements would have a commensurate effect on Canada-EU trade, including agricultural trade.

In that light, the Government of Canada is lending its support toward a consensus among WTO Members to launch expanded multilateral trade negotiations at the WTO's Fourth Ministerial Conference at Doha, Qatar, November 9 to 13, 2001. It is working intensively within the Quad (United States, Japan, EU and Canada) and with a wide range of developed and developing countries to develop a broad and balanced negotiating agenda that will benefit all WTO Members.

The Minister for International Trade participated in a key meeting of trade ministers from influential WTO member governments in Mexico City, August 31 to September 1, 2001. Ministers at the meeting discussed a broad range of issues and agreed to accelerate efforts in Geneva through September and October to achieve progress by Doha.

Canada strongly supports a WTO negotiating agenda that provides for economic growth and sustainable development for developed and developing Members alike. Canada is optimistic that with the right mix of political will and pragmatism, Members can reach a consensus to launch new WTO negotiations at Doha.

RECOMMENDATION 14:

That Canada, in conjunction with like-minded countries such as those represented by the EU, encourage World Trade Organization Members to create a more efficient decision-making procedure within the WTO while respecting individual countries' sovereignty, the need for transparency and the need for consensus building within the institution.

Canada continues to work with like-minded WTO Members, including the EU, to ensure that WTO decision making is as efficient as possible. In WTO General Council discussions over the last two years, a wide range of developed and developing country Members have expressed firm support for the WTO's core principle of