

Glossary

intellectual property (although in each area the principle is handled slightly differently) (NPF: *Traitement de la nation la plus favorisée*)

NAFTA: North American Free Trade Agreement, involving Canada, the United States and Mexico. Implemented January 1, 1994. (ALENA: *Accord de libre-échange nord-américain*)

NON-TARIFF BARRIERS (MEASURES): Government measures or policies other than tariffs that restrict or distort international trade. Examples include import quotas and discriminatory government procurement practices. Such measures have become relatively more conspicuous impediments to trade as tariffs have been reduced during the period since World War II. (*Obstacles non tarifaires*)

OECD: Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. Paris-based organization of industrialized countries responsible for the study of and cooperation on a broad range of economic, trade, scientific and educational issues. (OCDE: *Organisation de coopération et de développement économique*)

QUOTA: Explicit limit on the physical amounts of particular products that can be imported or exported during a specified time period, usually measured by volume but sometimes by value. The quota may be applied on a "selective" basis, with varying limits set according to the country of origin, or on a global basis that specifies only the total limit and thus tends to benefit more efficient suppliers. (*Contingent*)

RULES OF ORIGIN: Laws, regulations and administrative procedures that determine the origin of a good. Rules of origin may be designed to determine the eligibility of a good for preferential access under the terms of a free trade agreement, or they may be designed to determine a good's country of origin for various purposes. A decision by a customs authority on origin can determine whether a shipment falls within a quota limitation, qualifies for a tariff preference or is affected by an anti-dumping duty. These rules can vary from country to country and from purpose to purpose. (*Règles d'origine*)

SUBSIDY: An economic benefit granted by a government to producers of goods, often to strengthen their competitive position. The subsidy may be direct (a cash grant) or indirect (e.g., low-interest export credits guaranteed by a government agency). (*Subvention*)

TARIFF: A tax on merchandise imports. Levied either on an ad valorem (percentage of value) or on a specific basis (e.g. \$5 per 100 kilograms). Tariffs give price advantage to similar locally produced goods and raise revenues for government. (*Tarif douanier*)

TRANSPARENCY: Visibility and clarity of laws and regulations. (*Transparence*)

WTO: World Trade Organization. Established on January 1, 1995, to replace the Secretariat of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, it forms the cornerstone of the world trading system. (OMC: *Organisation mondiale du commerce*)