

and rolling stock, and high-tech products such as aerospace equipment and scientific and professional instruments.

Unfortunately, plant closures and job losses get more press than new investments and increased exports. But the success stories of free trade are real. There will be more of them as our economy recovers from the recession and they will provide the base for strong adaptable industrial sectors.

There are many Canadian companies set to benefit from the Agreement as it continues to be phased in over the next eight years. Europeans who invest in Canada now can expect to be a part of the success story.

The same economic imperatives which led us to negotiate free trade with the United States have led us into new negotiations with the United States and Mexico, to create a North American free trade area.

When complete, the North American free trade area will be a market of 360 million people with a combined gross domestic product (GDP) in excess of US\$6 trillion. It will be a larger market than the EC. Trilateral trade already exceeds US\$250 billion annually. Trade liberalization on this scale will have an impact around the world. Among other benefits, North America will become a larger, stronger and more dynamic market for European goods and services.

Just as the 1992 program and the creation of a European economic area does not constitute a "Fortress Europe," the North American free trade area will not be a bloc closed to trade with others. Europeans who decide to trade with Canada can rest assured that our fundamental orientation towards global trade will remain. We cannot afford economic blocs. Our Agreement with the United States, our negotiations with Mexico and our commitment to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and the conclusion of the Uruguay Round are all evidence of our dedication to trade liberalization worldwide.

Having taken the necessary macro-economic measures to position Canada for sustained economic growth, the government is focusing its attention on our competitive position in the world. We are going to take a hard look at our performance in training our workforce, in education, in research and technology, and in other areas to ensure that our economic infrastructure is best suited to improving our competitiveness. We are increasing our efforts to identify and eliminate interprovincial barriers to trade.

We are looking to make fundamental changes in our society, so that enhancing our competitiveness becomes the rationale with which we approach education, training and a broad range of